





KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



April 2018

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2018



29 Mar	7.00	MAUNDY THURSDAY - Rev Rachel Bending Circuit Meal and Evening Service including Holy Communion	
30 Mar	9.30	GOOD FRIDAY - Walk of Witness to Christ the Saviour starting from Kingsdown at 9.30 am	
	2.30	Mrs Penny Pedley	
1 Apr	8.00	EASTER SUNDAY Rev Rachel Bending Holy Communion	
	10.30	Easter Day Service Mrs Penny Pedley with 'extended' Holy Communion	
8 Apr	10.30	Mrs Esther Ackah	
15 Apr	10.30	Rev Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi	
22 Apr	10.30	Mrs Penny Pedley	
29 Apr	10.30	Mrs Keji Phillips	

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS

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

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

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Editors - Pam and Alan Smith
Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail:
magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk





I have to confess to taking a certain delight in the fact that Easter Sunday this year falls on 1st April, April Fools Day. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, wrote,

'the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.'

As we come again to the story of Christ's journey to the cross and commemorate that most gruesome and horrific experience of human suffering and death, we can imagine the disciples being wholly confused and disturbed, full of questions,

'How can this happen?'

'How can things turn out like this?'

'How can God allow this to happen? When will he step in to stop it? When will he turn things around?'

As they watched Jesus die on the cross, seeming to extinguish with his life all their expectations and hopes of his being the Messiah, how pointless it must have all seemed; what a senseless, terrible, foolish end to such a life. Did they hear the words, 'It is finished!' with a sense that their adventure of following Christ, and their hopes for a new age were indeed over.

A God who becomes human – perhaps that is foolish enough. To be the most powerful of beings, the creator of all life, and to choose to become part of your creation, to become vulnerable, subject to the limits of a human body. To be born as a tiny baby, utterly helpless and to grow up, dependent and weak. Where's the wisdom in that?

Then, as a man, to refuse to wield the power to which you still have access to protect yourself, to punish those who are corrupting your message; to choose to use only your compassion, your humanity



and your voice to make your message known. And then to place yourself at the mercy of those you knew wished to harm you, to destroy you; to allow them, when a click of your fingers would have reduced them to dust, to flog, to abuse, to mock and to kill you. In every way, in human terms, utter foolishness. How differently we would have planned it, carried it out.

But on Easter morning, God, in a sense, does the equivalent of putting an 'April Fool' sign on the empty tomb! The foolishness of God is revealed to be the outworking of a wisdom far more profound, more wonderful than anything we could conceive. He reveals his power in a way that demonstrates that it goes way beyond the limits of our human lives, and overcomes even the ultimate human barrier of death.

The Easter story turns so many of our human values inside out. In it, true strength is shown through weakness, true love is revealed in response to hatred, the greatest gain is achieved by a total relinquishment of self-interest. What seems to be the utter waste and foolishness of the death of a young man becomes God's unlikely way of redeeming humankind.

So the juxtaposition of Easter and April Fools Day seems very appropriate. This Easter we celebrate that we have a God who is foolish enough to love us enough to give himself to redeem his creation. And we rejoice that the God of love is also the God of life, the God with whom for every ending there is a new beginning.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Penny', with a small dot at the end.

Definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Family News

It was good to learn that **Eileen Tobias** is now home from hospital and is recovering, though at a rather slower rate than she might wish. However, she hopes that she may find herself able to get to church for the Easter weekend. Eileen would like to convey her thanks and appreciation for all the visits, cards, and telephone calls she has received wishing her well.

Its good to see **Ivy Hanson** and **Leela John** back with us and we hope their holidays (and the sunshine) has been beneficial to them both. We have missed Ivy's floral displays but can reassure her that the church has not been without flowers in her absence; a big 'thank you' to all those who have helped in this way.

Deacon Ramona Samuel

As announced during the service on Sunday 18th March. It is with great sadness that after much soul searching and discussion, Deacon Ramona Samuel has requested a curtailment of her appointment to the Circuit with effect from 31st July 2018. The Circuit Invitation Committee met with Ramona on 8th March to consider her request which, with great regret the Committee accepted. Please hold Ramona and her family in your prayers in the coming months as she seeks to discern the future of her ministry. There will be time in the summer to give thanks for Ramona's ministry with us this year.

