



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# CHURCH NEWS

December'18-January'19

Kingston United Reformed Church  
[www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org)



The **LORD** bless you and keep you;  
The **LORD** make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The **LORD** lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace. **Numbers 6, 24-26**

*Front cover art beautifully produced by Carol Clack (plus more inside!)*

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## Church Worship Diary: December 2018

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	10am 11.30am 6.30pm	Traditional Worship with Communion All-Age Worship Reflective Worship
Tuesday	4	19.50pm	Elder's Meeting
Wednesday	5	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	7	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
Saturday	8	10.30am	Decorate the church for Christmas
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	10.30am	Gift Service Messy Church
Wednesday	12	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	14	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	10am 11.30am 6.30pm	Traditional Worship All-Age Worship Reflective Worship with Communion
Wednesday	19	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	21	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	10am 11.30am 6.30pm	Traditional Worship All-Age Worship Reflective Worship
Monday	24	4pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Christmas Eve Communion
Tuesday	25	10am	Christmas Morning Service
Wednesday	26	Boxing Day	Building closed
Friday	28	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	10am 11.30am 6.30pm	Traditional Worship All-Age Worship with Communion Reflective Worship

### Church flowers for December



**2nd Dec** Teresa & Vaughan James

**9th Dec** Glyn Robinson & Christmas Workshop Team

**16th Dec** Janine Goddard

**23rd Dec** Liz & Ken Bartlett

**30th Dec** Jihae Kim & Suk Joo Kang

"When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things – not the great occasions – give off the greatest glow of happiness."

**Bob Hope**

## Church Worship Diary: January 2019

At the time of going to press, the Church Diary for 2019 was still under construction on the Church web page. Details below are based on information received. Please check notices and service papers for up-to-date correct information. A detailed calendar is available on the KURC website: [http://www.kingstonurc.org/kurc\\_calendar.html](http://www.kingstonurc.org/kurc_calendar.html)

<b>Tuesday</b>	1	<b>January</b>	<b>A Happy New Year to all our readers!</b>
Wednesday	2	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	4	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	6	10am 11.30am 6.30pm	Traditional Worship with Communion All-Age Worship Reflective Worship
Tuesday	8	19.50pm	Elder's Meeting
Wednesday	9	10.00am 1.10pm	Tot's Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	11	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	10.30am	All Age Worship followed by Church Meeting Church News contributions deadline (to Vaughan James)
Wednesday	16	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	18	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
Saturday	19	10.00am	Stay and Play
Wednesday	23	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service
Friday	25	1.00pm	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	10am 11.30am 6.30pm	Traditional Worship All-Age Worship with Communion Reflective Worship
Wednesday	30	10.00am 1.10pm	Tots' Praise Lunchtime Service



### Church Flowers for January

**6th January** Brenda Parkins

**13th January** Margaret & John Davies

**20th January** Peggy Chegwin

**27<sup>th</sup> January** The Carnegie Family

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

**Edith Sitwell**

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## Letter from Lesley

Dear All,

This is the day that the Lord has made.

This day.

Yes, it's true of yesterday and it is true of tomorrow but it is also true of today. Now.

Some people live with rose tinted glasses of how great yesterday was. How great society was. How great the Church was.- then.

But today is the day when God is at work.

This is the day.

Some people are living with the attitude that things will be right and godly in the future. When... .but this is the day when God is at work.

How will we and God work today in our world to work for justice? To feed the hungry? To cherish the sad? To befriend the lonely?

These things are not done in one huge gesture. They are done in hundreds/ thousands of small choices in one direction.

This is the day.

Let's work with God in it.

Yours

**Lesley**



## Cathy's conversation December 2018/January 2019

The sun is shining on the autumn leaves as I write. Kingston Town centre is getting ready to open up its Christmas retail and leisure season.



The Link to Hope shoes boxes have begun their journey across Europe. Waitrose green tokens have been added and we will have £333 towards our Christmas Day Lunch. And two Pass the Parcels for the party have already been wrapped. Work has started on the alternative Christmas card and the financial contributions will go towards Christian Aid.

I give thanks to all of Gods people who like to get down to preparations sooner rather than later. I sit somewhere between.

The centre management team and the management group have been giving the building a tidy up. We have needed to hire a skip to remove items that we no longer need. Please could you check with the centre staff if you want to bring items to the church. Although we have a large building, we have little storage space.

I want to thank you all again for the support that I have received throughout this year as I carry out the duties as your church secretary.

For this edition I finish with a blessing from our Irish neighbours.

*“This Christmas I wish you  
Walls for the wind  
And a roof for the rain,  
And drinks bedside the fire,  
Laughter to cheer you,  
And those you love near you,  
And all that your heart may desire.”*

**Cathy Seymour**

## Pastoral News – December 2018/January 2019

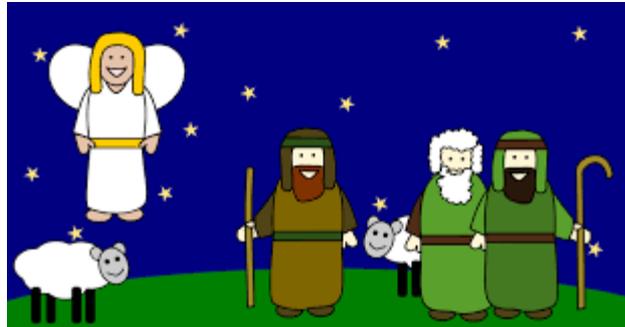
Out of care for people's privacy,  
since January 2012 the list of Personal Concerns  
has been deleted from the web edition of Church News.  
Anyone wishing to receive the full edition of Church  
News by email should send  
an email to: [tony.wenman@gmail.com](mailto:tony.wenman@gmail.com)



## Christmas 2018 – A Christmas Message from the Southern Synod URC Moderator, The Revd. Nicola Furley-Smith.

Dear Friends,

A recent survey revealed that one in three children had no idea that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Other religious blank spots included the role of the Archangel Gabriel, with more than a quarter having no idea that Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at her home in Nazareth to say that she would give birth to a son.



As Moderator I rarely get the opportunity to interact with children as I did when I was in pastoral charge. But I was reminded of an opportunity last year when I put my 'teaching skills' to the test. I asked a group of Under 7s some questions about the Christmas story and got some very interesting answers:

- Who is Jesus? Jesus was a king and he wore a crown even though he was a baby. It was a really small crown.
- Where was Jesus born? He was born in a stable a long way away from here in another country. Bethlehem - it's in England. There were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable.
- What gifts did the wise men bring? The three wise men brought Jesus presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But I think he would have liked some Lego.
- Who were his parents? Mary and Joseph and they were very happy with the king's gifts.
- Why do we celebrate Christmas? (silence) I believe in unicorns and pixies.

At least one of the answers gave me some hope that what we have been teaching our children and our children's children might have made some impact.

But the answers also made me think about the true meaning of Christmas and the temptation to preach about the need to dismiss all that distracts us at this time of year from the true meaning of the birth of baby Jesus - the presents and cards and turkey and stuff...

For me, the real meaning of Christmas is that God became human like me because God takes human stuff seriously. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God shows me how important all of my life is to him. In the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, God is real, someone 'with skin on to love'. The real meaning of Christmas is that it is all real (unlike unicorns and pixies), that God comes to us in the ordinary stuff of life. God comes to us and to all the world in

overcrowded hotels, squealing babies, rough shepherds and wise men with poor navigation skills that make an unfortunate detour to Herod's palace.

