



The MESSENGER

for the Kingsdown and Pitshanger Church families



February

'When I was hungry, you gave me food; when thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger, you took me into your home; when naked, you clothed me; when I was ill, you came to my help; when in prison, you visited me.' (Matthew 25. v. 35, 36)

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY - KINGSDOWN



5 Feb	10.30	Ms Christina Tom-Johnson
	3.30	Service at Hanwell House (please try to join us)
	6.30	Rev Dr Jennifer Smith
12 Feb	10.30	Rev Roger Dunlop, Family/Parade Service
	6.30	Mr Akin Phillips
19 Feb	10.30	Mr Les Goodchild Holy Communion
28 Feb	10.30	Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion & Healing Service
	6.30	Mrs Lynda Blackburn

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY - PITSHANGER



5 Feb	10.30	Rev. Roger Dunlop and Alan Smith, Holy Communion and Methodist Relief and Development Sunday.
12 Feb	10.30	Mr David Street
19 Feb	10.30	Rev. Roger Dunlop, Family/Parade Service
28 Feb	10.30	Mr Donney Samuel



The MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2012 issue is Friday 24 February

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Welcome!

In Oxford there's a monument known as the Martyr's Memorial which looks like a church spire. Inquisitive American tourists are informed by students that it is Oxford's underground cathedral and they are directed down the adjacent wide steps to discover the cathedral's glories. A further quaint tradition is that there are separate entrances for Gentlemen and Ladies....

'I was a stranger and you took me in'! (Matthew 25.35)

What must it feel like to cross the threshold of our church for the first time? Someone commented that the church looked too posh for him to dare go in. Even if newcomers do come in there is so much to worry about:

- Will I be sitting in someone else's place?
- What if my children make a noise?
- How do I know when to stand or sit (particularly if I've been herded into a front seat because all the regulars had got the back seats first)?

Our door stewards do a splendid job but we must all help provide a good welcome for 'strangers'/newcomers. We have to strike the right balance between friendliness and respecting their shyness, but must never simply ignore someone.

Of course there's always the possibility that the 'stranger' you are welcoming has been coming so long he could be welcoming you! But we must be prepared to face momentary embarrassment for the sake of growing together as the family of God and helping others become part of that family.

Jesus' injunction to welcome strangers was part of a wider challenge to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the poor, the sick, and for prisoners. It challenges our country's immigration policy, and our support of the Soup Kitchen, Soul in Ealing Debt Counselling Service, NCH Action for Children, MRDF & Christian Aid etc.

Moreover Jesus has made clear that the welcome we give to people in church, or the welcome and help we give to those struggling from natural disasters or 3rd world debt, is simply our response to the way that we have been welcomed by God. We were strangers but have been 'taken in' by God. We have been given the amazing privilege of entering into His presence - into a glory far surpassing that of the most magnificent cathedral in the world, let alone the council loos in Oxford!

Roger Dunlop

Kingsdown Family News

Baptism

The baptism took place on Sunday, 8 January 2012, of **Phineas Luke Lewis**, son of **Adam and Rebecca**, brother of **Cydney, Sophie and Amy** and was welcomed by the Kingsdown church family.

All good wishes to **Jill Ward** as she battles with a nasty bout of shingles. We wish her a very speedy recovery. All good wishes too to **Peter Loveridge** who now seems to be making good progress in his recovery at Clayponds Hospital.

Vera Hodges has reported that the Poppy Collection at Kingsdown raised £72.71p.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to the decoration of the church for Christmas. The efforts made certainly seem to have been appreciated by many who visited Kingsdown during the Christmas period. Thanks too to those involved in the dismantling and packing away of the displays (always rather less fun than the setting up!). **Kathleen Loveridge** was our Trojan leader despite her concern for and time spent with a very poorly husband at the same time.

Sincere thanks too to all who have been so actively involved in the enormous task of planning and raising funds for our redevelopment venture. There are more comments from **Roger Dunlop** on the 'Redevelopment' page.

A number of our church family will remember **Susan and Jim Young** who moved to Brighton some 12 years ago. Jim died on 28 December and his funeral took place at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church in Brighton on Friday, 6 January 2012. Sincere condolences to Susan and family.

Funerals

The funerals have taken place of **Haig Gulesserian** on 24 November 2012, **Kamie Bahanda** on 19 December 2011, **Martin Walker** on 11 January 2012 and **Margaret Richards** on 25 January 2012. *(Margaret was a member of the Pitshanger church family and there are further details on the opposite page.)*



New Minister for Kingsdown and Hanwell from September 2012

The appointment of the **Rev Peter Catford** was recently announced. Following training at Wesley College Bristol Peter served in East Wight, Lancaster and Kingston on Thames Circuits, and is currently in the the Kennet and Test Valley Circuit, Andover. Peter's wife **Suva** will be minister at Pitshanger and Perivale churches from September 2012.

