



CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church

SEPTEMBER 2017



John Reid at "We Stand Together" Interfaith Meal (see pg.19)

www.kingstonurc.org

Charity No. 1131880

Edited this month by Jean Thompson

CHURCH DIARY: SEPTEMBER 2017

(for regular activities see inside back cover)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|---|
| Sunday | 3 Sept. | 10.00 | Worship (Communion) |
| | | 11.30 | All Age Worship |
| | | 18.30 | Reflective Worship |
| Sunday | 10 Sept. | 09.30 | Coffee available |
| NOTE NEW TIMES | | 10.30 | All Age Worship |
| | | 11.30 | Annual General Meeting |
| | | 11.30 | Copy deadline for October Church News Editor: Tony Wenman |
| | | 18.30 | Reflective Worship |
| Wednesday | 13 Sept. | 14.00 | Bible Study |
| Fri. 15 – Sun. 17 Sept. | | | Church Weekend Away at Dunford House |
| Sunday | 17 Sept. | 10.00 | Worship |
| | | 11.30 | All Age Worship |
| | | 18.30 | Reflective Worship (Communion) |
| Saturday | 23 Sept. | 10.00 | Rehearsal for Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – see pg.16 |
| | | 16.30 | Performance of Joseph & the |
| Sunday | 24 Sept. | 10.00 | Worship |
| | | 11.30 | All Age Worship (Communion) |
| | | 18.30 | Reflective Worship |
| Thursday | 28 Sept. | 12.30 | Lunchtime Recital – see pg.13 |



FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

3rd Madge Cole
 10th He Jung Kim & Suk In Lee
 17th Evelyn White
 24th The Shorney (Clegg) Family



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LETTER FROM LESLEY



Dear All,

‘What we do here we do in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ’. So said the musician, Billy Ocean, then he bashed out his tunes and up we were dancing.

What a way to start. To start each day. To start the time when you are in your place of work. In your office, school, home, Church building. ‘What we do here we do in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ’. And then we do what we do as well as we can. It may not look to anyone else that what we are doing is ‘religious’ but that does not mean it is not coming from a faith place. It is because I am a follower of Jesus Christ that Iraise these issues, keep on going, rest when I do, care about members of the team, sack that person, employ that person.....and on and on.

It is a statement that demands effort. You cannot declare that you do it in Jesus’ name and not do your best job. You have to be aspiring to excellence.

Could you say it?

How would the day look if we did say it out loud in public before we began?

Yours, **Lesley**

PS from Lesley

When Catherine is in Church on a Sunday, she is there to worship God. It is not the time to talk to her about bookings, redevelopment, toilet rolls, bulbs, staplers that don’t work, in fact any building stuff. Chat to her, by all means, about Jesus, family life, health, being disciples, prayer

*Thanks, **Lesley***

CATHY'S CONVERSATION

It seems to me that we are a church that desires to move forward but also we do not want to forget all that has gone before that has contributed to our 'now'.

Which is my way of telling you of a change to our Sunday worship pattern. **In September our combined service, which takes place every second Sunday in the month, will start at 10.30.** You may be asking yourself 'Why?' The matter was discussed at our bi-monthly church meeting in 2016. At that time people were concerned that our church meetings did not give much time for discussion. The meetings were felt to be time-limited by car parking restrictions and possibly hungry tummies!

Church meetings are an important part of the United Reformed Church governance. There will always be formal elements to the meetings, but at its heart it requires us to listen to others and to be prepared to change our point of view, not through coercion but through our constant attempts to find God's will for us in this space.

On the second Sundays when we do not have a church meeting following the service, we will endeavour to have some 'together time'.

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY: 15-17 September at Dunford House.

We still have a few spaces available, but time is running out! Please speak to Catherine in the office if you wish to attend. Deadline is Tuesday, 5 September.

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Ray Erskine has emailed Church News: "Thank you to everyone for their good wishes, prayers and many cards which I received during my recent stay in hospital. Your kind thoughts were greatly appreciated."

PASTORAL NEWS at 13. 8.17.

Out of care for people's privacy,
since January 2012 the list of Personal Concerns
has been deleted from the web edition of Church News
Anyone wishing to receive the full edition of Church
News by e-mail should send an
e-mail to: tony.wenman@gmail.com

Lord God, As we look back on a summer of warm sun and rain we remember those for whom this is a time of sadness and grieving. Surround them with the warmth of your love.