It is Luke who records that God comes to ordinary shepherds. He comes to them through angelic choirs and the song of angels moves the shepherds to belief and action because they are prepared to believe and act. They respond to the song by saying: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child."

How will God come to you? Where do you find a manger? In their ordinariness the shepherds check out the stables in this village and come across one with a baby sleeping in it. They meet the Holy Family and share with them their story of the angelic visitation. Then they go and tell others what the angels have told them. They make known what had been told them about this child. The angel's announcement of "a Saviour, Christ the Lord" is spread throughout the area, resulting in amazement in the hearers. We don't know what happened to the shepherds after that. The final scene in this passage finds the shepherds climbing back up the hill to where their flocks lie. The angel had told them what to expect and that's just the way they found it. We leave them glorifying and praising, the appropriate response to this unforgettable night. Because God comes to them, they are changed.

God is with us in all of our Christmases. What will our appropriate response be? Weighed down by all the Christmas hype we may not feel like saying with the shepherds: "Let's take a chance! Let's set aside our usual occupation; let's change our lives and go over to Bethlehem and see if we can find this God-child." And that is OK. For in the coming of Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us, every ordinary person becomes part of the story of God's love. That's the true meaning of Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Be born in us this Christmas. With Advent and Christmas blessings,

*Diana*

## Christmas Workshop

On **Saturday, 8 December**, we will be having a Workshop to decorate the Church and Christmas Tree for the Gift Service and the Sundays leading up to Christmas. This will be in the sanctuary at **10 am** and help from both men and women will be greatly appreciated. No experience is necessary. In addition, different types of greenery and flowers suitable for Christmas would also be greatly appreciated. Mince pies provided!

Please see Steve Wenman or Jean Thompson for more information.

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## Christmas is coming . . . and so is the Gift Service!

Our annual Gift service will be held this year on **Sunday December 9 at 10.30**. As usual, you are invited to bring gifts for Kingston WelCare.

“**WelCare House** is a place for local families to meet, connect and support each other. We care about parents and parenting and WelCare House has a history of being a friendly and open place where parents and children can build confidence, support each other and get advice.....We have a longstanding presence in the local community that enables us to provide long-term support for families.”

(WelCare website).

This year, the Project Manager, Marjie Grant, says they would be grateful for any **gifts of toys**, but “we’d really like: **toiletries** as gifts for our mums; **gifts for boys** aged 4 years + and for **babies** up to 1 year.”.At the Gift Service, **the loose cash offering** will again be donated to Cystic Fibrosis Research in memory of Anne Marie Crump, who was a member of our Sunday School for several years, but died at a very young age.

**Thank you in advance! (Please don't wrap your gifts)**

## A Korean Christmas

Christmas is a widely celebrated holiday for Christians and also for non-believers in Korea. People celebrate by decorating Christmas trees at home, sending cards, and exchanging presents with friends.

At church, during the Advent of four weeks before Christmas, we light up an extra candle each week and one on Christmas day, to a total of five lit candles by Christmas, and wait for the day when our Christ was born.

When I recall Christmas of my childhood, the first thing I remember is the ‘Carolling’ at the dawn of the Christmas morning, which is not very common in present Korea. My friends and I got together with teachers at church on Christmas Eve and stayed up all night singing carols, playing games and doing various activities. We then left church, at around 4 a.m., to our church members’ houses for the main event. Carolling. We sang carols in front of his or her house until the house owner greeted us and gave us treats with Christmas presents for donation. This was done in other houses for several hour. Even though it was very dark and cold, and slippery from the snow on roads, we were still very excited and happy when we sang carols very early in the morning of Christmas.

I can remember that we arrived in front of my house and sang carols for my parents at one point. Because they struggled to sleep worrying of me, a 10 year-old back then, they were so glad to see me coming with my carolling group. It as a little strange singing carols for my parents among my carolling group, but it was still a unique and exciting experience.

I've recently learnt that the 'Carolling' tradition of Korea originally came from Britain in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century where children visited houses by houses and sang carols from early November to Christmas and the house owners gave the children snacks and some pocket money. In order to save money for Christmas, children went around the town singing carols. It is interesting to see how an old tradition of the U.K. has also become one in Korea. However, as residential environment of Korea has changed dramatically in the recent era, not many churches are able to follow the 'Carolling' tradition in the Christmas morning.

In the church I attended in Korea, the choir and the orchestra used to hold an annual concert, performing Handel's 'the Messiah' every Christmas Eve as a highlight of the Christmas celebration. We had to sacrifice a huge amount of time for practice from October to December each year, but it was another special way of waiting for Christmas with excitement and joy. The Sunday schools also had a concert celebrating Christmas on Christmas day. All age groups prepared their own programmes, singing or dancing to carols, performing a short musical play, or playing instruments. All church members, including the children's parents, gathered at the concert and celebrated Christmas watching children's joyous and cheerful performances.

There are no meals specific for Christmas in Korea, but many families prepare birthday cakes and candles to celebrate Jesus' birthday. On Christmas Eve, we can see many people walking with cake boxes in their hands.

We have only spent one Christmas here in the U.K. as our family has just moved in a little more than a year ago. Wherever we are, it is the same that we wait for Jesus to come to the earth as our Saviour and our King of Glory. We will also sing carols at this year's Christmas with great joy and in heavenly peace: Joy to the world the Lord has Come!

**Jihae Kim**



## Nine Lessons and Carols

**On Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup> we shall be holding our 'Carols by Candlelight' service in the evening.** As in previous years this will consist of about nine Bible readings interspersed with carols, telling the story of Christmas, and is loosely based on the service which has been held annually at Kings College Cambridge on Christmas Eve for precisely *100* years. The Kings College format has been copied by churches all over the world: a simple structure combining tradition with flexibility (especially in the choice of carols) which never becomes stale.

The service actually originated in Cornwall in 1880: Rev George Somerset Walpole, then Succentor of Truro Cathedral, thought that a service of carols and readings on Christmas Eve might attract people who would otherwise be heading for the pub.



Bishop Benson of Truro took up the idea enthusiastically and made a selection of readings. In 1918 his ideas were simplified by the Very Rev Eric Milner-White, then Dean of Kings College Cambridge. Milner-White wrote the beautiful Bidding Prayer and Blessing which are still used today, and it was Arthur Mann, then college organist, who had the inspired idea of beginning the service with the carol 'Once in Royal

David's City', the first verse of which is traditionally sung unaccompanied by a boy treble.

Of course, the worldwide popularity of the Kings carol service owes everything to radio and TV: it was first broadcast on the BBC 'wireless' in 1928 at a time when the Kings choir was indisputably the best in the country - if not the world. In the 1960s David Willcocks, then Director of Music at the college, raised the standard of singing even higher and composed a number of memorable descants and arrangements which are now firm favourites in the Christmas carol repertoire. Each year since 1982 the current Director of Music, Stephen Cleobury, has commissioned a new carol from an eminent composer.

One needs to be aware that the Christmas Eve programme 'Carols from Kings' on BBC TV is not the 'real' service: it is recorded a few weeks before Christmas and contains more carols and different readings from the 'live' service, which is only broadcast on BBC Radio. However, the TV version



does allow you to experience the incomparable beauty of the Kings College Chapel. In this centenary year why not listen to both?! You will hear wonderful music sung by an amazing choir in a stunning building, and you will be able to meditate on words that encapsulate the *true* meaning of Christmas.