Pitshanger Family News

When our Minister Roger lost his voice over Christmas, Mary Newman took over the Christmas Day service with prayers and readings and our Covenant Service on January 1st was conducted by Miss Vera Marston with Roger administering Holy Communion.

Christmas Day collection for NCH Action for Children mounted to £145.29, the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal raised £39, plus £6 tax relief. Since March last year 4,527 stamps have been sent to Christian Aid and also, since taking over the greetings card recycling last year, a further £131 has been raised. Thanks to all concerned.

Money raised when members did the refreshments for the exhibition at the church on December 3rd, amounted to £44.50 for church funds.

The Shooting Star bag collection before Christmas made a fantastic £700 when the goods were sold in their shops – thanks to those who contributed.

At Christmas we sang carols together with other churches in Pitshanger Lane on Saturday, December 17, (Colleen playing keyboard without gloves in freezing weather) and later in the week at the Wine Bar.

On Sunday, December 11th we joined our Anglican friends at neighbouring St. Barnabas for Evensong to mark the first Sunday in Advent.

Our congregation was shocked and dismayed to hear of the death of Mrs. Margaret Richards in Ealing Hospital in the early hours of January 17th. Margaret had been in hospital since shortly after Christmas. She joined us soon after her husband David transferred his membership three years ago. David is one of our Church Stewards and Chairman of our Finance and Property Committee and he and Margaret would have celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary this year. Our sympathetic thoughts and prayers are with David at this time.

Sue Kelly has also been in Ealing Hospital for the removal of her appendix and we trust she is now fully recovered. Get well soon wishes to the two Bobs and any other friends known to be in need of prayers.



Circuit Lent Course 2012 'Prayer'



To take place at Greenford on Tuesday evenings, and Pitshanger on Thursday mornings at 10am.

More information in the next issue.



Methodist Women in Britain Women's Network London District



Women's World Day of Prayer- Friday 2nd March

The Annual Interdenominational Women's World Day of Prayer service, for our group of churches, will take place on Friday 2 March at Haven Green Baptist Church at 2 pm. This service has been prepared by the women of Malaysia and the theme for this year is *'Together in Prayer'*. We trust that as many people as possible can attend from Kingsdown.

Women's Network Sunday 4th March

This year's Women's Network Sunday Service at Kingsdown will take place on 4th March. The Theme is *'Training for Gold'* in support of the 2012 Olympics. The resource for the service, which includes stories of iconic athletes (including that on Dr Stephanie Cooke, who launched Athletes family Homestay), will be made available in February.

Daffodil Day Monday 4th March

The Daffodil Day Service in this Centenary Year of Westminster Central Hall will take place on Monday 5th March at 2 pm. There has been refurbishment in the hall and the Organ has been back for a few months with illumination! It is appropriate that the theme for this year's service is *'In Praise of Music.'* The service that has been planned should prove to be not only memorable but one that will be filled with praise and worship. (Please see Notice Board.) *(My advice for people wishing to attend is that they should get to the venue early in order to secure seats).*

Craft Day - 10th March

The annual Women's Network Craft Day will take place at Christ Church Methodist Church, Uxbridge. Any one wishing to learn a new skill and have fellowship, can contact Gillian Oxman direct. This year there are some new and interesting workshops. Please see the details and application Forms on the Notice Board.

Athletes Family Homestay

The Athletes Family Homestay program was launched in November 2011. Anyone who wishes to participate as hosts in the program can now register on line. Once registered, potential hosts will receive confirmation of their form. It should be noted that they will need to register the name of their Church leader on the form, so it would be wise to get their minister's consent before entering their names on the Form. Should all the criteria be met, there will be a follow-up visit in order that the details

entered can be confirmed. The matching of Guests to Hosts will take place by around May, by which time, athletes who will take part in the Olympics, will be confirmed. In the mean time I will keep people informed re developments. Please remember that More than Gold will also need a number of volunteers, For more detailed information, please visit www.morethangold.org.uk

Blossom Jackson



KINGSDOWN REDEVELOPMENT NEWS

Roger Dunlop writes: "On Sunday, 8 January, while I was still voiceless, Kathleen Loveridge read on my behalf: 'I'm delighted that the contractors have completed all of their Phase 2 works for our redevelopment. Redecorating the hall was not in the original specification but Harold was able to persuade the builders to decorate the hall at cost over the Christmas holidays.

