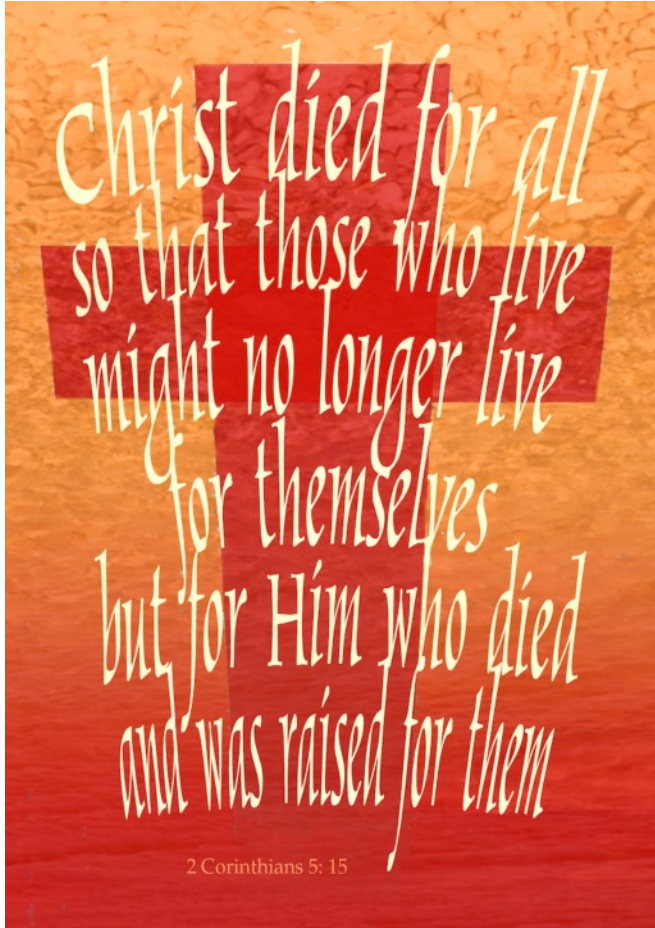




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



May 2017

SERVICES FOR MAY 2017



- 7 May 10.30 tbc
- 14 May 10.30 Mrs Rekha Cheriyan, Family/Parade Service
(CHRISTIAN AID Sunday)
6.30 Faith Exploration Study Group - "God's Plan"
- 21 May 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith, Holy Communion
6.30 **CIRCUIT SERVICE, Greenford**
- 28 May 10.30 Mrs Keji Phillips
6.30 Faith Exploration Study Group - "God's Plan"



FACT and FAITH

A Minister was preaching about the relationship between "Fact and Faith"

"That you are sitting in front of me in Church is fact", he said.

"That I am speaking to you from the pulpit is fact.

But it is only faith that makes me believe that any of you are listening".

With acknowledgement to Greenford-Northolt - News and Views

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the June 2017 issue is Friday 26 May 2017

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk





Dear Friends,

Welcome to the May edition of Kingsdown's Messenger magazine! During Rachel Bending's sabbatical different ministers are covering necessary parts of Kingsdown's life, so you have me as a guest author this month.

We celebrated Easter on April 16 and the season continues for 50 days; it is a poignant Easter for me, as my eighth and last as minister here. My favourite among the cycle of worship during Holy Week and Easter is the 8 am communion in the 'Garth,' Ealing Green's lovely enclosed garden. This is partly just because the garden itself is such an articulate sermon: here we are among budding flowers, watered earth, and the memorials of friends gone on before. But mainly, it feels appropriate to be outside the confines of the building to talk about resurrection!

The point with resurrection is not that there is a reversal of death: Jesus did not just pop back to his friends as if to say, 'Sorry folks, it was all a bad dream I was kidding really.' This would have conflated the joy of Easter with the much less complicated celebrations of Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday we commemorated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and the end of his public ministry. The celebration and hope then, though real, was about a particular time and place and a particular set of political and economic agendas. Finally, Rome might fall! Finally, the Messiah might sit on the throne of David and restore the temple to a seat of civil power!

As we know, these hopes did not work out. Even the temple itself was destroyed (but for the one 'wailing' wall, still standing) a few years later.