### ***Milner-White's Bidding Prayer***

*'Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass... Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.'*

**John Fisher**

### **Christmas Day lunch at Kingston URC**

Christmas Lunch at Kingston URC comes together every year, to make a festive occasion and a warm, fun atmosphere for anything up to 70 people. Who runs it? Well, each year has a slightly different team, depending who will be around on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The format and process only varies according to who is in the team that year, but it needs a couple of people in a leading role, to push things ahead and be a focus – and possibly a firm hand - on the Day.

Meetings happen a couple of weeks in advance, for volunteers for: *the cooking team; shopping for the food; shopping for presents for all the guests; wrapping the presents (usually led by Jenny Milner); entertaining/music, in the Foyer beforehand and in the Hall ; laying out the furniture in the Hall; washing up during and after the meal; welcoming people; co-ordinating lifts (no public transport on 25<sup>th</sup>) ; dealing with the sound system, and anything else!*

These meetings – usually one in advance, and one closer to the day – start the warm atmosphere going, that all will be well. The aim is, firstly that all will enjoy a delicious meal, and also, that all-comers will feel welcome, and be entertained in and among the feasting! One year, we played Bingo at the tables – prizes of all sorts; presents are given out and the friendly atmosphere continues until the end. Surprisingly, we cannot find any photos of past Lunches, although there are always lots taken – maybe a lasting record can be made this year!

*If you feel the main co-ordinator could be you, or if you want to help, please tell Lesley, Cathy or Catherine.*

**Nigel Tunley** writes: Whilst I understand there is unlikely to be a handbook produced early next year, it would be good if this new email address ([nigeltunley25@gmail.com](mailto:nigeltunley25@gmail.com)) could be mentioned in the next edition of Church News.

## Season's Greetings - By Emma Wookey (Aged 13)

Crisp cold, nothing but Christmas lights scattered around,  
With a crisp layer of snow settled on the ground,  
A snowman built up from the floor,  
And Father Christmas knocking at your door,  
Hibernating and hiding away from the cold,  
Watching the Christmas star made out of gold,  
Waiting for the leaves on the trees to grow,  
Leaving behind the cold and the snow,

A new start has to begin,  
And that can start with a new-born Spring,  
Flowers and colours line the street,  
And new-born lambs getting up to their feet,  
A light breeze brushes over the lands,  
Whilst children sneak Easter eggs in their hands,  
Little chicks come out to meet,  
As the blazing sun turns up the heat,

Laughter and happiness fills the air,  
As families around the world have barbeques to share,  
With parties, gatherings and new school exams,  
School is over with a wave of hands,  
Holidays come bounding as suitcases are packed,  
And it's over too soon, too quick, that's that,  
Long nights of sleep are replaced with early nights for school,  
And hot sun is replaced with rain and the cool.

Leaves are turning and falling to the ground,  
And laughter is replaced with an Autumn  
crunchy sound,  
Bonfires and fireworks fill the night sky,  
And to get a cold, you don't have to try,  
And so, the cycle continues once more,  
As Winter comes bounding up to your door.

Emma is Steve & Tony Wenman's Grand-  
daughter.

She submitted this beautiful poem into her  
School poetry competition and won!

Well done Emma!!



## Christmas among the cows



### ***What's so special about a baby in a cattle shed? asks Susan Durber***

There is something utterly extraordinary that we celebrate at Christmas. But it is not, I think, that a baby was once born in a stable. There was a moment in my life, a short while ago, when it suddenly dawned on me that that's not so very odd at all. I was on a Christian Aid visit to India and staying in an ordinary home in a village. I was trying to get to sleep after a long but exciting day. I could hear the man of the house snoring through the thin partition wall. But, much clearer than him, I could also hear the sounds of the cattle from the shed that was right up against the bedroom I was sharing with several other people. The cattle were so close that I could hear them breathing. They were so close that I could even distinguish them from each other. For the whole time of my stay in that household, I never noticed any smell from the cows. The moment it was necessary, their dung would be collected between two wooden boards and carried away in baskets to be used as fuel. The pressed earth floor of the byre was constantly swept clean and the cows were washed down every day. It struck me that being born in that place would not have been an indignity at all. And it struck me that for most people in the world, living so close to animals, bedding down with cattle, using a manger for a bed would be not be striking or scandalous, but just ordinary. The story of Jesus' birth, in that setting, seemed just somehow typical of how life is – animals, babies, travellers, all just mixed up and no one thinking it odd or strange. The extraordinary part of the story is not the setting at all – but the belief that somehow into this very ordinary and very normal human setting, it was God who was coming, God who was being born

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in human form. Neither Romans nor Greeks nor Jews had ever thought that divinity and humanity could be anything other than different from each other – separated and distinct. The classical gods lived in their own separate world, and Moses knew that he couldn't even look upon the face of God. Into that kind of thought world comes the Christian story – and a faith that says that 'the word [of God] became flesh and lived among us' – lived among human beings. The story doesn't say what a shock that a baby could be born in a stable, but that God could be born in human flesh. Where we might think a stable would stink, there were many in the ancient world who thought that human beings all stink, that we're unworthy to be called holy or sacred, not fit for God. Christianity says that's not true – in fact, we are all holy, all blessed by God's touch, all made in the image and likeness of God. The word became flesh to hallow and bless all human life and to show us what has always been true if only we could have seen it, that all people are made in God's image. What few believed in the ancient world, Christians began to believe – that human life is holy, beautiful, good and full of value and worth. This meant that no infant, ill or weak, should be exposed on a hillside and left to die (as any Roman would have done without a second thought), that no person should ever be enslaved to another, that even enemies should be loved and the poor blessed, and that all should be given the worth that God gives all humankind . . . .

This is an extract from an article that was published in the December 2017/ January 2018 edition of Reform (Thanks to **Cathy Seymour** for the article)

## **JANUARY,**

The first month of the year,  
A perfect time to start all over again,  
Changing energies and deserting old moods,  
New beginnings, new attitudes

**Charmaine J Forde**



## **David Hugh MARTIN FOSTER**

**15 December 1936 – 4 October 2018**



Martin's Memorial Service was held at the church on 18 October and here are some extracts from the Foster Family's memories:

**“Why is there anything at all and not nothing?”**

This quote from the German philosopher Heidegger is an early indication of the path Martin's life would follow. His need to get to the heart of a problem was nurtured firstly by his Froebel primary education and later at Kingswood Methodist School in Bath.

Music was strong at Kingswood. As a violinist and viola player Martin discovered chamber music and went on to study music seriously.

Like most of his generation he had a two-year spell doing national service in the RAF, which took him to Schleswig Holstein in northern Germany. He never flew a plane, describing his job as flying a desk. Rather than taking leave to

return home he bought a bike and opted for a journey 50 miles beyond the German border to Italy. National Service gave Martin time to reflect on his choice of study. Instead of reading music at Caius College, Cambridge, he decided to read modern languages, German being his great love. It was hard returning to study after two years away and with the change of subjects. However, he found a renowned professor for his final year, who challenged him and continued his quest for a deeper understanding of thoughts and texts. Martin was then awarded a first-class degree in modern languages.

