



# KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



*September 2017*

*Starting the 59<sup>th</sup> Year  
of continuous Publication!*

## SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2017



3 Sep	10.30 6.30	Mrs Rekha Cheriyan CIRCUIT SERVICE, Acton Hill
10 Sep	10.30	Mrs Penny Pedley
17 Sep	10.30	Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
24 Sep	10.30	Rev Shirlyn Toppin
1 Oct	10.30	Mrs Penny Pedley



## Welcome Service and Installation of Superintendent

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30 pm at Acton Hill** will see the Welcome Service for Deacon Ramona Samuel and her husband Calvin Samuel (Principal of the London School of Theology). In addition we also celebrate the installation of Rev Rachel Bending as ) our new Superintendent Minister, and the installation of Rev Shirlyn Toppin as minister for Action Hill Church, as well as welcoming Penny Pedley as Associate Pastor for Kingsdown and Ealing Green to our Circuit.

## .'In Touch' - Sep-Nov Issue

Do make sure you read In Touch for Rachel's first letter as the new Superintendent for the Ealing Trinity Circuit, and if you wish to know about all the other circuit changes that are currently taking place affecting all the churches in the circuit.

You can also find out who is to be President of Conference 2018-2019; and who owns Methodist property?

### The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the October 2017 issue is Friday 22 September 2017

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Well, hello, Ealing Trinity Circuit! I am looking forward to being part of the circuit staff for the coming year, and getting to know the people of Kingsdown and Ealing Green churches. I've been asked to write something to introduce myself, so what to say without giving you a boring life history. So let me try and anticipate a few questions you might ask.

### ***You are an Anglican – what brings you to the Methodist circuit?***

Although it is true that I have been a member of the Anglican Church for the last 38 years, my previous church affiliation was very varied and included open Brethren and Baptist churches. I have never seen myself as exclusively Anglican and have always been active ecumenically.

I have had links with the Ealing circuit for many years, firstly through the healing services, which I started to attend over 20 years ago, joining the team a couple of years later, which in turn led to taking services on the circuit, in more recent years just at Greenford and Northolt churches. I have also done some training for the circuit and feel very much at home in Methodist circles.



### ***You are a Lay Minister. How did that come about?***

My involvement in ministry goes back a long way. Since I became a committed Christian in my teens, I cannot remember a time when I haven't been an active church member. While my children were growing up, the sense of call to more formal ministry began to grow, and, after exploring ordination initially, I was commissioned as a lay minister at my local church in Greenford in 1996, and, after 5 happy years in that role, I started the St Albans

and Oxford Ministry Training Course and was licensed as an Accredited Lay Minister in 2004.

### ***What does it mean?***

Essentially, I have done the same selection process and training as an Anglican priest or Methodist minister, but feel my calling is to minister as

a lay person, focusing my service on pastoral work, training and development, and encouraging people to discover, develop and use their God-given gifts. Essentially, all I cannot do in the Methodist Church is preside at communion services.

In addition to being licensed over the years to three different churches, and taking Methodist services, I worked for the London Diocese for 6½ years, organising and running training courses in pastoral care, discipleship and leadership among other things. Three years ago my post was made redundant due to a staff restructuring. Since then I have continued to minister at St Cuthbert's, North Wembley, and to do some bits of training on a freelance basis.

Another thread that has weaved in over the years is a ministry of support to a number of people through spiritual direction. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, it means listening to and accompanying people as they reflect on their personal journey of faith and prayer. It is a ministry I love and find a great privilege, offering as it does, the space for people to explore in some depth what it means for them to live in relationship with God. To me that process is at the heart of understanding our shared calling to serve Christ in the world.

### ***How do you relax?***

A great support in all I do is my lovely family, my husband Andy and two grown up children, both working and living away from us now, happily settled in Oxford and Birmingham, though we see them often. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our daughter's wedding on 26<sup>th</sup> August.

I love Scrabble and board games, sudoku, walking, cycling and gardening (though rather spasmodically and more by instinct than skill!)

### ***How do you feel about coming?***

Excited and nervous in equal measure! Mostly, though, it is a real joy to be offered this opportunity to work with you over the coming year and I hope that we will be able to grow together as we share in worship, prayer and service. Watch this space!