Resurrection is about something else and it is far more durable. Remember, even his closest friends did not recognise the resurrected Jesus until he revealed himself. Resurrection is not just about restoration, it is something entirely new and not necessarily easy to see in the moment itself. I am convinced our lives together in church prove this: how many times do we after the fact look at a particular event, or season in church life, and say 'did not our hearts burn within us?' These are the words of the disciples in Luke 24 after Jesus had disappeared from them at the Emmaus table, asking each other how they could have missed noticing it was he with whom they walked.

'Did not our hearts burn within us' when we have had laughter at Bible studies, Sunday evenings at Kingsdown? Did not our hearts burn within us to work in the night shelter, or hear the Kingsdown site abuzz with different activities? Do not our hearts burn within us to see one another grow, and change, and the life of the church with us? As you move forward at Kingsdown, and as we all do in the Circuit, new life will look very different than the old, and may not always be able to be planned in advance. Nonetheless, it does happen, and your fellowship and your intention for a renewal in the coming years makes this an exciting time.

You are a resurrection kind of people. Now let's just hope for sunshine during this 50 days of Easter!

Every Blessing, Jen



25th May: Ascension Day



Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

Family News

At our Morning Service on 23 April, we were asked to pray for the **brother** of **Shantini Chase** and for the **brother** of **Blossom Jackson**, both of whom are seriously ill.

Please also remember in your prayers those members of the Kingsdown family we have not seen for a while, particularly if you are aware of anybody in particular who is unwell at this time.

(In the absence of our Minister please let one of the Church Stewards know of anyone who might be in need of pastoral care.)

The Empty Vessel

Behold Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbour.

I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and I am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.



by Martin Luther

Ealing Trinity Circuit Stewards



Derek Nicholls; Colleen Hicks; Mike Brown; Blossom Jackson, Stephen Sears

Derek Nicholls - Retired- Circuit Property Steward; Member of Acton Hill Church; Safeguarding Officer and URC Link person

Colleen Hicks - Retired - Shares responsibilities with the Circuit HR team; Member of Pitshanger Church & Church Council; Worship Leader; Church Steward with responsibility for Pitshanger Toddlers Club.

Mike Brown - Retired - Lead Steward on Stationing and has maintained Circuit Treasurer's responsibilities in the interim period, since last September. Member of Greenford Church & Church Council; Greenford Church Steward and shares responsibilities for A/V Services. Mike is also a volunteer at Central Hall.

Blossom Jackson - Retired/Author - Senior Circuit Steward; member of Kingsdown Church and Church Council; Worship Leader; Member of District Synod and Circuit MWIB.

Stephen Sears - Sears Solutions - Circuit Treasurer - Member of Hanwell Church & Church Council.

All Stewards are also a member of at least one other Church Council in the Circuit.

Submitted by Blossom Jackson

Swanwick Conference

31 March-2 April 2017



The Annual MWiB Conference held at Swanwick, did not fail to deliver as over 200 delegates would, I feel, agree!

The Theme was Welcome! /Willkommemen! /Bienvenue! and in this Report I aim to highlight some of the most interesting parts of the weekend activities.

The Keynote Speaker was Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, of the German United Methodist Church

The opening Bible Reading for the morning worship on the 1st of March, was taken from Hebrews: 13 v.1-3- *'Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.... (. NIV)*

Bishop Wenner told us of the work that was being done in Germany, by the ecumenical groups and the Chancellor of the German Republic - Angela Merkel. The much talked about welcome of Refugees in Germany has been controversial, but she posited the view that *'this support was not a task, but an enrichment.'*

She went on to say how the Methodist congregations were engaged in raising Funds from the European Methodist Council, the UK and the USA and highlighted the work that was currently being done in one region in Germany, that has a population of 6000 and had welcomed 1500 Refugees!

She then focussed on the 'Mathew' movement, which started in the USA, during the Donald Trump Campaign, with its Motto: *'I pledge to protect and defend vulnerable people in the name of Christ'*

I had met Bishop Wenner at the last World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women, at the last European Seminar, held in Rome, and so I asked her whether Angela Merkel was a Methodist and she responded that she belonged to the Lutheran church! Strange that in the Reports from Germany on the Refugees Crises, that I did not see that the Chancellor had been working with the churches!