Teaching was always his calling. He completed a teacher training course in Oxford and took his first post at Maidstone Grammar. After two years Winchester College then invited him to join their staff where he loved the challenge of teaching exceptionally bright boys. Motherly housemasters' wives were always anxious to find young women for these young teachers known as Dons. A local violin teacher called Pat Hardwick was often invited along to events or dinners, as also was a certain Martin Foster. (Actually, they had beaten the matchmakers to it, having already met in the local Orchestra!) Privileged and prestigious though life was in that famous school in Winchester, Martin wanted to experience more aspects of education. He accepted a position in a new comprehensive in the north of England in Carlisle, combining an old grammar school with a secondary modern. As Head of Studies he felt one of his key contributions was organising the daily assembly. For this he involved the older boys, who interviewed several of the staff, many of whom were war veterans and happy to discuss their life experiences.

Too soon for Pat, now with two small boys, Martin found an exciting new challenge 365 miles south in Barnstaple. This was an early combining of all sixth forms in the area and the local technical college, which became North Devon College. They were 10 happy years for all the family, now with a third child in tow, living in some of the most glorious countryside and coastline anywhere. But one day an insignificant brown envelope dropped on the mat inviting Martin to an interview to join Her Majesty's Inspectorate (the HMI). And off the family went again, this time east to Norwich. Martin really enjoyed his work as an HMI, helping and encouraging in the schools visited, and working nationally with a range of colleagues with similar objectives. Towards the end of this role he was seconded to the Audit Commission for one year. Work in the Inspectorate might have continued for a few more years, but the Government of the time decided to restructure the inspecting system, and created Ofsted. Martin saw this as the moment to retire and return to teaching.

At the time, post-communism, Voluntary Services Overseas were looking for teachers of English. Martin, always the adventurer, joined the pedagogical faculty in Nitra, Slovakia, and Pat was invited to go too. An EU funded project, it paid for students to take a special short course to train as teachers of English in their schools. These early students were amazed and delighted by the different approach Martin brought to learning. A post-script on a student's first essay marked by Martin was 'I hope I have done it properly. I have never been asked for my opinions before'. He found an eager group of very bright students. The peak was when, with other Slovak and English colleagues, Martin organised a 10 day course in the wintry High Tatra mountains. 'Lessons' were journalism, radio, acting, debating, writing, choir - all in English of course. It was a very happy experience for Martin and Pat, who came away from Slovakia with many new friends and a new-found openness. Many friendships were made and warm tributes have come 25 years later from two of those former students.

Back in Norwich, his need to explore ideas was channelled into U3A. He chose topics he wanted to study and invited others to join him. At the same time music became dominant again – Martin was singing in a choir, playing in an orchestra and he and Pat formed a quartet which lasted 25 years with the same people. During this time Martin was on the Parish Council of St Peter Mancroft and enjoyed its history acting as a guide for some years. Having been in Norwich for 32 years, enjoying all the cultural and scenic benefits Norfolk had to offer, Pat and Martin moved again, this time to Surrey to be near their three children and their families. Once again Martin joined the U3A for the study of Poetry, Greek Myths and German conversation. At the same time Martin and Pat joined KURC, Claygate Choral Society and the church choir and made many new friends.

Sadly, one of the worst aspects of Parkinson's for Martin was becoming unable to lead and having to be a mere participant, but he bore his illness with characteristic stoicism and remained active until the end, enjoying local walks and visiting Hampton Court. Almost daily, he and Pat played fast games of table tennis on the kitchen island, when he often won with his devastating spinning returns.

Among the long list of Martin's admirable qualities were kindness, patience, intelligence, wisdom, a strong work ethic, thrift, good humour and a desire to help others. With his highly inquisitive mind, he particularly loved to ponder philosophical questions. Martin celebrated the wonders around us, and he chose a spiritual response to life in doing so.



## **The Sunday Service that soothes the soul .....**

I know that for most of our Church the 10am or the 11.30am are your way of "praising the Lord" but for some of us, for various reasons, the Sunday evening "reflective" service is just the tonic we need to start another challenging week of being a Christian. In fact, living in Raynes Park my "local" URC would be Wimbledon but I decided to try Kingston some four years ago now simply because it offered an evening service where others didn't. Of course, I've been to the other morning services from time to time but for those who've experienced the evening one then for us it's the jewel in the crown and very special to all of us who attend. Why the evening service? Well for the first 20 years of my life I spent at Tooting Congregational later URC when it was a huge cavernous place with oak pews, beautiful oak tables and vases of chrysanthemums in shiny brass vases. But aside from the jumble sales, church bazaars, Boy's Brigade etc my abiding memory is going as a teenager to the evening service and simply enjoying the stillness and peacefulness of giving thanks at the end of the day with the sound of the buses roaring past.

Does that make us evening Church Members invisible to the rest of the congregation? Well to some maybe, but we are all different and we all have Gods gifts and talents to bring to the table that is our Church. I know that some of our evening attendees prefer it because they may be struggling with ill health, bereavement or like me being an NHS employee have to work some Sunday mornings. So, if you feel you can't get to one of the morning services because of other Sunday morning commitments like a family lunch etc or visiting friends then don't forget to try the 6.30pm service instead. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how enriching it can be!

PS: I was at a Sunday 10am service on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> when our Ken Bartlett was going to give the Sermon but unfortunately was unable to do so due to ill health and this little nugget of a prayer at the very end of his Sermon is repeated here:

"May God bless us that we remember we are all called to continue God's redemptive work of love and healing in God's place, in and through God's name, in God's spirit, continually creating and breathing new life and grace into everything and everyone we touch". Amen

**Robin Pilbeam**

## From our Friends near and far . . . . .

### An end of year message from Ted & Jane Bellingham

First and foremost, warmest greetings to everyone at KURC! As some of you will know I was ordained and inducted at what was formerly Bookham URC back in September. Renamed Eastwick Road Church (ERC), this small but lively congregation of which Jane and I are now part of, echoes with the sound of up to a dozen children each Sunday, with a further 40 adults worshipping our Lord with a mixture of traditional and more modern songs and prayer styles. We have a small but enthusiastic worship group in addition to our organist and like KURC we regularly use a projector for both worship songs and meaningful media clips.



The church has been without URC ordained ministry for many years. But due to God-led and inspired lay leadership over the last decade the Church has grown both spiritually and numerically. It has also substantially extended and modernised its buildings. These offer a large foyer between the sanctuary and main hall; as well as modern toilets and kitchen; and an additional meeting room. The church is blessed with a significant revenue from the hire of these rooms, including a play school five days a week. We live only fifteen minutes drive away so I am able to call in to meet the various users of the premises and to offer regular 'office' hours when members of our church family can pop in for a chat.

The community the Church serves is an amalgam of four villages to the west of

Leatherhead. The total population is close to 15,000 with as many as 1000 new homes being built over the next two years. T

Thanks to the foresight of its leadership, ERC is well positioned to harvest this mission field. I feel privileged to have been called here and look forward to journeying forward with the church at this exciting time. Our prayer is that through the power of the Spirit our fellowship can bring more people to know Jesus and accept him as their Lord and Saviour.

As Jane and I embark on this journey we reflect with fondness on our time at KURC. Your love, friendship and support meant a lot to us over those nine months. Not only was it a fun time but it enabled our respective ministries to develop and broaden. Jane joins me in sending our love to all those we were fortunate enough to meet and to extend a warm welcome to worship at ERC should you ever wish to join us on a Sunday morning.