As the long summer evenings start drawing in, we remember all those in hospital or coping with long term illness. Shed the light of your presence on them, their families and friends and all who care for them.

We remember the families of those baptised recently. We pray that for the children and all involved it was a significant day in their lives and faith journey.

We pray for all those returning to school, college or work after the holidays. May they return refreshed and eager to grasp the opportunities that the next year will bring.

We thank you for the International Discussion group as they build friendships among people of different nations and share the English language together. We rejoice in the work of the Parents and Toddlers group; for the love and care shown to many parents, carers and children over many years. We thank you for all those involved in the Wednesday lunchtime services. Bless them in the worship they offer. We remember all those who join in the Young People's Sunday group, continue to inspire the leaders and children alike as they seek to learn more about you together. We give thanks for the dedication of the Marketing and Communications group as they seek to promote the church premises as part of our service to the local community. Finally, we pray for our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In. Give them wisdom and courage as they lead us. Give us wisdom and courage as we support them in their role. Amen.

Getting to know Ted before he starts with us in September



Please let me introduce myself: I am Ted Bellingham and I am currently studying for ordination as a non-stipendiary minister at Westminster College. I am pleased to say that my Living Ministry Programme, which is the final year of training, is going to be with you at Kingston URC. Hopefully you will see me around the premises, sharing worship and church life with you. The purpose of this short introduction is to tell you a little about myself.

I have lived in and around Dorking most of my life. My wife, Jane, and I have been married for 38 years. We have no children but are blessed with ten God-daughters! Both Jane and I were police officers in the Surrey force but have since 'retired'. Jane manages the service delivery of a local charity providing emotional and practical support to people with a life limiting illness. After leaving the police I also worked in the charity sector, notably with the Christian Charity Send a Cow. It was during this time that we 'adopted' a school in Uganda. With the involvement of our church we have been supporting its work for over 10 years. I am a bit of a keep fit fan, but my only call to fame is that I ran in the very first London Marathon. After well over thirty years later, it is not something I would ever contemplate doing again!

Back in 2008 I responded to God's call to spread His good news and trained as a lay preacher with the URC's Training for Learning and Service. A little over two years ago the age restriction on training for non-stipendiary ordained ministry was removed. After much prayer, I placed myself in God's hands and that of the URC discernment process, and was accepted for training. My training so far has built upon my time as a lay preacher, with various secondments at places such as Heathrow Airport and Horsham Hospital, as well as honing my theological knowledge.

Let me finish by expressing my thanks to those who have agreed to my placement with you, not least to Lesley, and in advance for your forbearance of this newcomer in your midst. Yours in Christ, **Ted**

FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR BIBLE STUDY

The evening Bible studies are proving to be helpful and it seems right to extend the opportunity to afternoons.

The format is that we will meet to discuss the things the group has read in advance of us gathering. The reading will be a brief introduction to each book of the New Testament and then as much of that book as you can get time to read.

There are no questions that are too simple to ask. There is no eye-rolling or tutting that you did not know that. There is no 'well you just have to swallow it....'

The dates for the Wednesday afternoons will be 13 Sept; 4 Oct; 18 Oct; 8 Nov; 22 Nov; 6 Dec; 20 Dec. (Into 2018 it will be neatly fortnightly, but that is the best the diary allows for now.)

The book to be studied is 'A Beginners Guide to the New Testament' by William Barclay. Books cost £10 (we are happy to supply them if the cost is a problem). Catherine will order them.

Come. 2pm on a Wednesday. Sessions last as long as the conversation flows, but usually finish in one and a half hours. **Lesley**

Also from Lesley:

November has always been traditionally the month of death. We are going to be giving this more depth than usual. We are a Church where many important members have died. Each of us also has our stories of loss. Christian people believe in the value of life and that life has, in some ways, been transformed because of Jesus. We believe that all lives are important and that there is a continuity between the living and the dead.

We will be exploring stories of the Saints in the evening services – do you have a favourite saint's story? Do you have a story to tell of someone who has shaped you? We will also have a time together and remember those we love who are no longer with us.

Death will also be our theme in the mornings. We are resurrection people and Alleluia is our song.



CONTACT WITH TANZANIA !

Following an announcement at church that students from the Psychological Department of Kingston University doing a Masters' Degree course were conducting research into Dementia and required some participants, John volunteered.