In addition, the kitchen has been refitted following a work party before Christmas, and with **Harold Blackburn** working all but 3 days over the long Christmas/New Year break, along with a number of others at various points including **Lynda** and **Les**.

There is still quite a bit to do including with the kitchen, and most significantly the Phase 3 rewiring, but we are very grateful for all that has been achieved so far.'

<u>Income for Year September 2011 to August 2012</u>				<u>Expenditure</u>	
	November	December	January		
Balance c/f	£265,381			Pryers	£7,291
Rent	£500	£500	£500	Arena Door	£154
Donation		£50		Pryers	£6,458
Sunday Teas	£50	£50	£50	Pryers	£62,710
Birthday			£50	Structural Engineer	£600
Murder Mystery				Pryers	£66,069
Interest	£149	£111		Locks	£121
Coffee Moming				Pryers	£49,495
Smarties				Repairs to Office	£196
Barber Shop	£15			Telephone	£198
Gift Aid				Plumbing	£57
Spare Cash	£180			Locks	£500
				Office	£196
				Harold	£1,220
				Plumbing	£980
				Pryers	£41,259
Total	£894	£711	£600		
Bank	£82,821	£83,532	£84,132		£237,505
Collected so far	£248,051	£248,762	£249,362		
Grant City Bridge	£50,000				



1. RICHMOND PARK - SPONSORED WALK

CONGRATULATIONS to Ivy, Janet and Violet. You will be pleased to know that they raised £639! A wonderful achievement and many thanks for a marvellous result.

2. SIERRA LEONE

In the last Messenger you will have read Rachel's report of a meeting at Inter Church House with representatives from the Methodist Church - Christian Aid's partner in Sierra Leone.

On Thursday, 26 January at the Annual Supporters meeting, we will have had a presentation from two gap year students who have recently returned from that country. In Christian Aid Week (13-19 May) we shall learn more about CA's work in Sierra Leone.

3. During the coming months, many events will be held in London and the South East to raise money for Christian Aid - such as a Christian Aid cabaret in Dorking, a Fish and chip supper in Hastings, a General Knowledge quiz in Pinner, a cream tea in Holstead, a sponsored abseil at Leatherhead, etc. (Unfortunately nothing near Ealing.) However, there is something we can join in! Please read on

HOPE IN THE RUBBLE - STORIES FROM HAITI

You will remember the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Aldrin Calixte, director of Christian Aid's partner Haiti Survive, will be joining with us for a few days in March. Haiti Survive is playing a vital role working with communities in Haiti to help them rebuild their lives following the earthquake. Aldrin will be talking about their emergency response work, as well as their long term development plans. We are invited to Christian Aid, Inter Church House, on WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH - 12.30pm. Bring your lunch and join CA staff as we listen to Aldrin talk about his work and answer questions. On the next four evenings he will be speaking in Sevenoaks, Haywards Heath, Eastbourne and Basildon, culminating in a visit to Guildford University and Cathedral.

Would you like to hear Aldrin? If so, please let me know.

Ruby Warne

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books

Gifts

Bric-a-Brac

Saturday
11th February

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

‘Junior Mission For All’ & ‘Network’

KINGSDOWN CLUB PROGRAMME

Meetings are held on the first and third tuesdays of each month and all are welcome to attend. They are held in Kingsdown Methodist Hall (Corner Kingsdown / Northfield Avenue) from 2.00 to 4.00 p. m
Transport is available for anyone needing it. Please contact Eileen Tobias (Tel.No . 0208 567 4205)

**7th FEBUARY DAVE and MARIA
ENTERTAIN**

**21st FEBUARY ALLSORTS No 6
by GRAHAM PREEDY**

**6th MARCH THE BRENTHAM LADIES
CHOIR**

**20th MARCH MY TOUR ON THE OCEAN WAVES
a talk by JANET SMITH**

**3rd APRIL MUSIC-GO-ROUND
with ALAN SMITH**

**17th APRIL the A.G.M.
and BINGO**

The boss

My boss was complaining in a staff meeting the other day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss".

He then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

Seek the Lord

*Seek the Lord, and in his ways persevere.
O faint not, but as eagles fly;
For his steep hill is high;
Then striving gain the top, and triumph ever.*

*When with glory there thy brows are crowned,
New joys so shall abound in thee,
Such sights thy soul shall see,
That worldly thoughts shall by their beams be drowned.*

*Farewell, World, thou mass of mere confusion,
False light, with many shadows dimmed,
Old witch, with new foils trimmed,
Thou deadly sleep of soul, and charmed illusion.*

*I the King will seek, of kings adored;
Spring of light, tree of grace and bliss,
Whose fruit so sovereign is
That all who taste it are from death restored.*

By Thomas Campion (1567-1620)



