



CHURCH NEWS

December 2017, January 2018



***Let us now go even unto
Bethlehem, and see this
thing which is come to pass.....***

***... And they came with haste,
and found Mary, and Joseph,
and the babe lying in a manger.***

CHURCH NEWS

is the magazine of
Kingston United Reformed Church
which 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**.

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Church Diary: December 2017

(for regular events, please see the diary of regular events, on page 31)

Sunday	3	December	10.00	Traditional Worship
			11.30	All-age worship
			13.00-17.00	Children's Contact Centre
			18.30	Reflective worship
Monday	4	December	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Tuesday	5	December	20.00	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	6	December	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise
			13.10	Lunchtime Service
Thursday	7	December	20.00	International Friendship Café
Friday	8	December	13.00-14.00	Prayer Meeting
Sunday	10	December	09.30	Coffee available
			10.30	Nativity and Gift Service
			18.30	Reflective Worship
Monday	11	December	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Wednesday	13	December	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise
			13.10	Lunchtime Service
Thursday	14	December	20.00	International Friendship Café
Friday	15	December	13.00-14.00	Prayer Meeting
Saturday	16	December	10.00-12.00	Stay and Play
Sunday	17	December	10.00	Traditional Worship
			11.30.	All-Age Worship
			13.00-17.00	Children's Contact Centre
			18.30	Carols by Candlelight
Monday	18	December	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Wednesday	20	December	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise
			13.10	Lunchtime Service
Thursday	21	December	20.00	International Friendship Café
Friday	22	December	13.00-14.00	Prayer Meeting
Sunday	24	December	10.00	Traditional Worship
			16.00	Crib Service
			23.30	Christmas Eve Communion
Monday	25	December	10.00	Christmas Morning Service
Sunday	31	December	10.00	Morning Worship
			11.30	All-Age-Worship
			18.30	Reflective Worship

January 2018

At the time of going to press (mid November, 2017) the Church Diary for 2018 was still under construction on the church web page.

Details below are based on information received (gratefully) and guesswork!

**Please check notices and service papers
for up-to-date correct information!**

Monday	1	January	All Day	Happy New Year to all our readers!
Sunday	7	January	10.00	Traditional Worship
			11.30	All-age worship
			13.00-17.00	Children's Contact Centre
			18.30	Reflective worship
Monday	8	January	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Wednesday	10	January	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise (Please check with Sally)
			13.10	Lunchtime Service
Saturday	13	January	15.00-18.00	New Year Party (timing provisional)
Sunday	14	January	10.30	All-Age Worship
			16.00-18.00	Messy Church
			18.30	Reflective Worship
Monday	15	January	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Wednesday	17	January	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise
			13.10	Lunchtime Service
Friday	19	January	13.00-14.00	Friday Prayers
Saturday	20	January	10.00-12.00	Stay and Play
Sunday	21	January	10.00	Traditional Worship
			11.30	All-Age-Worship
			13.00-17.00	Children's Contact Centre
			18.30	Reflective Worship
Monday	22	January	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Wednesday	24	January	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise
			13.10	Lunchtime Service
Thursday	25	January	20.00	International Friendship Café
Friday	26	January	13.00-14.00	Friday Prayers
Sunday	28	January	10.00	Traditional Worship
			11.30	All-Age-Worship
			18.30	Reflective Worship
Monday	29	January	10.00-12.00	Parents and Toddlers
Wednesday	31	January	10.00-12.00	Tots' Praise
			13.10	Lunchtime Service

Letter from Lesley



Dear All,

‘The call of discipleship is the call to adventure. A call to the new, to the unknown, to the risky, challenging and demanding. But as any adventurer worth their salt knows it is not the call to recklessness or foolishness. We are called to be part of the community of the followers of Jesus. And from the supportiveness of that community we are called to go and live out the life of the Kingdom in the public arena’. This comes from a book called *Holy Habits* by Andrew

Roberts. You will be hearing more of this later as we explore what it means to ‘walk the way’.

Being a Christian is following Jesus.

If that is true, in what sense are we moving?

There are different ways of framing this.

Is our discipleship about action followed by reflective practice? What did you do? Where was God in that?

Or

The notion that the core of the Christian life is to be seen in three areas. These are mission, worship and intentional community. How does our life match up with that?

Or

The model of being a Christian is to be with him and then be sent out to serve. It is surely not enough to think that we will get all our input from a hour on a Sunday.

Similarly it is an outdated idea to believe that God is only to be known in those things labelled Christian.

And surely it is heresy to believe that Jesus is only interested in the churchy stuff we do. All of it matters

How are we being intentional with the life God has given to us?

Best wishes

Lesley

Cathy's Conversation for December 2017 and January 2018

Thank you to those who were able to pop in the green tokens at the Town Centre Waitrose. Just under £290 will be given by Waitrose to support our Christmas Day Lunch at the church. It really helps towards the costs of the food and Christmas Day gifts. Perhaps you would like to participate on the day. Do let Lesley know.

We have a new storage cupboard in the Sanctuary. It will soon look like it has always been there. It is practical but blends in well with the furniture. Our thanks go to John Fisher for pursuing this as an idea.

