



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHURCH NEWS March 2018

Kingston United Reformed
Church www.kingstonurc.org



‘The light of God surrounds us.
The Love of God enfolds us;
The power of God protects us;
The presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is!’

James Dillet Freeman

Front cover art beautifully produced by Esther Chong

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Church worship diary: March 2018

(Please read in conjunction with the diary of regular events inside the back cover)

Sunday	04	10.00	Traditional worship with communion
		11.30	All-age worship
		13.00	(Child Contact Centre)
		18.30	Reflective worship
Tuesday	06	19.50	(Elders meeting)
Wednesday	07	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	09	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	11	10.30	All-age worship (followed by Church Meeting)
			-- Copy for April Church News to Vaughan James by 11.30 --
		18.30	Reflective worship
Wednesday	14	09.00	
		10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	16	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	18	10.00	Traditional worship
		11.30	All-age worship
		13.00	(Child Contact Centre)
		18.30	Reflective worship with communion
Wednesday	21	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	23	13.00	Friday prayers
Palm Sunday	25	11.00	All-age worship
		18.30	Reading the Passion narrative
Wednesday	28	10.00	Tots' praise
Maundy Thursday	29	19.00	Maundy Thursday Supper at Kingston Methodist Church (please sign up)
Good Friday	30	10.00	Coffee and Hot Cross buns!
		11.00	The Walk of Witness
		12.00	A Service of reflection for Good Friday
		13.00	Time to reflect
		13.30	Messy Easter, for Families
		14.00	Reflection on the Cross
Easter Sunday April	01	09.00	Easter Morning Holy Communion
		10.00	Breakfast
		11.00	All-age celebration of Holy Communion
		18.30	Reflective Holy Communion

A detailed calendar can be found on the KURC website at:
http://www.kingstonurc.org/kurc_calendar.html

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see inside back cover

Letter from Lesley



Dear All,

It was not as neat as usual but it was so much better. It was not as slick as it might have been but it was heartfelt.

Sometimes professionalism can be a problem. The amateur who is not earning their living doing this thing sometimes does it with a passion and a care that people can see and appreciate.

Pat Brook's four sons carried her into the crematorium. It was not as polished as the usual bearers. It was a heartfelt gesture of carrying someone who all her life had carried you. They did not drop the coffin or anything hideous like that. But they did not swing it round in the usual way nor were they able to walk without holding on which professionals do. It was not as elegant yet it was loads better.

The words about the faith that someone like me offers come tainted with the hidden gloss- 'well you would say that wouldn't you' The polished performance of a well-rehearsed reply can ring untrue. 'Heard those clichés so many times. I cannot hear God speaking through that'.

That means the responsibility for speaking of the faith is not to be left to some it is for all. It also means that when we admit we do not know, or splutter over our words, or get half way to an answer and throw up our hands people can appreciate our efforts and recognise the genuineness of it.

All of that is no excuse for not trying your best or for giving thought to our reply to the big questions. It is however a reminder that what God wants from us is not success but heartfelt discipleship which is open to all.

Best wishes,

Lesley

Cathy's conversation

At the Church AGM in September we gave thanks to Ken Bartlett for all the time that he had given to lead the team around our financial matters. Sadly we have yet to have someone prepared to fill in the gap and act as our Church Treasurer. This is a particularly busy time of year for those concerned with the movement of our money. We are preparing the budget for next year and are coming to the end of the 2017/18 financial year and will be producing the accounts.

So who is doing this work? Well, God's spirit is supporting each one of us as we work through this time. The Elders, as Trustees, are leading on this. The Management Group, which includes Ken (but he is retired!), are giving scrutiny to the figures that show income and expenditure. Others involved are Catherine Treweek, Allan Oscroft, John Watts, Nigel Tunley and the counting team. Our bookkeeper Mary Ryan does just that and keeps the books. With the exception of Mary none of us are qualified accountants. So how are we managing as well as we are? With the help of Roger Sutton (a retired accountant) who like all of those mentioned is giving plenty of time to keep us on track. But his support is temporary.

Please pray as often as you remember for God to call to one of us to become our Treasurer. In your heart you know who you are.

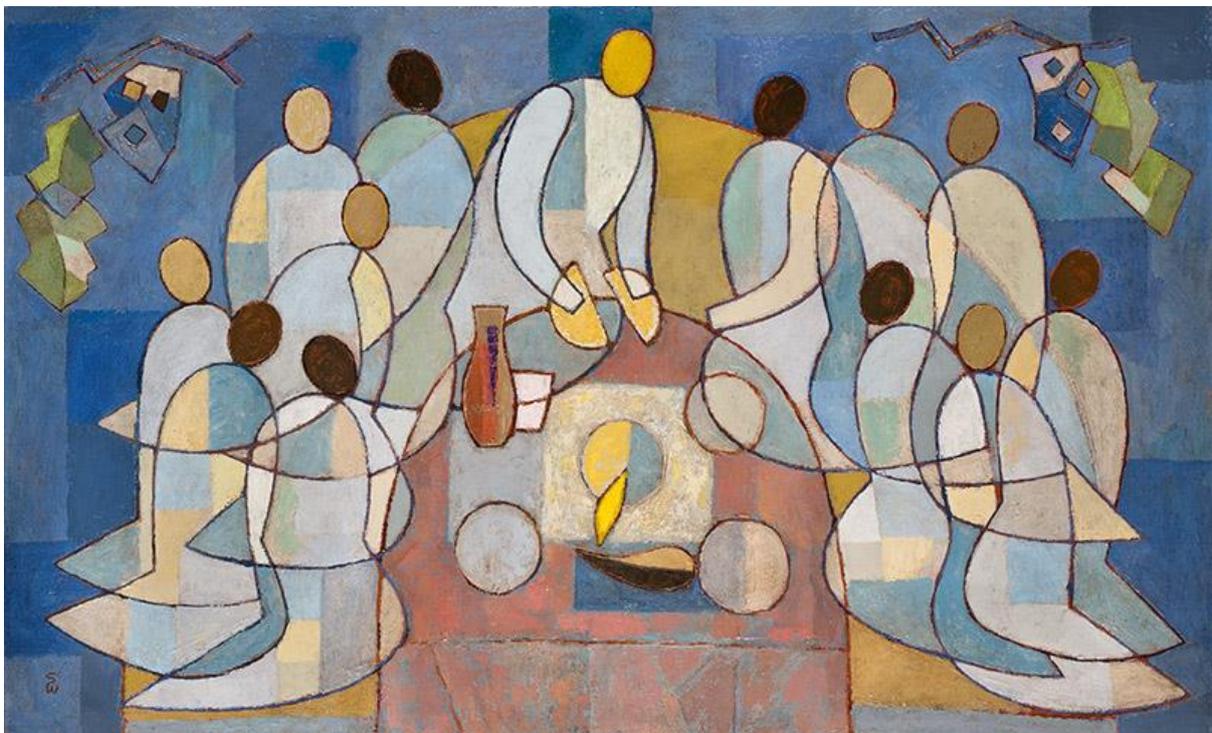
Finally I want to thank all of you who voted in the Elders elections. You did an important thing.