**Penny Pedley**



Dear friends,  
September brings a huge host of mixed feelings as I begin my role as circuit superintendent and cease to be your minister.

I have valued my time as your minister: the times of joy and laughter, the struggles and hard discussions and the privilege of sharing in high and low points of your lives. I know there will be things that each of you will wish I'd done differently. I hope there will be things that each of you have found helpful, enriching or enlivening. The shared ministry of congregation and minister is always one of unfulfillable expectations- our end goal is the Kingdom of God after all! Thank you for your care and support, for your presence and hard work, for your willingness to be challenged and to change.



I pray that you continue to allow yourselves to be open to change, that you continue to search for God's will and vision for God's people in Kingsdown. I hope that you continue to grow in grace in your relationships with one another- learning to allow your differences to strengthen your community.

Thank you so much for the warm words, joyful lunch and generous gifts that marked my last Holy Communion on 20 August.

I look forward to this new phase of working together

With much love and blessings

*Rachel*

***It's not what you gather, but what you scatter,  
that tells what kind of life you have lived.***

## **Family News**

Thanks and gratitude to our church family, friends, and around the world, for sending me greetings of condolence, sympathy cards, flowers and any other means, during my sad time of bereavement.

My loving nephew **Levi Requinton** died of a heart attack, and my beloved brother **David Requinton** passed away last April (2017) in my country the Philippines.

My dear friend and companion, **Gordon Ethelbert Young**, had his wishes granted to die in his own country, and passed away peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados, and was buried on 9 June 2017.

All will be missed and may they REST IN PEACE.

PRAYER - Dear God,

*Thank you fir giving me a powerful foundation of faith in my life. From this foundation I am able to build so much peace, harmony and happiness; just by trusting in you and in unceasing guidance.*

*I walk in gratitude daily for the miraculous way having faith in you seems to work no matter what is going on around me. If I stand in faith I stand strong. I pray that I will always have this trust in your word to depend on, especially when my own will leads me astray. I pray that my life may be a testament to others of the wonders that happen when we put our faith in you God, where it belongs. Amen*

**Lita Requinton Stoll**

Notice for Kingsdown congregation who knew the Wooldridge's (former attendees of Pitshanger)

Nora and Sydney left Pitshanger some years ago to live in a Care Home near their family in Essex. Feeling sure that some people would remember them, **Nora Wooldridge** phoned to let us know that **Sydney** had passed away peacefully on Thursday, 3 August. (He was 101 and he and Nora would have been married 73 years on Saturday.) He leaves behind two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Sydney played the organ at Pitshanger for many years, and also played at Kingsdown on a number of occasions, more particularly at evening services.

Nora also sent her love to all at Kingsdown who might remember them and have an interest in receiving the news.

Should anyone wish to have an address for Nora, please speak to Pam Smith.

## ***Gone Forever? Hope not!***

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend who has been with us for many years. The name? Common Sense. No-one knows its age, as its birth records were lost long ago in bureaucratic red tape.

It will be remembered for having cultivated many valuable lessons, such as 'life isn't always fair' and 'maybe it was my fault.' It lived by sound financial policies, such as 'don't spend more than you earn.' Its health deteriorated when well-intentioned, but overbearing guidelines were introduced.

When parents failed to control their unruly children, they attacked teachers for a lack of discipline. Common Sense declined further when teachers found they had to get parental permission before giving essential treatment to a sick or injured pupil. And it seemed like the last straw when a burglar could sue for assault when you were simply defending your own home. It wasn't surprising when Common Sense gave up the will to live after someone failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot and, after causing themselves an injury by spilling some, received a huge settlement.

The death of Common Sense was preceded by several other relations named Truth, Trust, Discretion, Responsibility and Reason. Regrettably, these others have now taken over – I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended the funeral of Common Sense, because so few realised it had slipped away.