Yours in Christ,

**Ted & Jane**



**Eastwick Road Church, Bookham**

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

## From our Friends near & far – New Malden URC

### The Lamps of Truth

As we look to Him as our guide,  
 It's part of His plan on the upward way,  
 While He's walking by your side.  
 He promised that if we truly seek,  
 We should find Him as we learn,  
 So, self-deception will lose its power,  
 And the Lamps of Truth will burn  
 If you hold on fast in the blackest times,  
 When hurts are too deep for tears,  
 The Wisdom of God will guide your feet.  
 And His Grace will hallow the years  
 No need to drift on the stage of life,  
 Just like puppets pulled on strings,  
 Walk tall, with the knowledge that even you,  
 Are a child of the King of Kings.  
 So don't be afraid what the future holds,  
 Whatever your age or kind,  
 Accept the challenge that each day brings,  
 And God's gift of a thinking mind



*W.M.T This was written by Sylvia Miller's mother*

### Poured landscape

Many of the canvasses hung in the Foyer are created using a process called acrylic pouring. On Saturday 3rd November I held an art sale to raise funds for KURC as well as a demonstration of how the paintings are created.



Acrylic pouring involves mixing acrylic paint with a silicone-based oil and water, pouring the colours together in a cup and emptying them on to a canvas and then encouraging the paint to cover the surface. It is a time-consuming process which is very messy but very rewarding – no two canvasses are the same. I hope you enjoy looking at the art; I have hung the canvasses one way but there is no right way.

**Carol Clack**

## “Au Revoir” from Joe Neligan

At his leaving celebration Joe had a few words to say about his time at KURC.



“As many of you know, I am a man of few words. After 18 months, I am retiring. In a few weeks’ time I will become an OAP.

Reflecting on my time here, I can say it has been unlike anywhere else that I have worked during my 47 years of working. KURC is a special, unique and different (in a good way) place. The church has been inclusive, welcoming and is very tuned in to

the community. The Mayo Centre complements the work of the church and hosts many and varied events, many of them being community based (*Joe read out a very long list of our clients and users*). Like all workplaces, in my experience it is the people that make them and here the people are special too. Friendly, helpful, supportive, interested and pleasant – hardly a bad word spoken. I would love to list all your names, but that would take too long. Instead, I will mention 2 people specifically.

**Lesley**, our minister...what can I say?

Her energy, enthusiasm, commitment and interest are infectious. She is a tower of strength and force for good. She is a keen football fan (even if we don’t agree) and has a great sense of humour.

**Catherine**, my boss is a remarkable person. So helpful, patient and understanding of me. She works so hard, never avoids an issue, has sound judgement, is good company and really makes this building tick. She does so much more than people realise. Please support her and give her your love, it will be returned with interest.

Now I come to the unremarkable people (or person), that would be me. I may be unremarkable, but I am lucky, lucky is good:

lucky to have spent some time with you all;

lucky to have my wife, children and grandchildren;

lucky to have a number of good friends – hard to believe!

lucky to have my health and strength for which I thank God.

So I plan to enjoy these gifts I have. I will spend time with my family and friends, travel more, do more with my interests – DIY, gardening and football. I will return from time to time to cover absences or to steward.

So maybe it’s Au Revoir, rather than farewell.

**Joe Neligan**

## Jesus' Female Disciples – a talk at St Paul's Cathedral

Recently Georgina Forbes and I went to St Paul's Cathedral where we attended an interesting talk under the banner of "My Soul Glorifies the Lord – Jesus' Female Disciples". This talk was given by Professor Helen Bond (who is Professor in Christian Origins at the University of Edinburgh) and by Professor Joan Taylor (who is Professor of Christian Origins at King's College, London) Both of them have written books which were sold after the talk and both of them were involved with the History Channel Miniseries *The Bible* and for BBC 1's *The Nativity*. And also providing historical consultancy for the 2018 film *Mary Magdalene*. Their documentary *Jesus' Female Disciples* (Minerva Production) was screened on Channel 4 in April this year. They researched widely the notion that female disciple in fact crucial to the Jesus movement. Profoundly scandalous at the time, the idea remains highly controversial even 2,000 years later.



**Natasha Reid**

## On the Margins . . . . .

At least 449 homeless people have died in the UK during the last 12 months, an investigation has found. The figures produced by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) are the first attempt to catalogue the number of homeless people to die in a year.

The ages of the deceased ranged between 18 and 94, and 69% of them were men. A government spokeswoman said £1.2bn was being invested to tackle "all forms of homelessness" and it intended to end rough sleeping by 2027. Howard Sinclair, chief executive of homeless charity St Mungo's, referred to the "entirely preventable" deaths as a "national scandal". The causes of death included assault, drug overdoses, illness, and suicide. At least one of the deceased showed signs of prolonged starvation. Some bodies had gone undiscovered for so long that forensic tests were needed to identify the deceased. From the 348 deceased where the ages were known, the average age for the homeless men was 49, and for women it was 53 years old.

**Robin Pilbeam**



## Lourdes

**Georgina Forbes** writes, this year I was given the opportunity to go to Lourdes, the town where Bernadette Soubirous had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary between February and July 1858.



Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879)

Bernadette was born the eldest of nine children of a poor miller. She survived cholera as a child but suffered from asthma and other ailments all her short life. At the age of 14 she had a series of visions of the Virgin Mary who spoke to her and gave her some instructions, including 'to wash in the water'. 'The water' turned out to be a spring which Bernadette had to dig in the earth to find. When asked her name, the vision eventually revealed her identity as 'The Immaculate Conception'. The last apparition was on 16 July 1858. Bernadette faced opposition from her parents, the local clergy and civil authorities but with the support of a local Priest, she faithfully transmitted Mary's messages. She escaped the hostile reception by becoming a boarder at a local school and in 1866 became a novice at the convent at Nevers where she stayed until her death on 16 April

1879. The spring which Bernadette discovered in Lourdes and has become a place of pilgrimage for thousands of people a year. The 'Domaine' now contains several chapels, Stations of the Cross, two Basilicas, the grotto, where Bernadette had her visions and baths where one may be immersed in water from the local springs. A river, originating in the Pyrenees runs through the complex.

We went with a mixed group of able and disabled people and stayed in a hostel about an hour's walk from the Sanctuary. The area was peaceful and we were kept busy with visits to the Sanctuary. On the Wednesday we travelled through the foothills of the Pyrenees for a picnic lunch and to view a magnificent waterfall. The area was very remote but was clearly a magnet for walkers, some of whom were braving the heavy rain as they explored the local countryside.

In my free time I visited the very imposing looking fort which dominated the town of Lourdes. Originally a Roman fort it had been extended and fortified by the Saracens. In 778 Charlemagne laid siege to the fort and starved out its inhabitants. As an almost impregnable stronghold controlling important trade routes in the foothills of the Pyrenees, the fort was held by a succession of Counts. In the 14<sup>th</sup> Century it was permanently extended and in 1590, under Henri IV, it became a royal domain and later a prison. Now the castle is a museum with displays of farming instruments, household items, ninepins, costumes, models of Pyrenean architecture, animals and birds plus the layout of a formidable fortress. Clearly much of what we experienced was directed by the priests who accompanied us and they ensured that in addition to the Sanctuary we were taken to visit a Byzantine-Ukrainian Church, a Polish Convent and the Parish Church of Bartres.