We are hoping to be able to announce who will be the two new Elders at the March Church meeting and they will be inducted during Easter Sunday morning service.

Cathy Seymour

Pastoral News – February 2018

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 email should send
an email to: tony.wenman@gmail.com



Church flowers for March

<i>4 March</i>	<i>The Verge Family</i>
<i>11 March</i>	<i>Bron Robinson</i>
<i>18 March</i>	<i>Ruth Anderson</i>
<i>25 March</i>	<i>Ray Erskine</i>



On behalf of all of us a big thank you to those of you who have donated for the flowers each week that adorn our Church. It's so very much appreciated and enhances all our lives.

“Daffodils come before the Swallow dares

And take The Winds of March

With Beauty”

William Shakespeare, “A Winter’s Tale”



Walking the Way: It's Here

Lesley spoke about this at the Church meeting.

The URC's focus on lifelong Christian discipleship 'Walking the Way: Living the Life of Jesus today' is now under way' with materials for Lent. It is for everyone at every stage of the Christian journey.

There is material available at urc.org.uk/wtw, bit.ly/urchh, bit.ly/urcdds and on Face book at www.facebook.com/URC DailyDevotions.

If you find obtaining inspiration this way off putting speak to an elder or one of the techie members of the congregation or me and we will try and help. (we might even print it off for you!).

Christine Thompson



Lent study groups

On The Third Day

Have you ever thought it is a shame that Easter is over so quickly after the long run up through Lent?

This is a chance to explore the Easter theme. 5 sessions:

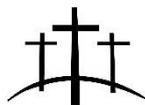
1. Have I got news for you!
2. So what? The implications of the Resurrection
3. 'Let him Easter in us'
4. Celebrating and praying Easter
5. A risen Church

There will be 2 groups one on a Friday at 10.00 -11.30 at [30 Bloomfield Road, KT1 2SE](#). (starts on 23rd February)

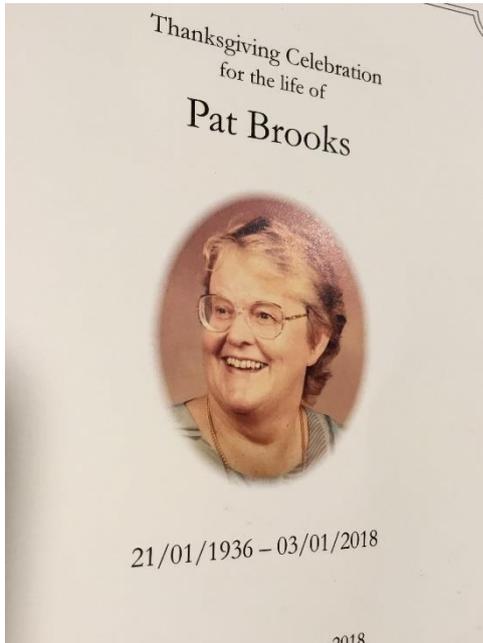
And one in the URC's building at 19.30 on a Wednesday starting on 21st

We will be doing this with our brothers and sisters from other churches in the area.

All welcome- turn up or let Lesley know you intend to be there.



Joan Patricia Brooks has died.



Let us reflect together on her life. The thing about Pat Brooks was that she was not Jesus but she did her best to follow him. She did some mean and foolish things in her life but that does not lead us to diminish her but to realise she was like us, struggling and still able to serve and play her part. The other major feature about her was her ability to hold true to what she believed and yet change the shape and context of that. She was a dedicated disciple. She took the bible seriously and its application to her life was fundamental yet she was new every morning in her understanding of God's truth. Its

importance to her did not lead her to narrowness or fundamentalism by the end of her life as it might have done at one stage.

She was loving and warm whereas earlier she had had a judgemental bent. Life and the reality of the love of God changed that.

To quote, she had strongly held views on the importance of the family and education in particular, but both her views and her ways of arguing for them were always guided by the one principle to which she remained absolutely dedicated throughout her life - love. In the name of this principle, she spread joy wherever she went, offering kindness and the spirit of human fellowship to all those she met. She was a true disciple of the God of Love, a wonderful mother to her sons and a much loved friend to many.

After Tiffin Girls School she could have gone to University but her desire was to be married and the mother of men. Martyn, Graham, Richard and David. She loved that. Her sons are left with a sense of being lucky to be her sons. More of a surprise and a delight in her latter years was the women who brought her own United Nations to her. Particularly when you add Francis and the link to the US. Fortunately each of her sons was her favourite. And each of her daughters in law too. She learned how to be a mother in law from her own who had been supportive but not intrusive.

Thank you, God.

I had a best Mother-in-Law in the world. I will never forget her. I will always remember what she showed me about love.

One day I asked mum what is the most important thing for marriage? She replied "love" What is the 2nd? She said "love". What is 3rd? "Love !! Only love!!! Nothing else". She always said "You are good girl and the best daughter in law in the world." It encouraged me to be a better daughter in law and better person.

In her working life, outside the home, she taught in Southborough. She worked with challenging people and kept constant with them. She did that in the Church too particularly in the youth ministry that she ran with John Verge.

If people are either a radiator or a sponge she was clearly a radiator. She believed in hospitality. She was full of joy and laughter. So I could regale you with the camping story, camping was a big feature of summer holidays and her ability to produce the meals on the basic burners was astounding, I could regale with the story that involves a small boy, a tent, a full bladder and a small bottle but I have no intention. Or the story of the teenager who decided to watch horror films and frighten himself only to wake up screaming when he saw this shape come towards him in the night who turned out to be his mother turning off the light. She loved to laugh. She was married twice to two very different men. Both of whom she loved intensely. For she was a woman of passion. That got her into trouble at earlier phases of her life but it was her core. Among her passions was KURC, her family and helping and Jesus. There was nothing lukewarm about her. Once she retired from teaching she had had a ministry preaching teaching and in church leadership in East Hill and Tolworth.