**KINGSDOWN CLUB  
PROGRAMME  
FOR  
SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER 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  
4.00PM

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

**SEPTEMBER 5th**  
**A BINGO and QUIZ AFTERNOON**

**SEPTEMBER 19th**  
**THE HURBS to ENTERTAIN US**

**OCTOBER 3rd**  
**DAVE ENTERTAINS US**

**OCTOBER 17th**  
**THE SUNSHINE KEEP FIT CLUB**

**NOVEMBER 7th**  
**THE REMINISCENCE ROAD SHOW**  
**with ;DOWN OUR HIGH STREET ;**

**NOVEMBER 21st**  
**THE SOUTHBOURNE SONGBIRDS**

**DECEMBER 5th**  
**A PAINTING DEMONSTRATION**  
**by MR. LES GOODCHILD**

**DECEMBER 19th**  
**THE CHRISTMAS TEAPARTY**  
**DAVE ENTERTAINS**  
**NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS 9th JANUARY 2018**

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**Back to School.....**





## A PRAYER WRITTEN BY

### AN UNKNOWN CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

*I asked for strength that I might achieve,  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.*

*I asked for health that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.*

*I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.*

*I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I had asked for,  
But everything that I had hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered;  
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.*

*Submitted by Juliet Edwards*

**John Wesley was once asked how he managed to attract the crowds when he was preaching. He replied, "I set myself on fire with the Gospel and the people come to see me burn."**

# **From the General Church Meeting and the Church Council**

This year's General Church Meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> July following the morning service. The meeting was held rather later than usual because Rev Rachel Bending was away on sabbatical during April – June. The most recent Church Council meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

During the morning service on 9<sup>th</sup> July, the congregation heard reports about the work of Boys Brigade, Babies & Toddlers, the Kingsdown Club, the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter and Ealing Foodbank. Thanks were expressed to those running the Book Fairs. In addition, the number of people who have official roles or who carry out various tasks around the church was highlighted and they were thanked for their dedication and work.

The formal meeting following the service was attended by 24 members and adherents. The meeting elected the following as church officers and members of the Church Council. All were confirmed during the Church Council on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Note that only full members of the Methodist Church can serve on the Church Council.

Chair: Rev Rachel Bending  
Treasurer: Derek Matthews  
Secretary: Gerald Barton  
Pastoral Secretary: Hazel Pennells  
Property Manager: Janet Smith  
Mission & Outreach Secretary: Olwen Britton  
Safeguarding Officer: Sybil Corbin  
Stewards: Kath Jarrett, Esther Ackah, Emily Campbell, Tom Cheriyan, Sybil Corbin  
Congregational Representatives: Juliet Edwards, Ivy Hanson, Blossom Jackson, Lita Stoll, Eileen Tobias  
King's Hall Class Meeting Reps: Bill Carty, George Lafford

Emily Campbell would like to stand down as a church steward, but has agreed to continue pending the appointment of a new steward to replace her.

Esther Ackah, George Lafford (King's Hall), Derek Matthews and Janet Smith will serve as Kingsdown's representatives on the Circuit Meeting.

The following were also confirmed in their various roles, although these do not form part of the Church Council:

Vestry Stewards: Kathleen Loveridge, Jill Richardson  
Communion Stewards: Violet Cordon, Ivy

Hanson, Jill Richardson, Rita Safta, Janet Smith, Eileen Tobias, MWiB Representative Jill Richardson

Kathleen Loveridge asked about the advertising of committee meeting dates. Committee Secretaries were asked to ensure their meeting dates were advised to the Messenger and News-sheet compilers. Meeting dates (when known) also appear on the church website.

Kingsdown's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary falls in 2019. Rachel Bending suggested we start thinking about how we might celebrate the anniversary.

The Church Council on 27<sup>th</sup> July was attended by 14 members (from a total of 19 in all).

Rachel Bending announced that Penny Pedley had been appointed Associate Pastor for Kingsdown and Ealing Green with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Penny is an Anglican Lay Minister with many years experience. She is known in the Circuit as a member of the Healing Team at Greenford and has preached at several of our churches. Whilst Penny will have oversight of Kingsdown, Rachel will continue as minister for the King's Hall Class Meeting.