It has been a busy time for the elders as, in addition to our pastoral and spiritual responsibilities, we endeavour to comply with regulations, consider our finances and take care of the building. You may notice some signs around the building that support our Safeguarding Statement and our concerns to minimise risk of harm.

The elders' election papers will be sent out in the New Year. Generally elders serve for 3 years and may be prepared to serve for a further 3 years. Each year some elders stand down and we welcome new elders. It is a great way to serve the church and to gain more understanding of the large variety of God's people that are connected with this little space on the earth, almost everyday of the year.

Thank you for your kindnesses to me this year.

I pray that you will have a good Christmas that is focussed on what is important to your faith.

Happy New Year is easy to say. Perhaps what I mean is that I hope that you will receive enough happy moments to support your health and friendships.

Cathy

Kingston URC Handbook 2018

The new Church Handbook 2018 should be available by the time you receive this Church News. Many people find it helpful to have a copy of the Handbook on their computer while the search is on to discover who had the paper copy last and where did they put it? - I certainly do! Copies by e-mail cost nothing save the efforts of the editor, while paper copies have a cost which our treasury team will be able to tell you if they can find their calculator!!

If you would like an e-mailed copy of the Handbook on your computer, please send me an e-mail to which I can reply. Please note, I am only prepared to send e-mailed copies of the Handbook to people whose names and addresses are in the Handbook, or are former members or moved-away friends who still receive e-mailed copies of Church News (of whom there are currently about 60). This is to limit the chance of personal information being sent to unauthorised people.

PLEASE NOTE:

I need to know **in writing** (letter or e-mail, but **please don't just tell me** when you see me at church) of any errors in the new Handbook; I have a memory like a sieve, but I can read. One error has reached me already and that is that Peggy Chegwin's phone number is 01276 267936. In the Handbook the final 6 is missing. Apologies, Peggy.

Tony Wenman
(tony.wenman@gmail.com)

Now there's a thought.....

Here is an encouraging quote for those of us who wonder if we are clever enough or have the skills to take on some of the tasks our church life requires of its members:

Rev Martin Camroux, formerly minister of Trinity Church, Sutton, now retired, concluded his address to the congregation at Immanuel URC, Swindon, by saying, "Never forget that ordinary people built the Ark and experts built the Titanic."

Ed.

Thomas Allen Johnson

(3.2.1928 to 8.10.2017)

Reflecting on the death of Thomas Allen Johnson at his memorial service on November 2, 2017, Lesley said:

“Well, my friends, I do not know how you feel about this, but to me Allen’s death following on so quickly from Helen’s is like act two of a two-act play.

Allen was born in Surbiton the oldest child of three. He always lived in this area, apart from time spent on National Service, and having made his last move to Hinchley Wood he still lived within a square mile of his birthplace.

During the 1939/45 war he was at school at Kingston Grammar School and his contribution was as a fire warden. He also played hockey for the school. On leaving school he went on to Building College in Putney and then on to National Service. He joined the Royal Engineers and served in Hong Kong. He was one of those few who had a great time – playing hockey! After his national service he went into the family building firm, working with his dad, Howard, and eventually taking over the running of the business.

He was a life long and active participant in the life of the church in various places but largely in this church community. He played his part in the Youth Fellowship which is where he met Helen. He fell in love with the woman in the three-quarter coat that she could make swish! They moved to Herne road in Surbiton. Together they taught in the Sunday School. He and Helen ran the Anchor Boys section of the Boys Brigade, helped with parents and toddlers, and until relatively recently he helped with the coffee service with Helen having a safe place to be.

In the mid 70’s he set off in a new direction starting an equipment hire company with Dave Corner. Throughout his life he was interested in technical things like cars and planes. He could remember the registrations of all 50 of the cars he had owned. In retirement he took up bowls

But whatever else you would say he was a kind hospitable man. In many ways he was a man ahead of his time. He was a good cook, and loved to prepare the Sunday roast. If you went to visit he was the one who went to provide refreshment. Jim and Karen Menzies asked me to mention how much they appreciated Allen and Helen. They said, “Every time we visited Britain, Allen and Helen went out of their way to make our stay a pleasant one in many ways. They picked us up and dropped us off at the airport for

one and, particularly when our mothers were around, we had many happy family gatherings with our brothers and sisters. Allen and Helen were good relations and friends to us.”

Allen was a good man - honourable in the way he did business and he had a reputation for honesty. Allen was also a fabulous father to Ian and Mags and wonderful husband to Helen; he was not Jesus but he did his best! Yes there were times when he should have spoken out and been more firm, and he could have been seen as being taken advantage of, but all of us know that getting that balance right is not easy.

He was a stickler at things when other might have given up. He had given his word and would keep going. Indeed you could say he spent the last phase of his life's energy looking after Helen. He was a wonderfully kind carer for her. He has done with his life what he believed to be right. It has been demanding but he did it. He was a man who was of rock solid faith. He did not articulate, which is cheap, as much as live it, which is expensive.

He was appreciative of the care he received from his family, Mags, Ian and Michelle. He has set us a worthy example - give yourself to those you love and do good in the world of business.

A friend sent me an email; it said, “Hi Lesley, I have heard the sad news about Allen. You may (or may not) be interested in what Helen, in her forthright way, said to me about 25 years ago, that she had one question to ask God when she got to heaven - "Why can't husbands and wives go (die) together?" She got her answer!