The lovely Muslim girl, Naghma Ahmed, who was working with John, happened to come from Tanzania. What was very interesting was that her grandfather used to work with John in the same organisation (Tanzania Railways) when John was working in Dar Es Salaam in 1984-1986. We invited Naghma and also Stuart for a Tanzanian lunch and Natasha excelled herself in preparing authentic Tanzanian food! Naghma's ancestors came from Zanzibar, and to remind her of Zanzibar, we displayed a brass statue of an Arab Dhow on a shelf. We spent a very delightful afternoon, and Naghma left to go to Tanzania with a parcel from us to our family there. She will return to University in 3 weeks' time to submit her dissertation. The contact helps us to remember that our world is very small and we all have to live in it like brothers and sisters.

Natasha Reid



WILLIAM TONAR McMAHON MBE FRICS

Extracts from Lesley's Address at Billy's funeral on 5. 5.17:

Billy was born in Edinburgh and had an older brother, Douglas. Even though his father died when he was young, he had a happy home and was always very close to his mother, brother and his family.

Billy went to George Heriots school from the age of 5. He developed his love for sport there – rugby, cricket, badminton. It was also there that he started with the Scouts.

Margaret and Billy were baptised by the same minister at St Luke's in Edinburgh. It was at the youth fellowship that they met.

In 1949 Billy left school and became an apprentice at a firm of Quantity Surveyors. In 1956 he and Margaret were married. In December that year they came to London and after a few months working in the Surveyors' Department of the London County Council, he realised this was not the right place for him and he transferred to Stanley Griffith & Partners where he stayed all his working life ending up as Senior Partner.

In London he picked up with badminton, cricket and the Scouts as soon as he could, but only golf remained when Keith and Alison were born. Billy was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews.

Outside of work there was the Worshipful Company of Woolmen. He joined the Caledonian Club and was Chairman for three years in the late 80's. This was his second home and he enjoyed lunch and entertaining people there.

Billy loved his work. As a Chartered Surveyor, Billy worked closely with architects and was involved in a number of important television projects. These included the Southern Television Studios in Southampton, Thames Television Studios in Euston Road, London and transmitter buildings for the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority. He also served on the British Board of Film Classification and was on the Council of Management for around 10 years.

The year after his retirement he became the Royal Television Society Honorary Treasurer. In 2003 Billy was awarded the MBE for services to the RTS.

After his retirement in 1995 Billy continued to organise Christmas lunches to maintain contact with work personnel past and present, as well as monthly meetings with retired colleagues over a beer and sandwich at The Albert, a well-known Victoria hostelry. He also kept up links at the Caledonian Club where the Herioters meet once a month when in London.

The passion of Billy's life was his family. As a grandfather, he was so interested in everything his grandchildren did, their education, hobbies, their friends and their aspirations. He was very proud of them all. Billy has had a long, happy and fruitful marriage. His marriage was a relationship in which he was able to thrive and it was not something he took for granted – he was thankful.

All true, but what sort of a man was he? He was practical at all sorts of DIY. He taught Keith to drive and play golf; he could pack a car. Family holidays mattered with Billy driving to Scotland, listening to Perry Como and Nat King Cole.

Billy was willing to offer advice – generous, wise, thoughtful, always ready to listen and never self-indulgent. Interested in other people and always happy to share his great wealth of experience which invariably would turn out to be right! Billy was a great host – he loved a celebration, especially with the family at home. Later there were big family holidays with everyone together.

As some of you will know, Billy and Margaret have been neighbours of the ministers of this church for as long as they have lived in Regent Road, and before they worshipped in this community themselves. They have been more than neighbours to us ministers – they have been friends as well. For us, we have family memories of Billy mowing the lawn when we first moved in, his generous hospitality, Keith's tree in the garden which all the neighbourhood enjoy at Christmas and which Billy organised for all of us.

Billy McMahon was a rock-solid citizen. He was a good man – not flash or demonstrative, just rock solid. He was kind but not indulgent. A comment from a colleague sums him up – “his tone was carefully measured and his wit was always dry. It was a pleasure to work alongside him.”

Till very recently Billy was regular in attendance at church. He and Margaret are part of the gloomy, strict Presbyterianism which is our heritage. Action songs – I don't think so!

