



# KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



*Trooping the Colour*



*Queen's Official Birthday Parade*

*June - July 2021*



# Kingsdown Methodist Church



- |        |      |                                       |                                                                                    |
|--------|------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Jun  | 9.30 | Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion          |  |
| 13 Jun | 9.30 | Rev Sue Male, Morning Service         |                                                                                    |
| 20 Jun | 9.30 | Rev Shirlyn Toppin, Morning Service   |                                                                                    |
| 27 Jun | 9.30 | Rev Sue Male, Morning Service         |                                                                                    |
|        | 4.30 | Rev Sue Male, Memorial Service        |                                                                                    |
| 4 Jul  | 9.30 | Rev Sue Male, Holy Communion          |  |
| 11 Jul | 9.30 | Rev Rachel Bending, Morning Service   |                                                                                    |
| 18 Jul | 9.30 | Rev Sue Male, Morning Service         |                                                                                    |
|        | tba  | Circuit Service                       |                                                                                    |
| 25 Jul | 9.30 | Mrs Charmaine Dinham, Morning Service |                                                                                    |

For the time being at least, the arrangements for services will be the same as those put in place when the church reopened for a time in October 2020. This means that we will continue to maintain social distancing etc and face masks must be worn inside the building.

As seating capacity will be limited, it will be necessary to reserve a place before coming to church – contact Kathleen Loveridge on 07711 956010 or by e-mail at [kathleen.loveridge@btinternet.com](mailto:kathleen.loveridge@btinternet.com) before midday on the Friday before the Sunday you wish to attend church.



## Regular Sunday Services online on Zoom at 11.00 am.

For the Zoom links to these services, please contact Rev Rachel Bending, Rev Sue Male, or the Circuit Office.

You can also find video links for other services on:

<https://www.dancinginthedesert.org/worship-resources>

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=ealing+trinity+worship](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ealing+trinity+worship)



Dear Friends

We have just celebrated Pentecost.

Pentecost – sometimes called Whit-Sunday is the culmination of the Easter season. Jesus has undergone the passion and the crucifixion, been resurrected to new life, lived again on earth and appeared multiple times to people in the area in which he lived. He has ascended to heaven – opening the way for us to do the same, and with His Father sent the Holy Spirit – the New Counsellor who is ever present with us. The Holy Spirit dwells within our hearts, and if we are open guides us towards God, and the life He offers us.

Those of us who attended church at Pentecost wore Pentecost colours, and received Holy Communion. There was – despite the masks, social distancing, and hand sanitising, a small sense of normality – particularly when we walked into the street - at Kingsdown in sunshine, and an hour later at Ealing Green – in pouring rain, and sang “Walk in the Light” and “Spirit of the Living God”. Not that singing our final hymn in the street is actually our normality ... but you know what I mean!

There is a cautious sense of some normality returning as Government restrictions lessen, yet we also need to be aware of the threat of new strains of corona virus and to keep safe – following the guidelines given to us.

It is also rumoured (I dare not say more) that warmer days are approaching. There is much to hope for.



Hoping to see you all soon – or to hear from you.

With my love and prayers

Sue

**The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER**

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# ***Family News***

The funeral of Uless Alexander Elvin, much-loved husband of Adeline Elvin, a long-standing member of the Church, took place at Kingsdown Methodist Church on Monday 10th May. The service was conducted by Reverend Sue Male and several members of the family took part. After the service there was a burial at Westminster Cemetery, Uxbridge Road, Ealing. We extend our condolences to the family.

Hazel Pennells

Ruby Warne is making good progress in St David's home in Ealing. She has made friends, and enjoys the food!

Vera Hodges is currently having a few week's respite care in Sycamore Lodge in Acton.

Janet Smith

Dear Friends at Kingsdown

I hope that you have already heard the very sad news of the passing of Mary Swan, mother of Ronnie, Raymond and Catherine.

Ronnie asked me to forward the email below to you.

I know that many of you are close to the family, and that you will miss Mary greatly. Because of the continued need to follow social distancing in the church, we are still very limited in capacity, and therefore were only able to seat those personally invited by the family. Please understand that the family would have loved to invite you all, but that at the moment that was not possible.

The service was at Kingsdown on Friday 28 May 2021, followed by a burial at Hanwell Cemetery.

I'm sure that the Kingsdown family will have been keeping the Swan family in their prayers at this sad time,

Condolences, love and prayers.

