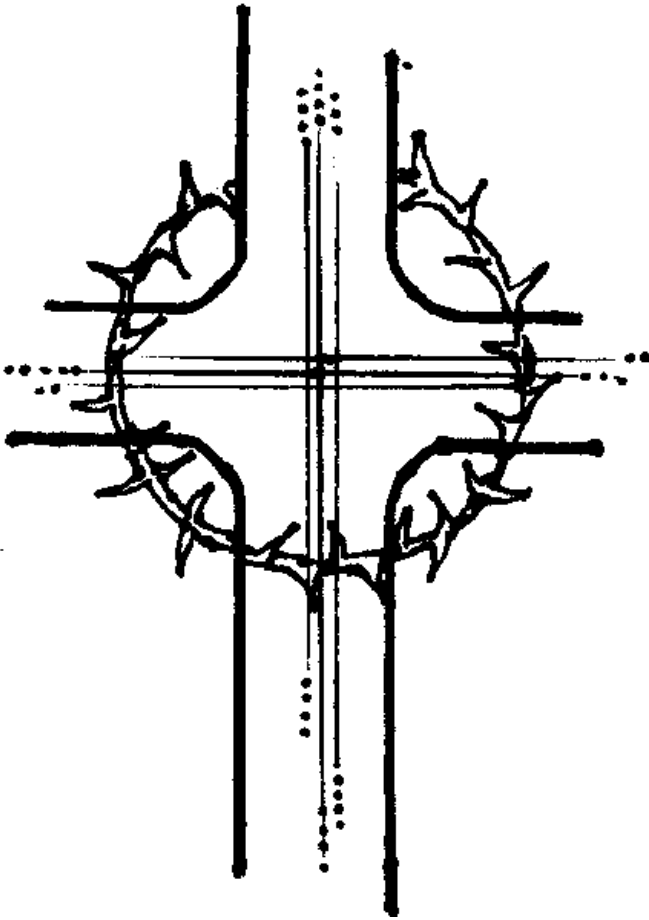




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



March 2018

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2018



- | | | |
|--------|---------------|---|
| 4 Mar | 10.30 | Mrs Penny Pedley |
| 11 Mar | 10.30 | Local Arrangement
Parade/Family Service |
| 18 Mar | 10.30 | Rev Dr Rachel Bending, Holy Communion |
| 25 Mar | 10.30 | PALM SUNDAY Mr Justin Anwar |
| 29 Mar | 7.30 | MAUNDY THURSDAY - Circuit Evening Service
Holy Communion - Venue tba |
| 30 Mar | 9.30
2.30 | GOOD FRIDAY -Walk of Witness
Mrs Penny Pedley |
| 1 Apr | 8.00
10.30 | EASTER SUNDAY Rev Rachel Bending
Holy Communion
Mrs Penny Pedley |



CLOCKS
GO FORWARD
SUNDAY 25th MARCH

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the April 2018 issue is Friday 23rd March 2018

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1st March is St David's Day. My grandmother was Welsh and I have always had a little place in my heart for the Welsh Patron Saint.



Last year, we had a holiday in Wales and went down to St David's, that little city on the corner of the Welsh coast and visited the cathedral.

While we were there, I picked up a little prayer card that had on it what are believed to be St David's last words to his followers:

*'Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed.
Do the little things that you have seen me do
and heard about.'*

It is a very simple message, but isn't that sometimes what is most profound. David did not tell his followers that they had to go out and do great things, but to do the little things.

It is easy for us to feel that we are not doing enough. As we look around the world, and our own country at the moment there are so many big problems. We can watch the news and feel overwhelmed and grieved, and wonder what on earth we can do to make a difference to the terrible situations that people are facing.

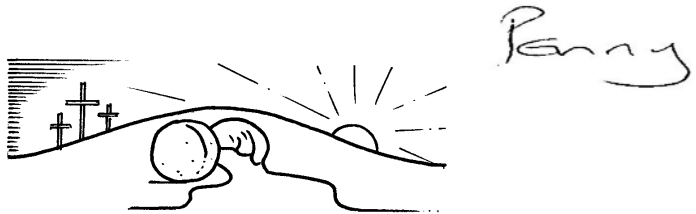
We cannot all get involved in major projects to make a difference, we cannot all be instigators of major change, but we can all do the little things. We can reach out to our neighbours who are struggling; we can help at a night shelter or a foodbank, we can give to charities – if we can't afford to give money, we can perhaps give time to collect for them or volunteer in a shop.