On most visits to the Sanctuary we went to a particular area for a service or ritual but were then given free time to visit other areas or to sit quietly in peace. I do not believe one needs to be a Catholic to understand why it is considered by many millions of people to be a place of healing.



## KURC Book Club Reflections

As we reach the end of the year, it's a time for reflection as well as looking forward. Our Book Club has been running for a little over a year. We are a small but committed group who have met on a regular basis. We are not like a 'Richard and Judy' type book club - we seek out books which support our intent of 'spiritual development'. It's fair to say that over the year we have all read books which we would otherwise not have chosen and benefitted from them. Equally, our opinions of each book have been varied and not necessarily in agreement. It's great that we are all different and seeking the perspectives of others also has a part to play in our spiritual development. We have fun too! Cake is always on hand with tea/coffee. What could be better?

As we reflect back, these are the wide-ranging books we have read since we have started. If you would like to borrow or know more about any of them, please let us know.

***The Alchemist*** by Paulo Coelho

***The Great Divorce*** by C S Lewis

***A Path with Heart*** by Jack Kornfield

***God with us*** by Rowan Williams

***A Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled*** by Ruby Wax

***That Other Voice : In Search of a God Who Speaks***  
by Graham Turner

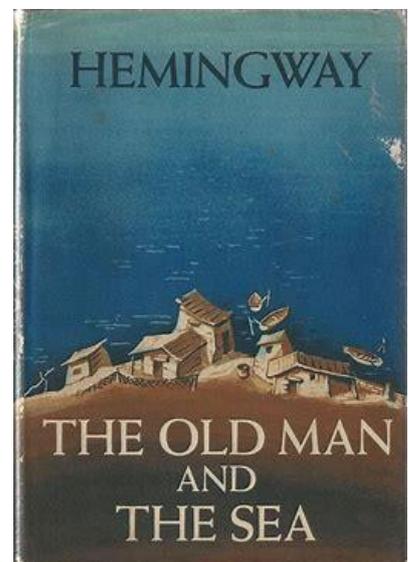
***The Spiral Staircase*** by Karen Armstrong

***The Razor's Edge*** by W. Somerset Maugham

***Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*** by Karen  
Armstrong

***The Old Man and the Sea*** by Ernest Hemingway

***The Road to Character*** by David Brooks



Perhaps you would like to join us in 2019? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at Katie Frost's home which means the first meeting of the new year will be on 15 January. See you then? You would be most welcome.

A very happy Christmas and reading year to you all!

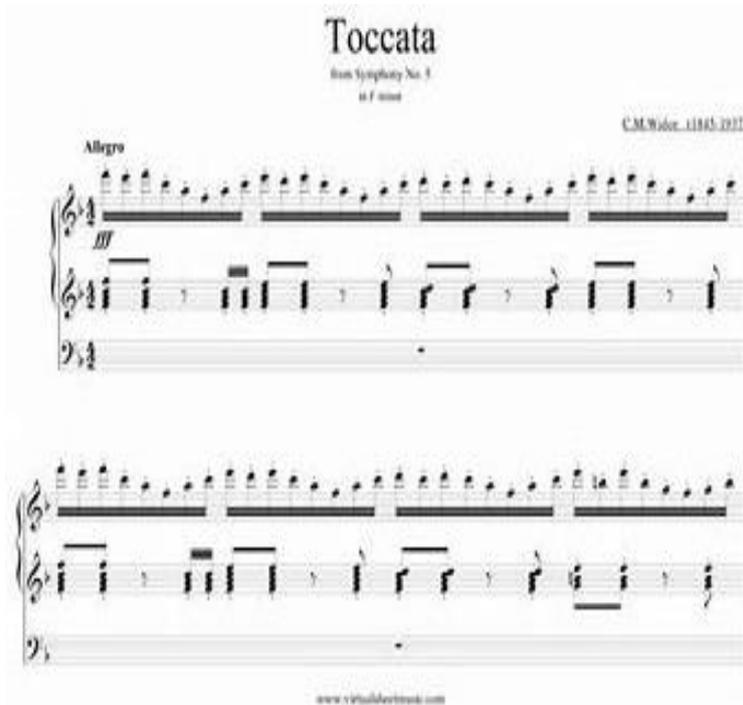
**Katie Frost and Linda Austin on behalf of the KURC Book Club**

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## Music at KURC in 2018 – and what's to come in 2019: a report from our Music Committee

2018 was a very busy year in the musical life of our church!



Following Tony's well-earned retirement, having completed 50 years as our esteemed organist, we set up a rota of players comprising Nigel, Sulhee, Ruth and Janet Williams, who is organist at Whiteley Village and a member of the K3A Orchestra. Sulhee has been having organ lessons from Matthew O'Malley, organist at All Saints, and it is rumoured she is nearly ready to give us a rendition of Widor's Toccata (that is if the organ, which has been a bit poorly recently, will let

her.)

The Band which leads the 11.30 service has been growing in size and confidence. They have some talented new singers and have been joined by Martyn Verge playing trumpet. Two new microphones have been purchased and Sulhee directs with flair.

The Choir has taken part in several services over the year and their contribution to worship (particularly at the Christmas Carols by Candlelight service) is much appreciated – but they could do with more singers in every department. Give it a try – there is no audition!

In October we held a 'HymnFest', very ably led by Peter Bullett of New Malden Methodist Church. This was attended by about 70 keen singers from churches around the borough and we learnt several really good new hymns and worship songs. All agreed it was well worth repeating.

Our regular monthly lunchtime recitals have attracted audiences averaging around 40 to 50. These have featured top class musicians playing a variety of instruments such as cello, flute, clarinet and even harp, all of which sound amazing in our resonant acoustic. Keep an eye on posters in the foyer.

One of our piano recitalists, Elia Stavrou, recently made an impressive 'studio recording' in our sanctuary of works by Bach and Gershwin. These have been

uploaded (with due acknowledgement) onto YouTube, so KURC now has a presence there.

We were greatly honoured when the South Oxhey Choir, formerly directed by Gareth Malone and now by Tony's son in law Simon Wookey, travelled many miles to give their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in our church. A most memorable event.

Several of our members play in the K3A Orchestra which practises in our sanctuary on Wednesday mornings and gives three concerts each year, one of which is in KURC. They put in an enormous amount of hard work and their concert performances are always highly polished and enjoyable. Do come to the next one in All Saints on Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>!

So what's on the musical menu for next year? Plans are afoot to produce a CD of KURC musicians (of which there are around 30!) playing a range of 'quiet' music to relax to. This will take a lot of planning and rehearsals but we are confident that we have the talent and determination to achieve a really worthwhile and professional result.

Yes, there aren't many moments in the week when music cannot be heard wafting through the windows of KURC!

*"Praise Him with fanfares on the trumpet! Praise Him upon lute and harp! Praise Him with tambourines and dancing! Praise Him with flute and strings! Praise Him with the clash of cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"*

**(Psalm 150)**



**Catrin Meek** (harp) and **Meera Maharaj** (flute), both from the Royal Academy of Music who played at a recent lunchtime recital

## A Nation's Thank You



### In remembrance of Robert Frederick Petitt (known as Fred)

In July we entered a ballot to walk in the Nation's Thank you procession on Armistice Day, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the end of the First World War. This was to be a march of 10,000 members of the public who had a connection with the First World War and for us it was Barbara's father, Robert Frederick Petitt who had fought in and survived the war.