Sue Male

*(As not possible to publish before funeral took place, Sue's original version has been slightly revised. Ed )*

Lorna Howarth - Rev Ian Howarth and his wife Barbara have written thanking us for keeping in touch with Lorna over the past year in various ways and expressing the wish to keep the Kingsdown family up to date with her news.

As lockdown has begun to lift, Ian and Barbara have started having to travel round for their work and felt the need to make arrangements for her long-term care. Therefore, two weeks ago Lorna moved into the Neville Williams Home in Selly Park, just 10 minutes away from their home; its a lovely home and she seems to have settled well.

Although she is rather confused about what is happening she is enjoying being with more people, and talks about the lovely friends she has made among the care workers. Needless to say, the care workers say how much they enjoy working with her. During a recent visit Ian and Barbara found her looking very well and smart, and enjoying having had her hair done.

As Lorna's eyesight is now such that she cannot read, if anyone should want to send a card, Ian suggests it is probably best if it is sent to them so that they can read it to her when they visit, and sends love on Lorna's behalf. (Please contact Pam Smith if anyone wishes to have Ian's address.)



## *Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday*



*Actual Birthday*

*21 April*

*Official Birthday*

*12 June 2021*



# Boy's Brigade News



Well, we're back at last! In the 55 years since BB started at Kingsdown, we've never known such a prolonged period of non-Brigade activity. Over the past twelve months we've met just three times which was way back in October. Thankfully, as from the beginning of May, we're now back in business, albeit in a slightly restrained format -- year groups must not mix and Band remains tricky or well nigh impossible, to be honest.

We've been using Lammas Park as a meeting place for the younger Boys, weather permitting, and they love being in the outdoors. There's plenty of football and running, and we make full use of the playground facilities too. Almost every Boy has returned to the fold and it's remarkable to see how much they have grown over the past year.

The older lads are meeting on the church premises but we hope to make use of the park for them too after half-term as the nights become lighter. Again, we've had almost full attendance and have already welcomed a new member to our year 7 team. We've re-started a Military Drill class each week for all older Boys to ease them back into the high standards of self-discipline that we expect from our members, and we plan to return to Band practice in September, with the ultimate goal being to retain our Best Band in London trophy in April 2022.

It's fair to say that the Boys could not wait to return to BB and they've loved every second of being back (even the Drill lessons!). Sadly, we won't be camping again this summer and our Annual Display may be held in the autumn instead of late May. We have four young men already lined up to receive their President's Badges (the second highest BB award) and there are many promotions to be presented too.

The BB staff would like to pass on their sincere thanks to the church family for their prayers and loving kindness during the lockdown, especially with regard to the challenging family issues that arose. We are so very grateful for your support.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Tony Plews  
Captain, 10th Ealing

# Climate Justice for All



Climate Justice for All (CJ4A) is a global campaign to mobilise the Methodist family on the issue of climate justice led by six young adults from around the world - the UK, Uruguay, the South Pacific, Italy and Zambia.

Mollie and James from the UK are inviting you to 'have your say' in one of three 45-minute online events on Wednesday 9th June at 7.00pm, Saturday 12th June at 4.00pm and Tuesday 13th July at 5.00pm. Part of the CJ4A campaign, Mollie and James want to send a 'call to action' from Methodists to the UK government's COP Ambassadors.

Local Methodist churches and groups will be asked to add their names to this call to action but, before taking that step, they want to hear from Methodists across Britain.

What does climate justice look like for you? What should Britain be doing to ensure climate justice for all?

If you attend a Methodist Church or group and would like to have your voice heard then please do join Mollie and James for one of these events all of which are open to people of all ages (those under 18 will be particularly welcome but will need a parent to book their ticket and give permission).

Register here to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-justice-for-all-have-your-saytickets-152826206297>

For any further information, please go to Climate Justice For All – World Methodist Council or email: [pugmirem@methodistchurch.org](mailto:pugmirem@methodistchurch.org).

*nb Rev Sue Male will be attending the event on Wednesday 9th June.*

Gerald Barton  
Circuit Administrator



See also <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/cop26/> for details of the UN Conference and the Paris Agreement.

For details of Climate Sunday see <https://twitter.com/climatesunday>

**ALL  
WE  
CAN**

## Change begins with a Bike

Being faced with a choice between sending your daughter to school, or receiving the gift of a cow, isn't a problem that many in the UK are faced with.