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR
READERS - MAY IT BE ONE OF
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND
MANY RICH BLESSINGS**

*(and many thanks to all those kind friends who sent us Christmas cards
Pam & Alan)*



The devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 threw a global spotlight on a country where people had been struggling for many years. Before the disaster, 80% of Haitians were living under the poverty line and the majority of the population did not have access to electricity. Over half of children were not attending school and only 5% of roads were in a reasonable condition. These factors, and others, meant that Haiti was the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake – Haiti's worst in 200 years – was followed by a series of aftershocks of up to 5.9 magnitude. In all, 222,570 people died and another 200,000 were injured. Over one million people were made homeless and 90% of the buildings in the capital city, Port-au-Prince, were destroyed. Many people ended up in improvised camps, relying on aid agencies for the basic necessities.

Haiti's recovery since the earthquake has not been easy. The scale of the disaster made it difficult to coordinate and manage the emergency response, especially in the absence of a coherent government structure – some 16,000 civil servants were killed and most of Haiti's parliamentary buildings were damaged. At the time, Jean Philippe Chauzy of the International Organisation for Migration said 'Haiti is definitely the most complex emergency to date.'

Political unrest around the presidential elections in November 2011 and cholera outbreaks have also hampered aid efforts. A lack of public records on land ownership has posed a particular problem for agencies trying to re-house some of the people displaced by the earthquake. According to the United Nations, over 95% of Haiti's land is not accounted for; very few Haitians own land titles and many records were destroyed by the earthquake.

But, despite the setbacks, there has been progress. MRDF is one of many agencies supporting emergency aid and rebuilding work in Haiti. Our emergency fund received over £465,000 in donations from individuals and churches across the UK and Ireland, which helped to provide food, water and shelter to people affected by the disaster.

Some of MRDF's funding was concentrated on five rural communities to the east of Leogane, very close to the epicentre of the earthquake. 90% of families in Leogane lost their homes and over 80% of the buildings were destroyed. The communities – Masson, Macombe, Luitier, Flon and Croix des Peres – were partly chosen because

of the considerable damage they experienced as a result of the earthquake and the aftershocks and because they were not receiving support from other aid agencies. The project has helped communities to clear land and plant seeds for the next harvest as well as built wells and houses and offered counselling.

Working through both the ACT Alliance and the Methodist Church in Haiti, MRDF has helped to:

- buy seeds for over 21,000 people to plant. (Most Haitians depend on agriculture mainly small-scale subsistence farming – to survive.)
- distribute over 1,400 tool kits.
- clear 4,806 cubic metres of rubble. (Over 20 million cubic metres of rubble will need to be cleared in Haiti, according to experts.)
- provide clean water and improved sanitation facilities for over 2,300 people through building new wells and latrines.
- build nearly 400 houses.
- provide over 2,400 people with cash to buy kitchen supplies.
- provide over 2,300 people with cash to buy hygiene kits. (This includes soap, toothbrush and toothpaste.)
- train over 400 teachers in counselling.
- train 56 people in disaster preparedness.

MRDF is also funding an agricultural assistance programme, which is run by the Methodist Church in Haiti. The project is helping people in over 75 communities (including Port-au-Prince, Carrefour and St Mark) to increase their crop yields, with farmers receiving tools, seeds and fertilisers. Since the work began, over 100 farmers have taken part in agricultural training workshops, five tonnes of maize and nine tonnes of beans have been distributed and over 1,500 farmers have received cabbage and tomato seeds to plant. Some of the people affected by the earthquake recently received goats as part a 'Pass on the gift' initiative – people will pass on their goats' kids to others in the community. The project has also helped to set up 43 local committees.

Several other projects run by the Methodist Church in Haiti were supported by the World Mission Fund's parallel appeal for Haiti. Donations have helped to provide solar power units to people living in tents, cover the costs of teachers' salaries and the re-building of houses and latrines, as well as providing scholarships for students.

It will take many years for Haiti to develop a decent infrastructure and for people affected by the earthquake to rebuild their livelihoods and recover emotionally. But it is possible. MRDF is committed playing its part in supporting the country in the long-term.

Thank you to everyone who supported MRDF's appeal for Haiti.

Kingsdown in Numbers

Every year during October, the Methodist Church carries out a statistical exercise known as the ‘October Count’, or ‘Statistics for Mission’ to give it its proper title. One of the aims of this is to track the ‘health’ of Methodism in terms of its membership and attendance. The count also collects other information such as the number of baptisms, marriages and funerals conducted in church, the groups that churches run and, in more recent years, details of what are known as ‘fresh expressions’ of church. These are initiatives aimed at people who don’t, or don’t yet attend church, but which have the aim of drawing them towards Christianity.