For Allen the suffering of the last portion of his life is over. He claims his rest and place as part of the communion of saints with those he has loved on the earth.

Mags Johnson paid the following very warm tribute to Allen:

Eulogy for Dad

I first met dad when I was 6 years old. He and mother were looking to foster. Only I was available from the children's home, so not a lot of choice poor things. I joined the family on 13th April 1972. Mother would joke unlucky for them. Dad and I got on well from the start, lasting a lifetime. I picked up very early what he was like. He gave me the family life I craved. Ian went from an only child to having a little sister to share his dad, which he did.

Ian and I recall dad's love of aircraft. He would take Ian to Heathrow to watch the planes. In the garden, he would suddenly look up to the sky. I wondered what he was looking at. Possibly why I like military aircraft and believe in UFOs.

Over the years his character, personality and nature would impact/reflect on ours. I did not know he was a good hockey player until 2 weeks ago. I became GK at school, choosing the position as no one else wanted it so I knew I would get into the school team! I kitted up and he bashed balls at me in our garden for practice. For Ian, F1 was a common interest.

His love of gardening and cooking sadly did not reflect though his dinners, pies and cakes were yummy and always well received. His love of dogs however, did and all animals for me. I would often bring home injured ones and he helped with their recovery or pick up the pieces of upset if they passed.....and burials in the garden of pet budgies etc. He picked up the pieces of stress of exams or serious boyfriends ending relationships. I had the usual 'you're not going out looking like that?' usually on the way out to a Gary Numan concert or 'your hair's too short!' Later we would compare our grey hair and a few weeks ago in hospital he told me I was greyer! We sometimes had weird conversations.

I was once hung up over being illegitimate. He said 'it's only a word. You are in one box, just as people who are divorced are in another box, labelled. It does not matter'. The point is he was always there, regardless of what was going on in his world.

I told him years ago he was the best parent I'd had out of them, 6 in all, because he was. He smiled. We could chat about these things, it did not matter we were not blood related to be family. He treated me as a Johnson. I never felt the need to trace my birth father. Why on earth would I? He was my dad.

His kind, compassionate side reflected from his good family life and upbringing. Nana Johnson was the same, lovely, caring lady and I always heard good things about his dad, Howard, though sadly he passed away 2 years before I came so we never met, but I was told we would have got on. So much so we have their names. For those unsure, Ian has 'Howard' and I 'Grace'!

He looked after his outer family too. His Auntie Phylis never married so was on her own. He made sure she was looked after. He also felt responsible to his two sisters, Auntie Margaret and Auntie Betty. We went together to say goodbye to Auntie Betty in hospital after her car accident. To see dad with her is something to remember. He also had good relationships and fun

times with mother's side of the family with her brothers Uncle Jack and Jimmy and their wives Auntie Ann and Karen. Also her sister Auntie Barbara and Uncle Neal.

He was very well respected in business in Surbiton. You could not walk down the high street without him stopping endlessly to speak with people. I would ask 'who's that?' and he would tell me how he knew them. Mother always said shopping trips took so much longer! He taught me 'your word is your bond and handshake'. It annoyed him later in life with contracts and clauses in them. He also taught me to pay bills on time as others have bills to pay or pay some up front as they might have to pay out for things. He helped me and continued to advise when I set up my pet sitting business two years ago. He gave me two ledger books to log each payment. We were of the old school with pen and paper, not on computer!

If you needed anything he would say 'call so and so and say you are Allen Johnson's daughter. They will look after you'. They did.....and gave good discounts! I called Phil, owner of a local carpet company for carpets for my flat. He kept telling me how great dad was. I eventually got away. I told dad I'd met his No: 1 fan. Dad moaned I got more discount than him! Meeting others like Paul the decorator, Billy the fencing man and Nigel our family financial advisor, it was always the same, compliments of dad.....and good discounts!

I had a job interview and the company owner Alan realised during the interview who my dad was. He cut the interview saying 'you've got the job, you come from good pedigree'. So, not due to my experience or qualifications! He also said dad gave him his first skip hire job, giving him a chance in his new business. He spoke well of dad. I eventually got out of the place. It made me proud to hear so many speak well of my dad.

Once my car was vandalised. Dad told me to call a garage owner he knew and had spoken to who told him 'tell your daughter to bring the car down, I owe you a favour so no charge'. I asked dad what the favour was. He did not know. I asked him if he was a mafia Godfather as owed favours. We had weird conversations! I met the owner and asked about the favour. He said he was very ill, could not work and his rent due to go up. He was worried about losing his home and business. Dad told him not to worry, his rent would not go up, just get better. He did and his business was fine. I told dad and he recalled it. So... I got my car fixed for free and said to dad 'thanks I got your freebie, you'll have to pay if your car needs fixing'.

Last few years we went to Squires for breakfast or lunch or Costa coffee. The staff doted on him as he was liked. He would say to me 'let's go to

Squires I have a discount voucher'.....well, we all know about poor pensioners. When they moved to Hinchley Wood near the shops he had the butcher, the baker....and Costa coffee with Squires up the road! Whenever I see them or an advert I think of dad. Same with Waitrose, helping him with big shops, carrying the heavy bags. I won't forget Charlie Bingham's fish pie and lasagne they liked.