The Workshops which included the work carried out by Touchstone and the use of Popular songs, as a medium for delivering a message, was illuminating! In the latter, the hit - '*I am only Human*'- by the Rag & Bone Man, was an interesting approach, which young people, especially would find compelling!

The rest of the programme, including Bible Study, led by the New WFM & UCW - Alison Judd, was captivating as usual.

The Annual Conference is for me an 'Oasis of Calm', that provides refreshment, renewal of acquaintance with Friends and meeting new ones!

Blossom Jackson

KINGSDOWN CLUB PROGRAMME FOR MAY to JULY 2017

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND . WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF KINGSDOWN AVENUE / NORTHFIELD AVENUE FROM 2.00 TO 4.00 PM

TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT. PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS [TEL. NO. 0208 567 4205] FOR DETAILS.

*MAY 2nd TRAVELS AROUND THE HOLY LAND
a talk by JACKIE DIMMER*

MAY 16th DAVE ENTERTAINS

JUNE 6th a talk by JANET SMITH

JUNE 20th THE CAROLINERS

JULY 4th A BINGO and QUIZ AFTERNOON

JULY 18th THE SUMMER TEA PARTY - DAVE ENTERTAINS

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS 5th SEPTEMBER 2017

DO NOT MISS

CONCERT AT KINGSDOWN

SATURDAY 6 MAY 7.30 PM



For more than 75 years, the Heinz Chapel Choir has presented a cappella music from a variety of time periods and cultural traditions and in a wealth of languages. The Choir's home for the majority of its Pittsburgh performances is the Heinz Memorial Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus. The Heinz Chapel Choir is currently under the direction of its tenth conductor, Dr. Susan Rice.

The visit of the Heinz Chapel Choir will not have taken place when this issue of the Messenger is released. However, Alan would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those people who have come forward to volunteer their help with this event in so many ways: publicity, ticket selling, cake-making, and assistance on the Saturday night, as well as those who have already bought their tickets - all much appreciated! And we look forward to an evening of memorable singing from this young American choir.

Do make sure the date is in your diaries and you come along.

Book online at: kingsdownmethodist.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

We believe in life before death



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2017

REFUGEES - In the April edition of the Messenger you will have read about Theodor and also of Nejebar and her family; you can read more about them in the Christian Aid Week "A seven-day devotional booklet" - "I was a stranger". Some booklets have been distributed but plenty are still available, so please do ask for a copy. Photos of Theodor and Nejebar are on a notice board in the Church foyer.

If you can help in any way during Christian Aid Week or at the Book Fair on 13 May, please do let us know. Items are needed for ALL the stalls, and Anna needs some 'new' bric-a-brac.

Envelopes will be in the pews on 7, 14 and 21 May for your donations. Please place your envelope, gift-aided if you wish, in the offertory bag, as usual.

DETAILS OF ALL THE CHRISTIAN AID WEEK EVENTS WERE GIVEN IN THE APRIL MESSENGER

Another CHRISTIAN AID WEEK PRAYER FROM 1958

O Holy Spirit of love
Quicken our imaginations
That we may feel more deeply
For the needs of others
As we put ourselves in their place.
Give us hearts of self-forgetting compassion
Which will move us to give
From that which you have given us,
And to be good neighbours to those both near and far,
For the sake of him who taught us
That it is more blessed to give than receive,
Even Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

Ruby Warne

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books Cakes Gifts Plants
Traidcraft Bric-a-Brac

Saturday 13th May

10.00am to 12.30pm

Proceeds to:



***Surely what our society needs today is fewer laws,
less advice and more good examples.***

East Africa Famine Appeal UPDATE

A grim picture of human misery is mirrored across much of East Africa, where conflict, economic crises, drought and poor governance has resulted in the worst humanitarian catastrophe since the formation of the United Nations.

In South Sudan, some 100,000 people are already in a state of famine in the counties of Leer and Mayendit, and another one million are at risk of sliding into famine in the coming months.



The situation is so bad that many, like Akuch Kon, have been forced to eat bitter wild leaves in order to survive. She, like thousands of others, left her home, fleeing hunger, in the hope of refuge in Sudan. She was stopped from crossing the border and now camps out under the trees in Rumading, a village in South Sudan's Lol State, scavenging for what little she can find. The barely edible wild foods that families like Kon's have been forced to eat have limited nutritional value

and people are literally starving to death as they try and find food to eat.

