

Christian Aid in Kingston

This year's Christian Aid Week is 12-18 May when the annual house-to-house collection takes place – the largest mobilisation of Christians in the UK each year. This year's theme is **Bite Back at Hunger** and you can be a part of it! If there has been no collection in your road in recent years, this is your opportunity to knock on all the neighbours' doors and begin to get to know them better, in support of the world's poor. To find out more, contact the Kingston organiser Sue Watts isoparix3@aol.com or the chair of the organising committee Ken Walker rev.ken@hotmail.co.uk ; or visit www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/index.aspx

Another opportunity is rattling a tin in the town centre or helping with a market stall on 18 May, and there's also a Quiz Night (11th), a service (12th) and a sponsored walk in the City of London (19th).

IF.....

IF is a new campaign, an initiative of 100 charities including Tearfund, Christian Aid and CAFOD. The catch line is ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF This highlights the fact that 900 million people will go to bed hungry tonight, and 2 million children die each year because they can't get enough to eat. It's unfair and it's totally preventable.

In the run up to the UK budget, the issues being highlighted are fulfilling the target of aid at 0.7% of GNP (for which the Christian churches have been working for 40 years) and stopping companies avoiding paying tax. Please write to your MP asking them to support this. Further information at www.christianaid.org.uk/if ; www.enoughfood.org

Street Pastor Prayer Weekend

from Friday 5 April to Sunday 7 April at the URC Kingston. We will be praying from 10pm Friday when the street pastor team goes out and finishing 4am on Sunday when they finish their shift. Come and pray for part of the day or night – to book a slot contact Paul on 020 8390 9116 or Kingston@streetpastors.org.uk

The next issue of this Newsletter will be circulated early July, 2013. Please send contributions, preferably brief, to Isobel Robinson (dbr226@hotmail.com) by 20 June.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this edition.



Churches Together in Kingston

Newsletter Issue 31 - Spring 2013

Good Friday Meditation

Good Friday, 29 March 2013

Come and join with us in remembering the death of Jesus Christ. Adults and children of all ages and backgrounds are warmly invited to join in this special event hosted jointly by all the churches of Kingston.

9.45-10.30am Meet over coffee at Kingston United Reformed Church, Eden Street.

10.30-11.10am Good Friday Meditation, Walk and Worship.

kingstonchurchestogether@gmail.com

News from Kingston Welcare

We're very pleased that we have secured renewed funding from RBK for the next 3 years – not as much as we need to do all the work we would like but it puts us in a secure position to apply for additional funding elsewhere. What we need now are some new people to serve on our Committee or to advise on building maintenance, health and safety, etc. Please pray and consider whether you might be called to offer some of your time to help support young families in Kingston. Contact manager@welcarekingston.org.uk; or sandy@toadstool.co.uk

Kingston University Inter Faith Dialogue Group

Faith and Social Action (part of the NUS-funded Faith into Action Project) – a chance to examine the relationship between contemplation and action in the religious life. In particular, the focus will be on the motivation faith provides for engaging with questions of justice, and the impetus this may give for practical action.

Tuesday 19 March, 1-2.15pm in the Quiet Room, Town House 8, Penrhyn Road Campus. Lunch provided.

Faith and Secularism: Lent Lunchtime Talks at All Saints

14 March – a Buddhist perspective
21 March – a Humanist perspective
Thursday 1.10-2pm All welcome

All Saints

Work has started!! to the northern side of the building including the renovation to the choir vestry, the installation of a new door and the reopening of the northwest porch. It's all very exciting – if all very messy – but this phase will be complete by August.

But work can't finish !! to the rest of the church – the nave and the east end – because funds are still needed. We have a fundraising strategy to deliver what we need but we know that it is a tall order. If you have a spare prayer for us ...

St John the Evangelist

Life is busy at St John's....

- We started two youth groups in the New Year for older primary school children and secondary school children and they have attracted a dozen children or so each so far which is great.
- We are planning to do an Emmaus course later in the year and hoping some of our newer members will be keen to explore their faith.
- We are working hard on raising the money we need to make improvements to our church building. Our vision is for the building to be a valuable, accessible and welcoming space for everyone in the local community to use.

St Luke's

St Luke's Church, Gibbon Road, continues to host the renowned Tiffin School Choir at Choral Evensong on designated Thursdays in term time. The service starts at 5.30pm.

Dates: 14 March, 9 May, 13 June, 27 June and 11 July.

Marriage course: St Luke's parish is joining with Christ Church Kingston to present a Marriage Enrichment Course.

St John the Baptist, Kingston Vale

Please join us for a Traditional Jazz concert on Sunday, 10 March at 4pm, followed by refreshments. All proceeds to Welcare.

Tickets £5: contact Parish Office stjohns@inthevale.org.uk or 020 8546 2590.

Lent Lunches: join us 1pm Fridays 15, 22 and 29 March for lunch in the Church Hall. Homemade soup, bread, cheese and coffee for a minimum donation of £3, in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

Kingston Methodist Church

Our Christmas Fair raised approximately £1000, half of which was donated to the Joel Project.

The annual carol singing around the neighbourhood raised £1,845 for Action for Children.

As in the last three winters, KMC provided winter night shelter during Saturday nights (November/January) for 10-12 of the Borough's homeless people.

Joel Community Trust

The Bible tells God's people to make sure that those who have give generous support to those who have not. Are our churches, with all our gifts, talents, resources and treasures, thinking deeply enough about this calling to look outwards?

The demands of this mission physically, emotionally and spiritually will be great. This will, as we've already learnt through the Winter Night Shelter, require the support and commitment of the whole people of God. It is not the task of a single church - we will need volunteers and occasionally paid action to help us grow. Right now we could do with some administrative support but we have no cash for it. Later this year we hope to be able to recruit a capacity worker to build bridges with local schools and businesses. If you are interested, please keep a look out!

We are seeking to establish a strong local foundation for our work through recruiting 300 "Gideons" each making a monthly payment (often £15) for 5 years. So far we have 83 local Gideons and have had gifts, pledges and donations of c. £170,000 – almost half of our target. Please become a Gideon/ recruit Gideons/ invite us to speak at your church or to groups anywhere about the work.

Meanwhile, if you are a landlord or have spare accommodation Matt Hatton of KCAH would be delighted to hear from you. KCAH would take on the daily task of maintenance and supervision of tenants. We do not have enough move-on accommodation for the demands we are facing.

Please pray

- *that capital funds will be raised and grants given*
- *that our conversations with the Local Authority will be positive and constructive*
- *that our Board of Trustees and workers will be given wisdom and a good sense of timing*
- *that the homeless will not be left out in the cold*
- *for those struggling with benefit cuts.*