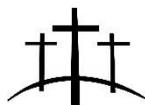
She was the least self-absorbed person you ever met. Totally interested in your lives. Totally interested in others. So she deliberately got to know the Polish family across the road. She was interested in people. She would talk to unlikely people and share what she could with them. Like the homeless man who spent time outside Marks and Spencer's. She was interested in his story and delighted when he got work and frustrated when he reappeared. She was the person who bought things at the door because she was charmed by the dodgy builder. Or two pairs of shoes because the sales assistant was so engaging. She was generous. During a holiday to Switzerland she would give a tip to everybody. Money in envelopes. To let people realise their jobs were

really important to us. She was generous with her home and her life. She has supported others all her life. Her sons, her sister in law Ruth, her

husband John Verge as he was dying, her mother, then the range of young people that she took into her home and heart. She was generous in relationships - family members felt that she was not only mother, mother in law, landlady but she was also their friend. She was hospitable to those young people she took into her home –another window on the world. She was highly committed to keeping up the relationship with Francis in the US.

Many people get to a certain age and decide they have retired from Christian discipleship. Pat Brooks had no notion of that. She served till the end. Even in the hospice she radiated thanks for those who helped her and was concerned to help the man in the next bed. What she did that is unusual is she kept her serving heart and changed the way she displayed it. Many people have had their way of serving and if they cannot do it that way then they do not do it. She scanned the horizon to look and see what she could do for God and congruent with her values which included hospitality she extended her home to others. To quote, Pat was generous and loving person. Her cup was never half full it was full to the brim and overflowing. Mother loved us like she loved the world, with an emotional intensity that enveloped - and sometimes consumed - those around her!

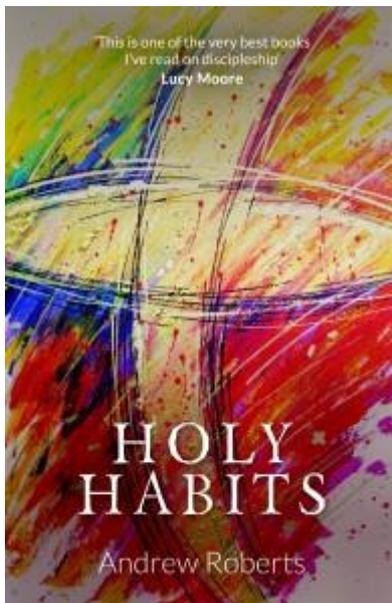
She enjoyed life and was delighted to be alive. But then it became a burden and she decided she had had enough. The last years of treatment were not easy. - she had bruises on bruises. She did not let people know she was suffering. Did not make a fuss. At the end she felt worn. Her confidence in God meant she could leave the earth and the people she loved so much. Like all of us Pat Brooks has not earned her salvation. It is a gift. Like all of us she is dependent on the mercy of God to welcome her home and keep her safe for eternity. Yet her legacy and example is strong and a challenge to all of us in the way we live life. To quote 'I was once asked in a Confirmation class who I saw as a good Christian. I said Pat Brooks, before I really knew her. I stand by this; she was authentic, caring, loving and to me a great example of a true Christian, I was blessed to know her.'



KURC Church News

Holy Habits

Walking the Way is the URC's exciting fresh focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission. Key to this focus are ten holy habits drawn from the description of the early community of disciples described in Acts 2: 42-47. In his book of the same name, **Andrew Roberts** (the former training director of Fresh Expression) calls us, both as individuals and as a church, to the adventure of discipleship by living out these habits in our day-to-day lives.



Bible Teaching: to engage daily with the Bible, seeking sound and fresh interpretations and to actively respond to what we read.

Fellowship: to seek meaningful, sharing and loving fellowship with others; including not only those we already share such fellowship with, but those we could invite to join us and those with whom we might struggle to share fellowship.

Breaking Bread: to extend the breaking of bread beyond the sacrament of Holy Communion and include this symbol of remembrance of God's life-giving love in everyday simple ways, such as at family meal times and in other places.

Prayer: to take every opportunity to enrich our prayer life; to be creative, adventurous and outward looking; and through prayer to find joy and excitement as we establish our rightful relationship with God.

Giving: to reflect the generous giving and sharing of the early disciples in our own lives, including what we might give in the way of our time, gifts and love.

Service: to not only serve others but to overtly place the presence of Jesus at its centre so that others may see the distinctive nature of our service.

Eating Together: to use meal times with family, friends and others we might invite as an opportunity to experience the joy of eating and learning together and to satisfy our spiritual as well as physical hunger.

Gladness and Generosity: to be energetic and enthusiastic in our thanks for what God has given us and to express our generosity in acts of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Worship: to regard worship as a way of life rather than a once-a-week activity; a way of life which is devotional, humble, intimate and reverent; and to show tolerance to styles of worship which differ from our own preferences.

Making more Disciples: to live out the Great Commission (Matthew 28) by accepting God's command to go to be a blessing and to share the invitation to explore Jesus' call to follow him.

'...a deep and committed Christian community which lives out the holy habits is a powerful witness to the reality of the saving love of God'.

Much more can be found in the book including suggests as to individual, local and global acts in response to each habit. An excellent addition to your book shelf for under £10.

Equally exciting is that we have arranged for Rev Richard Church to speak to us about Walking the Way at the Church Weekend at Home in July (20/21/22). Richard is the URC's deputy general secretary (discipleship) and the weekend will offer a great deal so please note these dates in your diary.

Ted Bellingham



EASTER WORKSHOP – Saturday, 31 March



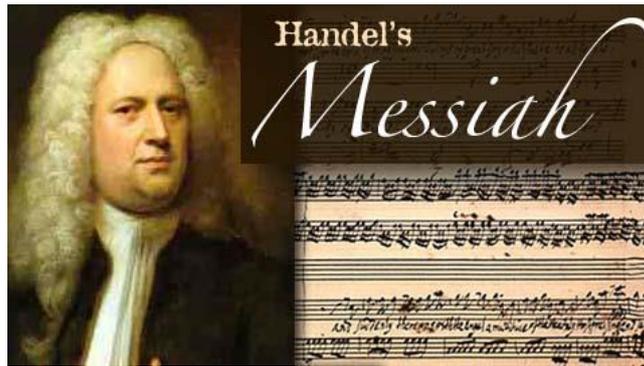
Easter is early this year, so this is an early notice to say we will have our usual Easter Workshop on Saturday, 31 March, at **11am**. Please note the new time so that we don't clash with a Choir rehearsal. Helpers to decorate the church for Easter Sunday would be greatly appreciated, as would spring flowers and any greenery.