The money raised so far through the East Africa Famine Appeal has been given to ongoing work in South Sudan that focuses on providing nutritional treatment to severely malnourished people and for the distribution of food aid to the most vulnerable families.



East Africa Famine Appeal UPDATE

In Yemen, the delivery of aid is extremely challenging but All We Can is able to distribute food to some of the neediest families in the country through its dedicated humanitarian aid partner. These provisions are vital in a situation where almost one in four people are severely food insecure. The rate of child malnutrition in the country is one of the highest in the world.



In Somalia, All We Can is working through its partner to deliver nutritional support and care. Donations made to the appeal that have gone to the response in Somalia are supporting a comprehensive malnutrition treatment programme that nourishes and saves the lives of young children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

In Ethiopia and Burundi, All We Can is working with its long-term partners to identify the best ways to protect and prepare communities who are at threat of continued food insecurity.

The need is vast - and The Methodist Church in Britain continues to urge people to respond quickly, generously, and collectively to this catastrophic situation by supporting the appeal being managed by All We Can.

**To support the East Africa Famine Appeal, please
visit www.allwecan.org.uk/famine**

Presence Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Parting from our loved ones is difficult. We long to be together, but sometimes it isn't possible and we don't always understand. The disciples must have wanted Jesus to stay with them, after the joy of the resurrection and those wonderful reunions. And yet you knew that it was better for them - and for us - that Jesus returned to you so that He could send His Spirit to live in us, to comfort and strengthen us and to work through us. Thank you that even though human parting is inevitable, because of Jesus eternal life is freely offered to those who trust in Him. And while we are here on earth you promise never to leave us or forsake us. Thank you, Father, for your love - and your bigger picture!

In Jesus name.

Amen.



by **Daphne Kitching**

God Knows

In these turbulent times with continuing wars, starvation, refugee crises, natural disasters, budget cuts, political disputes and elections perhaps we should remember the words used by King George V in his broadcast to the nation in 1939.

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.

"So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins

London District & World Church Relationship event

On 5th April, along with other invited Circuit representatives - including ministers and lay workers, I attended the reception given for Bishop Juan Alberto Cardona, Bishop of the Colombian Methodist Church and Yuleida Alvarez, Director of the Clinton Rabb Clinic there. The event was chaired by Rev. Nigel Cowgill - Joint District Chair, with responsibilities for Authorised Ministries Commission

After refreshments, Both Bishop Cardona and Yuleida Alvarez spoke about their ongoing services in Columbia, that has suffered from immense travesties of justice, following 30 years of Civil war and more latterly the recent landslide that has claimed the lives of 100's of people! The Interpreter for both presentations was Sandra Lopez - World Church Partnership Coordinator for Latin America & the Caribbean.

Bishop Cardona was able tell us about the ongoing work of reconciliation and reconstruction activities led by the Ecumenical Churches and the respect and the trust afforded to them by the opposing factions - i.e. The Government and Drug Barons and their followers.

I for one was shocked to learn of the gross disproportionate amount of money from the GNP that was spent on arms, by that small country, in contrast to that which has been spent over the troubled years by the drug Barons also, on weapons of destruction, whilst the vast majority are deprived of education, health and other vital facilities.

We also learnt, that the church had consulted with not only South Africa, but also Northern Ireland and Eire, to learn how they have been able to effect reconciliation, in the preparation of the programme that is effecting change.

Yuleida Alvarez, told us also of the work of the Clinton Rabb clinic and their efforts to eliminate disease and provide essential health care, such as immunisation, elimination of infant mortality and antenatal care, health checks and much, more.

It was evident that a great fight remains in Colombia, for reforms not dissimilar to Beveridge's five 'Evil Giants' (coined in Britain as a response to World War II), to eliminate squalor, ignorance, want, idleness, and disease! So, it was good news to hear of the decision that our World Church Department is to Finance Ms. Rabb for Leadership Training to further the advancement of health care in her community.

Some of you might recall that, in 2012, I was privileged to accompany Rev. Tom Quinett, as Methodist Church representatives to the Methodist Conference for the Americas & The Caribbean - held in the Turks & Cayman Islands that year, where we were able to hear about the Methodist Church activities there first hand, and to lead the morning devotions on one of the days! So, it was pleasing to talk with some of the ministers who had once served in this region, who were sitting at my table.