We cleared their basement out at Langley Avenue. We came across family heirlooms and items from generations gone by, it was fascinating to see it. We found one of his grandfather's City Guilds certificates of building qualifications written in lovely italic writing, it was dated 1882. He said throw it. I cleaned & framed it. It sits proudly on my wall We would go to the tip many times with crockery, books, all sorts of things mother had hoarded (some went to charity). The men at the tip got to know us well. Many times they would come over and help us. We gave them some bits of old crockery. One said his mother loved a tea set. They liked and remembered dad and were always happy to help.

Dad and I both had many pink shirts. Last count 14 for me! He was near that and had some bright jumpers. I said it was his 'Liberace moment' or asked him if his feminine side was coming out; as I said, we had weird conversations. He had a good sense of humour. I once told him I was going to be a conservative Prime Minister. I said, "I need your vote." He said, "I'm leaving the country."

He helped many at Church especially with building problems and the elderly ladies even in his latter years. He had lifelong friendships with members like Myrtle Austin, Daphne Walters, Jan and John Troy. He was fond of our Minister....we usually complimented her. I would call or email her telling her to get to hospital for dad's spiritual needs to be fulfilled. She did, he did. I need not have worried. She's been great. He was generous of himself and also in helping out financially. He helped Ian and me with purchasing our first homes. He bought me my first car surprising me one day on the driveway.

He was popular with the ladies and not just because he and his dad drove cars, rare in those days. Ian and I would meet an ex, usually at a family funeral, would reminisce to us about dad and then say 'and then your mother came along.....' I would say to dad later I'd met one of his exes. 'Ah yes' he reminisced and said 'and then your mother came along' but they still spoke well of him.

His Christianity played an important part in his life and guided him through difficult times. He was in it for better for worse and had a solid marriage.

Ian said he saw mother's vulnerable side, guided her through her bad illnesses and was loyal to the end. He would not have her in a care home even if it meant affecting his health. To see him with her the last 5 days of her life when they were both in hospital was incredible, whilst still keeping the family together. Their bond strong and, while I do not always understand it, to all his marriage vows were not to be broken.

He was strong physically as 9 out of 10 would not survive his heart attack. He would have been 90 on 3rd February. He was popular with staff. My friends visited him too and said he reminded them of their dad. His last few weeks in hospital he was still interested in what we were up to, asking about the dogs I walked. Fostered/adopted children do not always feel 100% part of the family yet he told me in hospital 'you are my daughter, you always have been, always will be'. He was caring to the end.

He wanted to be with mother. I told him if he wanted to go, go. Ian and I would be ok. He did not need to worry. It would have been nice to have him longer but he was ill and tired. He is in Heaven with his family and pets. Jesus said 'I have prepared a room for you'.....dad will be organising the repairs.

I was in Los Angeles when he passed away. My friend works at a wildlife sanctuary. They had an injured baby squirrel brought in with neurological damage; it had fallen from a tree. They named him Allen after dad. Last week it made a full recovery and was released. So, Allen the squirrel is running free in LA. They said if they get another animal that stays they can call it Allen Jnr so we can see its progress.

When someone's pet dies and they say they will not get another as the pain of loss is too much. I tell them get another as you have so many good years with them the pain of loss is worth it. So, is the pain of dad's loss worth it? Absolutely.

Ian and I could not recall a time anyone said a bad word of him. He was loyal to the two closest ladies in his life helping mother and me through our dark days. I think Ian was the one who gave him less stress! He was a loyal family man. Life is lonely. He has left a void in many lives but he had to go. He was a proper English gentleman, rare these days, loved by all who knew him but he was our DAD.

Mags Johnson

Civility

Civility is claiming and caring for other's identity, needs and beliefs without degrading someone else's in the process..... Civility is about more than just politeness, although politeness is a necessary first step. It is about disagreeing without disrespecting, seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about differences, listening past one's preconceptions and teaching others to do the same. Civility is the hard work of staying present even with those whom we have deep-rooted and fierce disagreements. It is political in the sense that it is a necessary prerequisite for civic action. But it is political, too, in the sense that it is about negotiating interpersonal power such that everyone's voice is heard and nobody is ignored.

***Thomas Spath and Cassandra Dahnke,
founders of the Institute for Civility in Government***



December/January Flower Rota



December 3	Teresa and Vaughan James
December 10	Glyn Robinson
December 17	Janine Goddard
December 24	Liz and Ken Bartlett
December 31	Jihae Kim
January 7	Brenda Parkins
January 14	Margaret and John Davies
January 21	Peggy Chegwin
January 28	Lesley Carnegie

**DON'T FORGET DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
ON SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER AT 10.30
(SEE PAGE 25)**

Christmas Letter from The Moderator of the Southern Synod

Dear Friends,

“Fake news” has been named Word of the Year by Collins Dictionary and will be printed in the next edition. The phrase, which is often used by Donald Trump, has seen a 365 per cent rise in use since 2016. It is often defined as false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting. There’s a lot of it about and even if everyone spots it and dismisses it, it still manages to sow doubt causing us to question nearly everything in order that we may find a lie. Of course, questioning can be healthy as our attitude to sexploitation in the workplace attests to. But I’ve also seen comments on videos from war-torn countries that suggest the news is fake and dead children and grieving mothers are just actors. Evil is made even worse by the denial of its existence.