Please come along. If you have not helped before, no experience is necessary.

For more information, please contact Janine Goddard or Jean Thompson.



Messiah



The editor has asked the Music Committee to write something about Easter music. So we decided to google 'favourite Easter music', which led us to a recent Daily Telegraph poll naming Handel's oratorio *Messiah* as no. 1 in the charts.

Messiah is often sung at Christmas: part 1 of the oratorio is all about the prophecy of salvation and the Incarnation. But it was written for performance at Easter. Part 1 is just the prelude to parts 2 and 3 which describe Christ's passion and ascension and God's ultimate victory.

Messiah was actually the product of two men: we often overlook the figure in the shadows who persuaded Handel to write *Messiah* and supplied him with the libretto – Charles Jennens. Jennens was a landowner, a devout Anglican, a classical scholar and a dramatist. For *Messiah* he wrote no original words but instead selected short passages from the King James version of the Bible with the utmost care and arranged them in a way that succinctly and dramatically tells the story of God's redemption of mankind. Jennens' libretto fired Handel's musical imagination like a torch being thrown into an enormous bonfire.

Why is *Messiah* so memorable and uplifting? The 56 year old Handel was vastly experienced at writing successful operas and oratorios, but the musical invention displayed in *Messiah* is on a different plane altogether. A reviewer of the very first performance summed it up perfectly: 'the most sublime, grand and tender music, adapted to the most elevated and moving words'. It is perhaps in the way that Handel's music *amplifies* the words of the Bible that its greatness lies.

John Fisher

A few years ago I visited the Handel House Museum in Brook Street, London. This is where Handel lived for 30 years and composed *Messiah* in the summer of 1741. I was struck by how ordinary the building was, and I was even more astonished to discover that he composed his music in a small, back room, over-looking the dustbins! How could such inspiring

music have been produced in such an unpromising place? I also discovered that Handel wrote *Messiah* in just three weeks. This amazing work lasts for well over 2 hours and someone has worked out that it consists of a quarter of a million notes and that Handel must have been writing at a rate of 15 notes per minute! Where was this inspiration coming from?

Sulhee Kim

As some of you know, I am a member of the Royal Choral Society which has sung *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall every Good Friday since 1876! My mother sang in performances in the 1950s and my own first Good Friday *Messiah* was in 1987 when Lesley Garrett was the soprano soloist. Over the years we've been joined by many more fine soloists, yet unlike most operas and oratorios the music of *Messiah* is centred very much on the choir, so we are kept very busy. The 'Hallelujah Chorus' is a highlight of course. But it is the climax of the final 'Amen' chorus, where the sopranos come in on a top A, which never fails to send shivers down my spine. If you would like to come and hear us on Good Friday 2018 just contact me for discounted tickets! Further details available here <https://www.royalchoralsociety.co.uk/concerts.htm>

Ruth Anderson

No piece of choral music can be sung in such a variety of ways as Handel's *Messiah*. Handel originally wrote it for an orchestra of just 9 instruments and 32 singers but he was always happy to make changes to suit circumstances. As time went by performances grew bigger and bigger: in 1784 over 500 singers and instrumentalists performed it in Westminster Abbey. By 1857 *Messiah* was being sung by a chorus of 2000 and an orchestra of 500 in the Crystal Palace! Nowadays the trend is for much smaller scale performances. Incidentally, our own church choir (then comprising 40 members) performed *Messiah* in the dark days of the last war. Perhaps it's time we sang it again!

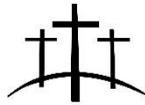
Nigel Tunley

There are around ninety recorded versions of *Messiah* currently available and between them they encapsulate the best and worst aspects of the conductor's craft. In the late fifties, Sir Thomas Beecham's 'cast of thousands' version with extra (and not always very tasteful) parts added by Sir Eugene Goossens was considered to be the pinnacle of Handelian interpretation. Then along came the authenticity brigade with the collective aim of scraping off years of accumulated detritus to get back to what Handel actually had in mind. John Butt's 2006 recording with the Dunedin Consort, which uses Handel's forces for the original performance in Dublin in 1742 shows just how far interpretation of baroque music has travelled. The result is clearly detailed and surprisingly powerful, suggesting that

maybe Handel actually knew what he was doing and needed no editorial or academic assistance to realise his intentions.

Between the extremes of Beecham and Butt lies an assortment of performances ranging between historically informed, historically misinformed, historically misguided and just plain odd (with countertenors hooting their way through the alto solos) but all proving the stature and indestructibility of Handel's evergreen creation. I have a particular fondness for Sir Adrian Boult's 1961 Decca version bought on special offer out of my bonded bairn's meagre earnings. Kenneth McKellar (described by Boult as the finest Handel singer of the twentieth century) in the role of tenor soloist may have clinched it but it was and remains a timelessly sincere and honest reading of this choral masterpiece.

Finlay Forbes



Forthcoming Lunchtime Recitals at Kingston URC

On **Thursday March 22 at 12.30** Si Yeoung, the exceptionally talented organist at New Malden URC will play one of the greatest 19th century organ works: Liszt's Fantasy and Fugue on BACH; Sulhee Kim and Nigel Tunley will perform Mendelssohn's own transcription for piano duet of his dramatic Fingal's Cave Overture, together with some Slavonic Dances by Dvorak, and Shirley Noel will sing a selection of songs accompanied by Sulhee.

On **Thursday April 12 at 12.30** Haeun Kim and Helen Kim together with fellow students from the Royal Academy of Music will be treating us to a concert of music for cello and flute.

As always, the recitals last about 45 minutes, and are free. There is a retiring collection for the Community Hub Project.

KURC CDs available

Audio recordings were made of the performances of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' in our church on 23 September 2017, and of Tony Wenman's 50th Anniversary Concert on 12 November. Stuart has very kindly transferred the recordings to CD and I have a small quantity boxed and ready for distribution. If you would like one please have a word with me. There is no charge but a donation to church funds would be welcome.