In the face of death he was not frightened. He has lived a life which demonstrated rather than articulated what he believed in. Billy was ordered and a man with standards without being a fussy pedant which often goes with such attributes. Things had to be done in a particular way, yet there was a generosity about him. Now he rests. The last phase has been a trial, but he endured it with humour and graciousness. Now our faith says he is secure for eternity with Jesus. I just hope for the sake of Jesus there is no whacky dancing in heaven!



HELEN DE LORENZI JOHNSON

Extracts from Lesley's address at Helen's funeral on 20. 7.17:

Helen's parents, Harry, who was a master baker, and Elizabeth Menzies, emigrated to Canada and then to America during the 1920's. Helen was born in New York, as were two of her siblings, Barbara and John (known as Jack). The family moved back and forth, but permanently returned to the UK in 1938 before the start of WWII where James was born. Helen was always declaring her roots as an American, or a Scot!

The family lived in Cardinal Avenue on the Tudor estate in Kingston. Growing up Helen attended Latchmere Infants and Junior School where later she returned as a teacher. During the war Helen was evacuated to a small village outside Nottingham which she and Allen visited 45 years later and the people she stayed with were still there.

Helen won a scholarship to Tiffin Girls School and then went to a Teacher Training College in Saffron Walden. In addition to her Teacher Training Certificate, she obtained a Diploma in Horticulture. This remained an interest throughout her life and she became a keen gardener.

Helen attended the then Kingston Congregational Church – now Kingston URC – and was an active lifelong member. Helen was regular in worship, taught the children, helped with the Boys and Girls Brigades and became an officer in the Girls Brigade. In later years Helen was involved with Parents and Toddlers and the Coffee Bar. Even when Helen became ill, Allen and Helen would come as a team.

It was in the Youth Fellowship where she met Allen when she was 15 – he was one of the leaders. She campaigned vigorously to get women in the predominantly all male YF. She married Allen in 1957 and a year later Ian was born. Mags joined the family in 1972.

After Ian was born Helen returned to work as a teacher and eventually joined Latchmere Infants where she taught for 25 years until retiring, although what she actually wanted to be was a Parliamentary Secretary!

She always loved children and for most of her life worked with them, both as an occupation and in her private life through Church and other organisations.

Helen was not a fan of music, but she liked poetry and got back into it towards the end of her life in her days at Amy Woodgate.

How shall we describe Helen? She was self-willed, resolute and robust. She was an unconventional, strong woman and an organiser. She had the failing of some who have this gift for organising of forgetting it was people she was

organising with their various gifts and needs. However, she put her organising to good use at Christmas with games and for children's parties for Ian and Mags and then for Emma. She loved dogs, gardening and she loved the outdoors.

Some people think of Christianity as being a soft feeling-based religion. But for others it is about actions – things that need to be done. Helen was in that category. She was always fighting for the underdog, downtrodden or disadvantaged. Helen had a strong drive towards excellence – there were ways to do things and hers was the way.

Helen was a strong voice for justice. If she felt that some child at school was being bullied, or a child's social worker needed challenging or support, she would be a tenacious advocate.

Then she became ill and this powerful force changed into a sweet old nana. She was still Helen though. Every Sunday she would be here and declare to the world how much she loved Allen – could we guess how long they had been married? Or the garden party where she spent the time telling everyone about the skirt he had made her. She was still Helen though - Helen, who in hospital when she said nothing else, would say 'Amen' to the prayers. 'Shall I read you some psalms', which was our usual way of communicating when she was in hospital? 'No.' Yet the last sentence I ever heard from her was when reading the psalms – "The Lord is my rock and my salvation, therefore I will not be afraid. Trust in the Lord and God will sustain you." And she said, "Yes, it's true."



Our next lunchtime recital

The next lunchtime recital will be on Thursday, 28 September, at 12.30pm when Mary Mundy (cello) accompanied by Henry Roche (piano) will play Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata. If you like Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto you will certainly enjoy this rather less familiar work, written at the same time as the concerto and full of the most beautiful, yearning Russian melodies. Admission as usual is free, with a retiring collection.

John Fisher

Please note that Nigel Tunley has a new email address. It is: nigtunley25@gmail.com

SUK IN LEE'S REPORT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE 2017 GENERAL COUNCIL – WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES IN LEIPZIG, GERMANY



The aim of this Conference, which takes place every seven years, is to bring together leaders of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches throughout the world. Both representatives and guest visitors are invited to attend. Over 100 countries, 230 churches and 80 million church members were represented this time. The total number of attendees was about one thousand. I was invited to attend by the WCRC General Secretary to meet with North Korean and South Korean church leaders.