As Christians, we believe in the good news which claims to tell a truth that can seem to contradict what we know to be scientific truth: some two thousand years ago, an angel appeared to a young Jewish girl and told her that she would carry the son of God. The baby grew up preaching and teaching, making the blind see and the lame walk amongst other things. Then at thirty-three years old, he was crucified and, three days later, he rose from the dead. To us today this might be considered fake news. But this is real news. And it is real, not just because of historical evidence from Josephus or Pliny but because of Love. Philosophers and biologists will say that love is just a concept or an evolutionary quirk. Society doesn’t seem very interested in talking about it.

And so, the news, fake or otherwise, is dominated by evil. But the good news is that Love came down at Christmas. The power of love here on earth is immense. We cannot buy love because it must be a gift given freely. When we are embraced in love, we know it is because others truly care for us, not because of a good they hope to get from us. We are secure because we know that we are cherished by others for what we are. God’s gift to us is a gift of love. God so loved the world that He gave....so says John’s Gospel. It is a giving love, a generous love. It is grace love, gift love; free and unconstrained. God doesn’t make a list and check it twice to find out who’s naughty or nice before He gives His Christmas gift. His gift is free and undeserved and unsolicited and unlooked for love. The love-gift of God is ours. We need only take it by faith in Jesus Christ. That’s the message of the Scriptures. That is the good news for Christmas. The greatest gift ever given, offered free, unconditionally to all who believe.

At this time of year, people head to midnight services only in part because it's something to do or they're drunk or they do it because it gives them a lovely feeling. Carols have the best-known tunes. By candlelight, the church glows. But here must also be a transformation of the heart – and there generally is. Charity will be provided this year, as every year, by millions of Christians because love is tangible. It is a full stomach (a Christmas day lunch at church for those on their own). It is a bed for the night (in the Winter Night shelter). It is a friendly phone call or even just a smile. We do this big Christmas festival thing for a reason: because Love teaches us to walk the way of the Christ-child in humility and service. Some people have found 2017 disappointing and depressing. But then evil trades in doubt and we should resist it. The fake news is that humankind is lost. The good news is that, because Love came down at Christmas, it can be saved.

Come, Lord Jesus. Be born in us this Christmas.

With Advent and Christmas blessings,

Nicola Furley-Smith

Pastoral News – November 2017

We are called to pray for one another at all times, whether in times of illness or difficulty, times of joy or happiness or because it is one of those ordinary days.

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

God of grace,

We pray for all those who have been unwell in recent weeks as the temperatures fall and the round of common colds and other ailments takes hold. We know how low it can make us feel but are strengthened by your love for us. Comfort those affected and give wisdom and understanding to those supporting them.

We pray for those at home struggling with long term illness, whether mild or more serious. Hold them in your loving arms as they adapt to the future. Give them, and all who care for them, your peace.

We thank you for all those linked to our church who are between 60 and 80. We give thanks for all they have given in the past and look forward to all they can give in the future in so many different ways. Give them your strength for continued service and remind them that the best is yet to come. We thank you for all those in the Worship support group and their vital work in guiding the way worship is offered. We give thanks for the work of the management group and their role ensuring we run the church efficiently. Give them wisdom as they consider the issues facing us.

We pray for our church staff. For our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In; guide them as they lead us. For Ted; strengthen him as he works in the foyer to develop his skills there. For the centre staff team, Catherine, Joe and George; for Sally our youth leader and Sulhee our volunteer worker. Encourage them in their service among us. Help us all to support them in their roles, to encourage them and to be faithful in praying for them.

Finally, help us all to learn to work together in your service; acknowledging each other's talents and abilities; acknowledging our own and sharing them together as we seek to serve you in Kingston and beyond.

Amen.

Congratulations, Tony – Organist of Kingston URC for 50 years!



Haeun Kim - cello

On the afternoon of Sunday 12 November 2017, we attended a very pleasant and emotional concert. The musicians from our church, and friends, prepared to celebrate Tony Wenman's jubilee of 50 years playing the organ in our church.

The concert programme was carefully put together and we had pleasure to listen to Ha Eun Kim who played *Sarabande and Bourrée from Cello Suite no.3* by J S Bach, Shirley Noel sang so beautifully *Mandoline* by Gabriel Fauré. Sulhee Kim played with much gusto the extremely difficult *Etude in C minor Op.12 (the Revolutionary Study)* by Frederick Chopin and, as she explained later, that there was a significance to play for Tony this piece!

Finlay Forbes played his composition on the accordion which was called "*Valse triste de l'organiste*" i.e. the Kingston URC's salute to Tony. Nigel Tunley played his own arrangement of Grieg's *Sarabande* but this time it was on the organ, rather than piano.

A quartet of Ken and Liz Bartlett, John Watts and So Jin Kim played different pieces on flute, recorder, cello, and piano and Tony sang in his deep baritone the Benjamin Britten's arrangement of *The Ploughboy*.