John Fisher

Sue in Antigua

Street Pastors

There are many, many challenges. It's slow work communicating with volunteers as people don't use email or answerphones. Also, many volunteers including myself need a lift to and from town and they may live miles from anyone else on the team. I am trying to create a What's App group to help communication. There is much work to be done to convince churches to support the work. The existing committee needs a complete overhaul. We have some prospective new volunteers but it will take some organising to get them trained up.

Radio work and children's club

Every Friday I record a regular slot for Kid's Club, when I am going through the gospel of Luke retelling the stories using humour, rhetorical questions and a lots of Wows! This is always followed by my choice of song. This is broadcast every Saturday morning on God First Radio 102.9 FM (accessible on the internet between 12 noon and 3pm GMT).

On Sunday afternoons I walk into Gray's Farm, a very poor run-down neighbourhood. About ten to fifteen young people including babes in arms attend an afternoon class. Pastor May and I walk round the rickety houses to invite the children. Once gathered we have a game or two, colour in 'worksheets', sing. I draw on my creative side to encourage them to act out bible stories while I am the narrator. They laugh at the way I join in, playing a donkey or wearing a silly hat.

Church

It will take a while to find a church which fits. I avoid the shouty ones. Many are influenced by American TV evangelists and there seems little appetite for the 'social gospel.'

I've visited several different denominations including the Salvation Army, Baptist, Christian Union, Bible Believers and Catholic. I haven't been to one yet that doesn't use the King James version of the Bible. Worship is usually very enthusiastic and emotional. People dress up and wear their best outfits.

Home Life

The flat is spacious and well furnished. I am learning to cook in the microwave using fresh ingredients. My stand-by recipes are poached eggs, scrambled eggs, rice and macaroni cheese. I was without running water for 3 days until the plumber identified I need to turn the pump off

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when not using water as there is some issue with water pressure. I shop at a big supermarket, 15 minutes downhill. It is well stocked with largely

imported goods e.g. cow's milk in a plastic carton comes from Jamaica, cheese from the States.

I am grateful that radio reception is good so I can choose from BBC World Service or local Christian stations. There's no TV or Wi-Fi so I am reading lots. I have joined the library, a new building with a manual system for borrowing. They fill in a massive ledger with ten columns.

I live a 45 minute walk out of town. Sometimes I catch the bus which you hail at any point along the road. You just need to be quick to spot it coming. My bus route stops running around 6.30pm when it goes dark. I'm hoping to join the International Women's Club of Antigua which meets during the day.

- Please pray I would help make Street Pastors Antigua more robust and fit for the future
- Thank God for giving me strength
- May God continue to equip and inspire me



The Pioneers

In the year we celebrate the centenary of women winning the right to vote, we shine a light on:

Britain's first female Doctor

As the home-schooled daughter of a pawnbroker and one of 11 siblings, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, born in England in 1836, was an unlikely woman to become Britain's first female doctor. Having always excelled at science and maths, Garrett Anderson was inspired by reading about the United States' first female doctor, Elizabeth Blackwell, in *The English Woman's Journal*. Determined to meet her, Garrett Anderson joined the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women, the organisation which had hosted Blackwell when she visited London in 1859 to lecture on 'medicine as a profession for ladies'. Though rejected by Middlesex Hospital's medical school, Garrett Anderson was admitted to the nursing course in 1860, aged 24 and allowed to study Latin, Greek and pharmacology with the all-male trainee doctors. Privately, she hired a tutor to study anatomy and physiology. Several months in, she was permitted to attend chemistry lectures and enter the dissection room. The school administration was encouraging but her fellow students complained, and Garrett Anderson was barred. She left Middlesex abruptly with an honours certificate in chemistry and her pharmacology qualification.

Garrett Anderson applied to the six major medical schools, including Oxford and Cambridge, but was rejected by them all. Undeterred, she studied privately with professors and earned her certificates in anatomy and physiology. A loophole in the Society of Apothecaries' admission policy meant they could not legally exclude her because she was female.

After five year's study she took the Society of Apothecaries exam, scoring the highest grade, and in 1865 became the first woman in Britain to qualify as a doctor. Instead of celebrating her extraordinary achievement, the society changed its rules to ban further female entrants.

Despite being licensed to practise medicine, no hospital would employ Garrett Anderson on account of her gender. So, in 1865 she opened her own practice for working-class women in Berkeley Street, London. Business was slow until a cholera outbreak later that year, when the need for life-saving treatment pushed sexist views to one side. In her first year of practice, Garrett Anderson treated 3,000 new patients.

The Pioneers (continued)

In 1874, Garrett Anderson founded the London School of Medicine for Women, the only British teaching hospital to offer courses for women. She worked there for the rest of her career, the first woman to become Dean of a British medical school. A year after her death in December 1917, the school was renamed the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. It is now part of the University of London.

A look back at Cyrille Regis the fast paced West Bromwich Albion and England striker who endured racial abuse but inspired younger players.

The former West Bromwich Albion, Coventry and England footballer who has died of a heart attack aged 59, was in the late 1970's among the first black players to rise to prominence in the British game, subjected to racial abuse, then regarded as commonplace, his dignified conduct on and off the pitch and thrilling performances on it made him a role model not just for younger black footballers but for all those who truly loved the sport. In 1976, Regis then 18 was spotted playing non-league football and was signed by West Bromwich Albion. Ron Atkinson, the then Manager, had three black players and at the time there were fewer than 50 professional black footballers in the game and the concentration of three in one team was new. Nicknamed, somewhat insensitively, The Three Degrees, after the black pop act of the time, the trio (Cunningham, Batson and Regis) attracted both press attention- one seasonal photo opportunity was headlined "Look who's Dreaming of a White Christmas" – as well as more straightforward discrimination. National Front members would hand out literature before their matches, the players would be spat at as they came off the coach, and have to endure thousands of supporters chanting monkey noises at them during matches. Fruit would be thrown onto the pitch and Atkinson was sent letters telling him not to pick "gorillas". (He ignored them). When Regis was picked for England, he received a bullet in the post, while Cunningham who had a white girlfriend got death threats. Years later, Regis said that he had used the chants to motivate himself, rather than become angry. Towards the end of his career following the death of his close friend Cunningham in a car accident, Regis had re-evaluated his priorities and become first and foremost a born-again Christian. "What do you mean you've found Christ? Riposted Atkinson. "You've played for him for years!" In 2008 he was appointed MBE for services to the voluntary sector. Cyrille Regis, born February 9 1958, died January 14 2018.

