



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHURCH NEWS

February 2019

Kingston United Reformed Church
www.kingstonurc.org



A very **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
from the *Church News* editorial team
to all our readers

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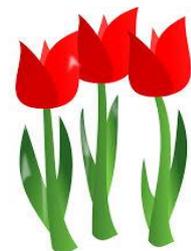
Church worship diary: February 2019

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

Sunday	03	10.00	Traditional worship with communion
		11.30	All-age worship
		18.30	Reflective worship
Tuesday	05	19.50	(Elders meeting)
Wednesday	06	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	08	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	11	10.30	Combined worship
			-- Copy deadline for March Church News: editor Jean Thompson --
		18.30	Reflective worship
Wednesday	13	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	15	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	17	10.00	Traditional worship
		11.30	All-age worship
		18.30	Reflective worship with communion
Wednesday	20	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	22	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	24	10.00	Traditional worship
		11.30	All-age worship with communion
		18.30	Reflective worship
Wednesday	27	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service

Church flowers for February

3 February	Margaret Randall
10 February	Ray Erskine
17 February	# f r e e
24 February	Jean Thompson



If anybody would like to provide the flowers for 17 Feb. please have a word with Jean Thompson.

Letter from Lesley



Dear All,

For over ten years I have been visiting a gorgeous old man called Ernest. I do not remember how it all started. Now he has died. I have no one to mourn his passing with. I have spoken to his neighbour on the phone. She has been great a faithful companion. Ernest aged 104, is dead and I will miss him.

In the final years of his life he was permanently in bed. He did however shout my name when he eventually worked out who I was.

'It's Lesley', 'Lesley', **Lesley** – from the church'.

'Aah Lesley' came the reply followed by a smile. We would talk in earlier years of how his being a mason helped him to relate to people across divides. His long friendship with a German family that he thought of as his closest kin. Nowadays this is not worthy of a note. At his age things were different. So recently there had been mass slaughter in Europe. He would share his sadness about his bereavement and also his childlessness.

He wanted to die. He said so. That happens often. But he did not say it in the usual way it is said. People grumbling about what they can no longer do. For him certainly he was worn out, but more than anything he wanted to rest. To stop. He expected to meet his wife. His darling. His truest love. Her picture had pride of place and his long widowhood was painful to be a witness to.

What makes it interesting is that he had no family at all and yet there is a circle of us who are sad. Not sad that he is dead. This is right in the ordinary biological processes of things. We are not idiots. Just sad that an old man who made our lives better is now not on the earth anymore. The neighbour is too unwell to organise the funeral so her friend steps up. Why would anyone do that? Simple. He was lovely.

Who will mourn us when we die? Will the minister be glad to see the back of us?

Will it be a tight circle of family who have no option but to turn up? What will our neighbours say about us?

We do not have to have an easy time to make a positive impact. We do not have to be able to do loads of things to make people's lives better. It is in the small kindnesses that many lives are improved.

Today each of us can make the world a better place for someone.

Will we?

Yours Lesley

Cathy's conversation



Over the holiday season there are many opportunities for giving and receiving. I have been thinking about how we might express thank you. Two simple words but filled with a lot of emotion, both in the giving and the receiving of the words. I have done a bit of research on this, firstly scientific based and secondly biblically based.

The word “gratitude” is adapted from the Latin word *gratitudinem*, which means thankfulness. It expresses deep reciprocal appreciation of kindness received.

The Greater Good Science Centre (ggsc.berkeley.edu) states us that gratitude has been defined in many ways. Researchers Jeffrey Froh and Giacomo Bono define it as “the appreciation people feel when somebody has done something kind or helpful for them or when they recognise the good things and people they have in their lives”. Robert Emmons, a leading researcher on the impacts of gratitude, calls it a social emotion, because “it requires us to see how we’ve been supported and affirmed by other people”. It notes that people who practice gratitude face problems and challenges in their lives, but they do so with a sense of resiliency and an ability to reframe problems as possibilities for growth.

Psalms gives us many ways to be thankful. Psalm 23 reminds us that we have so much to be grateful for. In the New Testament Paul, despite all his sufferings, often reminded people to be to be thankful. Philippians 4 12-13 is just one example.

We are approaching the season for the elders’ elections. Each year there are changes in the team. There is always a thread of people that have served before and they can support those who are approaching eldership for the first time.