There is a story about a boy on a beach on which thousands of starfish have become stranded by the tide and are drying out in the heat. He is picking some of them up and throwing them into the sea. A man watches him and says, 'Give it up, lad. There are too many. You're not making any difference.' The boy picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea and said, 'It made a difference to that one.'

Very few of us are called to do great things. We have just heard of the death of Billy Graham, an amazing evangelist who brought many people into Christ's church. We give thanks for his life, but we are not all called to be like him. We are called in our own way to reach out, to share our experience of knowing Christ with those we come into contact with day by day, not by preaching, but naturally in our conversations.

Most of us are called to do the little things, to do what we can, and to trust that the God who is working in us and through us, will help them to grow.

As we continue through the journey of Lent, whenever we feel overwhelmed or helpless, perhaps we can pray for God to lead us to the little things we can do that will make a difference.



EASTER PRAYER

Almighty Father,

When life is difficult and the way seems too hard, help us to remember the reality of Easter; of the resurrection of Jesus; of His wonderful saving work on the cross, overcoming death to offer us life for all eternity with you.

There is so much we don't understand, Lord, but you know everything, you are in charge and we can trust you even when we can't work things out.

Thank you for the hope, peace and joy that you alone can give - and all because of the resurrection of Jesus. Thank you that He is alive today and able to help us whatever our situation. Help us to be your Easter People, reaching out with your love and life.

In Jesus name, Amen.
Daphne Kitching

Family News

Please continue to pray for **Nerissa Fearon**, who has been discharged from hospital and is recuperating at home, plus prayers for her husband **Charles** who is also not well.

We welcome **Violet Cordon** back into the fold. Our current cold weather is probably a bit of a shock after the warmth of Trinidad.

How did we manage to miss congratulating **Leyland Garratt** on his 95th birthday on 1 January! So sorry to have been remiss in not reporting such an auspicious event. We wish you well for the year ahead.

At the Sunday morning service on 11 February, taken by Rev Romano Samuel, we were privileged to be a part of a rather special occasion. Mum and dad, **Corine** and **Marlon Mighty** with family and friends joined our congregation for the blessing of baby **Marconi Ohene Zion**.

Eileen Tobias is anticipating have two knee replacements in the coming months, and has regretfully decided that she will be unable to continue running the cake stall at future Book Fairs. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for her years of commitment to running this hugely popular stall. **Sybil Corbin**, as well as other members of our church family, have also done sterling service in this regard. It would be such a shame if this major attraction at the Book Fairs were to cease to exist. Hopefully everyone will rally round to supply cakes, biscuits and jam/marmalade (in season) at these events to help boost the income in the future.

June Thompson writes:

Hope all is well at Kingsdown which, I have to say, I still miss, Janet and Violet, along with The Messenger of course keep me updated with all the news. Ruby will be pleased to know the Christian Aid appears to be thriving here, with all Church denominations involved. Today I went to a CA coffee morning at Capel y Groes a Welsh speaking chapel in Wrexham. *(Fortunately people there also speak English but it appeared to be very lively Chapel).*

The trouble is I got spoilt walking down the road to Kingsdown whereas here I walk further for a more infrequent bus service which is practically

non- existent after 6pm and even less on a Sunday, although the Church is only a couple of miles away. However, at least I can help with the magazine from home!

Please give my regards to the 'coffee morning gang'.

With very best wishes
June



Mothering Sunday



11th March

Traditionally worshippers returned to their 'mother' church on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Young people got time off to visit their villages and picked flowers for their mothers on the way. Mums baked light, fruity simnel cakes, topped with marzipan and decorated with 11 balls, symbolising the apostles minus Judas. Cards are a 20th century addition.

Angels.....AS EXPLAINED BY CHILDREN.

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold.

Gregory, age 5



Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it

Olive, age 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.

Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has got to do something else.

Mitchell, age 7

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado.

Reagan, age 10

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his Son, who's a very good carpenter.

Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they got to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.

Antonio, age 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it.

Vicki , age 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them.