Robin Pilbeam

Around the Church.....

Messy Church Does ...

We first met as Messy Church on 23 June 2013 and we have had many fun sessions on a Monday after school, with attendees numbering from 6 – 39 guests (according to my archived registers!). On average our numbers were in the 20's. More recently, we saw numbers drop consistently and although we were still getting very positive feedback from parents, it became obvious that:



1. we were competing with too many after school activities
2. we needed to provide activities that interested older children and even teens/adults as well as toddlers/young children
3. activities needed to be equally accessible to boys as well as girls

So, Lesley, Glyn, Steve, Ted and myself met to think about the way forward. We decided to offer a more all-age session on a Sunday afternoon from 3.30pm and our first meet up was Sunday 14 January. Sixteen guests arrived and there were 5 helpers, all much appreciated! This is a good start numbers-wise and we felt it was a great atmosphere with a community feel. One new family attended and then the Mum brought the smallest child back to Parents and Toddlers the following day. She said her older son did not want to go home!

Each session will take a different 'interest' (see programme below). January was 'film' so we showed 'Shrek' and then had a lovely meal of homemade soup together, made by Rachel Mason. Questions about the film and how it relates to the Christian faith were left on tables for discussion for families and a tricky crossword provided by Stu Chandler (who loves films!!) to tax the minds of the adults!! A take home sheet with a further activity to do at home plus a prayer to pray together was a practice we decided to continue from our previous Messy Churches.

Messy Church is an international organisation and we use their logo and abide by their guiding values which are: about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration (worship time together).

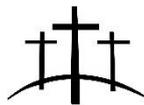
Each of our new sessions will embody these principles. If you have a particular interest in any of our topics, let me know and we can plan together! We would like this to be a whole-church activity and you don't have to sign up for every single session!

Messy Church Programme for 2018!

- Jan 14 Messy Church Does...**Film**
- Feb 25 Messy Church Does...**Art**
- Mar 30 Messy Church Does...**Magic! (Easter)**
- Apr 29 Messy Church Does...**Music/Dance**
- May 13 Messy Church Does...**Nature**
- Jun 24 Messy Church Does...**Art**
- Jul 8 Messy Church Does...**Travel**
- Aug 19 Messy Church Does...**Sport/Aerobics...**
- Sept 30 Messy Church Does...**Cooking/Baking (Harvest)**
- Oct 28 Messy Church Does...**Craft**
- Nov 25 Messy Church Does...**Chill Out**
- Dec 9 Messy Church Does...**Christmas**

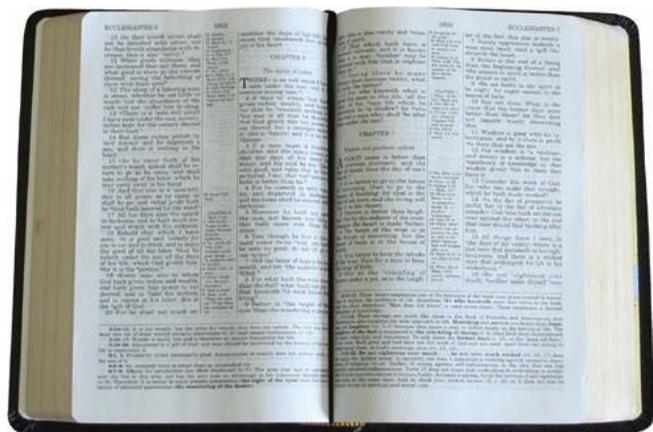


Sally Butler



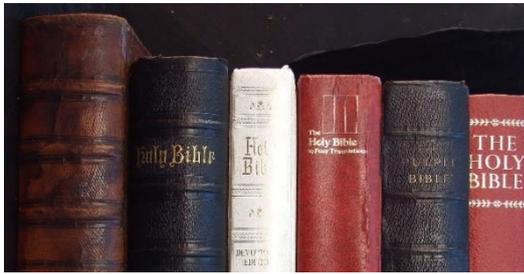
Evening Bible Study

Every two weeks, on a Wednesday evening, we meet at church for bible study. Here there is much discussion, reflection, prayer and the odd moment of silliness and hilarity. Whilst we take the Bible very seriously, we don't take ourselves too seriously and thus the chance for some fun as well as hard core study, which Lesley navigates and oversees, is possible. It's great fun and very useful - we are enjoying good fellowship and some serious study. Come along, on a Weds eve at 7.30pm - check with Stu Chandler to be added to the email list and we will hopefully see you there!!



Stu Chandler for the "Evening group"

Afternoon Bible Study

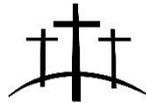


"Running alongside the Wednesday evening group (see Stu's note above) is the Wednesday afternoon group. Both are currently studying William Barclay's overview of the New Testament. To discover the "who", the "why", the "when" and the "where" of each book in

the New Testament has been a fascinating eye-opener. Each book stands alone, so it is not too late to come along.

The dates for March are: 7th (2 pm), 14th (7.30 pm), 21st (2 pm), 28th (7.30 pm).

Jean Thompson for the "Afternoon group"



Passwords to positivity

Do you have trouble thinking of new passwords for computer systems and online services? Do you get fed up of typing the same meaningless password many times every day?

If like me you answer yes to these questions why not try choosing a positive or uplifting word. Then to ensure you follow guidelines on complexity include somewhere in it numbers and special characters. Now every time you type it you are given a positive or uplifting reminder.

Here are just a few examples of what I mean:
 Joyful23% 18*Peaceful 8Loving!4 !Gracious02
 B!Positive92 5Beautiful?

If you fear real words are too easy to hack, then try a phrase using just the first letters of each word.

For example: ncsufflog25! (Nothing Can Separate Us From The Love Of God). Isn't that a great thing to reminder yourself of every time you log in!

I'm sure you have your own favourite words or phrases you can use.

I've found it helps.

Martyn Verge



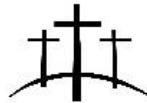
Kingston Town Centre redevelopment

You may think that not a lot has been going on with the town centre redevelopment but you would be wrong! We are continuing to have proactive discussions with British Land to discuss the impact on KURC. British Land have had a lot of work to sort out many retail leases so that demolition and construction work can start. That negotiation phase is nearing its completion. It's likely that the demolition crews will move on to the site as from the middle of next year and it will be 3 or 4 years before the development is complete – with a rejuvenated complex.