Each year, the Church produces summary reports based on the information collected and every third year makes a report to the annual Methodist Conference. All of these can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website.

As usual this year, the count was done, the requested information compiled and input to a special website set up for the purpose, and that was that. Well, I thought for once I’d do a little summary of some of the data so you can see how Kingsdown looks ‘in numbers’. Before going any further, however a health warning. Church attendance has been declining in Britain for years, and Kingsdown’s experience is no different. So, the numbers don’t make for entirely happy reading.

This table gives details of Kingsdown’s membership and average Sunday attendance during October over a span of 20 years and year by year for the last 5 years. ‘Attendance’, incidentally includes both adults and children.

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2001	1996	1991
Membership	94	97	101	99	102	125	119	155
Attendance	82	80	91	83	96	n/a	n/a	n/a

As you can see, Kingsdown’s membership has shrunk quite considerably since 1991 when it stood at 155. Although there was some recovery between 1996 and 2001, membership has gradually slipped and in 2011 we had 94 members. Although I don’t have attendance figures earlier than about 2007, there is a similar pattern of gradual decline. In this Kingsdown is not alone – these patterns are similar across the country, so what we see at Kingsdown reflects broader trends within UK society as a whole.

Last year, we were asked to estimate the age and gender breakdowns of our adult congregations as well as counting the numbers. Kingsdown was estimated to be about 40% male and 60% female – very similar to the rest of the churches in our Circuit. Our age breakdown was as follows. For comparison I’ve also shown the age breakdown for the UK adult population as a whole.

	20 – 40 yrs	40 – 65 yrs	65 – 80 yrs	80+yrs
Kingsdown	8%	35%	50%	7%
UK population	38%	41%	16%	6%

I'm sure this comparison won't come as a surprise to you, and I'm equally sure it will be mirrored in churches across the country – it's certainly mirrored across the Circuit. Compared to the UK adult population as a whole, the over 65's form a much bigger proportion of our congregation. Conversely, the under 40's are significantly under-represented.

I suspect that the Methodist Church asked for the age breakdown as it will allow it to do some thinking about how membership and attendance are likely to move in future years. At the individual church level there are some obvious implications of declining numbers and ageing congregations. Firstly, the pool of people available to carry out all those tasks around the church gets smaller and older year by year. At the same time, the tasks have increased or have become more onerous – had any of us heard of 'Safeguarding Officers' 20 years ago? Similarly, eventual moves to require churches to register with the Charity Commission as charities in their own right will put more pressure on treasurers and others to compile and submit the reports required by the Commission.

Secondly, fewer people means fewer people donating and with significant proportions of congregations made up of retired people, that's also more people living on pensions which are relatively 'fixed' in real terms. This inevitably puts pressure on church funding and we become very dependent on letting our premises to make ends meet. Costs, unfortunately don't decline in line with numbers - it costs just as much to heat our church when it's got a few people in as it does when it's full. If anything, costs gradually increase – as part of its redevelopment Kingsdown has installed new equipment, such as the fire alarm system and the lift to the Dome Room and Classroom 3. These require maintenance contracts, which are, of course additional costs. What it does mean is that we need to be very careful how we use our funds and also be very thoughtful about how much we give.

That's probably depressed you enough about numbers. Apart from the statistics, the Methodist Church also asks some questions about what we get up to. As many of you will know, our buildings are pretty well used during the week by such groups as Splash & Dash, the Special Treasures after-school club and so on. As these are 'lets' to outside groups, the Church does not count these as church activities. However, the Boys Brigade and Guides do count as do the other groups Kingsdown actively provides – our Babies & Toddlers group and the Tuesday Club for older people. Also, our annual Bereavement Service reaches out to people who have lost love ones during

the year. Equally, the numbers of people out collecting for Christian Aid shouldn't be forgotten.

So, in conclusion, our numbers may be down, but that doesn't mean we are not active in our community, and with the redevelopment coming to its conclusion, there may be scope for doing something more.

Gerald Barton

Kiss kiss

An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."



Community Bible Study International UK



A term has ended and we have been studying the book of Galatians. We want to say thank you to Kingsdown Church for letting us use the church every week on a Thursday evening.

The study has been on for six weeks which included an introductory week and a closing review week.

If you ask anyone who has been to this study they will tell you it was challenging, useful and thought provoking. It left us with studying God's word and seeking meaning in relation to how we should live by faith in the wonderful thing that only Christ can do for us.

We started our next term on the 12th of January, 2012, same place and we are studying Esther/Ruth which has 10-12 lessons. Why not make a New Year's resolution to study more of God's word. Be blessed.