Rachel outlined the procedure for 'stationing' ministers to churches and what is included in church

profiles. These are descriptions of churches and their requirements – Rachel said these needed to be 'positively realistic'. The stewards of Kingsdown and Ealing Green were to meet with Rev Shirlyn Toppin on 3<sup>rd</sup> August to draw up their church profiles. In discussion the meeting felt Kingsdown's profile should include:

- Need for stability
- Need for the minister to have pastoral and supportive skills
- Need for the minister to be engaged and pragmatic
- Need for help to focus on core mission of the church – help to make church approachable and relevant
- Need for help to develop variations on how we do 'church'

On finance, Derek Matthews reported that, based on the first 9 months of the year Kingsdown would have a surplus of about £20k for the full year. Most of this would be transferred to the Major Repairs Fund.

The Heinz Chapel Choir concert in May generated a surplus of about £900 (£600 from tickets plus the £300 donation from the choir). It was suggested that a portion of this

should be donated to the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter. Information will be requested from the Night Shelter as to their needs and a decision made at the next meeting. Thanks were expressed to Pam and Alan Smith for their work in organising the concert.

The budget for 2017-18 will be presented to the Council at the next meeting. Derek pointed out that there will be a 5% increase in assessments for all churches in the Circuit – these are the payments churches make to finance their ministers and the running of the Circuit. Furthermore, the Circuit will be increasing assessments in the coming years as it works towards financial break-even over the next 5 years.

It is intended to register Kingsdown as a charity in its own right with the Charities Commission during the Autumn. Until now churches have generally been able to operate as charities without registering, but this arrangement is being withdrawn and all churches must now register as charities in their own right.

Janet Smith presented a Property Report to the meeting. Unfortunately, the contractor for the completion of the fire alarm system was not responding to calls. A new quote is being obtained and will be

discussed at Property Committee with a view to presenting new proposals to the next meeting of the Church Council.

A report was presented on the maintenance of the wooden floors in the hall, hall foyer and church foyer. The best quote was from Kleaneffect for £3,300 for either an annual or a twice-yearly clean and maintenance. The meeting decided to accept this quote, but asked Property Committee to determine whether this should be annually or twice yearly depending on the practicality of scheduling the work given the overall use of our church premises.

In addition, the meeting decided that the following items of work should be undertaken at a total gross cost of approximately £5,000.:

- Replacement of flooring in the choir vestry with carpet tiles.

- Re-fixing or replacing the flooring in the Dome Room with the carpet tiles (if the quote for re-fixing is similar to that for replacing. Property Committee to decide which should be chosen).

- Repair plastering in corridor leading to the hall.

- Repairs to wall in the men's toilet (hall).

Finally on property matters, a Fire Risk Assessment of our church premises had been completed. This had highlighted a number of issues which would be discussed at Property Committee.

On behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee Olwen Britton reported that:

- Kingsdown had raised £119 towards the Easter Offering with the total for the Circuit being £1,460.
- The Quilt Exhibition at Ealing Green had raised £127 for Mind and £71 for Mercy Ships.
- Book Fairs had raised £360 in March, £400 in May and £270 in July. They will be further Book Fairs in September and November.

Proposals are needed for the next Charity of the Year. It was suggested that Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter or Welshore Hub should be considered.

The meeting decided that we would participate in the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter again this winter by hosting the Shelter on four Sunday nights in the run-up to Christmas. Anyone interested in volunteering to help in some way should speak to Sue Barton who will

be coordinating the Shelter at Kingsdown.

It was noted that Deacon Lemia Nkwelah would like to extend the MHA Ealing Live at Home scheme to include activities at Kingsdown.

Our Pastoral Visitors will be asked to indicate needs that the scheme could address. It was felt, however that any extension of the scheme to Kingsdown should take account of our existing activities (eg Kingsdown Club) and the current use of space in our premises.

Unfortunately, the Northfields Fayre on 15<sup>th</sup> July had been a wash-out on account of bad weather. However, Rachel Bending recommended that we continue our involvement with 'Love Northfield' at their Christmas event. This will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

An organiser is required for our Festival of Nativities this Christmas. This would involve organising the nativities in time for the Love Northfield Christmas event, arranging rotas (a sign-up sheet should be sufficient) and contacting Little Ealing and Fielding Schools and the Corner House Nursery to arrange their visits to the Festival.