Churches Together in Central Ealing - Ecumenical Visit

The next Churches Together in Central Ealing Ecumenical Visit is to All Hallows-by-the-Tower church on Wednesday 18th April at 4.30pm.



There will be a guided visit of this historic church, after which the group will join with their regular Taizé prayers at 6.00pm.

The church is just across the road from Tower Hill tube station.

If you would like to join us, please contact **Noreen Barnes-Hoggett**, noreen29@googlemail.com or on 020 8997-4935. She will let you know about the arrangements for meeting up

From the Church Council

The most recent meeting of the Church Council was on 6th March and was attended by 11 of the 19 members of the Council.

Penny Pedley opened the meeting with a general discussion on our church's mission and its future in general.

Most churches across the country have seen a decline in membership and attendance over the years and Kingsdown is no exception. While from week to week church life seems to go on as normal, we need to think how we want the church to look in 10, 20 or 30 years' time.

- The general decline in church attendance across the country reflects demographic and societal changes.
- Perhaps the church nationally has been too accommodating to alternative views and has watered down its message leaving people unclear about what it stands for.
- If new people are to be attracted, we need to be able to express what our faith means to us and why we feel

it is relevant to our lives. This is not often discussed at church.

- We must expect any influx of new people to change the church. Equally, the church will need to change if it is to attract new people.
- Many people pass through the building at the various activities that take place at the church. Very few, however make the step of joining the congregation.
- The Book Fairs have been regarded as 'outreach' although their primary focus is charity fundraising. Although clearly charity fundraising is 'good thing' in its own right, there is a risk that this type of activity can give us the impression of doing 'outreach' when we are not. There have been some discussions as to how the Book Fairs might be re-focussed to make them more of an outreach activity, but nothing has yet transpired.
- Ask young people to lead worship.
- Comment was made on the lack of young people and families in the church.

However, we should not assume that the church should necessarily focus on young people and families. We know that St Paul's (Ridley Ave) is very successful with those groups. Perhaps it would be better to find a different focus, possibly older people.

Turning to business matters, the accounts for the 2016/17 connexional year were presented to the meeting. These showed a strong surplus of £44,058 on an income of £114,173. These figures are however inflated by a payment of £31,014 as the second instalment of a legacy from the late Pauline Booth in favour of the King's Hall Class Meeting. This money is being held by Kingsdown on their behalf pending the ultimate completion of the redevelopment of King's Hall in Southall. Removing that legacy from the figures gives a clearer picture of Kingsdown's position, ie a surplus of £13,044 on an income of £83,159. The meeting voted to approve the accounts.

It also voted to approve the Reserves Policy. This states that the church aims to maintain a

general reserve equivalent to 6 months' expenditure excluding major repairs and that any surplus should be transferred to the Major Repairs Fund.

On safeguarding, Sybil Corbin reported that a Circuit safeguarding meeting had been held at Northolt on 19th February and that the updating of safeguarding policies was in hand. Once these have been completed, Sybil will make sure all users of the building receive copies. In addition, Circuit-wide safeguarding training sessions will be arranged for all pastoral leaders and visitors, church stewards and all those involved with children. Training sessions will be on the following dates:

15th April 12.30 Northolt

21st April 12.30 Greenford

6th May 12.30 Ealing Green

7th July 12.30 Kingsdown

An updated Fire Risk Assessment and updated Emergency Evacuation Procedures were approved by the meeting. The next steps are for the stewards to refresh their fire safety training on the basis of the updated procedures. This will be

followed by a fire drill for the congregation to test the procedures.

The most major item discussed on property issues was replacement of the flat roof over the church hall. Janet Smith reported that estimates had been obtained from 3 contractors. These range from about £33,000 to £67,000. As Property Committee was meeting on 22nd March to consider these in detail, the meeting decided to authorise expenditure of up to £70,000 on replacing the hall flat roof and that to delegate authority to select the contractor to Property Committee. You may like to note that at the end of the 2016/17 connexional year, the Major Repairs Fund stood at about £61,000.

Discussions have been held with various possible contractors for replacing the main uplighters in the worship area. As you may have noticed these lights work intermittently at best. While the contractors consulted have shown initial interest, they have not followed through on our enquiries. Efforts continue to

find a solution to the problem of these lights.

George Lafford from the King's Hall Class Meeting reported that they continue to meet at Hanwell although numbers at services are now about 7 – 9. He expressed gratitude to Mary Blackwell from Hanwell who plays for their services. George also expressed the concern of the Class Meeting that the viability of the redevelopment proposal for King's Hall for a hotel and conference centre including space retained for church use from Methodist International was in serious doubt. You may like to note that other possible options are also being investigated. These include hotel as well as residential options. All must include space to be retained by the Methodist Church for the two congregations that previously worshipped at King's Hall.

Colleen Hicks, the Circuit Steward who attends our Church Council meetings reported that the sale of the former manse in Green Drive, Southall had finally been completed. Nonetheless, the Circuit's finances are

currently in poor shape. This will impact on all churches in the Circuit as we will almost certainly be asked to increase our assessment payments to help balance the Circuit's books.

Penny Pedley confirmed to the meeting that Holy Week and Easter services would be as follows:

Maundy Thursday – Circuit meal and service at Kingsdown at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Stations of the Cross are intended to be put up in the church. These would remain through the weekend.

Good Friday Walk of Witness to Christ the Saviour in Ealing Broadway starting from Kingsdown at 9.30am

Service for Good Friday at 2.30pm

Easter Day 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Easter Day service with 'extended' Holy Communion

Please also note that the Circuit Welcome Service for our new minister, the Rev Susan Male will be on Saturday 1st September provisionally at 4.00pm at Kingsdown.

After years of sterling service, Eileen Tobias has had to decide that she can no longer continue making cakes for the Book Fairs because of problems with her hands and knees. The meeting expressed its warmest thanks to Eileen for all her support to the Book Fairs over the years, and for all the lovely cakes.

Finally, the Annual General Church Meeting will be on Sunday 13th May following the morning service – please put the date in your diaries.

This is the meeting at which the church hears reports from the various church groups, appoints or confirms church officers and elects congregational representatives to the Church Council.

If you would like to offer to join the Council and are a full member of the Methodist Church, please speak to Penny Pedley.

The next Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday 5th June at 7.30pm.

Gerald Barton
Secretary to Church Council

Lets look forward to Summer

June 16th.



The social committee, comprising Violet Cordon, Brenda Glassman, Blossom Jackson, Pam Smith and myself are in the process of arranging a Concert at the Church for the evening of 16th June.

We have met and discussed various acts that would enhance the evening and have come up with a few ideas.

However, this is your evening,
so if anyone would like to perform on the night, or, indeed, know of someone that would be interested, please let one of the committee know.

The whole evening would be divided into two halves, and at the moment we have several musical items ranging from choirs, solo artistes and a quintet group.

We would like as many different acts as possible, so get thinking!
Age is no barrier. Young and old are all welcome.

Janet Smith

Please note that the

Church Annual General Meeting

will be on Sunday 13th May
after the morning service

and

that the next Church Council
meeting will be on Tuesday
5th June at 7.30pm.

That tea-time smile

Some dried-out leaves
Some water boiled
How could they please?
They should be spoiled!
And yet we know
On Britain's Isle
That happy glow!
That tea-time smile!

For if we're down
Need cheering up?
No one can frown
With steaming cup!
No other treats
Appeal to me!
Cos nothing beats
A cup of tea!

By Nigel Beeton



10th Ealing – Double Double Champions

The amazing Junior Boys from 10th Ealing BB have done it again! On Saturday 24th March, we took eleven lads to The West London Boys' Brigade Drill Day. Fifteen BB Companies were invited to participate, but only the keenest entered so we were pitted against the very best from Hillingdon and Uxbridge.



There were two events for us to enter: The Year 4 Boys; and the Full Squad competition. Tension was high because last year we did the Double and so we came as the reigning champions for both trophies. In fact, we'd held the Full Squad title for three years and no one has ever captured the main trophy four years in a row. As such, we felt the odds were stacked against us.

Our Boys were called upon to perform first, and uniforms were inspected before we hit the floor. Needless to say the lads were immaculate and we scored full marks there. Then came the actual marching and both of our squads were superb. In fact, we made just one small error during the whole programme, and we left the floor to great applause.



We watched the other teams closely as they marched and knew that one other squad in particular were very good indeed, so we held our breath until the marks were announced.

The Year 4 trophy was firstly presented to 10th Ealing Boys which just made us even more nervous: could we do the Double Double and win both trophies two years running? When the final scores were revealed it turned out we had won the Full Squad trophy by just **ONE SINGLE MARK**. The head judge said it all came down to the quality of the marching and 10th Ealing Boys had the edge.

What an amazing day for our Boys -- the hard work really paid off in a big way. We'd done the Double Double and won the main trophy four years on the trot.



God's plan for ageing?

Most senior citizens don't get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that senior citizens become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.



Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made senior citizens lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided senior citizens would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest, even though you might mutter under your breath!

CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

We believe in life before death



In the February Messenger, I told you of the forthcoming Annual Supporters event and as usual the afternoon and evening meetings were very friendly, informative and well attended. There were just two attendees from Kingsdown!

This year Christian Aid will focus on **DISPLACED PEOPLE** (40 million in the world) and especially on **HAITI**.

"God's Kingdom is stronger than storms" - this is the title of the 11 day devotional booklet for Christian Aid Week. CA week this year falls within Thy Kingdom Come which is an ecumenical global prayer movement throughout the 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost - Thursday 10 May to Sunday 20 May 2018.

The foreword to our devotional booklet is by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Each day you will find a bible reading and your prayers and responses will focus on our calling to proclaim the Good News. Each day, after each reflection, we are invited to say the

KINGDOM PRAYER

Holy God,
In your Kingdom
The strong need the weak,
The rich are transformed by the poor,
The fortunate are welcomed by the homeless.
Your Kingdom is built by those who expect
their God to come.

Amen

You will read of two families - **VILIA** and her seven children, and **MARCELIN** and his three daughters in the booklet.

VILIA lost her home and her mother when an earthquake hit Haiti in 2010. Bereaved, she had nowhere safe to stay with her seven children. Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire her situation was and reached out, building her a new home. And on the night when HURRICANE MATTHEW hit Haiti, Vilia's neighbours fled to her home. Her new yhome built by KORAL was the only one in the community strong enough to survive the storm. Fifty-four people found shelter with Vilia that night and she welcomed them in, sharing shelter and food as the storm raged. Hurricane Matthew swept Vilia's crops and livestock away. KORAL gave her a water filter, and seeds for beans, sweet potatoes, yams and plantain, helping her to rebuild her farm.

Vilia found refuge, security and peace in the new house which Christian Aid's partner built. Vilia prays for others in Haiti who still need our help "God, Haiti is in your hands, the children are in your hands. Jesus you are the one who knows what you are capable of doing for us."

MARCELIN lost his home to HURRICANE MATTHEW. He is a single dad to three teenage girls: Keshna, Ketia and Linda. They are now forced to live in a 2 x 2m concrete block that used to be a communal shower, with no windows and only a single bed. He says "I have nothing left, only the small bed that the girls sleep on. I sleep on the floor." Marcelin can no longer afford to send his girls to school, and struggles to put enough food on the table. His daughters are worried about him, anxious that he doesn't eat enough for someone doing so much hard labour. They're scared he could get sick and die.

Marcelin adores his daughters, and works so hard, sacrificing so much to support them; but he worries about how vulnerable they are. He is so anxious that their hunger may lead



them to be exploited by predatory men in exchange for the food they desperately need.

Marcelin prays "Lord give me strength and courage, because I have three children to care for." With our help and prayer we can build Marcelin a new home and give his family a fighting chance for a better life.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK AT KINGSDOWN - 2018

Christian Aid Week is from 13 May to Sunday 20 May and we shall begin as usual with our Annual Book Fair, with numerous stalls - books, cakes, plants, gifts and bric-a-brac, on Saturday 12 May. Please do contribute, as you are able, to these stalls. ALL your gifts will be very gratefully received.

SUNDAY, 13 MAY is Christian Aid Sunday throughout the UK and will be followed with 5/6 days of House-to-House collecting. This is real outreach work and as usual we need many collectors. SATURDAY, 19 MAY is Flag Day in the London area and it will be extremely difficult this year - fewer hours to collect! The Royal Wedding at 12 noon and the Cup Final at 5 pm! We shall attempt to collect from 8.15 am to 11.15 am approximately, and 2pm - 4 pm at Northfield Avenue and West Ealing. So far five friends have offered to help and if you are willing to help please let me know as soon as possible.

And finally ...

SUNDAY 20 MAY - CIRCLE THE CITY SPONSORED WALK and its a special year - CIRCLE THE CITY IS 21 THIS YEAR!

Join us to celebrate and raise money to end poverty. Explore some of the City of London's best loved sights and places of worship and enjoy pop-up exhibitions, music and activities as we mark the end

of Christian Aid week. Two distance options - three miles or six miles. ANNA invites you to sponsor her and it would be great if some friends would Circle the City with her! It isn't necessary to be sponsored - just give a donation. If you have decided to take part, Anna and I can give you the details.

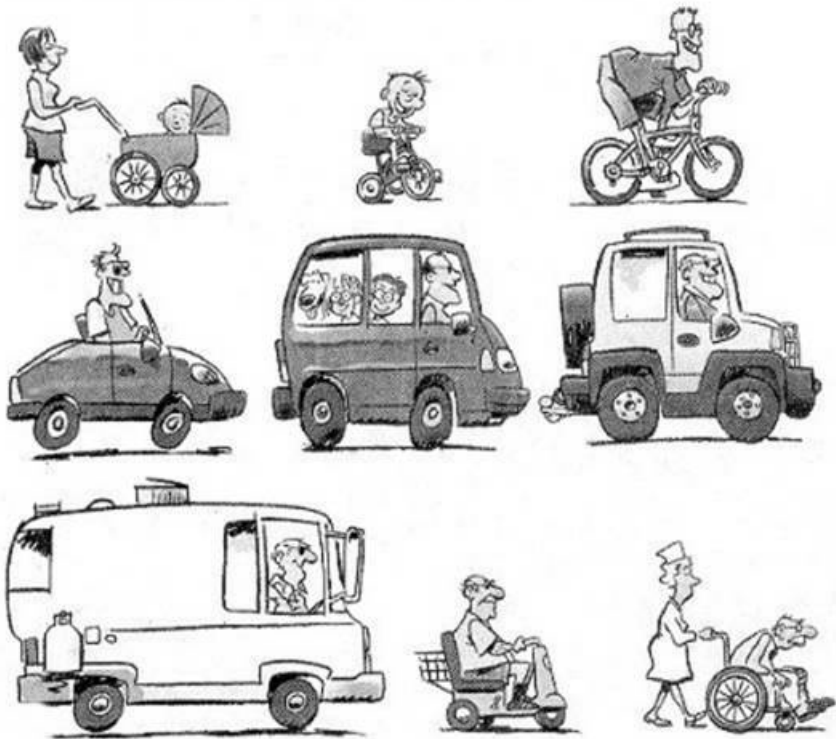
THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Many thanks for the stamps, specs and mobile 'phone.

Ruby Warne



The Wheels of Life



People called Rohingya



**“We are who they call
Rohingya.**

**That is the name given to
us” – Mohammad Rafiq.**

Cox’s Bazar is a tourist resort, all white sand beaches and swaying palm trees. Rich Bangladeshi families hold their selfie sticks high and try and squeeze as many people into picture-postcard moments as possible. It often makes me smile that this one word, ‘selfie’, seems to have spread across the word always spoken in the same tongue, even when wrapped up in foreign language. Cox’s Bazar is tourist friendly smiles, bright green paddy fields and swaying sarees. Cox’s Bazar is a brochure. Cox’s Bazar is a coconut wrap and a mocktail as the sun sets. Cox’s Bazar hosts one of the largest refugee communities in the world.

Just a one-hour drive away from the bustle of the tourist markets of the beach resorts are refugee camps housing 900,000 Rohingya refugees. Since August 2017, nearly 700,000 people have fled violence in Myanmar’s Rakhine state and have gone in search of safety and sanctuary in Bangladesh. The chaotic and crowded space that is coined the ‘largest humanitarian crisis in the world today’ is a maze of bamboo poles and plastic sheeting. The Cox’s Bazar camps are close together, but each has a unique character and feel. I visited three. Each distinct and different.

People called Rohingya con't

The one thing the camps share in common is the sheer density of population. Bodies crowded into small spaces and rudimentary materials marking out where one home begins and another ends. Sleeping mats sometimes double as prayer mats. Dignity kit buckets carrying valuable soap and detergent hidden in the corner of living spaces. Children run about with kites made of carrier bags, the noise of young voices can be heard for miles around. In Jamtoli camp, a place I spent half my time, over 40% of the camp's residents are children. They run and play, leaping over sewage streams, they dart around hot cooking pots and, wherever you go as a girl with a big camera, there are at least 40 watchful pairs of eyes peering out from bamboo sheeting.

Nevertheless, in amongst this mess, in the gaps and alleyways that form roads and pathways on the steep slopes – there are beautiful and generous people. People who have lived through such trauma but were still willing to open up their homes to me.



Repeatedly, I heard stories of death, rape and drowning. Sometimes the stories were their own. Sometimes they retold stories they had carried with them for others. Tears flowed easily from women's eyes. What a privilege it is to be a woman and to be allowed in those spaces only women can go. What a privilege to sit and hold the hands of a woman who has lost everything as she spills out words as if keeping them back would somehow be an impossibility. "We want to tell" is repeated again and again. And at this stage, at the beginning of this disaster, the vulnerability of people and their delicate stories is raw.

People called Rohingya con't

I did not cry in the camps. I am never much of a crier in the field. It is often when I listen back to interviews that my tears flow. However, twice I realised I had stopped breathing while listening to people's stories. Breath caught in my throat as detailed descriptions of death, fear and flight fell out of quiet mouths shyly speaking the unspeakable. The people that we call Rohingya (who often call themselves Burmese) are some of the most gentle and generous souls I have ever met. They shared their stories freely, and in middle of all the horror there are stories of such poignant moments of kindness, humility and humanity. God willing, inshallah as the Muslim Rohingya often say, the stories for many might be a beginning and not an end.

We so often think about the refugee's journey as starting at the point of persecution and ending at the camp (the 'safe place'). For the Rohingya people, they just want "to feel happiness again" and that seems to be to them less about where and more about how they find it. Maybe that is what we all want.

Philosopher Martin Buber said, "When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them". I may not be a crier in the field. However, I carry home with me the spark of electricity that has made this trip to Cox's Bazar special. The people we call Rohingya have touched my heart in a way I will not forget.

There is so much yet to be done to support the people who offered me so much hospitality in Cox's Bazar. The people we call Rohingya

Laura Cook
Communications Officer
All We Can.



The precious gift

The echoes of the angels' tears
Ring deep within my soul;
The music of celestial spheres
Sweeps o'er me as they roll.
O loving Lord, I kneel and raise
My song of worship deep;
For melodies of love and praise
And songs that make me weep.

For those who have Your precious gift
To make, or play, or sing
The songs that make my spirit lift
O such a wondrous thing!
How glad am I, a mortal man
To sing their songs of love;
And, through their songs this mortal can
Know more of God above!

By Nigel Beeton



ROYAL WEDDING PARTY FOR PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN MARKLE



Saturday, 19 May - 12.00-5.00 pm
Greenford Methodist Church, Greenford UB6 9QN.

Live broadcast of the wedding, finger buffet and sit down meal.
Adults £10.00, children £5.00. Dress formal.

For more information contact Trudi or Valeria on 020 8813 0519.

Don't delay
Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today,
because by that time there will be a tax on it.

Prayer for faith and freedom

Almighty God,

Lord of life, we thank you for the life and death of Jesus. Most of all we thank you for His resurrection which changed the world and made it possible for us to know you as our loving, gracious Father.

Lord, when we feel locked in, imprisoned by fears and circumstances, help us to remember that locked doors mean nothing to you. You can set us free. You can help us. You give strength for today and tomorrow. You give us new life as your children, through faith in Jesus.

May we open our hearts to your help today; to receive from you the peace and power that we need - and then to share it.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

On the first day of the week, in the evening (John 20: 19-23)

Locked in, afraid,
Uncertain, even after Mary's story, even after that
behind closed doors seemed safest,
on the first day of the week,
in the evening.

And then, the world changed.
He was with us!
Suddenly and wonderfully with us.
Jesus, our Lord,
alive and with us
in a new and completing way,
to bless us with His Peace,
to send us out to witness
in the power of His own Spirit breathed into us.
What a day!
The day of our risen Lord.
The first day of the week,
In the evening,
Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching

Only one

*One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake a dream,
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring,
One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul,
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room,
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will lift your sadness,
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer,
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care,
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make a difference,
You see - it's up to you!*

From ACE Forum

Church of England - General Synod welcomes move towards communion with Methodist Church

The General Synod has recently welcomed a report containing proposals which could bring the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain into communion with each other.

Members backed a motion welcoming a joint report published last year, which sets out proposals on how clergy from each church could become eligible to serve in the other.

The report, 'Mission and Ministry in Covenant', which was co-written by the two churches' faith and order bodies, also sets out how the Methodist Church could come to have bishops in the historic episcopate.

The motion acknowledges that there is further work to do to clarify a number of areas, including how the proposals would be worked out in practice. It also calls on the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission to update Synod at its next group of sessions in July of this year on this work.

But an amendment to the motion speaks of "confident hope" that outstanding issues can be resolved quickly. Speaking during the debate the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said: 'I want to support this motion very strongly indeed.

'It seems to me that in voting for it we respond to the word of God in the scriptures where there is a clear command to unity in diversity and in responding to this paper positively we respond to the Spirit who is already working in both of our Churches bringing us together.'

The Bishop of Coventry, the Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, Chair of the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, said the proposals would be a step towards 'healing a tragic division in the Church of England' when the two churches separated almost 200 years ago. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, told Synod: 'A mute button must be switched off for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the urgent need to re-

connect our two Church traditions with England. All has to do with God's Mission.'

The report builds on the theological convergence established by 'An Anglican-Methodist Covenant', signed in 2003, and the subsequent work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission.

In 2014 the General Synod of the Church of England and the Methodist Conference mandated the faith and order bodies to bring forward proposals that would enable the interchangeability of ordained ministries in the two churches.



A Word of Encouragement

Abide in Christ eternally

Pray continually

Pass on wisdom and stories generationally

Call to remembrance yearly

Celebrate seasonally

Check your spiritual income monthly

Congregate weekly

Reflect on your blessings nightly

Encourage one another daily, daily, daily

Harry Hunter

The best monument anyone can raise to their parents' memory is that of a life lived in such a way that they would have rejoiced had they lived to see it.

Did YOU Know about The Friends of Friendless Churches ?

The Friends (a small charity) campaigns for and rescues redundant historic churches threatened by demolition and decay. They now own nearly 50 former places of worship, half in England, half in Wales. They preserve these buildings intact for the local community and visitors to enjoy. Without them, all of these buildings would no longer be here, or open to the public.

Maintaining and repairing Friends churches is a considerable financial challenge. The Friends rely a great deal on the generosity of members and on the willingness of groups of local 'Friends' to fundraise and to act as their eyes and ears.

If you are interested in historic churches and want to find out more about their work or support a charity working to save them go to:

<http://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk>

St Mary Magdalene,
Boveney near Eton



Wall Painting

St Mary Church,
Mundon, Essex

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- Mon 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout term time)
Tue 3 2.00 pm Tuesday Club - Dave Entertains
Tue 10 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group will meet at Kath Jarrett's
Tue 17 2.00 pm Tuesday Club - AGM & Bingo Afternoon
Wed 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (restarting 18 Apr term time only)
Thu 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
Fri 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.
(Every Week during Term Time)
Sat 10.30 am -12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tue 5 May 7.30 pm Church Council Meeting
Sat 10 May 10 am - 12.30 Annual Christian Aid Book Fair with stalls
Sun 13 May Annual General Church Meeting following morning service
Sat 19 May 12.00-5.00 pm Wedding Party - Greenford Church see p21

Tue 5 Jun 7.30 pm Church Council Meeting

Sat 1 Sep 4 pm (provisionally) Circuit Welcome Service for our new
minister, the Rev Susan Male, will be at Kingsdown
Wed 12 Sep Mission & Outreach Committee



Iris Axon Concert - Acton Hill Church

Karis Stretton - Piano

Sunday April 15, 2018 Time: 16.00

Programmes at door £6.00, Concessions £5.00, Children
£2.00

Details: [www.http://actonhillurc.org.uk/113-2/](http://actonhillurc.org.uk/113-2/)