But it's a very real challenge for poor farming families in Eastern Uganda. And I was surprised – to say the least – that a solution for their dilemma could be a bicycle!

But that was the message from an interesting recent Zoom gathering that I was invited to share. Organised by our Methodist international aid organisation ALL WE CAN, I listened to Najgiba and Joy talk about the difference that I and other ALL WE CAN donors are making to their lives, and the lives of such families in Uganda.

When we talk about aid to poorer countries most of us think about food aid and medical supplies, temporary shelters and so on – things needed in the wake of some natural or climate-change induced disaster. ALL WE CAN does contribute to emergency situations when needed, but most of its work is more low-key, small-scale, very community-focussed, and always in partnership with and under the direction of local people





who have experienced the situation first-hand and thus really know what will help them best.

Najgiba and Joy are community leaders of the First African Bicycle Information Office (FABIO), and they talked to us of their partnership with ALL WE CAN in the 'Change Begins with a Bike' scheme. Sugarcane farming is all that is available to many families in their locality, and many boys have to contribute to that work, and girls to the domestic chores of cooking, bringing up younger children, and fetching and carrying water and firewood for cooking. With schools as much as 2 hours walk from home, getting an education as well as working for the family becomes impossible. FABIO buys up second-hand bicycles, provides workshops where they are renovated, and donates them to a village where the village Elders determine who needs them most.



At first sight, that doesn't suggest it can be doing a lot of good, and what happens when the bikes finally get beyond repair, or are stolen? Najgiba and Joy, with the help of a short video, showed us that there is much more benefit than appears at first. Firstly, the whole village owns the bike, and at least one young man has to have been trained (and is paid) to keep it in good repair; the bike can be used to fetch water for the whole village, or take produce to market to be sold, generating a fund for improvements (including buying an additional bike) agreed by everyone. The bike can be used for women to go to antenatal clinics which reduces the number of neonatal deaths – some

villages had constructed a trailer that turned a bike into an ambulance! It's in everyone's interest that the bike is kept safe and well-maintained.

And the schoolgirls and the cows? There has been a high incidence of teenage pregnancies amongst unmarried girls – particularly at risk during those long walks to and from school. In the past, it was usual for these girls to drop out of school, losing the opportunity that education can bring. In other cases poor families might be offered a cow or a goat in exchange for a marriageable young girl, and be tempted by the immediate relief from poverty, and one less mouth to feed! But it isn't a long-term solution, especially as world-wide sugar prices fall rapidly.



Access to a bicycle can mean the difference between everyone subsisting on just enough, or having a little money over in the village to purchase more land, invest in different crops, or build their own well; to take their produce to larger, more distant, markets to obtain better prices; to send a bright student for further

education. And because all the village is involved in setting the conditions for the use of the bike, they can ensure that the better outcomes are shared across the village population.

I've always been impressed by the principles behind ALL WE CAN (perhaps still more familiar to many of us under its former name – the Methodist Relief and Development Fund). But hearing from the Ugandan partners in Change Begins with a Bike, really brought home to me how much better it is to provide small amounts of funding and expertise to local communities to further schemes that they know can work best for them. Joy and Najgiba referred over and over again to the difference made by working in partnership with a charity that doesn't set their own conditions for how their money is spent, but agrees the rules in negotiation with those who are to be benefited. It was clear that ALL WE CAN was making a big difference!

And this principle was reinforced on 22 April, by Mark Lowcock the co-ordinator of the UN's aid relief operation and a former British civil servant, speaking at a Washington Center for Global Development

thinktank. He said, 'In Chad and Cox's Bazaar (Bangladesh) and in at least five other African countries, people in dire humanitarian need are frequently selling aid that has been given, to buy something else they want more. . . In Chad, only 12% of people surveyed were positive about the aid they received.' Although the UN has been emphasising this for some time, at present aid agencies are not monitored nor held to accountability, which could lead to potential donors turning away from the dire humanitarian situation of the one in 33 people in the world who desperately need help.



So we Methodists can be extra proud of what ALL WE CAN is doing, and sure that our donations are doing what is really needed.

You can find out more about ALL WE CAN at [www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk) or from Alan and Pam Smith from Kingsdown Methodist Church.

Kathleen Loveridge  
April 2021

### Donate online now:

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/make-a-donation/>

### Or Donate every time you go shopping on-line with -

1. **Amazon Smile** - the shopping site, donates to All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development) every time you shop on Amazon.