This was Rachel's last meeting as chair of Kingsdown's Church Council. However, she is likely to

pop up from time to time at our Council meetings in her new role as Superintendent Minister.

Finally, don't forget the Circuit Welcome Service at Acton Hill on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm. The service will welcome Deacon Ramona Samuel and her husband Calvin Samuel (Principal of the London School of Theology) to our Circuit as well as welcoming Penny

Pedley as Associate Pastor for Kingsdown and Ealing Green.

In addition, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi) church would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm for a 3.00pm followed by a meal.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm.

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## **KINGS BABIES & TODDLERS**

### **Report to Church Council on Sunday 9 June 2017**

Over the past year families visiting have remained good, with an average of 12/14 attending regularly. Parents, grandparents, child minders, and nannies with their children are all made welcome.



This year, from our weekly fees, we have purchased a ball pool which has been a great hit with all ages - mostly up to two years, but a few older children with their siblings also attend.

Not all families are local, some coming from other parts of the borough.

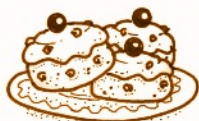
Our team, Doreen, Evelyn, Gwen, Hazel, Pam, Rita Brewster and Rita Safta have been very supportive and my thanks go out to all of them. We are having to say goodbye to Rita Safta who will be sadly missed; she will be starting a new course of education in September and will no longer be free to join us. We wish her well.

As a result we shall be looking for more help from any members of our church family who might be interested.

**Jill Richardson**

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

# BOOK FAIR



**Books Cakes Gifts**  
**Bric-a-Brac**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00am to 12.30pm**

**Proceeds to**



Methodist  
relief and  
development

## **All We Can – Book Fair and Harvest Appeal**

The next Book Fair will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017, in aid of All We Can (the relief and development charity of the Methodist Church). Offers of help on stalls on the day as well as contributions of cakes, toiletries, and bric-a-brac will be very much appreciated. Hoping for a fine day and good turn out. Please contact Pam or Alan Smith if you have any queries on 020 8840 4803.

Envelopes for All We Can's Harvest Appeal 'Chirp for Joy' will be in the church pews on Sundays, 10/17 & 24 September - if you wish to donate envelopes should be added to the weekly offering.

# 10th Ealing Boys' Brigade

Kingsdown's BB finished their 50th birthday year in style with a glorious week of camping in Swanage at the beginning of the summer.



Fifty campers gathered (30 Boys and 20 Staff and Old Boys) for seven days of fun and adventure which also coincided with the annual Swanage Festival. The weather was good for the most part and we made the most of the beautiful Dorset locale -- swimming, hiking, night-walks, sports-a-plenty, water games in the bay, and a wide variety of wonderful activities filled the days from Reveille until Last Post.

The Evening Devotions theme this year focused on God's great creation (animals and nature) and inspired some lovely talks from the staff, and many campers moved closer to God during our week together. Please see out facebook page for lots of pictures and videos that will bring a smile to your face!



As always, the magic of BB Camp is indefinable but all who were present at Camp 2017 will carry memories of the happiest of camps. Thanks to all who have supported and prayed for us during this special year -- our mission is to advance Christ's kingdom among Boys and this we shall continue to do with your blessing.

**Tony Plews Captain and Camp C.O.**





## Harvest Appeal

### September 2017

Zimbabwe is beautiful. It is full of life. It was once the bread basket of Africa. Now people struggle to grow enough food because of insufficient rainfall. Zimbabwe is beautiful, but many of the people who live there are suffering the effects of poverty.

This is Regai and her family, including her eldest son Valentine. When Valentine was an infant, he was left in the care of his sister. He was asleep in his bed. His sister started a fire and the whole house caught alight. Their neighbours came to the house and heard Valentine crying. He was hidden under the bed. They rescued him.