Rachel Kamara

“Worker with Homeless People”

REPORT FOR WEST EALING TRUST MEETING - JANUARY 2012

A New Year, new resolutions perhaps and wondering what the year ahead holds for us and for those less fortunate than us. Three out of five outreach workers across the country say they are seeing an increasing number of rough sleepers, according to new research published by homelessness charity St Mungo's.

It is good news to know that the Ealing Winter Shelter will bed fifteen of these people each night for three of the coldest months. Fourteen churches have offered their buildings as venues and each church provides a team of people to cook a hot meal, a bed for the night and breakfast the following morning as well as spending vital time with the guests.

Some of the guests are familiar to the Ealing Soup Kitchen so it is great to have somewhere to refer people too if necessary. The Soup Kitchen itself continues to deal with large numbers and the Church teams have learnt to manage this the best way possible and with the increased cooking load too. Another team has joined the soup kitchen rota Hanwell Pentecostal Church which is good to see different churches becoming involved.

The Christmas period was managed well by the churches opening, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day along with CRISIS people were well cared for over this often difficult period.

Activities

The Friday Hub continues to develop and grow and is a vital time for those in need of a haircut, housing advice, art class, pool/table tennis or just needing to touch down with friends over light refreshments. We have a new Art teacher now who has been able to release people's talents in a new way, and would like to display some of their artwork on the website at St Johns. We were able to man a table at the Open Day at St Johns in September run by volunteers who were able to display some of the art done on the Friday and also to sell cards that were made in the class for a small amount to help the ongoing funds.

Christmas Party and karaoke went well hosted by Haven Green with over 50 guests and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Took the volunteers from the Friday Hub and also the befriending team for a Christmas meal to thank them for all their efforts over the past year.

Continued visits to Roy King in prison.

Other Organisations and Groups

Been in contact with Sarah Carruthers from the London YMCA who wanted to work with her residents on a fundraising effort for the Soup Kitchen. They raised £881 bag-packing at Tesco's Ealing, the money will be divided between WET and ESK. Further events may take place throughout 2012 – see attached newspaper cutting.

Meetings with New Day Housing where guests can access private renting if referred by myself, this has been very helpful in taking a number of our guests to.

Continued building of relationship with St Mungo's as they regularly have a surgery in the Crypt on a Friday and we can all work together in helping people with their housing needs and also considering the option to send people back to their places of origin if they cannot obtain recourse to public funds.

Ealing Churches

Two visits on a Sunday to Kingsdown Methodist Church as the ESK is their charity of the year. I prepared a short talk at Harvest Sunday and received gifts from them at their Christmas Service.

Regular meetings as part of the Steering Group for the Ealing Churches Winter Shelter and a volunteer each week at St. Christopher's Hanwell.

Contact with the churches re poverty and homelessness action week to see if they would like me to give an update at any of their churches on the work with the homeless.

Café Church Day Away in October, 30 people from Café Church met at the YMCA South Ealing for a planning day with a buffet lunch. They came with ideas for Café Church which are being implemented.

The befriending scheme continues with those who different ones befriend over a meal from time to time. It would be great to have others who would commit to this as many benefit from the quality time. I will encourage the teams again to see if any more would like to be involved.

Personal

- o In the second term of the second year of the Bishop's certificate Course in Christian Studies still enjoying the challenge and the various projects and essays the course requires.

- o Attending a Spirituality Day on 14 January called "The Benedictine Way" at St Hugh's led by the Revd John Chapman.
- o Meet with Line Manager regularly which is helpful.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR SUPPORTING CHURCHES AND PRAY EALING

Thanks to God for his amazing blessing and provision on the ministry to the homeless in Ealing in 2011.

Looking back with the increase in numbers and therefore more food needed and more volunteers the teams have arisen to the challenge pray that God continues to bless their service.

Thank God for the Ealing Churches Winter Shelter now in its second year being able to employ a worker and also the 14 churches that are now involved in the area willing to open their doors one night a week over the 3 months.

Thank God for the church teams who opened the doors of the Soup Kitchen during the Christmas period and for the work of CRISIS at this time so that people who are normally on their own could make use of these agencies.

Pray for the co-ordinator Julian Lloyd as he works with the soup kitchen teams and he chairs the committee meetings.

Pray for the "worker" as she continues to work with the guests so they can improve their lifestyle and find faith in God.

Pray for Café Church as many of the guests regularly attend each Sunday.

Pray for The Friday Hub as people come to receive housing advice, involve themselves in art, hairdressing, and various other activities that they find a warmth and friendship as they enter the Crypt.

Pray for upcoming events in 2012.