The slogan this year was 'LIVING GOD, RENEW AND TRANSFORM US'. The issues we discussed were quite general, based on the Bible, eg racism, immigration, pollution and political tensions. The meetings and discussion took place in the Leipzig Messe, which is an exhibition centre near the airport. This is the place where the G20 summit took place immediately afterwards, so security was pretty tight. The accommodation was scattered throughout Leipzig. For some reason European delegates paid more for their food coupons than those from elsewhere around the world. When we arrived we were all given a bag, an umbrella, a drinking tumbler and also a red or orange scarf to wear, so that we would recognise fellow delegates around the city.

During the Council Meetings I met up with many old friends from around the world. Many of these friendships were formed when I worked for the Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland. The URC sent various youth leaders to the Conference, to involve a new generation in the WCRC. There were many sessions, some of which were led by famous theologians, such as Jurgen Moltmann. Typical subjects for discussion were 'The Bible through Palestinian Eyes', 'The Post-Christian West meets the non-

Western Church’ and ‘Feminism in the Korean Church’. The translation facilities were excellent, covering English, German, French, Korean, Urdu and Arabic.

On the first day we were invited by the mayor to a reception in City Hall and there we met many new people and I mixed with some North Korean church leadership groups. The North Koreans had been permitted to fly direct from Pyongyang to Leipzig, but the Customs and Immigration staff in Germany were exceedingly wary and even refused to allow some representatives from third world countries to attend.

The second day we visited the Nikolaikirche (St Nicholas’ Church), which is the main Reformed church in Leipzig, where we worshipped together. The German President attended, which meant there were more security checks and long queues to get into the church. I sat between representatives from South Korea and North Korea. This church has special meaning for Koreans as it was a place where, for many years, prayers had been offered for the unification of East and West Germany. During my conversations with the North Korean church leaders, I asked many questions about family life, living conditions, and pastoral care. I felt a real bond of friendship and understanding with them. We talked about reconciliation in the world, not only in Korea: it was noticed that there was no Chinese Christian representative present, probably because someone from Taiwan was attending. Even in the Christian Church there are real tensions.

One of the most moving moments for me was a communion service presided over by one North Korean and one South Korean pastor. We also enjoyed a meal where North and South Koreans shared the same table. I was reminded of the words from Psalm 133 v.1: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

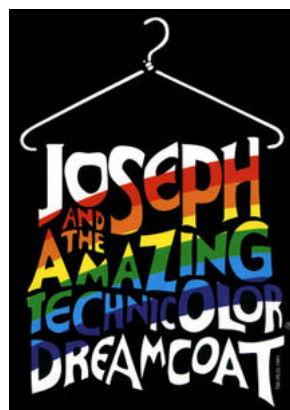
As part of the URC's Intercultural Festival 2017 Kingston URC is going to stage a concert performance of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's ever-popular musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* in the church sanctuary on Saturday 23rd September. Music is an ideal medium for bringing cultures together and *Joseph* is easy to learn and great fun to sing.

We are delighted that Simon Wookey (musical director of the South Oxhey Community Choir and successor to Gareth Malone!) has agreed to train and lead the choir. Sulhee will be leading the band and playing the piano and Jayne will be on drums. The drama will be directed by Rev Roger Jones who has produced *Joseph* at Wimbledon URC. We need enthusiastic singers of any standard, so if you are interested book the date now and come along to KURC at 10am with a packed lunch. If you would rather act, you can take part in a drama running alongside the songs. There will be rehearsals throughout the day and the performance will be in the church sanctuary at 4.30pm. We need an audience too, of course, so just come along and listen if you prefer – bring your friends!

While rehearsals are taking place, New Malden URC will be holding a festival of *Fabric, Flowers and Food of many colours* from 10am. The idea is to bring some fabric, flowers or food to display (and eat) and, if possible, to tell a story associated with them. This is an informal exhibition and day of storytelling and worship. It will finish at 3pm in plenty of time for those who wish to make their way to Kingston for the performance of *Joseph*.

It all adds up to a really exciting day – don't miss it!