We can but hope that the good work currently being done by the churches in Colombia can have successful outcomes, for the communities there.

Blossom Jackson

General Election June 8th

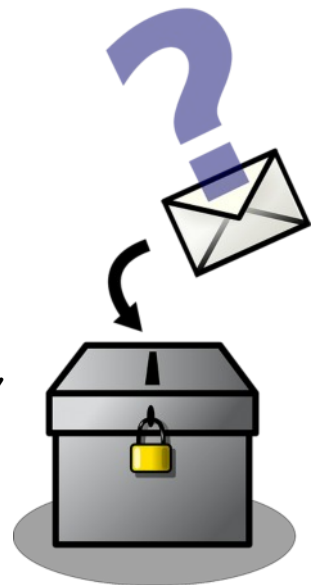
**Make sure YOU vote - if you will be away
get a Postal Vote.**

**You can download a form from the
website:**

https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/538/postal_and_proxy_voting_forms

**Or contact the Electoral Services Office
Town Hall, New Broadway, London W5 2BY
Tel:(020) 8825 7777**

**If you do not vote you cannot complain
about what the politicians do - YOU can
make them listen by VOTING**



The 10th Ealing are active again with entries into the All-age Athletics competition - Saturday 13th May



All Boys, from Anchors to Seniors, are invited to participate in this Athletics Competition on Saturday 13th May

Annual Display - Friday 19th May

The biggest BB event of the year, the Annual Display, will take place on Friday 19th May at Kingsdown, beginning at 7pm.

Please mark this date on your calendar -- all parents and family are invited to watch the Boys put on a great show and receive their special awards.



Start a Letters Page



In the church family you may comment, complain, have a good idea, need some help - so why not write a letter to The Editor or an article - short or long- for The Messenger and invite others to join you in debate.

The wider the debate the more views can be debated to make The Messenger YOUR Messenger.

“Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.”

Thomas Henry Huxley

Churches Together in Central Ealing

For those wishing to familiarise themselves with other centres of religious faith, the next visit will be to the **Zoroastrian Centre** near Rayners Lane tube station on **Sat May 20th** at 3.00pm.

If you would like to join us, please contact **Noreen Barnes-Hoggett**, noreen29@googlemail.com or on 020 8997 4925.

Zoroastrianism, or more natively Mazdayasna, is one of the world's oldest extant religions, "combining a cosmogonic dualism and eschatological monotheism in a manner unique among the major religions of the world". Ascribed to the teachings of the Iranian prophet Zoroaster (or Zarathustra), it exalts a deity of wisdom, Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord), as its Supreme Being. Major features of Zoroastrianism, such as messianism, heaven and hell, and free will have, some believe, influenced other religious systems, including Second Temple Judaism, Gnosticism, Christianity, and Islam.

With possible roots dating back to the second millennium BCE, Zoroastrianism enters recorded history in the 5th-century BCE, and along with a Mithraic Median prototype and a Zurvanist Sassanid successor it served as the state religion of the pre-Islamic Iranian empires from around 600 BCE to 650 CE. Zoroastrianism was suppressed from the 7th century onwards following the Muslim conquest of Persia of 633-654. Recent estimates place the current number of Zoroastrians at around 2.6 million, with most living in India and in Iran. Besides

the Zoroastrian diaspora, the older Mithraic faith Yazdânism is still practised amongst Kurds.

The most important texts of the religion are those of the Avesta, the Zoroastrians' holy book. The creator Ahura Mazda, through the Spenta Mainyu (Good Spirit, "Bounteous Immortals") is an all-good "father" of Asha (Truth, "order, justice"), in opposition to Druj ("falsehood, deceit") and no evil originates from "him".

Zoroastrianism has no major theological divisions, though it is not uniform; modern-era influences having a significant impact on individual and local beliefs, practices, values and vocabulary. In Zoroastrianism, the purpose in life is to "be among those who renew the world...to make the world progress towards perfection". Its basic maxims include:

Humata, Hukhta, Huvarshta, which mean: a) Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds. b) There is only one path and that is the path of Truth. c) Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do, and then all beneficial rewards will come to you also.

extracted from Wikipedia

Just like love and marriage

There is a tale told about an old Scotsman who ran a ferry service, using his rowing boat, between two small islands. On the handle of one of his oars he had carved the word FAITH and on the other, WORKS.