When Regai came home, she saw her house had burnt down and went straight to hospital. She explains what it was like, "They had put him on drips. He was burnt all over his head and it was swollen. It looked like it was going to burst. It was very painful. We were isolated in a room because of his condition. I wasn't allowed to leave. It felt like I was in prison. No one had thought that he would survive. It is painful to think about what happened".

Regai's husband passed away in 2005, making her life even more difficult. "I was unable to pay for my children to finish school", she explains, "I was

here, working my land like other people in the community. If I had no food, I would have to work in other people's fields".

All We Can is bringing hope into situations like Regai's, by bringing communities together in Central Zimbabwe, to start new businesses, in order to help families make an income and provide for their needs. Regai met with other members of her community, and with All We Can's support, they decided to start a chicken business because they thought this would earn them the money they needed. They received seven days of training on how to run their chicken business. Regai hopes, "That by the end of the year my life will be improved. My children will go to school and have enough food to eat".

Valentine appreciates the sacrifices his mum has made. He says, "All of the decisions she makes are for the good of us, her children. She knows that this project will help support us. I hope that if I pass school, I'll be able to find work and support my mum. Thanking her for all that she has done for me."

Our donations really do make a difference. A gift of £21 would provide a community with 20 chickens, helping them to kick start their business and earn an income so they can provide their families with food and education. A monthly donation to All We Can will go further. For example, by giving £10 a month you can ensure that more communities, like the one we met today, can survive the tough challenges that they face and improve their lives, not only for them, but for future generations. Please give generously, to help more people in the world meet their basic needs and become all that they can.

***Donation Envelopes  
will be in Church on  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and  
24<sup>th</sup> September.***

***Or donate on line :  
[Allwecan.org.uk/give](http://Allwecan.org.uk/give)***



## ***Methodists respond to cholera outbreak in Yemen***

As Yemen continues to struggle with one of the largest cholera outbreaks in recent recorded history, the Methodist relief and development agency 'All We Can' has extended its work in the country.

A recent joint statement of the World Health Organisation and Unicef warned that suspected cholera cases in Yemen could exceed 600,000 by the end of 2017. Yemen's health systems are collapsing. Water, sanitation and access to food is precarious. It is now estimated that 18.8 million of Yemen's 28 million people need humanitarian assistance and over seven million are on the brink of famine.

As a result of generous giving to its East Africa Famine Appeal, over £450,000 was raised for its East Africa Famine Appeal, and 2000 very vulnerable people in Yemen are benefiting from the distribution of food baskets. Tens of thousands more across East Africa in countries including Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi are also receiving food aid and healthcare. Visit: [www.allwecan.org.uk/famine](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/famine).

## **Christian Aid - Sponsored Walk Saturday 23rd September & 2018 dates for your diary**



The final event for 2017 will be the annual Richmond Park sponsored walk on Saturday 23rd September. This year a new route! Join the Richmond and Kew Christian Aid group and supporters from all over London as they walk around scenic Richmond including the river. Last year unfortunately we did not take part, but please let Ruby Warne know if you wish to join in this year.

I expect you will have seen 2018 diaries and calendars in the shops? Maybe you have already purchased a diary and if so please do enter the following dates for our Christian Aid events - Annual Book Fair Sat 12th May, Christian Aid Service in the UK Sun 13th May, door-to-door and street collections Mon-Sat 14th-19th May, Circle the City Walk Sun 20th May, Richmond Park Walk Sat 22 Sept.

**Ruby Warne**

## **Thanksgiving Service for Toby Cox Saturday 16th September**

**Northolt Church** is holding a Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 16th September 2017 at 2.00pm for Toby Cox who died on 13th May 2017 after suffering a brain tumour. Toby was a member at Northolt and took an active part in many aspects of church life. He was the drummer in the Music Group.

If anyone would like to come to the service, you will be very welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. If you intend going to the service it would be helpful for catering purposes if you could let Jane Bennett know at [janebennett56@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janebennett56@yahoo.co.uk). However, this is not obligatory and everyone who attends will be very welcome in any case.