Today, November 11<sup>th</sup> we have completed the procession and it was a truly wonderful experience. We arrived at the Mall in time to see and hear the main event at 11am, including the gun salutes marking the beginning and end of the two minutes silence. We were given service papers so could join in with the singing (O God, our help in ages past) and the prayers. Afterwards we witnessed the many groups who returned to their barracks and coaches and were able to show our own appreciation of them by applauding.

We waited for our turn to start and chatted to those around us about their history and family connections. There were people from all over this country and others and of all ages, with all sorts of stories. The atmosphere was positive and friendly and the young and not so young chatted together with more good humour and laughter than anything else.

Then it was our turn. We had been placed in blocks which were stewarded by young people from the National Citizen Service (NCS) and moved off block by block. We were led by various military bands and our block had one with a definite Scottish air – bagpipes, kilts and lots of shouting of orders (at each other, not us!!). First, we walked under Admiralty Arch then around the corner into Whitehall, then past the Cenotaph and into Great George Street and Birdcage Walk. As we started off, we found that there were still hundreds of people lining the route so we were cheered and clapped as we went along which was extremely moving.



We finally dispersed back at St James Park when we went in search of our overnight luggage and car. The area is dotted with several popular hostelryes and

as we walked along there was a definite military presence outside most of them. We came away with our commemorative pin, lots of happy memories and in Barbara's case a scooter with a flat battery. To anyone else reading this who was there we hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

**Barbara Fielding (nee Petitt) and Denise Scorer**



Yesterday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, was the celebration of the end of the First World War 100-years ago. Like all Churches around Britain we had a special service to commemorate those who gave their lives for our today and for our grand-children's future. We also remembered all the victims of present wars.

At 11am we observed two minutes silence while the entire congregation faced the plaque on the Sanctuary wall with the names of 27 men from this church who gave their lives in the First World War. Later the names of men who died in the Second World War had been added to the list. John Fisher gave us a brief history of the stained-glass window which is located on the same wall above the plaque. He and Sue Watts researched and compiled a history book a couple of years ago about all those men who never returned to this church.

Lesley expanded on what was represented on the stained-glass window. She said that a Man who has wings is rising towards the heavens. His Love has conquered Death which lingers at the bottom of his feet as a dark, shadowy figure....

The congregation was invited to light candles in memory of those who died while fighting or carrying a torch of love and peace. The Church choir sang the beautiful songs and hymns, and one of them "*Light a Candle for Peace*" resonated what was on the minds of all present.

***"Light a candle for peace;  
peace to a world lost in night.  
Waiting, hoping, watching for the light.  
Say a prayer for peace,  
And believe that God will provide.  
He will touch each of us with the light.  
Light a candle for peace."***

Martyn Verge played the Last Post solemnly on his trumpet and Lesley told about the meaning of wearing red poppies which decorate our chests. By wearing them we demonstrate that we remember the blood spilled for us and that we are praying to the Lord to bring us peace so that poppies will continue to decorate fields and meadows in the future".

**Natasha Reid**

## From our archives:

### **December 1988 – The Men's Forum.**

Would anyone like to cook lunch for the Men's Forum? Pam Lawlor retired this month from cooking lunches for the Handwork Club and Men's Forum after fifteen years. Sadly, the Handwork Club has folded but the Men's Forum goes on regardless. We have about fifteen members, with an average attendance of about twelve. We meet on the first Wednesday of



each month except during August, and although we could finish up with sandwiches and coffee it would be much nicer with a cooked lunch. If the cook was ambitious, it could develop into a more organised lunch which others in the Church could join. Details and costs would have to be worked out and helps would be needed on a regular basis. Please let the Minister or myself know if you are interested or think you could help.

**April 1988 – The Social and Welfare Committee** thought long and hard about its function and wished to “provide social and other functions which promote a friendly and family atmosphere” and came up with: “The Naughty (Eighteen) Nineties. Capture the romance of a Viennese café, savour the delights of La Belle Epoque and enjoy a Summer's evening, bring a picnic, tickets limited to 30.

**January 1988 saw “The Alternative Olympic Games”** – An evening of fun and games in the Mayo Hall where at 7.45pm prompt The Olympic Flame will be lit and stretchers will be provided for injured athletes!

**January 1988: Tooting URC celebrates its tercentenary (300 years!) on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January.** All welcome. (I had to add this one as my late Mother would have been there probably in the kitchen doing the washing up, as she spent her whole life there, not 300 years!)  
**Robin Pilbeam**

**January 1988 – Our Christmas Tree.** Once again, we were indebted to Mr Cochrane for the gift of a huge Christmas Tree and to those who so beautifully decorated it in the Church with coloured lights and tinsel etc. We would like to thank them on behalf of the Church both for the gift and for the work involved in setting the tree in place and in decorating it. A thought which might be considered for another year is that the tree should be lit with white lights only. This was done a year or so back when the Polhemus's took charge. White lights, with a prominent star on the top, it was suggested, was more appropriate in the Church to indicate Light coming into the world, whereas the coloured lights and tinsel tend to emphasise the less important side of Christmas.

### **December 1978 – Senior Department outing on November 18<sup>th</sup>.**

We started from the Church at 2.30pm and walked over to Home Park where we were given questionnaires. When we arrived at Hampton Court we rushed straight to the Maze, but it was shut. We then went to the Café and had a drink. We walked 'round to the South Front and saw the sundial but it was not working because it was not sunny. The grounds of Hampton Court are beautiful, especially the gardens. We went to the Vine and saw where the grapes grew. It was then 4.30 and Hampton Court was closing. We walked back along the river bank. We came back to the Church exhausted and were given a smashing meal by Mrs Verge's Group. After that we played lots of games. Altogether there were about 24 of us and by the end of the evening we were all very tired.

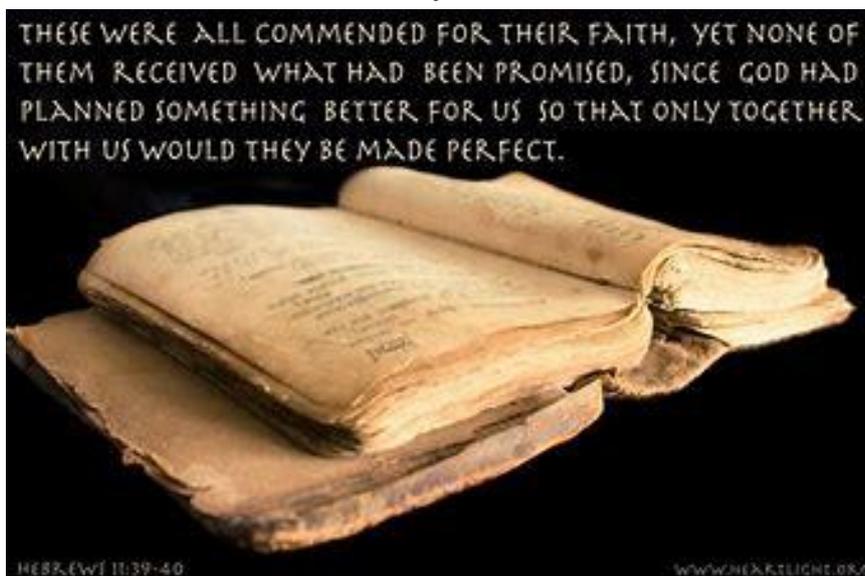
### **Church News – still reaching out in 1948!**

As the Kingston Congregational Church News Sheet, the June 1948 issue read: "Give a copy to a friend" – Our news sheet has been slightly enlarged in size and a picture cover has been added – as all can see. We have also increased the number of copies available and some will be distributed to families who, though not regular worshippers with us, may be interested in our activities. In addition, we want copies to reach neighbours; friends and business acquaintances of members and we appeal to all who can distribute an extra copy or two in this way. Bringing our work to a wider circle may have far-reaching results for both the new readers and for the Church.