So whether you're after a new kettle or buying a gift, just go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) and select Methodist Relief and Development from a list of charities before you start shopping. Help people fulfil their potential in some of the world's poorest communities, just by shopping.

2. **Give as you Live** - Give as you Live features thousands of stores, so whether you are doing your weekly shop or buying a gift, a membership subscription or a new mobile contract, you can raise valuable funds for All We Can. With Give as you Live, thousands of your favourite online stores will donate up to 7% of whatever you spend online – without costing you a penny! Visit [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com) and select All We Can as your chosen charity. Then simply bookmark the page.



*Congratulations to Rev Sue Male walking 91,798 steps which well exceeding her target of 75,00 steps during CA Week. Very well done Sue.*

**We must not forget yesterday emergencies that still need support. Here is one that needs continued help.**

## **Rohingya**



The Rohingya crisis has left children like Asha and Amir without a family or home. By making donation, you can help these forgotten children to feel safe again.

Six-year-old Asha is one of the refugees stuck on the border of Bangladesh, in one of the world's largest refugee camps.

Escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in late August 2017 forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes, including many Rohingya refugees who fled to Bangladesh, fearing for their lives.

Asha was one of them. She fled after her home was burnt to the ground and her mother, father and three sisters killed.

Conditions in the camps are incredibly difficult and children like Asha are particularly vulnerable. They have lost the families who loved them. A gift to Christian Aid is not only about taking care of children's basic needs. By giving regularly, you can help them to recover from trauma, grief and build hope for the future.

How we are helping during the Coronavirus emergency -

Currently, over 850,000 Rohingya refugees live in cramped camps in Cox's Bazar district, making them very vulnerable to coronavirus.

We are already taking action. Working together with partners, we are informing people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, ensuring that health facilities in camps have triage and isolation spaces in order to receive suspected cases, and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

**Please donate to the Rohingya Appeal**

**<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies>**



**Did you call??** Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park



## **Circuit Bible Studies**

On Zoom Thursdays - at 2.00pm and 8.00pm.  
All are welcome to join in – both women and men!

The link for the studies is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82320570313?pwd=S0J3UWFIS3JsSUxrZDkzS3VnVm1oQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 2057 0313 Passcode: 763073

One tap mobile

020 3481 5237,,82320570313#,,,,\*763073# United Kingdom

020 3481 5240,,82320570313#,,,,\*763073# United Kingdom

**God's biggest problem with labourers in His vineyard is absenteeism.**

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Stella said that she found it annoying when her computer changed her words .

I replied:

It's called Artificial Intelligence. Mine does the same.

And it is sneaky.

It waits until my hand goes to press..

Then quickly makes a change.

Sometimes it changes my script...thinks it knows best.

It reminded me of something from my youth which goes like this:

"I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me.

And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.

He's very very like me from my toes up to my head,

And I see him go before me as I jump into my bed."

That's all I can remember but I was thinking....

I have a little tablet that goes everywhere with me

And I find it very useful, as everyone can see.

It's very very like me from my heart up to my head

Until it goes before me, choosing it's own words instead.

Of course, it can be helpful when my memory isn't bright,

But it's very temperamental...sadly not always right.

I've often thought of getting rid of it, once and forever.

At least the bit that's programmed to think it's so clever.

But then I realize that my mind is sometimes hazy,

And my advancing years has made me rather lazy.

So perhaps for now I'll settle, knowing I'm the one who's wise,  
And hang on in with it and accept the compromise.

Joyce Hobson

## *In Praise of Prince Philip, D of E.*

*He almost reached his century and the telegraph from the Queen.  
The BBC was prepared with what he'd done and where he'd been.*

*We have watched him beside Her Majesty over several decades,  
Attending a multitude of anniversaries, watching hundreds of parades.*

*We took him for granted because he was always there.*

*I wish I'd known more about him; of his influence with the young.*

*It's only now he's gone that we hear his praises sung.  
We hear of his positive views and his intellectual, lively mind;  
Of his travels and his interest in the lives of all mankind.*

*We hadn't heard much about that side of him.*

*He was with her when she inherited the throne.*

*Sadly, now she must continue to reign alone,  
Without the companion who played his part,  
Fulfilling the promise he made at the start.*

*Prince Philip, her liege and strength.*

*Joyce Hobson 9th April, 2021*



## 'Nursing A Nation: An Anthology'

This book will be launched on 11 July commemorating Nurses from the Commonwealth, who have worked in the NHS, before and since. There is also a Statue, due to be unveiled on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, in celebration of the NHS anniversary! We are pleased that HM The Queen has endorsed both and her letter will be in the book, which I have helped in the editing and am also in the book!