John Fisher



Inter-Faith Relationships *by Tony Wenman*

Religion is something that affects all of us, directly or indirectly. Most of us are religious in some way or other. We have principles that govern what we do (which is what the word “religion” means): we always put the cutlery away in separate sections of knives, forks, spoons; when we iron clothes, we fold them in certain ways; we comb our hair to the same style each morning; we support certain football teams; we use the same route to get to places we visit regularly. Many of the things we do ‘religiously’ do not involve any particular understanding of the word “God”, but, on the other hand, they mould the pattern of our lives and the judgements we make - particularly those that we make instinctively.

When I was in hospital for cardiac surgery - amazingly now a decade ago - I was asked what religion I belonged to. When I replied, “Christian”, the person checking my details paused and asked whether I meant C of E or Catholic, or Methodist because her form had no box to tick labelled “Christian”. I was unhelpful enough (who is surprised at that?) to say, “It doesn’t matter as those are all *supposed* to be Christian.” However, if she had organised a Muslim or a Hindu or a Jewish cleric to come and visit me, I should not have minded, though there may have been a language problem if it came to prayers.

That open view of religion was reflected in a wonderful evening which some members of KURC spent at the Huda Surrey Islamic Centre in Kingston on 21 June. The Huda community invited members of Christian communities to join them as they broke their Ramadan fast that day. The theme of the evening was “We Stand Together” and we remembered in particular the tragic events of recent weeks in Manchester and London. Christian and Muslim speakers addressed the theme of our common humanity and the need to regard each other with respect and love. At the end of the speakers’ session we all stood for a minute of silence to commemorate the victims of terror around the globe. The Huda Community held prayers, spoken and intoned in Arabic, and led by an Imam. We visitors sat around the community as they prayed and silently thought our own thoughts and prayers.

After the prayers, the Huda community fed us an excellent meal of chicken and salad. Conversation round the tables was lively and interesting as people exchanged thoughts and experiences. It was a genuine time of friendship and I certainly came away understanding more clearly the extent to which the media frequently misrepresents the Islamic faith. I was left wondering if we, as a Christian community, could be more outgoing and reciprocate the genuine inter-faith hospitality which we had received.

As we left we were invited to light nightlights and place them on the ground outside the building in such a way as to form the words “PEACE ISLAM”.

STU CHANDLER'S NEW VENTURE

Talking to Stu recently, he told me he is now working for himself in the IT world. Stu has a website - www.stuchandler.org.uk which gives some idea of the areas he is covering. Stu is offering 1-2-1 PC tuition, support and website design which includes:

- Using email – what, why, how
- Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Office
- The internet, browsing, websites
- Installing software and hardware, including purchasing

Stu would welcome the chance to work with anybody, including seniors, who are having problems or simply want to know more. Charges are reasonable.

Ed.

IBRA READING NOTES

Food in the Old Testament

Fri. 1 Sept. Isaiah 58: 1-14

Sat. 2 “ Daniel 1: 1-16

Food in the New Testament

Sun. 3 Sept. Mark 7: 1-13

Mon. 4 “ Matthew 14:13-21

Tues. 5 “ Mark 14: 12-26

Wed. 6 “ Acts 6: 1-7

Thurs. 7 “ Acts 10: 9-16

Fri. 8 “ Romans 12: 9-21

Sat. 9 “ James 2: 14-18

A new phase begins

Sun. 10 Sept. Acts 13: 1-15

Mon. 11 “ Acts 13: 16-31

Tues. 12 “ Acts 13: 42-52

Wed. 13 “ Acts 14: 8-23

Thurs. 14 “ Acts 15: 1-11 &
28-29

Fri. 15 “ Acts 15: 30-41

Sat. 16 “ Acts 16: 1-10

Paul on Tour

Sun. 17 Sept. Acts 16: 11-34

Mon. 18 “ Acts 17: 1-15

Tues. 19 “ Acts 17: 16-34

Wed. 20 “ Acts 18: 1-11

Thurs. 21 “ Acts 19: 1-20

Fri. 22 “ Acts 21: 15-26

Sat. 23 “ Acts 21: 27-36

And so we came to Rome

Sun. 24 Sept. Acts 26:19-32

Mon. 25 “ Acts 27: 1-20

Tues. 26 “ Acts 27 21-32

Wed. 27 “ Acts 27: 33-44

Thurs. 28 “ Acts 28: 1-10

Fri. 29 “ Acts 28: 11-22

Sat. 30 “ Acts 28: 23-31

Our Church News this month has an interfaith flavour about it. Here is an article by Natasha Reid on another interfaith event.