The Wookey "musical" family showed the audience their considerable musical abilities! We heard Nicola with her heavenly soprano soaring to the ceiling performing Michael Head's "*The Singer*". However, for the first time the girls, Emma and Katherine, joined their parents, Nicola on recorder and Simon on viola, and



Finlay Forbes - accordion



The Wookey family

played violin and cello respectively in a special arrangement of *Patrick's Reel*. Tony and Steve must be so proud of them!



The Kingston URC Musicians and friends

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see Page 31

But of course, the highlight of the show was a KURC Chorus with Simon Wookey singing the lead tenor solo. They sang a very clever and hilarious rendition, portraying Tony's life, to the music from *HMS Pinafore* by Gilbert and Sullivan! The words (reproduced below) were written by John Fisher and Vaughan James and were so funny and witty that the audience roared with laughter...

Tony was very moved and thanked everyone at the end of the concert. He also announced that he plans to retire in January 2018 from his duties of playing the organ at services in the church. We will definitely miss him as we doubt that anyone else will have such inspirational dedication as Tony.

At the end of evening we all were invited to the Hall where we had tea and scrumptious cakes!

And everyone said in one voice: "THANK YOU, TONY!"

Natasha Reid

John Fisher and Vaughan James wrote this new libretto for Sir Joseph Porter's song from Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *HMS Pinafore*:

Tony's Golden Anniversary Song

Long long ago in a town oop north
A musical phenomenon came bouncing forth.
His infant burblings were in perfect pitch
While the sight of a piano made his fingers itch.
He pursued his early talent with **acuity**,
Now he's the **longest** serving org'nist in the URC.

His literacy flourished and the words he liked best
Were 'claribel' and 'larigot' and 'voix celeste'.
With favourites like these the conclusion was foregone,
He soon forsook the piano for the pipe organ
He polished up his ped'ling in the C of E,
Now he's the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

He was merrily singing as a schoolboy treble, when a
Talent-spotter said 'you ought to be a counter-tenor!'
He became a leading member of St Werburgh's choir
And earned them fame and fortune throughout Derbyshire.
He can sing along with zest in almost every key,
Now he's the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

But soon he was dreaming of more southerly climes
And of waking every morning to cathedral chimes.
At Winchester in Hampshire the choir's a major feature
Which persuaded him to train there as a budding school teacher.
Though very much enamoured with the BCP,
He's now the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

He met a young lady called Stephanie
Whose uncle had been org'nist at the KCC.
She had a good voice of the contralto kind
And a more harmonious couple 'twould be hard to find.
He sought her hand on bended knee,
Now he's the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

She dragged him along to a chapel of dissent,
Which put him in a pretty big *predicament*:
Should he say goodbye to his Anglican days
And adjust to unfamiliar nonconformist ways?
Persuaded by their liberal *theology*
He's now the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

An organ-playing vacancy soon occurred,
So he made an application and was duly heard.
He played a Bach partita and a Mendelssohn sonata
And rounded off the service with a fugue and a toccata.
Appointed to the post with *unanimity*,
He's now the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

The console then t'was in a pit:
Very easy to jump into but much trickier to quit.
The minister would watch him from his lofty seat,
So he couldn't take a nap or have a bite to eat.
Now he's positioned in a place where all can see
The longest serving org'nist in the URC.

For twenty years he trained a choir
Whose musical achievements grew higher and higher.
Their faces were red and their gowns were black
And any drop in pitch was met with plenty of flak.
He never would put up with *mediocrity*,
Now he's the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

He was very much admired and still revered
Even when he was disguised by a voluptuous beard
Which muffled his voice and the organ too,
Though both could still be heard in the most distant pew.
It endows an aura of gravity
To the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

His playing is consistent though it can become eccentric
If the tune is happy-clappy or composed by Graham Kendrick.
He's fond of Herbert Howells but it's Sebastian Bach
Whose fugues and passacaglias are his true trademark.
He's keener on fortissimo than *ppp*
Now he's the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

And now he's reached the fiftieth year
Of a note-ably harmonic and melodious career.
So thank you Tony from the bottom of our hearts,
You're our very favourite maestro and a man of many parts.
You've coped with ev'ry cipher and with ev'ry sticky key
And you're the longest serving org'nist in the URC.

***Words by John Fisher and Vaughan James
Music courtesy of Gilbert and Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore"***

New Year's Party

I hear rumours that Vaughan James is planning a New Year's party on Saturday 13 January. Apparently he has in mind, provisionally, a session from 15.00 to 18.00. Look out for more details.

Editor

An invitation from The Synod Area Administrator

Dear All

‘Walking the Way: Living the life of Jesus today’

Revd Richard Church is the URC's deputy general secretary (discipleship) and we are very fortunate that he is able to lead the South London Synod Area meeting at East Croydon on Saturday 27th January 2018, at 10.00 for 10.30. Synod Area meetings are always open to everyone and we are expecting to have no more than half an hour devoted to business, so that Richard will be using almost the full meeting time to explore with us the United Reformed Church's exciting focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission.

This is obviously a great opportunity for all our church members, not only those with an official reason to attend the meeting. Please could you publicise the meeting as widely as possible and implore people to keep the date free. I will send out further details once the plans have been firmed up a little more. Thank you very much.

Best wishes

Sue Lambert
South London Synod Area Administrator

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

An audio recording was made of the performance at Kingston URC on 23 September, 2017, which some of our readers might remember. A CD of that performance is now available. If you would like one (or more!) copies, please contact John Fisher.