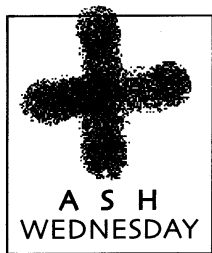
From Daphne Edwards "Worker with Homeless People"
daphne.edwards@stjohnsealing.org.uk

Kingsdown's Charity of the Year - West Ealing Trust

On behalf of the trustees of the West Ealing Trust I am writing to thank the leadership and your members for making the Trust your charity of the year and to acknowledge your donation of cheques and CAF vouchers totalling £217.00. The Trust raises money to cover the employment of Daphne Edwards and enables her ongoing work at the Ealing Soup Kitchen and beyond, helping some of the most marginalised members of our community.

Mark Parsons, Trustee

Signs & Symbols: the timing of Lent



(Wednesday, 22 February 2012)

Ever wondered why we start Lent on a Wednesday? It's not really a very convenient day is it if, like most of us, you like to eat pancakes the day before, and it's a working day. It would be so much more convenient to have Pancake Tuesday on the Saturday then we could start Lent on the Sunday. Sounds so much more practical, doesn't it? So why didn't the church didn't take up the idea decades ago?

There is, of course, a catch with this suggestion. How can we hold 'Lent' – a time of reflection on Jesus and our relationship with God and others – at the same time as we're rejoicing on the resurrection of Jesus on a Sunday? Now that would be a stretch too far.

If Lent is intended to be a period of reflection how long does it need to be? Long enough for us to actually connect with the purpose, and not just skirt over it with a token gesture. Short enough so that we can see the hope within it, that there will be an ending and we shall see the glory of God revealed through the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. If something goes on too long then we feel there's no end in sight so we don't engage, but if it's too short then there's not enough time to consider, test and try, and then actually commit.

It's like a family meal. Too long and the children start to get restless and the whole thing breaks down into chaos or shouting; too short and there's not enough time to enjoy each other's company, for each to have enough time to share their thoughts and news and to relax together.

This month: How long do you think Lent needs to be for you? Do you jump in from the very start or does it take you until the last week to make the connections? Then count how many days are in 'Lent' and work out why we start on a Wednesday.



February 14 - Saint Valentine's Day



Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

*To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.*

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784).

*The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.*



Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - Child of Destiny

In 1926 a baby girl was born to the younger son of King George V. She was named Elizabeth and was joined a few years later by a sister, Margaret Rose. Growing up in royal circles, in the custom of the time they were privately educated at home.

Elizabeth knew from an early age that her father was a royal prince, but it would probably never have occurred to her that he might one day be the King nor, even more improbably, that she would one day be Queen. After all, the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne was the very popular and personable Edward. Her father was altogether of a more retiring nature and - as the whole world now knows - was handicapped by a serious stutter.

When Elizabeth was ten an event occurred which shook the nation and was destined to change the whole course of her life. Edward, Prince of Wales, had become king on the death of his father in 1936. However, before his coronation he made it known that he wished to marry an American woman, Wallis Simpson, who was divorced. That would probably not seem an insurmountable problem today - after all, the current heir to the throne is married to a divorced woman - but in 1936 it provoked a constitutional crisis.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was opposed to the marriage. The Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, and his cabinet came to the conclusion that despite Edward's popularity it was unlikely that the people would ever accept Mrs Simpson as his Consort, let alone their Queen.

The newspapers had a field day, the nation was in uproar, and a new ditty was added to children's playground repertoire:

*Hark the herald angels sing,
Mrs Simpson stole our king.*

Of course, she hadn't 'stolen' him. Far from it. Everything he said indicated that - as he put it in his last broadcast speech to the nation - he could not achieve anything 'without the support of the woman I love'.

The final outcome was inevitable. Edward signed an Act of Abdication, and as he did so his younger brother George automatically became king - and the young Elizabeth (though she may not at that moment have realised it) became heir to the throne.

A story was told at the time of the two sisters, Elizabeth and Margaret, being challenged in Windsor Great Park, where they were playing, by a security guard who didn't realise who they were. 'Now then, you two, what are you doing here? Who are you?'.

Elizabeth, taking responsibility for her younger sister, replied, 'Oh, we're nobody. But our daddy is the King'. So he was - somewhat reluctantly. But he had an almost painful aversion to the public spotlight that now inevitably followed him, his strong and dedicated wife (another Elizabeth) and the two small girls.

Storm clouds were gathering over Europe. Hitler was demanding more territory in which to build his Arian dreamland. Already Jews were being rounded up and labelled in Germany and Austria. The new King and his family, together with the people he was pledged to serve, were about to face a monumental test of courage, character and resolve.



"It's either an appeal to youth culture
or the heating's playing up again"

Data Protection

Kingsdown and Pitshanger Methodist Churches maintain 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.