I have been asked to send to MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain), A RECORDING OF MY CONTRIBUTION THAT WILL BE AMALGAMATED WITH OTHERS, FOR PRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE, FOR MWiB 10th Anniversary, which I helped to organise, at Central hall, whilst President of London District!

**Blossom Jackson**

*(The Statue is in the grounds of Whittington Hospital)*



*Make us worthy, Lord  
To serve our fellow men  
Throughout the world  
Who live and die in poverty  
And hunger  
Give them through our hands  
This day their daily bread  
And, by our understanding  
Love, give joy and peace.*

*Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



# BRIGHTEN THE CORNER WHERE YOU ARE

We cannot all be famous or be listed in "Who's Who",

But every person great or small  
Has important work to do..  
For seldom do we realise  
The importance of small deeds  
Or to what degree of greatness  
Unnoticed kindness leads -  
For it's not the big celebrity  
In a world of fame and praise,

But it's doing unpretentiously in undistinguished ways  
The work that God assigned to us,unimportant as it seems,

That makes our task outstanding  
And brings reality to dreams -

So do not sit and idly wish for wider, new dimensions

Where you can put in practice  
Your many "Good Intentions" -

But at the spot God placed you begin at once to do  
Little things to brighten up the lives surrounding you,

For if everybody brightened up  
The spot on which they're standing

By being more considerate and a little less demanding,

This dark old world would very soon  
Eclipse the "Evening Star"

If everybody brightened up the corner where they are!

# **Bio-Optic Organised Knowledge – is it a device for the future?**



*Introducing the new Bio-Optic Organised Knowledge device, trade-named BOOK.*

*BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use, even an adult can operate it!*

*Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere – even sitting in an armchair by the fire – yet it is powerful enough to hold as much as a CD-ROM disc.*

*BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each sheet capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder, which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence.*

*Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs and size. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, BOOKs with more information simply use more pages. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering the information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet.*

*BOOK may be taken up at any time and used merely by opening it. The 'browse' feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and to move backwards and forwards as you wish. Many come with an 'index' feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.*

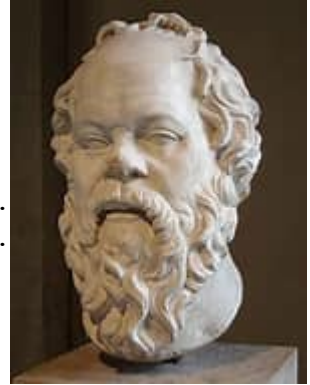
*BOOK never crashes or needs rebooting, though, like other devices, it can be damaged if coffee is spilled on it and it may become unusable if dropped too many times on a hard surface.*

*You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries using optional programming tools: Permanent Entry Nib (PEN) or Portable Erasable Nib Correctable Intercommunication Language Stylus (PENCILS).*

*From Deidre Morris - ACE*

# The Rumour

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance, who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?" "Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three. Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to test what you're going to say.



The first test is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?" "No," the man replied, "actually I just heard about it." "All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second test, the test of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?" "No, on the contrary," was the reply. "So", Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?" The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continued, "You may still pass though because there is a third test - the filter of usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?" The man hesitated and said, "No, not really..."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good, nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?" The man was defeated and ashamed and said no more. This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

from ACE Forum



**Doctor, Doctor.....**

Doctor, I've broken my arm in two places.

Hmm, I'd advise you not to go back to either place, then!

Doctor, I've got a strawberry stuck in my ear!

Don't worry I've got some cream for that!

# Longest day of the year 20<sup>th</sup> June



June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. Sol + stice come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December.

While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.

## A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,  
Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.  
He is lovely and radiant and grand;  
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.  
St Francis of Assisi  
God in All

He inspires all,  
He gives life to all,  
He dominates all,  
He supports all.  
He lights the light of the sun.  
He furnishes the light of the night.  
He has made springs in dry land.  
He is the God of heaven and earth,  
of sea and rivers,  
of sun, moon and stars,  
of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley,  
the God above heaven,  
and in heaven,  
and under heaven.