**Robin Pilbeam**

**John Fisher our Church Archivist writes:** The sermon that was preached in this Church on the Sunday after the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 was printed in the Church magazine, and survives in the church archives. It makes fascinating reading. Our archivist has made some photocopies, which are available in the vestibule.

The sermon is titled 'The Greater Victory' and takes as its text Hebrews Chapter 11 verse 39.





## Readings for Dec'18/Jan'19

The list can be downloaded at from the IBRA website at: [www.ibraglobal.org](http://www.ibraglobal.org)

Saturday 1 December Romans 8:35–39

### ADVENT WITH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

#### 1 The Word of God

Sunday 2 December Genesis 1:1–5  
 Monday 3 December John 1:1–18  
 Tuesday 4 December Isaiah 55:6–11  
 Wednesday 5 December John 1:19–28  
 Thursday 6 December Psalm 2  
 Friday 7 December Exodus 3:1–15  
 Saturday 8 December John 8:42–59

#### 2 I am...

Sunday 9 December Exodus 16:1–9  
 Monday 10 December John 6:25–35  
 Tuesday 11 December Isaiah 60:19–20  
 Wednesday 12 December John 8:12  
 Thursday 13 December John 11:17–27  
 Friday 14 December Psalm 118:15–23  
 Saturday 15 December John 10:1–10

### THE POWER OF THE WORD

Tuesday 1 January John 1:1–14  
 Wednesday 2 January Jeremiah 1:1–12  
 Thursday 3 January Deuteronomy 30:1–16  
 Friday 4 January Psalm 119:11–25  
 Saturday 5 January John 17:13–21

### READINGS IN LUKE (1)

#### 1 Births and beginnings

Sunday 6 January Luke 1:1–17  
 Monday 7 January Luke 1:18–25  
 Tuesday 8 January Luke 1:26–38  
 Wednesday 9 January Luke 1:39–56 Thursday  
 10 January Luke 1:57–66  
 Friday 11 January Luke 1:67–80  
 Saturday 12 January Luke 4:14–30 2

#### 2 Spreading the word

Sunday 13 January Luke 4:31–44  
 Monday 14 January Luke 5:1–11  
 Tuesday 15 January Luke 5:12–16 Wednesday  
 16 January Luke 5:17–26 Thursday 17 January  
 Luke 5:27–39  
 Friday 18 January Luke 6:1–16  
 Saturday 19 January Luke 6:17–26

#### 3 The good shepherd, the way, the true vine

Sunday 16 December Ezekiel 34:1–16  
 Monday 17 December Psalm 23  
 Tuesday 18 December John 10:11–18  
 Wednesday 19 December John 14:1–7  
 Thursday 20 December Isaiah 5:1–7  
 Friday 21 December John 15:1–11  
 Saturday 22 December John 1:1–21

#### Treasured in our hearts

Sunday 23 December Matthew 1:18–23  
 Monday 24 December Titus 3:4–7  
 Tuesday 25 December (Christmas Day) Luke  
 2:1–7  
 Wednesday 26 December Luke 2:8–20  
 Thursday 27 December Psalm 97  
 Friday 28 December Luke 2:21–40  
 Saturday 29 December Ezekiel 36:22–32  
 Sunday 30 December Psalm 90:1–2, 12–17  
 Monday 31 December Isaiah 60:1–9

#### 3 Are you the one?

Sunday 20 January Luke 6:27–42  
 Monday 21 January Luke 6:43–49  
 Tuesday 22 January Luke 7:1–17  
 Wednesday 23 January Luke 7:18–35  
 Thursday 24 January Luke 7:36–39  
 Friday 25 January Luke 8:1–15  
 Saturday 26 January Luke 8:16–25

### THE BIBLE AT THE MOVIES

#### 1 Epic beginnings

Sunday 27 January Psalm 140:1–13  
 Monday 28 January Genesis 2:4b–9  
 Tuesday 29 January Genesis 2:18–24  
 Wednesday 30 January Genesis 3:1–13  
 Thursday 31 January Genesis 4:1–16  
 Friday 1 February Matthew 26:20–29  
 Saturday 2 February Ephesians 2:14–22

## Regular activities

### Sunday:

15.30 Messy Church (monthly, for dates see Worship Diary on Pages 2-3)

### Monday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)

### Tuesday:

19.30 Book Club: (third Tuesday monthly)  
Speak to Linda Austin or Katie Frost for location. Linda Austin writes:  
Tues 18 Dec: there will be no Book Club meeting. The next Book Club meeting will be on Tues 15 Jan'19 at 19.30.

### Wednesday:

10.00 Tots' Praise  
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 Ballroom and Latin American dancing with Lyn  
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](http://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 13 February; 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](http://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***

## 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

### MINISTERS

Rev Lesley M Charlton  
Tel: 020 8399 4423  
E-mail: [minister@kingstonurc.org](mailto:minister@kingstonurc.org)

Rev Suk In Lee  
Tel: 020 8949 2070  
E-mail: [leesukin@hotmail.com](mailto:leesukin@hotmail.com)

### CHURCH SECRETARY

Cathy Seymour  
Tel: 020 8549 1431  
E-mail: [chsec@kingstonurc.org](mailto:chsec@kingstonurc.org)

### 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 CHURCH OFFICERS

**Treasurer**  
Christine Chippendale  
Tel: 07738 562457  
E-mail: [treasurer@kingstonurc.org](mailto:treasurer@kingstonurc.org)

**Youth & Families Worker:**  
Sally Butler  
Tel: 07807 348326  
E-mail: [youth@kingstonurc.org](mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org)

**Centre Manager:**  
Catherine Treweek  
**Operations Assistant:**

Monday – Friday; 09.00 – 17.30  
Tel: 020 8549 1888  
E-mail: [premises@urckington.org.uk](mailto:premises@urckington.org.uk)

Mission Development Worker

Through Music  
Sulhee Kim Tel: 07528 462613  
Email: [sulhee.kim4him@gmail.com](mailto:sulhee.kim4him@gmail.com)

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

## Caption competition:

John Fisher sent me this rather interesting picture taken about 10 years ago. The queue of people outside the church actually went half way down Union Street but the camera didn't have a wide enough lens to get it all in.

So, there's a box of chocolates for the funniest one and the winner will be announced in the February issue of Church News so don't delay in sending your extremely witty / downright rude caption to Vaughan James who will be editing it.



*Kingston URC is also affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) and the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK).*

Thank you to Mail Boxes Etc, 22 Eden Street, Kingston, KT1 1DN for printing *Church News*  
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