There is a cupboard.....

in the basement at KURC (in fact there are three!) full of Christmas decorations!

On Saturday 9 December at 10.30 we shall use those decorations to adorn (posh word!!!) our premises in readiness for the Gift Service the next day and Christmas services after that .

We shall decorate a Christmas tree in the sanctuary and one in the lift lobby. We shall put holly and sparkly things on the ledges and window sills along with candles and tea lights, and set up nativity scenes in the foyer and the vestibule.

We shall probably do lots more – including eating mince pies and drinking coffee! – so do come and join us. We need all the help we can get and it is a happy social occasion too.

Saturday 9 December from 10.30.

Gifts of holly, ivy, other greenery would be most welcome

If you would like to know more, do ring me: **Steve Wenman 07802 413026.**

Christmas Tree Festival at Wimbledon

Dear Cathy Seymour

I thought you might like to know of an event which we will be holding at Trinity URC Wimbledon – our 3rd Christmas Tree Festival.

We will have 41 illuminated and decorated Christmas trees in the church, representing different countries of the world. Each year we have supported a different charity, and this year's charity is Save the Children.

We would be delighted if you could publicise this event at Kingston URC, and we would love it if some of your folk could come along to see the Festival for themselves. It will run from Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 December (for times see the attached flyer). If you'd like to receive flyers, or if you'd like any further information, please let me know.

With all good wishes

***Catherine Paul
Joint Church Secretary of Trinity URC Wimbledon***

Clapping in worship

Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus!

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And **whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.** - Colossians 3:16-17 -*

I believe that my gift of piano playing came from God. Every time I sit in front of the piano in worship, I always say inwardly 'Please God, hide myself and reveal YOURSELF through my playing'. It is a very great honour to serve God through piano playing which I can do and have been developing the skills. In the meantime, it is very frightening to me because I don't want to take the glory that should go to God as I'm praised/clapped after the playing. If I take a part in a concert, that's a totally different story. It was very weird to play a piece of music at the end of service and receive clapping from the congregation which I never had in my home church in Korea. There my playing was like background music as they have a chat after the worship. For me, that was the heaven!! Freely you share your lives at church with God's people after the worship.

The KURC is very fortunate to have lots of skilled musicians who are able to share their talents/gifts (something that the other congregation cannot do by itself) and help the congregation to praise God. All church musicians have priestly responsibilities during worship. Like ministers, elders, coffee/tea helpers, offering collectors, flower arrangers, welcomers, a translator, people who clear the sanctuary-putting chairs in a row and hymns/bibles and so on. There are lots of people who are unseen and help the worship. If you want to clap/praise everyone who helps the worship, the KURC wouldn't be God's house with all the celebrations of each other.

Clapping in church is a very big issue. When do you clap? Who do you clap? What do you clap for? Psalm 47:1-2 says

'Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!' (NIV)

Certainly, it doesn't say clap your hands, all congregation to people who do a great job in the worship. IT IS ALL ABOUT GOD!!, not praising each other. Because music plays a vital role in worship it's very easy to be exposed and praised by receiving clapping.

In an article called “*Worship Leading Choirs*”, Dave Williamson points out choirs should sing “vertically” to the Lord rather than “horizontally” to the people. They should lead worship rather than being spiritual entertainers. They should worship Jesus rather than performance for Jesus. They should celebrate the Giver (God) not the gift (music). They should hope to hear “God is great” not “You sang/played well”.

Even though there are horizontal aspects (musicians sing/play in front of people to pass God’s grace to the congregation) to our worship our primary focus during worship ought to be vertical: from God to God’s people, and from God’s people to God. As you clap to musicians, it will draw the spotlight on to the musicians not on God which is very dangerous in worship. There is secular music and sacred music. Secular music, ‘performances’ are designed to showcase the performers themselves. Their purpose is to entertain. But sacred music, ‘presentations’ or ‘musical offerings’ should be designed to showcase God. Their purpose is to lead/praise God in worship.

If you have clapped for human praise in worship, I should ask you firmly to stop doing it. However, do you clap when you are overwhelmed by God’s grace and moved by the Holy Spirit and want to show thankfulness to God? Then go for it! But for me it’s very easy to clap people who are visible than it its to clap God who is invisible. So in order to indicate that you express your appreciation to God, what God has done for us, why don’t we say ‘Amen’ or clap as your hands stretch toward God who is worthy of praise, your saviour and your Lord! (2 Samuel 22:1-4)

I would really like to hear "You really helped me praise God today!" rather than "You are so talented!"