Another little job for the church secretary is to do the annual returns about the church to Southern Synod. It is mostly number crunching stuff, but it is also a joy because as I count our members and friends, for a short moment I have all of you together. The numbers are good but the best bit is that I am grateful that you are here and thankful for all that you give.

Cathy Seymour

News from Hosana

In September 2018, Hosana Lee started a new job in Korea, teaching at Dulwich College, Seoul. She sent us this account of her new life.

End of December 2018

Seoul is freezing cold these days and it will get colder, so I am hoping I will stay well without any flus or colds creeping up on me during the holidays.



I have finally completed my first term at Dulwich Seoul, and Lord knows it's been a whirlwind of a term! Wowzers - they really know how to work you!!! So far, it's been tough but with lots of peaks, settling into a new school with new colleagues and teaching such a diverse and loveable class of children. We have so much emphasis on phonics in Year 2, because the children are all EAL!* I'm always experimenting and exploring ways to play around with my teaching here and there. Our school is also moving teaching towards 'student agency', where we want children to choose their learning, tell the teachers what *they* want and how they want to learn. On top of that, we have had our musical production (gasp in the autumn term when I'm so used to doing these in the summer term!), a Dulwich inspection/observation and (drum roll...) reports! Plus the parent teacher conferences squeezed in somewhere. The reports were truly the end of me.

I love my colleagues, and I am so blessed to work with them and the children (yes, teaching boys has really, REALLY grown on me) are absolutely sweet and so hard working. The day is long, but the holidays make up for rest and recovery, so I'm definitely going to try and balance my work-life in the spring term.

I have to say, I feel as if I have found my feet more or less-ish now in Seoul. Living alone is still tough and lonely most of the time, but then I realise I'm less than 100 metres away from other expat teachers, and family is a train ride away! I am so upset that I haven't been able to visit (Britain and Kingston) this Christmas, but the holidays are really flying by and I wanted to spend more time with granny. I will visit in June when the academic year has ended and I can't wait to see everyone!

Hosana Lee

(* EAL - English as an additional language)

Pastoral News – February 2019

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12v12)

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

God of the old and the new, we thank you for the year that has past and praise you for the year that is now here. Forgive us for all the wrongs we have done and all the hurt we have caused in the past year. Renew us and give us a fresh outpouring of your spirit as we tackle the challenges of the year ahead.

We give thanks for the life of Ron Kingham and pray for Gail and the family as they grieve.

We pray for Marianne and ask for your blessing on her and those caring for her.

We pray for Trudy and Isaac as they return to university. Encourage them in their studies and support them in their faith journey. We remember Jason as he returns to active duty in Northern Ireland. Give him courage and a sense of your peace in his work. We give thanks for the work Sue Shaw is doing with Street Pastors in Antigua. Be with her as she returns there for her final period of work.

We pray for Sulhee as she returns to Korea, bless her time with family and friends. As she applies for a further two year volunteer church worker visa, help her to clearly discern your will for the next phase of her life.

We pray for all those on our regular prayer list. We remember them and ask for your encouragement of them as they struggle with various health issues. Support those who care for them and give us the wisdom to know where we might lend a hand.

We give thanks for the many people who lead worship in our church, ministers and lay preachers and all those who occasionally lead services or parts of services. Inspire them through your word that they might inspire us all. We pray for the leaders of the small groups that operate linking church members together; for the fellowship and support they provide. Bless them in their ongoing work. We ask for your guiding hand to be with the Youth ministry support group as they seek to implement the youth strategy and integrate young people in to the life of the church.

Finally, we pray for our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In. At the beginning of another year fill them with your Spirit, give them a fresh sense of your plan for our church and the faith to lead us to action. Be with us all as we support them. Renew our faith, strengthen our bodies and minds to serve you in the year ahead

Amen

Martyn Verge

A Christmas Day thank-you

KURC received the following uplifting letter from one of our Christmas Day guests.

I love your church and find peace. I came for Christmas dinner and it was lovely. All the people I met were so kind, and I can't thank you enough. I donated £5 in your collection box to say thank you to all. I have so much love and respect for you all. God bless you, with all my heart. You and the Lord have given me peace of mind and helped me to have tranquillity and love for you all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ronald Charles Kingham

16 June 1935 – 25 November 2018



Ron's son Steve paid the following tribute to Ron at his funeral on 20 December.