A prayer of St Patrick

## Father's Day - 20<sup>th</sup> June

### A time to celebrate male role models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day – a permanent, national holiday.

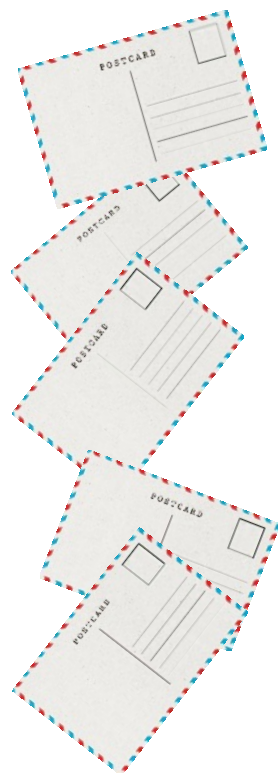
## *The Post Card*

*A post card from you sent to me  
Causes me to smile with glee!  
I can't have the blues  
As I read the news  
Of your time with the sun and the sea!*

*I love how it lands on the mat  
So it's there when I hang up my hat;  
And no more time passes  
Ere I reach for my glasses  
And happily read all your chat!*

*A message by text's not the same.  
And Facebook is all just a game.  
I know some will say  
It's the new modern way,  
But the lack of a card? It's a shame!*

*By Nigel Beeton*



**Palm House, Kew Gardens, Night Event Dec 2002**

## Prayer written by someone of mature years



Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be really old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every occasion about every subject. Release me from craving to straighten out somebody's affairs. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know Lord, I want a few friends at the end.

from ACE Forum

*“For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born,  
and a time to die;*

*a time to plant  
and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

*a time to kill,  
and a time to heal;*

*a time to break down  
and a time to build up;*

*a time to weep and a time to laugh....”*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-4*

*We ask for reconciliation between people of differing political, ethnic, language, racial, social and economic backgrounds; and most importantly, restoration of family and social relationships.*

*A CBM Prayer*

## *Peace between neighbours*

*Peace between neighbours near,  
Peace between kindred here,  
Peace between lovers dear,  
In the love of the King of us all.*

*Peace man with man abide,  
Peace man to wife allied,  
Mother and bairns to guide,  
And peace of the Christ above all.*

*Bless, O Christ, bless my face,  
My face bless every face,  
Christ, bless mine eye with grace,  
Mine eye give a blessing to all.*

*from Poems of the Western Highlanders*

## *From 'To Life' by Jane Gascoine*

*If you're old at 80, you were old at 18  
It's no good thinking of what might have been  
Life's for the living and all for the taking  
No matter how sad or even heart breaking*

*And I've still got a lot of living to do  
People to meet, places to see  
I'll try, on the way, to help others who  
Haven't been quite as lucky as me.*

*I hope I have the strength and will  
To go on till I pass the post  
So, here's to life, I'll take my fill  
And the devil take the hindmost!*





## A look at the The Methodist's today

The Methodist Church of Great Britain (MCGB) was formed in 1932 from a merger of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Primitive Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church (itself a merger of three groups in 1907), then with a total membership of 840,000 and 7,800 churches. In 2019 the MCGB had some 4,200 churches across England, Wales and Scotland, with membership of 170,000.

In terms of church buildings, it is the second largest denomination in England, second only to the Church of England (with 15,500 churches). There are 30 Districts currently (equivalent to Dioceses) which are sub-divided into Circuits, on average 12 Circuits in each District, but some have just one, like the Welsh-speaking churches, or those on the Isle of Man and Shetlands. The largest is London with 35. Each Circuit has on average 12 churches, or 140 per District (the Church of England has 380 churches per Diocese).

Numerically, Methodist attendance is not very dissimilar to its membership. In 2019 attendance was about 164,000, all but 20,000 attending. As with Anglican churches, they find Sunday attendance declining faster than weekday attendance, and children and young people attendance declining roughly twice as fast as adult attendance.

Individual churches naturally vary in size. A list of all 4,200 churches gave an interesting overview: Methodist churches are quite small, with two-fifths, 38%, having under 20 members per church and a further two-fifths, 39%, having between 20 and 59 members, leaving just under a quarter, 23%, with 60 members or over. The median size is 28, meaning that half the churches have 28 or fewer members while the other half have more.