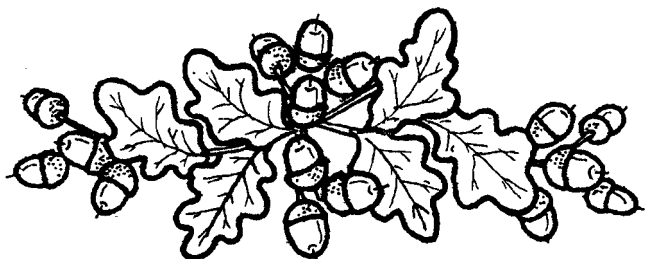
### **Prayer of thanks to our Faithful Father**

Faithful Father,

Thank you for your presence with us, all the time. Thank you for your goodness towards us, all the time. Thank you for the forgiveness you offer when we put our trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross, so that not even the most desperate circumstances can cut us off from you. Thank you for the on-going possibility of a new start with bright hope for each tomorrow.

Thank you, thank you Lord,  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

**By Daphne Kitching**



## *Lives of Life*

*The seed was well hid -  
Preserved in a timeless zone  
Where it survived alone.*

*The winter rages  
Purged its pain,  
As it longed for  
Sun and rain.*

*To awaken, once again,  
All that there was stored -*

*- Anchored in the depths of memory.*

*And as, in full circle,  
The seasons ran  
There cam fruition  
Of an eternal plan.*

*- A continuance of man!*

*Val Elgar*

© December 1977

## **Inter Church Visits**

Following our London-wide inter-church and inter-faith visits, we are initiating a series of local exchanges, where a local member church invites others to join them for worship and/or for a particular event.

The first one of these will be to St Stephens, in West Ealing, who are celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We are invited to the All Age Harvest Festival service there at 10.30 am on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like to join us, please contact **Noreen Barnes-Hoggett**, [noreen29@googlemail.com](mailto:noreen29@googlemail.com) or on 020 8997-4935.

## **'England's Rose'**

This month marks 20 years since the funeral of Princess Diana on 6th September 1997. Recently Prince William described how his mother's death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.' (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as one like us: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in his purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint!

'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.' (Princess Diana).

**'Parish Pump'**

## SMILE

Smiling is infectious, we catch it like the flu.  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin  
And when he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile, and then I realised its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.  
So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected;  
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Sent in by **Rosemary Nelson** of 'The Vine', Wheathampstead  
Churches Together magazine, and copied by Kingsdown Eds.

\* \* \* \* \*

Canon David Winter considers our need to look for a villain...

### THE WAY I SEE IT: The Blame Game

'It's her fault!' That, along with 'it's not fair!' is among the first sentences most children learn. Something's been broken, someone's in tears, and the Blame Game has begun. The awful truth is, we don't grow out of it. Look at any newspaper or watch daytime television and you'll see it played out endlessly.

Years ago, a battle-hardened journalist told me that 'in news there are no accidents'. Of course, in fact there are. But after every well-publicised incident the media and aggrieved parties ensure that the endless hunt for someone – anyone – to blame and punish goes on, even if it takes years.

When the tower in Siloam fell, the crowds didn't ask Jesus who was to blame (they simply assumed it was an 'act of God'). They wanted to know if the 18 victims were particular sinners, to suffer such a fate. No, he said, they weren't – though they should all amend their ways. The crowd weren't concerned with blame, but consequence. It sometimes seems we've reversed that, in the modern world, and replaced consequence with blame. Somehow it will all be better if someone is punished – or is made to pay heavy compensation.

Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we ask for forgiveness, but add 'as we forgive those who sin against us'. It may well be their fault, but we are not seeking a penalty for it. That seems a healthy, if radical, alternative to the Blame Game.

# SAVE OUR HOSPITALS

With no blue-light A&E, no maternity, no children's ward, no acute beds and an 80% reduction in beds overall, no local resident will recognise the husk - run by GPs, not consultants - that will be left at Ealing under these proposals as a 'hospital'.

**To argue that what will remain is a 'local' hospital is the biggest con of all.**



At a time when Ealing's population is growing and the pressures on the local NHS are already so acute, stripping away vital services and capacity is nonsensical. A&E waiting times in north west London are already amongst the worst in the country and these proposals threaten to make that worse.

I'd urge Ealing residents to show their opposition to these reckless plans by signing the petition to the government, urging them to think again and save Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals.