On Sunday, 9 July, John and I attended the interfaith event of the Ahmadiyya Muslim organisation in New Malden. Organisers of this event invited speakers from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Baha'i communities to speak on the topic "Does Religion inspire Peace or incite War?" The event was held in the hall of St James Church in New Malden and because we arrived a bit early, we had the chance to study the displayed materials and banners, and indulged in friendly conversations with some of the organisers. A Muslim woman asked if any women would like to have a simple design applied on their hands with henna. I did and now I will sport a flower on the back of my hand for almost 3 weeks!

Behind the central table was hung a large banner with a citation which I have seen many times at interfaith gatherings. It was taken from the Koran, saying "Love for All – Hatred for None".

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was established in the UK in 1898. They collect a lot of money for charities such as Cancer and Poppy Appeals and are very actively involved in Water Aid and many, many others. In New Malden, particularly, they are involved in voluntary street cleaning, providing aid for older destitute people and they are serving all communities regardless of their race or creed.

There were so many interesting speeches, the main issues being:

- All people are equal
- Solutions for peace are simple – love other people and don't hate anyone
- Talk about your own faith with openness
- Focus on similarities in faiths rather than differences

A very interesting aspect was raised by Dr Nabeel Mustapha who was a speaker from the Baha'i Community. (He worked in Sudan when John was also working there, and he later went to Libya a few weeks before Gadhafi came to power in 1969. So he and John had a short but interesting chat after the official part of the event had finished.) In his speech Dr Mustapha said that, in his understanding, religion is a special spirit that relates an individual between that person and God. This relationship is a special one, taught to us by messengers who were sent to earth by God at different times. Whether the Koran or the Bible, or other scriptures, they all convey to us a Covenant with God. For example, one surah (chapter) in the Koran says "He who leads astray

many and leads them with evil, does break his covenant with Allah (God)". And I think that everyone agrees with the teaching of the Koran that "whenever and whoever counsels you towards goodness and virtue, we should accept it. But whoever counsels you towards sinful or unjust behaviour, we should reject it".

After the official part of the evening was over, food was laid out in large trays on two rows of tables. It was so deliciously prepared (I was told it was done by volunteers) I could not resist a second helping! John and I agreed that in order to aim for more harmonious existence in our society, such gatherings should be encouraged and welcomed. After all – we are all God's children.



Why go to Church? We might bump into God

The following is an extract from 'Reform', the URC's national magazine. Each month one of the leading articles asks one question and prints four answers. A recent copy poses the question 'Why go to Church?' With his answer "We might bump into God", John Pritchard, Assistant Bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Durham, gave a bunch of reasons:

- Because we're looking for a framework to live in, a place that represents beliefs, values and habits of the heart that make some kind of sense of a madly spinning world where we're wondering if the centre can hold.
- Because it's a place of moral seriousness in a trivialised culture that reduces most things to a form of entertainment and where truth and facts are losing their value. What we don't like has become 'fake news', and that's a dead end.
- Because Carl Jung said the main task of the second half of life (whether that starts at 25 or 50) is to find a spiritual interpretation of life, and a church is a pretty good place to start addressing that task.
- Because there's a saint or two to be found there, and saints are exciting. It's good to get an idea of what a human being is meant to be, particularly when we're only a shadow of our future selves.
- Because churches make an honest attempt at community in a culture that's forgotten how to do it. Churches have been doing it (and, yes, sometimes messing it up) for 2,000 years. We have a track record.
- Because we're learners and the Church is a community of learners who know they've never 'arrived' but who know there's a journey to be on.
- Because when times are hard, there are resources to find there. We don't have to be strong all the time, and when we're at the bottom of the pit, maybe we'll find that Jesus has let down a ladder to sit with us there.
- Because we might strike lucky and hear an interesting sermon from a thoughtful minister who obviously cares about ideas, listens to what's going on in the world, and tries to make sense of it all. And knows something about God.
- **Because we might bump into God ourselves.** Many people don't believe in God, but they miss him. Many aren't sure what they believe, but they know there must be something more than getting and spending. Many have been shafted by love and want to worship God as naturally as a tree comes into blossom with the warmth of spring.

Why go to church? Because God might be there.