The two largest Methodist churches, by congregational size, are Swan Bank, Stoke-on-Trent (465 members) and Wesley's Chapel, in City Road (464 members). Two others are over 400: Bournemouth Methodist Church (429 members) and Methodist Central Hall in Westminster (422 members).

**Dr Peter Brierley**

Dr Peter Brierley may be contacted on [peter@brierleyres.com](mailto:peter@brierleyres.com).

## **The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24)**

One thing that we've probably missed over the past year is parties. Well, this month should enable us to party again! Lots of Jesus' parables focus on parties, as they are a picture of the joy, hope and life of the kingdom of God. The parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14: 15-24) challenges us not to miss out on this.

In Jesus' day, when people accepted an invitation to a banquet, they were only told the actual time on the day: 'Come, for everything is now ready' (17). Jesus' invites each one of us to share in the life of His kingdom.

However, the guests made excuses for not coming. At the time, this would have been extremely insulting to the host. They said: 'I have just bought a field; I must try out my new team of oxen; I have just got married' (18-20). These are all good things in themselves, however they reveal their priorities were elsewhere.

We too can be pre-occupied with our own routines of work, family, retirement, holidays, friends, home, social media, that we forget God's priorities for our lives. Jesus calls for total commitment from His disciples. What priority in my life is holding me back from accepting His invitation?

How did the host respond? He ordered His servants to 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' (21).

He invited the unexpected and unacceptable people to His banquet. Jesus makes the point that God's kingdom is open to all! Thinking about our family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, even if they're not like us or show little interest in God:

Are we willing to offer them God's invitation to share His love and life?

Canon Paul Hardingham

**Christians need half an hour each day for prayer and reflection, except when they are busy – then they need an hour. (Francis de Sales)**

## ***Do you yearn for a garden gnome?***

### ***You are not the only one.***



Since last year's lockdown, garden centres have been reporting a 'massive upswing' in ornament sales, due to people being forced to spend more time in their gardens. Gnomes top the list of most-wanted ornaments, with a near 100 per cent increase in sales over the past two years.

There was even a gnome crisis a while back, when the Suez Canal got jammed, and thousands of gnomes on their way to UK gardens could not get through.

from Parish Pump



## **It's in the News**



Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said: 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house'. (Daily Telegraph)

Police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (The Guardian)

At the height of the gale, the harbour master radioed a coastguard on the spot and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (Aberdeen Evening Express)

from ACE Forum

**Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action. (Benjamin Disraeli)**

# Mary Seacole - British-Jamaican nurse

Mary Jane Seacole (née Grant] 23 November 1805 – 14 May 1881 was a British-Jamaican nurse, healer and businesswoman who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War. She described this as "a mess-table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers", and provided succour for wounded servicemen on the battlefield, and nursed many of them back to health. Coming from a tradition of Jamaican and West African "doctresses", Seacole displayed "compassion, skills and bravery while nursing soldiers during the Crimean War", through the use of herbal remedies. She was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991. In 2004, she was voted the greatest black Briton.



Mary Seacole relied on her skill and experience as a healer and a doctress from Jamaica. Schools of nursing in England were only set up after the Crimean war, the first being the (Florence) Nightingale Training School, in 1860 at St Thomas' Hospital in London. Seacole was arguably the first nurse practitioner.

Hoping to assist with nursing the wounded on the outbreak of the Crimean War, Seacole applied to the War Office to be included among the nursing contingent but was refused, so she travelled independently and set up her hotel and tended to the battlefield wounded. She became popular among service personnel, who raised money for her when she faced destitution after the war.

In 1858 a four-day Fundraising Gala took place on the banks of the river Thames, to honour Mary Seacole. Crowds of about 80,000 attended, including veterans, their families and Royalty.

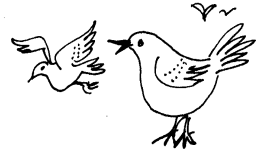
After her death she was largely forgotten for almost a century, but was subsequently recognised for her success as a woman.



Her autobiography, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857), is one of the earliest autobiographies of a mixed-race woman, although some aspects of its accuracy have been questioned by present-day supporters of Florence Nightingale. The erection of a statue of her at St Thomas' Hospital, London, on 30 June 2016, describing her as a "pioneer", has generated controversy and opposition from Nightingale enthusiasts, such as Lynn McDonald, and others researching the period.

from Wikipedia  
and thanks to Blossom Jackson for the reminder.