Sarah , age 7

Submitted by June Thompson



BB Climbing High

Our BB Seniors Boys enjoyed a fantastic night out at the end of January as they travelled to a nearby climbing centre for an evening of fun and hard work as they learned the finer points of rock climbing.

The venture was led by Greg Dunlop (himself an experienced climber), Matt Plews and Rev Calvin Samuel, all of whom were more than keen to participate.

The lads returned to Kingsdown at 10:15pm looking happy but exhausted. They had acquitted themselves well (although they did take a few tumbles along the way) and it provided a welcome break from their Drill and Band practice. Needless to say, their behaviour was immaculate at all times.



We look forward to taking some of the younger Boys along later in the session to see if they can match the high standards of their older brothers!

Tony Plews

There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

Revd Jen Smith made Honorary Ecumenical Canon

Following the vote in the General Synod of the Church of England to explore Anglicans and Methodists in England working more closely together, it was good on Sunday 11th February to celebrate the close relationship in London. Revd Nigel Cowgill, and Revd Michaela Youngson, were delighted to attend a service of Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral which included the Installation of the Revd Dr Jennifer Smith as an Honorary Ecumenical Canon.



Jen, who is Superintendent Minister of City Road Circuit will work with the Cathedral in making God's love known in the City of London.



Daffodil Day Central Hall - Monday 05 March Bright Hope for Tomorrow



Head along to the Daffodil Day Rally. Be seated by 1.40 at Central Hall Westminster for the Community Singing. The celebration will feature some exciting appearances, such as:

- Revd Steve Wild (Chair of Cornwall District)
 - Angellica Bell (Celebrity Masterchef Winner)
 - Cllr Ian Adams (Lord Mayor of Westminster)
 - Sandra Goodwin (President of MWiB)
- and more!



Wear a daffodil on the day to support the cause. All are welcome!

Submitted by Olwen Britton

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



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

Saturday
10th March

10.00am to 12.30pm

Proceeds to:-



Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter



The final event for the Charity of the Year 2017/18 is this Book Fair.
Donations of cakes, clothes and bric-a-brac for the stalls would be very welcome.

Many thanks, Olwen Britton

When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing.

Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, on 25 March, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



29 March Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.



But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

"All We Can maintains a zero tolerance policy to abuse of any kind. All We Can staff are trained in safeguarding and undergo regular criminal records checks. We can reassure our staff and supporters that All We Can has existing safeguarding and whistleblowing policies in place and was already conducting a review to further strengthen these internationally before the recent, acutely distressing, stories and allegations were made public.

We have not been contacted by any agency or individual about any allegations of abuse or assault. Our commitment to protecting the vulnerable and underserved is undiminished as All We Can continues to serve some of the poorest communities in the world in ways consistent with our values. We hope that those affected by this scandal will find support, healing and restorative justice."

Maurice Adams, Chief Executive, All We Can
19 February 2018



Sierra Leone Beach

Sierra Leone is a country of stark contrasts.

Home to gorgeous beaches, verdant rainforests and rare creatures, like the endangered pygmy hippo. It also has the fastest growing tourism industry in the world. According to the Daily Mail, the number of visitors travelling to the country rose by 310% from 2015 to 2016. However, it is also a country still recovering from a decade-long civil war and a devastating 2014 Ebola outbreak.

Now the seventh largest producer of legal diamonds in Africa it remains one of the most impoverished countries in the world.

Today, Sierra Leone is a peaceful nation and a country on the mend – but with a journey still to travel.

Isata Kabia the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said, “We have to help souls heal, because without individual souls healing, the nation will still be fragile. It is our responsibility and this, I think, was a missed opportunity after the war, but it’s never too late.”

Sierra Leone is also a very poor nation, according to the CIA World Factbook. In fact, Global Finance

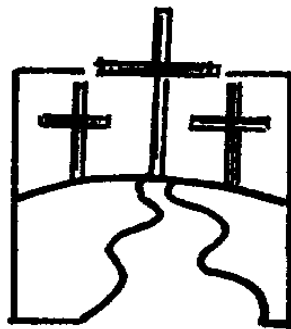
Magazine listed it as the 14th poorest country in the world. In addition, its literacy rate is 48 percent – set against a global literacy rate of more than 80 percent. The country’s recovery efforts were also dealt a massive blow in 2014 when the Ebola virus swept through the country, leaving approximately 12,000 children orphaned by the disease.