This was his way of telling people about his Christian faith. One of his clients asked him why the words had been carved into the oars. He responded by holding one of the oars still and rowing energetically with the other. The boat went round in circles.

He then did the same with the other oar and it went round the other way. No further words were necessary. It was a sermon in itself.

A well-known song of some years ago told us that “love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage.” Similarly, the Bible tells us that faith and action cannot be separated in the life of the Christian. Jesus was the supreme example of a man who used words of comfort and encouragement when they were needed, but He also demonstrated God’s love through his ministry of healing the sick, casting out demons and in many other ways.

We live in a society today where it is increasingly difficult to stand up for what we believe. Those who follow a secularist agenda are gaining strength and confidence by pouring scorn on any attempts to show them there is a better way.

While we may be swimming against the tide, the fact is that we have an amazing message and a stronger power to help us make a stand.

Let’s ensure we are using both oars at the same time.



John & Charles Wesley: Let's Sing a Hymn

On the 24th May the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns.



'Songs of Praise' on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50. With only about ten per cent of the population even

irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is 'Amazing Grace' and 'Jerusalem', because they are frequently heard outside church.

He actually wrote over 500, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – 'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'. 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing' – and scores more.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing 'Bread of heaven'! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience.

by Canon David Winter

There's a possibility that popping bubble wrap could be much better than paying a fortune for therapy you may not need.



MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Pollard
from EthosMedia.org share
thought-provoking reflections
on the latest films.

Is cinema the new church?

The film director Quentin Tarantino is famously quoted as saying that 'Cinema is the new church.' Certainly, films are the medium by which many people today have the opportunity to encounter the big spiritual themes of redemption and transformation. This is the case with *Beauty and the Beast*, the latest classic Disney film to benefit from a live action re-imagining.

This visually spectacular film retells the story of a prince (played by Dan Stevens) who becomes a beast, because of his self-obsession; and whose only hope is to learn to love and be loved, before the final judgement day. His redemption and transformation is brought



about through Belle (played by Emma Watson) who sees, within him, the person he could become. She helps him to turn away from his anger and pride. Belle is in the beast's castle through another story of redemption, when she willingly substitutes herself to save her imprisoned father, taking his life-sentence for him.

This film is a cinematic feast, with beautiful imagery and captivating songs. But it also provides an opportunity to reflect upon the spiritual themes of redemption and transformation, made possible through a sacrificial substitution.

At a time when many families would rather go to a cinema than be in a church perhaps, through appropriate conversations, we might help them to discover something of the big biblical story that is echoed in the stories on the screen.

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

**ETHOS
MEDIA**.org

Beauty and the Beast
is in cinemas now,
certificate PG.
Find screenings at
FindAnyFilm.com

**FIND
ANY
FILM**
.COM



All films. All above board.

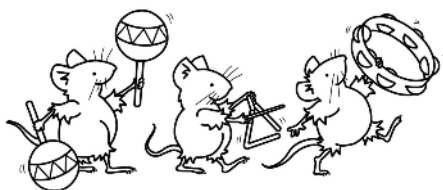
What's happening to Songs of Praise?

Several senior church people have raised concern over the consequences of the BBC losing the right to make Songs of Praise. It has been announced that the much-loved programme is to be produced by independent companies for the next three years.

One bishop said, "It will have a knock-on effect on the broadcast of worship at other times, whether it's great festivals, Remembrance Sunday or those great state occasions when a big act of worship is so much at the centre of it. It's a worry to some of us that it will be another nail in the coffin of our religious literacy as a nation."

Another said, "An independent company may well bring a fresh approach to Songs of Praise, but the BBC should also continue to bolster its religious output. At a time when the need for religious literacy and understanding is more acute than ever, the expertise of the BBC's religious department is an asset that needs protecting."

The change comes after a new charter agreement with the Government meant existing BBC Studios network TV output must be put out to competitive tender.