Sulhee Kim

Perhaps there is a compromise, Sulhee: “You are so talented that you helped me praise God today,” implying that if you had not been so talented, and had played lots of wrong notes or inappropriate music, (or both!), you would not have been helpful to the worshipping congregation. **Editor**



IBRA READINGS DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018



COVENANTS AND PROMISES

Promises of New Life

Sunday 3 December

Genesis 9:8-17

Monday 4 December

Genesis 16:1-14

Tuesday 5 December

Genesis 18:1-15

Wednesday 6 December

Exodus 6:2-9

Thursday 7 December

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Friday 8 December

Psalms 89:1-18

Saturday 9 December

Luke 1:13-23

Warnings of consequences

Sunday 10 December

Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19

Monday 11 December

Ezekiel 33:1-16

Tuesday 12 December

Ezekiel 34:1-16

Wednesday 13 December

Luke 3:1-14

Thursday 14 December

Mark 13:3-13

Friday 15 December

Ephesians 4:1-16

Saturday 16 December

Ephesians 5:1-14

Deals negotiated

Sunday 17 December

Genesis 18:16-33

Monday 18 December

Genesis 23:1-20

Tuesday 19 December

Deuteronomy 29:1-15

Wednesday 20 December

Ruth 4:1-12

Thursday 21 December

2 Samuel 7:4-17

Friday 22 December

Isaiah 55:1-5

Saturday 23 December

Jeremiah 32:6-25

Visions of a better future

Sunday 24 December

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Monday 25 December

Micah 5:1-4

Tuesday 26 December

Luke 1:46-55

Wednesday 27 December

Luke 1:67-79

Thursday 28 December

Luke 2:25-38

Friday 29 December

Isaiah 65:17-25

Saturday 30 December

Revelation 21:1-7

Sunday 31 December

Revelation 21:9-26

HERE I AM

Monday 1 January	1 Samuel 3:1-10
Tuesday 2 January	Isaiah 6:1-8
Wednesday 3 January	Jeremiah 1:1-10
Thursday 4 January	Psalms 40:1-8
Friday 5 January	Acts 9:10-19
Saturday 6 January	Luke 1:25-38

READINGS IN MARK (1)

1 Beginnings

Sunday 7 January	Mark 1:1-8
Monday 8 January	Mark 1:9-13
Tuesday 9 January	Psalms 2
Wednesday 10 January	Mark 1:14-20
Thursday 11 January	Mark 1:21-28
Friday 12 January	Mark 1:29-39
Saturday 13 January	Mark 1:40-45

2 Authority on earth

Sunday 14 January	Mark 2:1-12
Monday 15 January	Psalms 6
Tuesday 16 January	Mark 2:13-22
Wednesday 17 January	Mark 2:23-28
Thursday 18 January	Mark 3:1-12
Friday 19 January	Mark 3:13-30
Saturday 20 January	Mark 3:31-35

3 The word and the storm

Sunday 21 January	Mark 4:1-20
Monday 22 January	Mark 4:21-34
Tuesday 23 January	Mark 4:35-41
Wednesday 24 January	Psalms 107:23-32
Thursday 25 January	Mark 5:1-20
Friday 26 January	Mark 5:21-43
Saturday 27 January	Mark 6:1-13

WINNING AND LOSING

Winning and losing in the Old Testament

Sunday 28 January	Deuteronomy 31:1-8
Monday 29 January	1 Kings 12:21-24
Tuesday 30 January	1 Kings 18:20-39
Wednesday 31 January	Psalms 37:23-26
Thursday 1 February	Isaiah 40:29-31
Friday 2 February	Micah 7:8-11
Saturday 3 February	Habakkuk 3:17-19

Kingston
Mental
Health
Parliament



Kingston Mental Health Parliament

Integrity is our Motto – ALWAYS

We provide a monthly drop in service and everyone is welcome to use this service. We are here the **first Wednesday and last Tuesday of each month**, to provide advice, support, information and a listening ear around issues or concerns, you may have with the Mental Health services or any other type of service provided within the borough.

People have been visiting the drop in service and raising a range of different issues and concerns they have around Mental Health.

Quotes from users of our service.

“I feel much better after talking to you”

“Thank you for being so helpful and kind today”

“I found out some very useful information today”

Location – United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston KT1 1HZ

Time – 10am-12 noon. (Free tea/coffee & biscuits provided)

If we are unable to help you we may be able to sign post you to an organisation or group who may be able to support you further.

Email jay@mindinkingston.org.uk or simon@mindinkingston.org.uk

Or phone **0208 255 3939** if you would like more info.

Regular Weekday Activities

Monday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)

Tuesday:

14.00 Activity Afternoon for Foyer Guests (second Tuesday monthly)

Wednesday:

10.00 Tots' Praise (during school terms)

13.10 Lunchtime Service

14.00 & 19.30 Faith Studies - check date & frequency of short courses

Thursday:

19.00 International Friendship Café

19.30 Line Dancing

Friday:

13.00 Friday Prayers

14.00 Dancing with Lyn (Ballroom & Latin American Dancing)

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.

The next copy deadline is 12 noon on Sunday, 8 December 2017

Editor: Bron Robinson

FINANCIAL DONATIONS may be made to the church in a number of ways including via our **MyDonate 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.

Thank you to Mail Boxes Etc. 22 Eden Street, Kingston, KT1 1DN, tel: 020 8547 1547
e-mail: info@mbekingston.co.uk for printing Church News

You can keep in touch with all our worship and activities through our website at 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 and the 11.30 and the second Sunday 10.30 services there are **group activities for children** of all ages. Visiting children are welcome to take part.

Our Church Officers

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Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00

Tel: 020 8549 1888

E-mail: premises@urckington.org.uk

Coffee and Tea: Our foyer is normally open every weekday and Saturday from 11.00 until 14.00 for coffee and tea. **The Sanctuary** is also open daily for **private prayer** with access via the foyer.

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.