Firstly, I would like to echo Edred's comments about the many kind words that both Gail and all our family have received since Dad died. It is wonderful to know how kindly he will be remembered, and we all thank you for your thoughts and for being here with us today to honour his memory. I know it would have made him very happy to know you were all here today.

Many of the messages received had similar sentiments about Dad being kind, generous and helpful as well as great fun to be with, but I did especially like one card that described him as a high-octane personality.

I think it is fair to say that Dad had a full and varied life. He always liked to throw himself fully into whatever he was doing - be it work, celebrating an occasion with family and friends, providing help and advice for all manner of situations, or indeed ensuring that we were all kept abreast of how robins were faring in the annual Christmas card poll.

As many of you know he spent his working life as a Barclays man, and his career took to him to various parts of the world. I think being away from the UK for long periods gave him a strong feeling of allegiance back to his home roots. His postings with Barclays included a short stint in New York, where he was known to harass various local establishments, demanding to know what emergency they were currently suffering as he had seen they were again flying the Union Jack upside down. However, it was his time in Africa which I know he enjoyed the most, and where he built so many long-standing friendships. I have particular fond memories of the time we spent as a family in Cameroon where Dad was posted for seven years in the 1970s. On the occasion of his leaving the country, one of the local papers included the following quote in an article about a speech given at a leaving do by one of his colleagues who said, 'Those who know him well are convinced that unlike some of his predecessors Mr Kingham was available to all classes of society' .

I think that is a sentiment that echoed throughout his life. He was always welcoming and friendly to whoever he met and liked to help people wherever he could.

I know you will all have your own particular personal special memories of times you spent with Dad, and I hope that after today's service we will have time to share some of these together. For me, immediately after Dad died various memories shot through my head. I thought of the time we built a tree house together for my son Michael. I remembered a lost few days Dad myself and Nicholas spend in CapeTown where we spent many hours putting the world to

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

rights ahead of what was to be a new chapter in his life with Gail who very soon afterwards was to become his beloved wife and companion. Dad had a love of music of all types and was particularly fond of trad jazz, but I do recall him one day insisting Duncan Nicholas and I listen again and again to a record by the Inkspots until we too appreciated them as much as he did. A favourite memory is of a family trip to Victoria Falls in the early 80s, where Dad had brought along enough video equipment of the time to put David Attenborough and the BBC to shame. But above all, I think the memories I will recall most fondly will be the family and friends gatherings we have had at various houses and locations. And I think this was when Dad was at his happiest, just enjoying the company of family and friends. He always loved a good get-together and he definitely enjoyed being the life and soul of a party, always ready to impart wit and wisdom and often bringing his own unique sartorial elegance to the occasion.

For those of you that have visited his various homes over the years, I'm sure that you will have noticed Dad's fondness for the latest gadgets of the time. And as I was reading the other day about a company that was developing a new holographic system that will enable people to deliver their own eulogy's in the future, I thought that is something that Dad would definitely have signed up to. I am sure he would have loved the chance to stand before you and make one last speech, probably in his time honoured tradition with a beer tankard tucked under his arm, and be able to say a final goodbye to you all.

He did however leave a few words behind that he wanted to say to you today, and it seems fitting that my closing words should come from Dad himself with the following message that I will try to do justice to.

So here we are at the end for me. Please do not weep - and enjoy the wake. I have had a wonderful and fulfilled life, which has now ended as it does with all living things.

I have no illusions about eternal life: it does not exist except in your memories of me, which I hope you will all keep. I cannot pretend that I ever understood the mysteries of the universe. Perhaps there is a strange omnipotent force out there, but it is not a man in a long white beard who sacrificed his son to save ME. Yes, I believe that Jesus Christ existed: he did - but son of God, I don't think so. What God? He certainly didn't rise from the dead, and there was absolutely no need for him to be sacrificed to purge my sins, which at that point 2,000 years ago I had not committed. I am not sure his death has purged them anyway. That said, 'Love thy Neighbour' is a pretty good way to run one's life. The world would be a better place if everyone did. I have tried to follow this and hope you will too. God Bless.

Thank You Dad, thank you for being who you were. Thanks for the memories. We will all miss you. Now rest in peace.

Steve Kingham

Toilet Twinning - The 'Big Squat'

On 19 November, World Toilet Day, Sally Butler and Rosemary Moore joined the 'