



# KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



*"Let anyone who is without sin  
cast the first stone..."*

John 8: 7

*February 2020 - March 2020*

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY and MARCH 2020



### Feb

- 2 Feb 10.30 am Rev Rachel Bending  
9 Feb 10.30 am Rev Sue Male, Family/Parade Service  
16 Feb 10.30 am Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion  
23 Feb 10.30 am Rev Oluyemisi Jaiyesimi



### Mar

- 1 Mar 10.30 am Mrs Esther Ackah  
8 Mar 10.30 am Rev Sue Male, Family/Parade Service  
15 Mar 10.30 am Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion  
22 Mar 10.30 am Local Arrangement (Mothering Sunday)  
29 Mar 10.30 am Mrs Rekha Cheriyan



### Apr

- 5 Apr 10.30 am Mrs Regina Prempeh



*Mothering Sunday*

*The Messenger has had various publication schedules since its birth at West Ealing Church in 1937. From quarterly to monthly and some other variations. The Editors now consider that its time for a small change from the 10 issues per year at the moment to 6 issues per year in the future. We hope that our readers will find this acceptable.*

**The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER**  
Copy deadline for the April-May issue is Friday 20 March 2020

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## Dear Friends at Ealing Green and Kingsdown,

This is my first letter in this new year, so it must begin with thanks to all of those who worked so hard to make our Christmas services and activities such a success.

December began with a bang at Kingsdown, where we celebrated our 60th anniversary with a special, well attended service and a lunch organised by Violet and her group of willing - and very able - volunteers. Both hall and church were beautifully decorated and there was some lovely information about the church in years gone by. In the service, we considered what God might be calling us to now and into the future. Thanks to all involved in this very special day.

In the months leading up to December, members from both churches became involved in a project with a Sikh group of ladies in Southall. The major aim of this group is to make new friends - crossing cultural boundaries which so often divide. At the same time, we also aimed to make gifts for people with Dementia, through Dementia Care Ealing. Members of the group made blankets, and "twiddle muffs". We also made a scrap book with pictures of items from both Sikh and Christian culture which would spark off memories for those with dementia. Gifts were delivered to them shortly before Christmas. We hope to continue this project in this new year. At Kingsdown the charity was further supported by collecting gifts and money through our gift service. At Ealing Green members bought toys for the children of residents in one of the women's refuges in Ealing.

At Kingsdown we introduced 12 classes of children to the Christmas story by inviting them to visit the wonderful display of Nativity sets in our church. Thank you to all of those who assisted in setting up, taking down or chatting with the children during this time. By the end of it I certainly knew the Christmas story! The craft day was not well attended, but the families who did come found it valuable, and we combined it with a church coffee morning so plenty of conversation was had. Thank you to those who made this happen.

At the same time Kingsdown hosted the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter during December (Ealing Green are still in the flow with the January shift). This is such a good way to put our faith into practice, alongside other church members, members of other denominations, and those who do not come to church but nevertheless want to be involved. Thank you to all of you who are involved in any way, and especially to Sue Barton, and Jane and Lee Horwich for coordinating at each church. Theirs is not an easy job!

At Ealing Green, Christmas started with the Ealing Symphony Orchestra's Christmas concert - always a gift to the church community, and a double gift since it raises money for the night shelter.

We then moved into the Christmas service season in both churches. I was at Ealing Green this year for a wonderful presentation about chringles from the children which formed their Christmas service. At Kingsdown, I nevertheless heard wonderful things about the Nativity Service, which was happening at the same time. It was said to be even better than last years was, and a proud Uncle Ronnie gave me a glimpse by showing me a certain singer on a recording on his phone! It is lovely to hear our children and young people sing, and Ealing Green enjoyed this too during the Big Sing Carol Service when Mariah sang beautifully for us. Everybody else sang pretty well too, and the new "Big Sing" format was enjoyed by all. Thank you all for choosing such lovely carols. We will do the same thing at EGC next year.

At Kingsdown we also enjoyed a lovely carol service, and a few people attended the midnight Holy Communion service on Christmas Eve. Before this we enjoyed lunch-time carols on the steps at Ealing Green which worked well and was followed by hot chocolate, and then Holy Communion.

Christmas morning, we pulled crackers, and shared Jesus' wisdom at both churches, one after the other! Again, many thanks to stewards, to Sarah (our administrator at EGC), organists, decorators, hosts and hostesses, and everyone else, who made these things happen.

Also, a personal thank you for all your lovely cards and presents. I felt like a happy "little girl" opening them on Christmas morning.

And then, almost in a flash it was New Year and Covenant Service time! A belated Happy New Year to you all.

Then I started to ask you all for boats and to come and hear some monks singing plain chant. And you did! Thank you to those who were part of the great turn out at the ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was a lovely service, and a wonderful way to start the New year working towards Unity in a country and world currently so divided.

Sadly, the new year also begins with the funerals of two loved members at EGC - Dorothy Ravilious and Renee Edwards. As we remember them in the days and weeks to come, I am sure that there will be many happy memories amongst the sadness, as we commit them into God's loving care.

And so a new year “begins”! Let us move into it together to live and experience the next part of God’s plan for us.

In order to help you with this, a few dates

**15 February** – Come and join us at EGC for all or part of our Outreach Comedy day in aid of Christian Aid. Tickets £5 each to stay as long as you like. More details in separate article from Phil Male.

**27 February 19.45** Join us for a consultation about the Methodist Church Report on Marriage and Relationships at Kingsdown.

**March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 24** – Join us at Kingsdown for our Lent Group for the two churches (and others) at 10 am – 11.30 This will be on Scripture, but more information will follow.

**March 7 10 am**– Join us at Northolt Methodist Church for a consultation about the Methodist Church Report on Marriage and Relationships

**March 16 – 7.45pm.** Join us at Ealing Green for a consultation about the Methodist Church Report on Marriage and Relationships

**March 17<sup>th</sup> 12.45pm** – Third - Tuesday Worship at Ealing Green



With Love and Prayers

*Sue*



**I know God won't give me more than I can handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much. (Mother Teresa)**

# Family News

**Violet Cordon** has heard from **Ivy Hanson** that she is enjoying the benefits of the sunshine in Jamaica, but has also been detained by the serious illness of one of her brothers.

**Pam** and **Alan** would like to thank everyone for their concern and kind good wishes following Pam's hip replacement before Christmas, and Alan's knee replacement early in the New Year. A big 'thank you' too for all the Christmas cards received - all much appreciated. You may also care to note that in future we shall be publishing the Kingsdown Messenger bi-monthly (instead of the present 10 issues a year).

## JACK ROBERTS - 1926 - 2019

Jack Roberts, former Minister, was a big part of our lives at Kingsdown for 10 years until his retirement, but his health had failed over the years.



A service for the life of Jack took place at Hollingworth Methodist Church on the 14th January 2020. Two of our previous members attended the funeral. Gillian Brierley, our organist for many years and Sue Young who was part of the choir at that time. It was good that they were able to represent Kingsdown.

He and Doreen, his wife, had four children and all of them, plus grandchildren and even great children were there and his daughter, Hazel led the service. Also another circuit organist in those days, Richard Sidebottom, attended. He has moved to Glossop and played for the service.

**Janet Smith**

## A Welcome Return

The morning service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January saw the return of REKHA CHERIYAN to lead Kingsdown in worship after an enforced break due to family needs. Nice to see a familiar face back again helping us to understand the complex history of Christianity. It was also nice to see Leila and Tom back in their pews recovered from their enforced hospital stays.



**KINGSDOWN CLUB  
PROGRAMME  
for  
JANUARY to APRIL 2020**

**MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND . WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF KINGSDOWN AVENUE / NORTHFIELD AVENUE FROM 2.00 TO 4.00PM TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT.**

**PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS [TEL. NO. 0208 567 4205 ] FOR DETAILS.**

**JANUARY 7th  
A BINGO AFTERNOON**

**JANUARY 21st  
GREETINGS from the PAST a  
talk by MARY OSBORN**

**FEBRUARY 4th  
DAVE PLAYS FOR US**

**FEBRUARY 18th  
THE REMINISCENCE ROAD SHOW**

**MARCH 3rd  
LYNDA SILK sings for us**

**MARCH 17th  
DAVE plays for us**

**APRIL 7th  
A MAGIC AFTERNOON  
with RAY GARNETT**

**APRIL 21st  
A BINGO AFTERNOON**

**MAY 5th  
THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS**

## Charity of the Year

We will be holding a book fair on Saturday March 21st in aid of Dementia Concern UK, which is our COTY (*Charity of the Year*) for 2019/20.



It will be held from 10.00-12.30 with the usual stalls for books, cakes, and bric a brac. There will be light refreshments.

This will be our final main event for Dementia Concern although we hope to entertain them in the future at some of their Dementia Cafes. The next Dementia Café will be held on Wednesday February 12th from 7- 9pm at All Saints Church, 4, Elm Grove Road, Ealing W5 3JJ. Anna Church will be collecting names to arrange transport. These are held every two months to provide information and entertainment for their clients.

Anna Church is hoping to get up a small choir for the event. Please give names to Anna if you can come, so as to arrange transport.

Dementia Concern UK Ealing is based at  
223 Windmill Road, Ealing London W5 4DJ Tel 020 8568 4448  
email enquiries@dementiaconcern.co.uk

**Many thanks  
Olwen Britton.**

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020 LAUNCH - THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY**



The 2020 launch will be held at Christian Aid's headquarters, 35 Long Marsh SE1 (near Waterloo Station). Everyone is invited, and this year the focus is on KENYA and the life-threatening drought caused by the climate crisis. There will be two sessions as usual: 2.30-4.30pm and 6.00-8.00pm. Please let Ruby know if you wish to attend.

**The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.**





# Partnership in action Ethiopia

All We Can has worked with Ethiopian organisation SUNARMA since 2004. SUNARMA's Director Tekle Jirane, commended All We Can's working model for the way in which it has helped strengthen critical relationships in the organisation's area of operations. SUNARMA attributes All We Can's new partnership approach (which involves providing consistent and flexible funding in line with a partner organisation's strategic objectives, rather than a single project) as a key factor in SUNARMA's success over the last two years. According to Tekle, this change in approach has afforded SUNARMA greater flexibility in where they allocate funding on an annual basis. As a result,

SUNARMA's programming has become more responsive and needs-based than ever before, including under previous project agreements with All We Can. Not only has this resulted in SUNARMA's work becoming more relevant and effective in addressing food insecurity and helping households meet basic needs without exploiting their natural environment, but it has also helped the organisation to develop stronger relationships with local government and community members.

An example is All We Can's willingness to support an emergency relief intervention outside of the district where All We Can had primarily supported SUNARMA's interventions. This turned out to be significant for SUNARMA in more ways than expected: "All We Can's support to drought-affected farmers at bad times is a significant point in saving lives, and one that has tremendously lifted the reputation of SUNARMA in front of the community and government partners at large."

In addition to the positive reputation SUNARMA has gained through All We Can's ongoing financial support for development and relief interventions, All We Can has also helped SUNARMA to meet the expectations and requirements of the Ethiopian Government in joint monitoring of programme activities, hosting NGO Government forums and regular reporting. This is important because in Ethiopia, like elsewhere, maintaining positive relationships with government officials is necessary to ensure that civil society organisations can continue to respond to

people's needs without interruption. Likewise, building good relationships with the local community is essential if programming is to be responsive and relevant.

## Climate Change is now adding to the problems

In her 45 years, Belyu has seen dramatic change in the small village of Cherkos in Ethiopia, where she lives. In her youth, Belyu remembers two rainy seasons – one from February to June, known locally as the belg season, and a second in the latter half of the year, known as meher. Today, the change in climate means that the short, sharp rains of the belg season no longer make an appearance in the central Ethiopian Highlands where Cherkos is situated.

Only the meher season remains – but this season is longer, and the rains are too heavy for the soil in Cherkos to absorb. When the meher season arrives, the ground is quickly over-saturated and crops struggle to grow well. In a community where life is defined by the rhythms of the land, this change presents a deadly challenge.

“When I was in childhood, there was a surplus of crops,” she said. “But now, I live in poverty.” Like many others in Cherkos, Belyu remembers a time when providing for the family was not the struggle that it is today. Nowadays, she estimates that families like hers are only able to produce a third of what they could just thirty years ago.

The impact of this dramatic decrease in production means that there is a ‘food gap’ – a few months in every year where Belyu struggles to produce enough to feed herself and the four children she looks after. Where just one generation ago there was enough for all, now there is real scarcity.

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Contribution for Messenger.

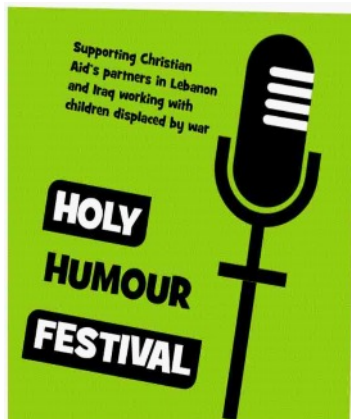
Who doesn't like being waited on  
And, say, twixt you and me  
An unexpected gift is - well,  
Most welcome, you'll agree.

And yet, surprisingly, it's true -  
(Correct me if I'm wrong) -  
What really thrills us most of all  
Is helping folk along.

Winnie Lake Pitshanger

from  
The Archives

# HOLY HUMOUR FESTIVAL, EALING GREEN CHURCH, 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020



As part of our fundraising drive to raise money for Christian Aid's work in Lebanon and Iraq to support children and young people displaced by war, we're organising Ealing's first 'Holy Humour' comedy festival. There's a full bill, running from 10.00am through until 11.00pm. People can drop in and out as they please for £5.00.

Over 30 acts are lined up to appear ranging from Christian comedians, Syrian comedians, musical acts, comedians with a disability, those from a refugee background and many more. So there really is something for everyone

Here's the programme for the day:

10.00am – noon: 'Improv' workshop. Come along, have some fun and learn how to perform your own improvised comedy sketches.

4.00pm to 5.10pm: The Early Show

5.30pm to 6.50pm: Live from the Green

7.00pm to 8.30pm: Saturday Night Live

9.00pm to 11.00pm: The Late Show

Tickets (cost £5 for the whole event) are available at church from Jill Richardson or online here

**<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holyhumourfest>**

For up to the minute information like or follow this FaceBook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Humour-Comedy-Festival-110815983777970>



# Ecumenical Service Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January

**We set out together to proclaim the wonders of God’s love. Amen! Alleluia! Amen!**



Kingsdown was host to the Ealing Churches Together service that showed how working together can help us all find the right way forward.

Our Minister Rev Sue Male selected a boat as the symbol of common understanding with the individual oars illustrating how separate views when combined and pulling in the same direction help us to reach the goal we all seek.



**Speakers came from:**

**Ealing Abbey**

**Ealing Green Church**

**Haven Green Baptist Church**

**Kingsdown Church**

**Pitshanger Church**

**St Andrew’s URC**

**St Barnabas Church**

**St Mary’s Church**

**St Peter Church**



## The Psalm 23 Garden at RHS Chelsea

The Bible Society has announced that “We’re absolutely thrilled to be working with award-winning garden designer Sarah Eberle, to bring Psalm 23 to life at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2020!”

<sup>8</sup>

The Psalm 23 Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2020, designed by Sarah Eberle, will offer visitors the chance “to stop, reflect, and feel refreshed”.

The Bible Society said: “This powerful psalm, with its visual imagery of green pastures, still waters and the valley of the shadow of death, just cries out to be turned into a garden.

“We hope you’ll love it. And after the Chelsea Flower Show, the garden will find a permanent home at the Winchester Hospice in Hampshire, where it will be a blessing to patients and families.”

The Bible Society says it is also hoping that people will “join us in creating community gardens across the country inspired by the Psalm 23 Garden. You can do this outside your office, in your school grounds, or in your churchyard. Let’s get gardening!”

You can follow the project on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and join us on the road to Chelsea.

## Have purpose in your life.

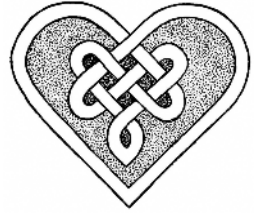
Mary Slessor was an indomitable Scottish Presbyterian missionary to Calabar, Nigeria in late Victorian times. She not only evangelised three tribes there, but also stopped the widespread practise of killing twins at birth. Her life made a tremendous difference for good to thousands of people.

Concerned about the purposeless lives of some women back in the UK, she advised them, in words which may well be the secret of her own life of blessing: “Gird yourself for the battle outside somewhere and keep your heart young. Give up your whole being to create music somewhere, in the light places and in the dark places, and your life will make melody.”

On another occasion she wrote: “Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service—praying is harder than doing, at least I find it so, but the dynamic lies that way to advance the Kingdom.”

# St Valentines Day - 14<sup>th</sup> Febuary

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4<sup>th</sup> century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.



So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.



## Orchids at Kew Gardens

The Indonesian Festival of Orchids this year starts on 8<sup>th</sup> February and runs till 8<sup>th</sup> March. It is expected that at popular times queuing will take place.



## **I believe, help my unbelief**

I was in a discussion recently as to whether or not a Christian can have doubts. The father in Mark's story (9:17-27) speaks for many people. He knew that Jesus could heal his son, but just wasn't quite sure if He would.

Doubt comes in many forms. It may be intellectual, a form of wrestling with the truth of certain key Christian beliefs like the Virgin Birth or the inerrancy of the Bible. It may be philosophical, a pondering of the problem of evil and why God allows bad things to happen to good people. Sometimes it is spiritual, and doubting whether or not we are saved. Occasionally it is emotional, wondering if we are loveable, if we have any worth or value in God's sight.

Such doubts are painful and debilitating, but true faith does not exclude the possibility of doubt. Indeed, we could say that faith would not be faith if there was not an element of doubt!

Often doubt is a way by which we discover the truth in a deeper way as we wrestle honestly with the questions we have. For many it is a way by which faith grows and matures, leading us to a greater understanding of the mystery of God and the reality that with our finite minds we can never understand everything about God or the way in which He works.

Doubt is not the same as unbelief, which is a stubborn refusal to believe what the Bible says to be true. Doubt is more a normal part of faith development and is not to be feared, especially if we bring our questions to God.

The great Methodist minister Dr William Sangster was asked if he ever doubted. "Yes," he replied, "of course I have doubts. But I also doubt my doubts!"

**by Tony Horsfall of Charis Training**

**When a cruel word has been said, it may be regretted, but it can never be un-said**

# Where God is to be found

If it is I who determine where God is to be found, then I shall always find a God who corresponds to me in some way - who is obliging, who is connected with my own nature.

But if God determines where he is to be found, then it will be in a place which may not be immediately pleasing to my nature and which is not at all congenial to me.

This place is the Cross of Christ. And whosoever would find him must go to the foot of the Cross, as the Sermon on the Mount commands.



from ACE Forum

*We pray for those who are struggling to advocate for themselves, because of low status, disability, discrimination or lack of opportunity.*

*Draw them close to you, lord, and meet their needs*

*from CBM Prayers*



Every week they gathered for Bible Study



# Marriage and Relationships

## “God in Love Unites Us”

The Methodist Conference has asked Churches and Circuits to look at its report on Marriage and Relationships, “God in Love Unites Us” which came out of this year’s conference, so that all of our views can be represented at the Spring Synod when representatives will vote on the recommendations made in the report.

The report looks at how views on marriage and other close relationships have developed within the church over the years and explores possible responses to the way that people are living in relationship today – covering marriage, divorce, co-habitation and same sex partnerships and marriage. The Ealing Trinity Circuit would like to invite you to attend one of its discussion meetings to be held on:

**Thursday 27th February at 7.45pm – 9.45pm**

at Kingsdown Methodist Church

**Saturday 7th March at 10.00am -12 noon**

at Northolt Methodist Church

**Monday 16th March at 7.45pm – 9.45pm**

at Ealing Green Church

All opinions will be heard and the right of each person to hold them respected.

This is a very big subject to try and cover in two hours and it is therefore really important that you familiarise yourself with the report and with Methodist thinking before you attend. Two hard copies of the report are available in the church.

The report can be downloaded by going to the Notices page on the Circuit website <http://www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/notices/> and clicking on the link.



# Why do we have pancakes?

## Shrove Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

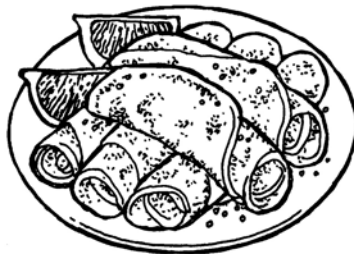
Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.

So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigours of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Since the Reformation it has not been so rigorously observed in Britain, but still people will resolve to 'give up something for Lent'. Six weeks is about right as a duration and Sunday has always been exempt but make the most of those pancakes. They may well not reappear until April 12<sup>th</sup>!





## *A Treasured Heart*



*A pearl beyond all human measure  
Your heart is such a golden treasure  
Too valuable to tell!  
Through times of toil and of leisure  
Times of sorrow and of pleasure  
I shall guard it well!*

*Love and trust, once they are woken  
Are more than just a heart-shaped token  
This gift from God above  
Not a treasure to be broken  
By careless deeds or phrases spoken  
This precious gift of love!*

*Love is patient, love is kind  
Love leaves selfishness behind  
Forgiving from the start  
Truthful, trusting, never blind  
Such are the beauties I can find  
If I just guard your heart!*

*By Nigel Beeton*

*May we follow Jesus in challenging injustices at all times.  
Prompt us, Lord, where we need to advocate for others  
through our words or deeds.*

*from CBM prayers*

**To get to heaven, turn right and keep going straight. Anon**

# Mothering Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.



Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families – which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



How wrong you can be! On the way to nursery school, a doctor had left her stethoscope on the rear seat of the car and her little girl picked it up and began playing with it. "That's OK", thought the doctor, "this may be a sign that my daughter will want to follow in my footsteps and be a doctor one day."

Then the child held the end piece to her mouth and said, "Welcome to McDonald's, may I take your order please?"

from ACE Forum

## *A Prayer from from the Richmond and Hounslow Circuit*

*We bless your Holy name, O God, for your providence among your people. You have been our help in ages past and we will always continue to put our trust and faith in you for the future.*



*When seasons of life come and go, Lord help us to keep focused on you. As each day passes, we experience different climate conditions.*

*Some seasons bring warmth in our lives and cause us to smile- help us to always remember to be thankful for your blessings. However, some seasons leave us cold, weak and vulnerable- and may the Holy Spirit be our comfort and encourage us.*

*Different seasons speak so clearly of your love, your power and your beauty.*

*You are our God and we are your people. As individuals, church community, as a nation and as humanity Lord help us to put our hope in you in everything we do.*

*Amen.*

*The Bee Hive -  
Kew Gardens*



# Hopeful choices for the world

**Rachel Lampard and Paul Morrison of the Joint Public Issues Team say our choices can help take care of the planet and create a fairer society**

Our choices are certainly constrained by what is possible. We have accepted, for example, that we are never going to make it as *Blue Peter* Presenters or long-distance runners.

But are we too quick to accept that things are not possible? When we see something that is not right, do we say to ourselves “this is the way of the world” and we can do nothing about it? Things can look very bleak, but with hope, we can respond to God’s call to challenge the injustices we see all around us.

## **Injustice is not inevitable**

If we see continued climate change as unavoidable, for example, there is no reason to reduce the number of flights we take, or to ask the government to change energy subsidies. We could read “you always have the poor with you” (Matthew 26:11) to mean we don’t need to challenge poverty. Since nuclear weapons cannot be un-invented, do we decide that we shouldn’t bother to press governments to live up to their longstanding commitment to get rid of them?

Accepting injustices as inevitable means that we fail to challenge

them. But our trust in God provides us with hope for a more just world.

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT, photos right) joins together the Methodist Church with the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church to work together for justice and peace. JPIT has identified ‘Six Hopes’ (below) which will drive the justice work of the Churches over the next few years.

The Six Hopes involve choices we can make about who we prioritise in our society and who we push to the margins; what following the biblical injunction to welcome the stranger looks like in practice; and how we can renew, not destroy God’s creation. In the coming years, JPIT will work to resource local churches theologically, politically and practically as they make these choices.

## **Choices for a better world**

One of the issues we have before us is how to change our economy in the face of the climate crisis. It’s agreed that we need to change rapidly to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and avert disaster. The big question is how.

We currently judge the success of our economy by how much we trade and consume. Economic growth has been the central aim of government for almost a century, but rising greenhouse gases and other types of pollution have been the inexorable consequences. Ever-increasing consumption cannot be sustainable.

Economic ideas such as endless growth once looked as solid and immutable as the law of gravity. Today they look more like choices that need revisiting. Imagination and hope can offer us the opportunity to challenge injustices that seemed inevitable just a decade ago.

### **We can transform society**

Some of the biggest issues today – ecological degradation, unsustainable economic models, poverty – are all the result of choices that we made as societies and individuals over decades. None of them is the result of inevitable, unchangeable laws. This means that we do have choices about transforming them.

It is a big task. But start at an individual level. We can examine the choices we make in our homes; how we spend money in local communities or businesses; how we vote to make a difference. We can question whose contributions we really value:

unpaid carers, for example, are currently excluded from measures of economic activity.

And we are not alone. In March, JPIT is hosting an ecumenical conference that will enable people to listen and discuss issues with politicians, economists, theologians, development workers and many others who are hoping and helping to reframe our economic choices.

The choices we make, whether small or large, help us to stand together against injustice, to speak of God's love and say another, more hopeful, world is possible.

To find out more about the Six Hopes and to explore the kinds of choices you can make around them visit [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/SixHopes](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/SixHopes)

The JPIT Conference, 'Renewal and Rebellion: Faith, Economy and Climate', will take place in Derby on 7 March 2020. To book visit [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference2020/](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference2020/)

Rachel Lampard and Paul Morrison from *the connexion*, the free magazine of the Methodist Church, [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

***The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have written to the new Prime Minister, assuring him of their prayers and asking for clarification on key issues including climate change, poverty and social cohesion.***

**The letter says:**

We wish to congratulate you on being given the responsibility by the British electorate to form a government, and assure you of our prayers and the prayers of the Methodist people as you take on that responsibility.

Churches are rooted in communities around Britain. It is our task to emphasise, from our ground level experience of British society, issues which we believe must be seen as key priorities.

Creation does not belong to us. Our task is to nurture and recognise our place within it. Many of our members see climate change and environmental degradation as the most pressing issues of our day. Can you tell us what steps you will be taking internationally and domestically to help the UK to reach its climate change targets? What kind of lead will you be taking at the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow?

Many of our churches and church members are involved in running foodbanks and offering support for people caught up in poverty. Foodbanks should not have to exist. Can you clarify for us what steps your new government will take to address the scandalous levels of poverty, and particularly child poverty?

The church is an inter-generational, multi-ethnic, socially diverse collection of communities. It is far from perfect. But we have seen in our communities growing forms of hostility, divisiveness and hatred, and have sought to support people who have experienced such discord. What active steps will your government now take to work towards healing and greater concord in society?

We wrote to you, Prime Minister, in July 2019 to express our concern that a No Deal Brexit was likely to impact the poorest communities very hard indeed. We wish to reaffirm our concern that the poorest in society face huge risks as our trading relations with EU are rewritten. We seek your reassurance that needs of families facing poverty will be central to the proposed trade deal and that should it not be in place before the transition period expires that comprehensive measures are put in place to protect them from the ensuing upheaval.

**Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference  
Professor Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference**



# Ealing Animal Charities Fair



**Hanwell Methodist Church**

Church Road, London, W7 1DJ

**Saturday 7th March 2020**

**10:30am - 4:00pm**

Lots of stalls  
Great guest speakers  
Live music!

admission

**FREE**



[www.ealinganimalsfair.london](http://www.ealinganimalsfair.london)

## Donate to Charity when you shop at Amazon!!

Did you Know that when you shop at Amazon you can donate 0.5% of everything you spend to a Charity of your choice. Not a massive percentage but it all adds up. When you next log on to to Amazon make it [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk). The rest of your existing account log ins and registrations remain the same

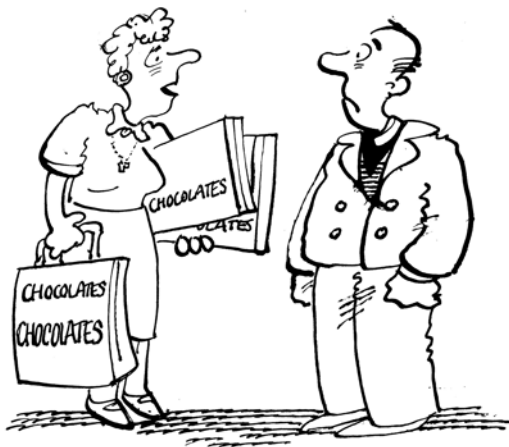
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The Methodist Relief And Development Fund (ALL WE CAN), The Methodist Action for Children, Methodist Homes (MHA), Methodists for World Mission and Ealing Street Pastors are amongst those listed.



I am stockpiling, just in case...

## COMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2020

- Mon 8.00 pm **Guides** (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 4 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** Dave plays for us
- Wed 1-3 pm **Babies & Toddlers** (term time only)
- Fri **BOYS BRIGADE** 6.30-7.30pm 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 **Coffee Morning & Chat** in the Foyer - all welcome
- Tue 18 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** The Reminiscence Road Show

### FEBRUARY and MARCH 2020

- Wed 12 Feb 8.00 pm Phil Male's **Bible Study Group** at the Manse
- Fri 14 Feb 10 -11.30 am Rev Susan Male's **Bible Study/ Fellowship Group**
- Sat 15 Feb Comedy Day, Ealing Green
- Mon 24 Feb 7.30 pm - Mission & Outreach Committee
- Tue 24 Mar 8.00 pm - Finance Committee
- Tue 31 Mar 7.30 pm - Church Council

(Future Diary Date: **June 14** The Harrow Apollo Male Choir Concert at Ealing Green