**Sign and share** online here: [www.sohpetition.co.uk](http://www.sohpetition.co.uk)

Share on Facebook [by clicking here](#)

Share on Twitter [by clicking here](#)

Sign up to receive alerts on the Save our Hospital campaign at  
[www.ealing.gov.uk/soh](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/soh)

Kind regards,  
Cllr Julian Bell  
Labour Leader of Ealing Council

**Live your life as though everything is a miracle.**



# BARN DANCE



**with live band  
and caller**

In aid of our  
Church premises'  
refurbishment  
programme

**In the Church Hall  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
7:00pm – 10:30pm**

**Tickets including 2-course meal  
adults: £10  
children 14 and under: £5**

**Tickets available from:  
Gill Standfield (020) 8567 4018  
Rita Mac Murray (020) 8813 1871  
Ticket numbers are limited**

**Hanwell  
Methodist  
Church**

**Church Road, Hanwell,  
London, W7 1DJ**





**September 29**  
**Michael, Gabriel and**  
**Raphael**

In the Bible, angels are messengers from God. The word 'angel' comes from the Greek word for a messenger and it appears hundreds of times in the Bible. But the only angels whose names we know are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael who are archangels, captains among the angels. Each of these three has a different task: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides.

In the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, Michael leads God's armies to final victory over the forces of evil and in the Old Testament he is in the book of Daniel, defending Israel against its enemies.

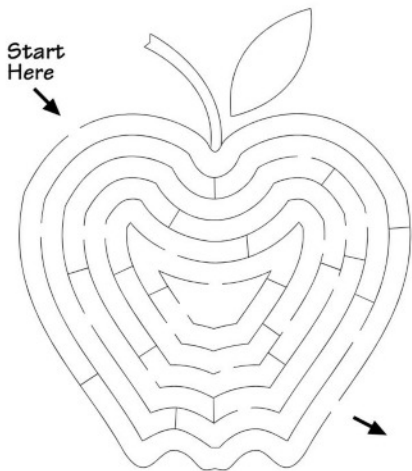
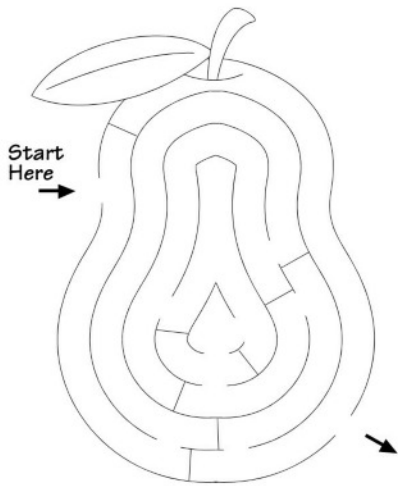


Gabriel is best known for his appearing to a young Jewish girl named Mary to tell her that she will give birth to Jesus.

Raphael is in the Old Testament story of Tobit where he guides Tobit's son Tobiah.

## HARVEST PUZZLE

Can you find your way through these 2 fruit mazes?



**What kind of nuts sneeze the most?**

Cashews.

**What's a vampire's favourite fruit?**

Nectarine.

## COMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

- Sat 2      10.15 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
- Sun 3      6.30 Welcome and Installation Service at Acton Hill
- Mon 4      8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 5      2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Bingo and Quiz Afternoon
- Wed 13    1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly - term time only)
- Thu 7      3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 8      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)
- Sat 9      10.15 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
- Tue 12    Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Wed 13    8.00 pm Property Committee and Mission and Outreach  
Committee
- Sat 16    10 am -12.30 pm **BOOK FAIR** with stalls: books, bric-a-brac, cakes, gifts, in aid of **All We Can**
- Tue 19    2.00 pm Tuesday Club - The Hurbs to entertain us
- Thu 21    8.30 pm Finance Committee
- Tue 26    8.00 pm Church Council Meeting

### Future Dates for your Diary

- Sun 8 Oct 10 am Kingsdown Harvest Festival Service
- Sat 14 Oct 2.00 pm for 3 pm celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi) church takes place followed by a meal.

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.