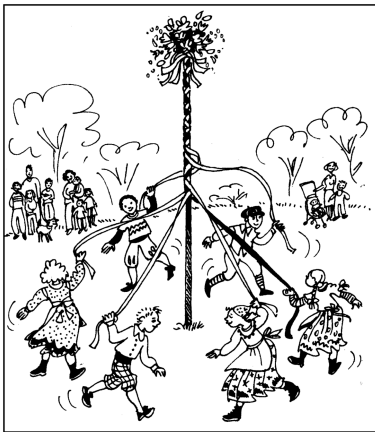


There was an editor from Fleet
Who thought his mag was complete
All done! It looks fine,
He reached for some wine
And somehow pressed alt/control/delete

1ST MAY - MAY DAY UNBRIDLED MERRIMENT

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?"



Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is

why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6 am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower
We are here today, and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.



The **KINGSDOWN MESSENGER** is available in electronic form each month. If you or someone you know would like to receive a copy this way then send an e-mail to:

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Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that; hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.
(Martin Luther King Jnr.)

Children Are Quick



TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are..

TEACHER: Now, Simon , tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde , your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's..

Did you copy his?

CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

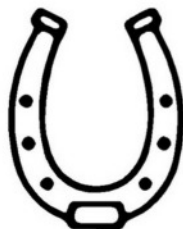
Submitted by Janet Smith



St DUNSTAN

Dunstan (909 - 988) was the most popular saint in England for nearly two centuries, being famous for many stories about defeating the devil.

A story tells how as a monk Dunstan nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's hoof when he was asked to re-shoe the Devil's horse. This caused such pain, and Dunstan only agreed to remove the shoe and release the Devil after he promised never to enter a place where a horseshoe is over the door.



They say that is why people still hang horse shoes over doorways.

St Dunstan is the patron saint of blacksmiths and bell ringers as well as goldsmiths and silversmiths. His Feast Day is 19 May, which is why the date year on the hallmarks on gold and silver runs from 19 to 18 May, not the calendar year.

NOT JUST ON YOUR FEET....

The answers to these are all something you could wear on your feet, but the word also means...

1. A sure-footed pack animal
2. A thin sharp knife
3. A wobbly dessert
4. A poisonous snake
5. Isn't safe on ice
6. A gymnastic move
7. Equipment used to move water
8. An Irish accent
9. Part of a car used for storage
10. A sports coach



What do you call a shoe that looks like a banana?

A slipper.

Who always goes to bed with his shoes on?

A horse.



Answers: 1 Mule 2 Stiletto 3 Jelly
4 Moccasin 5 Slipper 6 Flip flop
7 Pump 8 Brogue 9 Boot 10 Trainer

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MAY

- Mon 1 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 2 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Travels around the Holy Land -
A talk by Jackie Dimmer p.8
- Wed 3 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly - term time only)
- Thu 4 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 5 10.15 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - everyone welcome
BOYS BRIGADE 6.30-7.30 pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm
Junior Section, 7.30-10.00 pm Company Section (term
time only)
- Sat 6 10.15 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
**7.30 pm Concert at Kingsdown with Heinz Chapel
Choir from Pittsburgh USA p.9**
- Tue 9 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 13 10 am-12.30 pm **BOOK FAIR** with stalls: books, bric-a-
brac, cakes, gifts, plants & Traidcraft stall. Proceeds to
Christian Aid p.11
- Tue 16 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Dave entertains p.8
- Fri 19 7 pm Boys' Brigade Annual Display in Kingsdown Hall
- Mon-Sat 15-20 CA Week - House-to-house collecting
- Sat 20 CA Flag Day in the London Area
- Sun 21 CA 'Circle the City' sponsored walk
- Sat 20 Churches Together in Ealing Visit to Zoroastrian Centre p.18

Future Dates for your Diary

- Sun 9 Jul** (after morning service) Annual Church General Meeting
- Sat 15 Jul Next Traders Day in Northfield Avenue
- Sun 23 Jul 6.30pm at Ealing Green – farewell service for
Rev Dr Jen Smith and her husband, Rev Dr Keith Riglin.
- Thu 27 Jul 8 pm Church Council Meeting

The views expressed in articles in The Messenger are not necessarily those of Kingsdown Methodist Church or the Editors.

Data Protection - Kingsdown Methodist Church maintains a database of basic information relating to members and the community roll. Keep the Minister informed of any changes to your personal details. The database is maintained in accordance with the guidelines of The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ to whom any formal requests for access to the data must be addressed.