Sierra Leone understands that attracting travellers will be important for its economic growth. It currently has several properties on the tentative list of possible new UNESCO World Heritages sites, including the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary and Bunce Island, which has thrown off it’s slave castle heritage. In addition, several major international hotel brands are expected to open properties in Sierra Leone.

All We Can has begun supporting The Methodist Church of Sierra Leone through its Church CAN initiative and in coming months will be exploring how it might work with other inspiring local organisations seeking change for communities in Sierra Leone.

30 March Good Friday – Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer.



In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

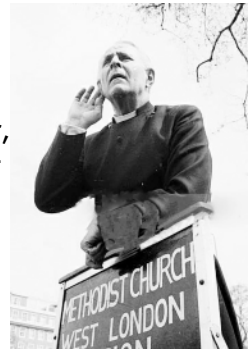
In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into his kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).

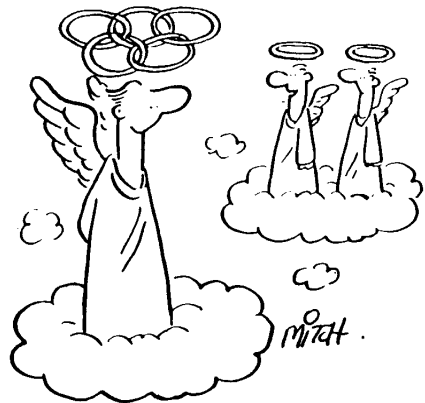
Domestics

While addressing the crowd at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, the distinguished Methodist minister, Lord Soper, was interrupted by a heckler, who kept shouting, "What about flying saucers?"

Finally, Lord Soper turned to him and, much to the delight of the audience, silenced him with 'I cannot deal with your domestic difficulties now.'



What would you do????



"I HEAR HE USED TO BE AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE..."

Originally published in
Kingsdown Messenger Summer 1991

Junior Mission for All

The Mission and Outreach Committee is calling in any adult or JMA boxes held by the congregation, as we have no JMA representative at Kingsdown. Please hand your boxes to Olwen Britton who will let you know the amount you have collected and forward the monies to JMA. You can of course support JMA by cheque or online if you so wish. Many thanks.





Easter Story

This year the Easter story-activity book, included in the large milk and dark egg, is A5 in size and has 24 pages. The drawings are beautiful and will delight children and adults. The book is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities.

Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. It was a real struggle as all the supermarkets turned it down at first. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders and fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to begin making The Real Easter Egg. To date, they have sold more than one million eggs with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools.

Not only has there been an increase in Fairtrade chocolate sales, but nearly £250,000 has been donated to charity as a result.

See the full range:

www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk



Also some of the range are on sale at:

Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons,
Sainsbury's, The co-operative

An egg with no Easter?

Cadbury appears to have reversed a decision to remove the word 'Easter' from the name of its annual egg hunt for children. This year's event, which is run in partnership with the National Trust, has been advertised on merchandise in supermarkets as the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt. The chocolate maker, now owned by Mondelez International, was criticised last year by public figures including the Prime Minister for referring to the family activity simply as the Cadbury Egg Hunt.

Last April, Theresa May condemned the decision to drop the word Easter from the egg search as "absolutely ridiculous", while Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu accused the firm of spitting on the grave of its Christian founder, John Cadbury.

A Cadbury spokesperson later said: "We have used the word Easter in our marketing and communications for over 100 years and continue to do so in our current Easter campaign and National Trust partnership. Each year, we review our campaign materials and Easter products and make changes to keep them fresh and exciting and reflect what we know our consumers want. Part of this includes the naming of our Easter Egg hunt as the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt – something we know is important to our consumers."

Summer Service Series

As in previous years, the Circuit will again be organising a 'Summer Series' of services for use during July and August. The series will be based on the book 'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts, a Methodist minister serving as a Discipleship specialist in the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, and will explore what discipleship means in the 21st century. An initial meeting led by Rev Rachel Bending to start planning the series was held on Thursday 1st March at Kingsdown.