All in the month of FEBRUARY

It was....

200 years ago:- on 7th Feb 1812 that Charles Dickens, celebrated British novelist, was born.

150 years ago:- on 1st Feb 1862 that Julia Ward Howe's poem 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic' was first published in Georgia, USA.

100 years ago:- on 6th Feb 1912 that Eva Braun, German mistress and (briefly) wife of Adolf Hitler was born.

90 years ago:- on 8th Feb 1922 that the first radio was installed in the White House.

80 years ago:- on 24th Feb 1932 that British racing driver Sir Malcolm Campbell set a new land speed record of 253.96 mph at Daytona Beach, Florida.

70 years ago:- on 9th Feb 1942 that soap rationing began in the UK (so that oils and fats could be saved for food production during WW2)

65 years ago:- on 7th Feb 1947 that the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).

Also 65 years ago:- on 24th Feb 1947 that Louis Mountbatten, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was sworn in as the last viceroy of India.

60 years ago:- on 6th Feb 1952 that King George VI died, and was succeeded by his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II.

Also 40 years ago:- on 9th Feb 1972 that the British Government declared a state of emergency over the miners' strike which began a month earlier.

Also 40 years ago:- on 17th Feb 1972 that the House of Commons voted narrowly in favour (by 8 votes) of joining the Common Market (now the European Union).

20 years ago:- on 7th Feb 1992 that the Maastricht Treaty was signed, establishing the European Union.

15 years ago:- on 22nd Feb 1997 that scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced they had successfully cloned an animal for the first time: Dolly the sheep.

10 years ago:- on 9th Feb 2002 that Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, sister to the Queen, died.



GEORGE HERBERT

Born the seventh of 10 children in 1593, George Herbert grew up to be well known as a scholar and became a Member of Parliament. In 1630 he became a parish priest and spent the rest of his life in a small Wiltshire village. He preached, wrote poetry, helped rebuild the church and cared deeply for his parishioners who called him the 'Holy Mr. Herbert'.

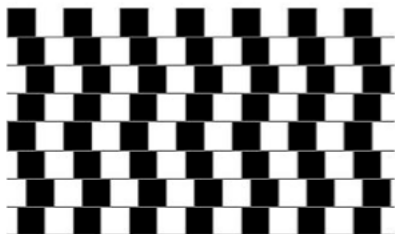
He died aged 40 of tuberculosis, and perhaps we would never have heard of him were it not for his poems. He hid patterns and puns in his poems: in one called 'Easter Wings' the printed words look like the wings of birds soaring into the sky. A number of his poems became hymns, such as 'King of Glory, King of Peace', 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing' and 'Teach me, my God and King'.



There is a window honouring George Herbert in Westminster Abbey, but he lives on in the words of hymns that are still sung today.

PUZZLES BEFORE YOUR EYES...

Stare at the black light bulb for at least 30 seconds. Then immediately stare at a white area – you should see a glowing light bulb!



Do these lines go straight across or do they slope? Check them with a ruler to get the answer.



Roses are red
Violets are blue
Some poems rhyme
But this one doesn't!



**What birds spend all their time
on their knees?**

Birds of prey.

**What do you call a group of
chickens playing hide-and-
seek ?**

Fowl play.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

FEBRUARY

- Mon 6 8 pm Guides (*and most Mondays throughout the month*)
- Tue 7 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Dave and Maria entertain
- Wed 8 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (*term time only*)
- Fri 10 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 (*and most Fridays throughout month*)
- Sat 11 10 am - 12.30 pm **Book Fair** - gifts & bric-a-brac. Admission 40p.
Proceeds to Junior Mission for All & Network
6 - 9.30 pm **Circuit International Evening at Acton Hill Church** -
Entertainment and food from many countries around the world - come
along and enjoy!
- Tue 14 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Tue 21 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Allsorts No. 6 by Graham Preedy

EVENTS AT PITSHANGER

FEBRUARY

- Wed 1 8 pm Wednesday Fellowship - Rev Dr Jen Smith talking about Ilisha
Hospital in Nigeria.
- Sat 11 6 to 9.30pm **Circuit International Evening at Acton Hill Church** –
entertainment and food from many countries around the world – come
along and enjoy!

MARCH

- Sat 17 10.00am - 12.00pm We are holding a **coffee morning for Action for
Children**. We will have various stalls. Please come and support this
worthwhile cause. We look forward to seeing you. Thank you.

The Prayer Group meets in the Vestry, 11.45 to 12.15, every Thursday. Please join us if you can. First Thursday in the month the Group has lunch together in Pitshanger Lane and anyone is welcome to join us even if you have not been to the Prayer Group meeting.