To mark the Reformation's 500th Anniversary, the United Reformed Church, through *Reform*, is publishing 95 new theses – one sentence each by opinion formers and opinion holders of today on '*How should the Church change?*' Here are a few published so far:

Yak Hwee-tan, Westminster College:

Crucifixion to self, institution and constitution; resurrection for a changing world.

Commitment-Phobe, Reform Columnist:

Christians need to be taught that we are not the middle managers of God's judgement business; he specifically asks us to love, not to judge, on his behalf.

John Sentamu, Archbishop of York:

Reformation is what happens when a Christian, or a gathering of Christians, is moved by the Holy Spirit to become more and more like Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

Wayne Hawkins, Council for World Mission:

To be part of a community of God's people where the spiritual perspectives of five years and 95 years (and everyone in between) are valued and appreciated, so we can learn and grow together.

Theo Hobson, Theologian

The Church – which I prefer to call 'Christian culture' – must learn to be more outgoing, more creative, more festive – partly through large public rituals and art works; it must learn to say: "Let's have some fun with this!"



To end on a lighter note – a joke the editor came across recently:

After passing on, George Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump are going for a job interview with God.

God asks Bush: "What do you believe in?"

Bush replies: "I believe in a free economy, a strong America, the American nation and so on"

God is impressed by Bush and tells him: "Great, come sit in the chair on my right."

God goes to Obama and asks: "What do you believe in?"

Obama replies: "I believe in democracy, helping the poor, world peace, etc."

God is really impressed by Obama and tells him: "Well done, come sit in the chair on my left."

Finally God asks Trump: "What do you believe in?"

Trump replied: "I believe you're sitting in my chair."

Regular Activities

Monday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)
 15.30 Messy Church (last Monday monthly)
 19.30 Eden Meditation (first Monday monthly)

Tuesday:

14.00 Activity Afternoon for Foyer Guests (second Tuesday monthly)

Wednesday:

10.00 Tots' Praise
 13.10 Lunchtime Service
 14.00 & 19.30 Faith Studies – check date & frequency of short courses

Thursday:

13.00 Eden Meditation (first Thursday monthly)
 19.00 International Friendship Café
 19.30 Line Dancing

Friday:

13.00 Friday Prayers
 14.00 Ballroom & Latin American dancing with Lyn
 22.00 All night prayers and Street Pastors (until 04.00)

Saturday:

10.00 Stay and Play (third Saturday monthly)
 22.00 All night prayers and Street Pastors (until 04.00)

How to contribute to Church News:

Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome. Copy for **Church News** must reach the editor no later than midday on the **second Sunday of the month**. Copy by e-mail is preferred.

The next copy deadline is 11.30 on Sunday, 10 September. Editor: Tony Wenman

FINANCIAL DONATIONS may be made to the church in a number of ways, including via our "My Donate" page, accessible through every page of our website at www.kingstonurc.org. You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-76, account number 33054942. If you would like more information on giving to KURC, please ask any elder.

Kingston United Reformed Church is a member of the Local Ecumenical Project in Kingston Town Centre with its partner, All Saints Parish Church in the Market Place. The town centre ministers meet regularly. We are a part of Churches Together in Kingston

Thank you to Mail Boxes Etc. 22 Eden Street, Kingston, KT1 1DN, for printing Church News.
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You can also keep in touch with worship and activities at our church through our website: www.kingstonurc.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Kingston United Reformed Church - Information

A warm invitation is given to all who read this magazine to come and share in our services and activities

Our Sunday Services:

10.00 – Traditional Worship

(with communion first Sunday monthly)

11.30 – All Age Worship

(with communion on the last Sunday monthly)

18.30 – Reflective Worship

(with communion on the third Sunday monthly)

On the **second Sunday** of each month a **combined service at 10.30** replaces the 10.00 and 11.30 services

Tea and coffee are served between the 10.00 and 11.30 services, before the 10.30 service on the second Sunday and after the 18.30 service

During the 10.00, 10.30 and 11.30 services there are **group activities for children** of all ages. Visiting children are welcome to join them

Ministers: Rev Lesley M Charlton

The Sanctuary is open for private prayer with access via the foyer.

Coffee and Tea: Our foyer is normally open every weekday and Saturday from 11.00 until 14.00 for coffee and tea.

Need to talk to someone about a problem or concern? There is sometimes a designated listener available in the foyer; if not, please speak to the coffee server or contact Lesley Charlton.

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