**God will never become disillusioned with us
because he has no illusions about us in the first
place.**

What peace is not - and what it is not

Peace is not a thing to possess,

.... but a way of possessing;

Peace is not a gift to be given,

.... but a way of giving;

Peace is not a topic to teach,

.... but a way of teaching;

Peace is not a theory to learn,

.... but a way of learning;

Peace is not an opinion to hold,

.... but a way of holding;

Peace is not a resolution of strife,

.... but a way of striving;

Peace is not a creed to preach;

.... but a way of preaching;

Peace is not a God to serve,

.... but a way of serving;

Peace is not a question to ask,

.... but a way of asking;

Peace is not an answer to seek,

.... but a way of seeking;

Peace is not a journey's end,

.... but a way of journeying.

(Richard Skinner)

Have you heard about

Mission Aviation Fellowship



MAF enables thousands of aid, relief and mission projects in really remote places. Because that's where some of the greatest human needs are.

In today's 'connected world', the irony is that never have so many people been so isolated.

Flying onto desert and jungle airstrips, lakes and rivers, tracks and roads, MAF's light aircraft and their mission pilots go the extra miles to provide a lifeline.

Working in partnership with hundreds of other Christian and relief organisations MAF enables practical help, physical healing, and spiritual hope to be delivered to many of the most remote and inaccessible communities on the planet.

For 70 years, MAF has been flying for life.

Look at their web site : www.maf-uk.org for information, stories of their work, giving and contact details.

Dear God...

A little boy's prayer: "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mummy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, and please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to You, we're gonna be in a big mess."

Never mind the preacher - what about the listener!

One of the great preachers of the 18th century, George Whitfield, once preached a sermon at Christ Church, Spitalfields in London on Luke 8.18, "Take heed, therefore, on how you hear." He not only advised his listeners to pay careful attention when listening to sermons, but he also gave a list of practical points on how they should hear.

Hear sincerely, with a humble heart
Hear diligently, as listening to a royal proclamation
Hear humbly, with due deference to the preacher as God's gift to the church
Hear impartially, by not having favourites
Hear obediently, as God may be speaking to you
Hear prayerfully, particularly that God will endue the minister with power

In summary he said "Take heed, you careless and curious...how you hear."

That daffodil time of year

O how I love, as poets do
That time when skies turn deeper blue,
And all can know the vernal thrills
Of landscapes filled with daffodils.

I love to spend a pleasing hour
Admiring nature's golden flower;
That trumpet shape, enhanced by dew
That vibrant, cheering yellow hue!

No better herald of the spring
No flower can more pleasure bring;
And spirits crushed by winter's ills
Are lifted by the daffodils!

By Nigel Beeton



World Poetry Day - 21st March 2018

Gained or lost?

A poem for reflection By George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans 1819-1880)

*If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And, counting, find one self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of one who heard,
One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went -
you may count that day well spent.*

*But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay -
If, through it all, you've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face -
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost -
Then count that day as worse than lost.*

So you think English is easy?

Read on:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 8) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 9) After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.
- 10) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

What's happened?

*We met and we married a long time ago,
We worked for long hours and wages were low.
No telly, no bath, oh yes, it was hard
And just one cold water tap way up the yard.*

*No holidays abroad, no carpets on floors,
But we'd fuel on the fire and we never locked doors!
Our children arrived - no pill in those days,
And we brought them all up without welfare aids.*

*No valium, no drugs and no LSD,
We cured our pains with a good cup of tea.
If any were sick, they were treated at once,
Not 'fill in this form and come back in six months.'*

*No vandals, no burglars – there was nothing to rob,
In fact we were rich with a couple of bob!
People were happy in those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways.*

*Milkmen and postmen would whistle and sing,
And a night at the flicks was a very big thing.
We all had our share of trouble and strife
But we just had to face it and get on with life.*

*And now as we look back through so many years,
We don't dwell on bad times, the troubles and tears,
We remember the blessings of family accord
And give thanks to God who is Father and Lord.*

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- Thu 1 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 2 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 3 10.30 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
7 pm Beetle Drive - Kingsdown Church Hall - FREE with retiring collection - refreshments - do join us for a fun evening
- Mon 5 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 6 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Graham Jenkins Entertains
7.30 pm Church Council
- Wed 7 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (term time only)
7.30 pm Circuit Lent Course at Acton at Acton Hill
- Tue 13 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Wed 14 8.00 pm Property Committee
- Tue 20 2.00 pm Tuesday Club - Lynda Silk sings and plays for us
- Thu 22 8.30 pm Finance Committee



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.