The KURC task group set up to represent our best interests is meeting and we will be able to provide more information at the May church meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, do speak to us.

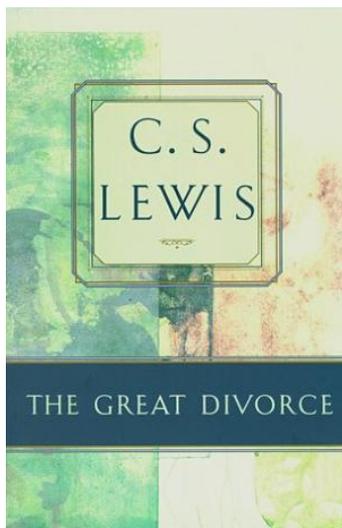


Linda Austin, Ken Bartlett, Allan Oscroft, Cathy Seymour, Christine Thompson, Catherine Treweek and Derek Winsor.



Review from the Book Club: C S Lewis' *The Great Divorce*

The KURC book club has recently read **The Great Divorce by CS Lewis**.



There was mixed opinion when we discussed it recently and it's fair to say that this might not be a book for everyone - not because of the content but the style. Lewis wrote it in the 1940s, around the time of WWII so it contains literary references, early 20th century words, issues, and expressions which might feel old fashioned. This is what it is about:

CS Lewis Goes to Hell

The Great Divorce is written in the first person — apparently the voice of Lewis himself. We don't know how long he was in the Grey Town (hell), but he seems to have recently arrived. He observes that Grey Town is a dreary place and the inhabitants are dour, quarrelsome, and cynical.

There is no tormenting fire, and in fact no punishment at all; it turns out that they live here because they choose to live here.

Lewis encounters a number of inhabitants on their way to catch a bus for a visit to another place (you might call it heaven) and Lewis joins them. From this point much of the story revolves around conversations Lewis observes between the inhabitants on the bus and him, each other, and the inhabitants of the place they visit. Some conversations are a few pages long, but they are filled with excellent human insight.

Lewis Meets His Hero

Once they arrive at the new place, Lewis first notices that the people from Grey Town appear insubstantial and almost transparent in the new place. It is a place so solid that the visitors can hardly walk on the grass because it will not bend or crush but penetrates their insubstantial feet; even fallen fruit are so heavy that one can hardly pick them up.

Each visitor is met by some 'solid' (or 'bright') person from their past life who lives in the 'solid' world. These solid people have no difficulty walking in the solid world, as the grass bends naturally under their feet. Their purpose is to show the guests around the area and encourage them to remain there rather than taking the return bus trip to Grey Town. The conversations between the guests and their hosts are very enlightening. For example, the Spirit ex-murderer, the ghost woman - Pam, who grieves for her son, the man trapped by lust until he asks the angel to kill the red lizard of lust.

There are two ghosts, who although they can understand their desperate need for release, find it impossible to let go of the drives and desires that constrain them. One comes close, but ultimately falls away, back to Grey Town. But the other sees in his despair the only way forward, to surrender as he is called to do, and throw himself into whatever awaits him as a result. And we see the glory that can only happen with full surrender – all of the things that have held and demeaned him are redeemed and transformed, given their true purpose and value, and welcomed with excitement into the splendid life that God wills for them.

After exploring the area and listening to couples in conversation, Lewis encounters his own host - his favourite author from his past life on earth (likely George MacDonald). From him, Lewis learns a lot about this solid world, about Grey Town, and about people. Of course, Lewis is invited to stay in the solid world where he would become solid himself so that the grass and the environment would be comfortable.

Some Observations

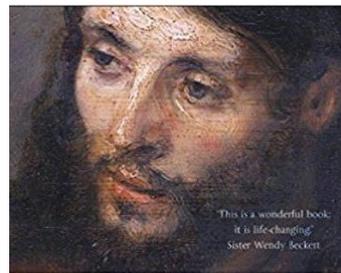
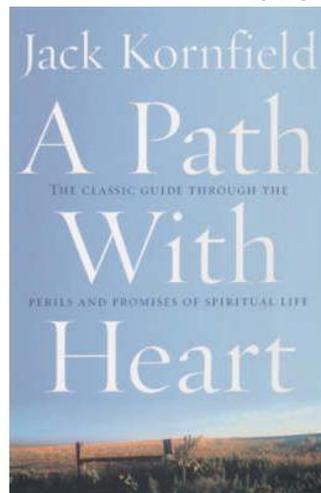
The Great Divorce demonstrates tremendous imagination. It is not meant to be a speculation of what the afterlife might be like. It is a story—a

fantasy to expand our minds about the issues and possibilities concerning hell and damnation. Lewis did not teach anything new, he only suggested alternative ways of thinking about hell.

He captured the idea that if we are separated from God in the afterlife it is because we choose it, not because we are being punished. Another idea was that even after rejecting eternal life with God, one might reconsider. Whatever you take away from this book, it will stretch your mind on the issues of hell. The book may have been written 75 years ago and may seem rather laboured in places but it conveys strong messages on freedom, choice, love, joy and pity - all relevant today.

We are currently reading '**A Path with Heart**' by Jack Kornfield and the book after will be Rowan Williams' '**God with Us**'. Do join us on the third Tuesday of the month at Katie Frost's home as from 1930 – you would be most welcome. If you would like to borrow and read any of the books we have reviewed, please let us know.

Katie Frost & Linda Austin - KURC Book Club



**ROWAN
WILLIAMS**

God with Us

*The meaning of the cross and resurrection.
Then and now.*



If you're having problems with your PC (or perhaps tablet or phone), please do get in touch as I can offer a PC Support service which includes:

Remote and on-site support; Virus software and disaster recovery; diagnosis of issues and how to solve them; Software problems; Hardware & Re-installing and re-configuring.

Whether it's using the Internet, sending an email or building a database to perform functions, I can help. I also offer PC tuition at all levels.

I might be able to help. Get [in touch](#) today!

My website contains some good testimonials -
<http://www.stuchandler.org.uk/portfolio/>

Our financial resources

We are reaching the end of the financial year. Our giving is currently less than we budgeted for and is giving cause for concern. We are most grateful for every penny you give to forward God's kingdom at KURC and in our community. It's not too late to review your giving for this financial year and to consider gift aiding your contribution if you have not yet done so (and you are a tax payer). Thank you, **The Elders**



Health features for Church News



We are thinking of beginning a monthly health slot. If you would like to write a feature or suggest areas of health that you'd like to see covered over the coming months then do let one or all of the Editors know. This is a totally new idea. It might cover people's experiences of dealing with a health issue; caring for a loved one and suggestions to others; to great places one can go to locally to go for a swim or a walk, the list is endless! So thinking caps on everyone – let's try and make this a useful tool for us all. It's only as good as what you'd like to see, so do let us know!!

Thanks, **The Church News Editors**

On the Margins.....

'Bet now' gambling ads to be banned:

Gambling adverts that encourage people to "bet now" and offer misleading "free money" deals will be banned. The rules come after the Gambling Commission found that more than two million people in the UK are either problem gamblers or at risk of addiction and warned that the Government and industry were not doing enough to tackle the problem. The Committee of Advertising Practice, which regulates adverts, will enforce the crackdown from April.

News from Oxygen

Teresa James, KURC's Oxygen representative, has sent *Church News* the following highlights from a recent newsletter, detailing just a few of the many projects run by the KURC-supported charity.

Kingsnympton Youth Centre re-opened under Oxygen's management

Oxygen supporters and partner groups met young people and the Oxygen staff team and enjoyed food provided by the Korean community in Kingston, and young people and guests had the chance to use the art room and the music studio. Oxygen relies on support and encouragement for the work it is doing on the (Cambridge) estate and hopes your thoughts will remain with it over the course of the contract.

Save your donations!

Oxygen is very close to securing the lease on a shop! The vision for an Oxygen shop forms a key part of our fundraising strategy, and will raise awareness of the charity and its work with young people.



To register interest at <https://goo.gl/forms/UxTeMHMvlsp4vUjB2>.

To contribute financially please donate via <https://localgiving.org/charity/oxygen/>.

Please save your unwanted items until Oxygen is able to receive them!



Knife crime project

"What's the point" programme

Oxygen has developed a good working relationship with the local police and is to be a part of the local response to knife crime.

In 2018 Oxygen aims to run a conference that will include all secondary schools in the borough, along with the other agencies that are fighting this problem that affects so many teenagers. The event will include workshops led by agencies, including the police and air ambulance, and also victims of crime and former criminals.

Oxygen would appreciate prayers of support and encouragement as it seeks to develop the project and approach new schools.





readings for March

Leadership in the New Testament

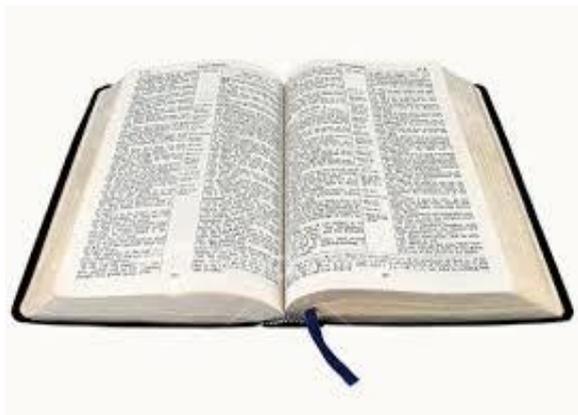
Thursday 1 March 1 Timothy 3:1–7
 Friday 2 March 1 Timothy 3:8–13
 Saturday 3 March Titus 1:5–14

Leadership qualities part 1

Sunday 4 March Genesis 50:15–21
 Monday 5 March Numbers 20:2–13
 Tuesday 6 March Joshua 1:1–9
 Wednesday 7 March Judges 4:1–16
 Thursday 8 March 1 Samuel 15:10–26
 Friday 9 March 1 Kings 12:1–14
 Saturday 10 March 1 Kings 19:1–18

Leadership qualities part 2

Sunday 11 March 1 Samuel 24:1–15
 Monday 12 March Daniel 6:1–14
 Tuesday 13 March Acts 16:11–15
 Wednesday 14 March Acts 18:24–28
 Thursday 15 March 2 Timothy 2:15–26
 Friday 16 March 2 Timothy 4:1–8
 Saturday 17 March 1 Peter 5:1–11



The lonely city (Lamentations)

Sunday 18 March Lamentations 1:1–11
 Monday 19 March Lamentations 1:12–22
 Tuesday 20 March Lamentations 2:1–10
 Wednesday 21 March Lamentations 2:11–22
 Thursday 22 March Lamentations 3:19–36
 Friday 23 March Lamentations 4:16–22
 Saturday 24 March Lamentations 5

Holy Week and Easter with the Psalms

Songs of pain

Sunday 25 March Psalm 118:24–29
 Monday 26 March Psalm 41
 Tuesday 27 March Psalm 35:11–25
 Wednesday 28 March Psalm 69:1–15
 Thursday 29 March (Maundy Thursday)
 Psalm 69:16–21
 Friday 30 March (Good Friday)
 Psalm 22:1–15
 Saturday 31 March Psalm 22:16–31

Songs of praise

Sunday 1 April (Easter Sunday)
 Philippians 2:5–11

Regular activities

Sunday:

15.30 Messy Church (monthly, but Sundays vary)

Monday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)

Tuesday:

19.30 Book Club: 'Spiritual wellbeing' (third Tuesday monthly)
Speak to Linda Austin or Katie Frost for location

Wednesday:

10.00 Tots' Praise (during school terms)
13.10 Lunchtime service
14.00 & 19.30 Faith studies – check dates and frequency of short courses

Thursday:

19.00 International Friendship Café
19.30 Line Dancing

Friday:

13.00 Friday prayers
14.00 Quiz afternoon for Foyer guests (second Friday monthly)
14.00 Dancing with Lyn (ballroom and Latin American dancing)
22.00 All-night prayers and Street Pastors (until 04.00)

Saturday:

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

You can 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.

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, preferably by email, no later than midday on the **second Sunday of the month**.

The next copy deadline is 12 noon on Sunday 11 March; Editor: Vaughan James

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 33 05 49 42. If you would like more information on giving to KURC, please ask any elder.

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***

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

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see inside back cover

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

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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

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 from 11.30 to 13.30 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.

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Beautiful Artwork above by Da-Hee Ahn



Artists at work.....