## British birds are in big trouble.



80 per cent of our most popular species are in severe decline, according to recent data from the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

The world's largest wildlife survey has found that 16 out of the 20 most spotted garden birds have been in decline since 2020. There are now concerns about the greenfinch and chaffinch, which were seen in their lowest ever numbers this year.

The top five birds seen in people's gardens were: house sparrows, blue tits, starlings, blackbirds and wood pigeons. Only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush grew in number in 2020.



## Gardening

According to a recent study conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and two universities, people who garden every day have well-being scores 6.6 per cent higher, and stress levels 4.2 per cent lower than those who do not garden at all.

Dr Lauriane Chalmin-Pui, RHS well-being fellow and lead author says, "The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the more frequently you garden, the greater the health benefits.

"In fact, gardening every day has the same positive impact on your well-being as undertaking regular, vigorous exercise like cycling or running.

## *A few of my favourite things*

*Botox and nose drops  
And needles for knitting.  
Walkers and handrails  
And new denture fittings  
Bundles of magazines  
Tied up with string  
These are a few of. my favourite things*

*Cataracts and Cadillacs  
Hearing aids and glasses  
Pacemakers, golf carts  
And porches with swings  
These are a few of my favourite things*

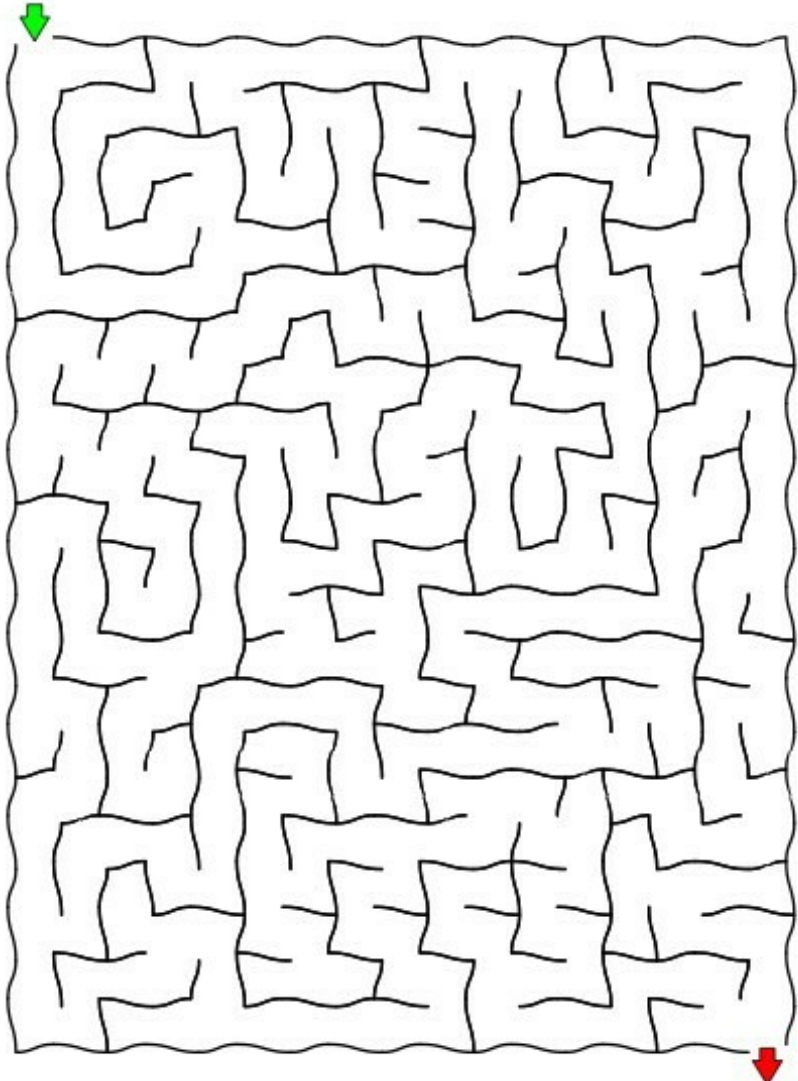
*When the pipes leak  
When the bones creak  
When the knees go bad  
We simply remember our  
Favourite things  
And then we don't feel so bad*

**Janet Smith**



**Can YOU find your way through the Maze?**

**Start here**



**Success !!**

**Age doesn't always bring wisdom; sometimes age comes along on its own.**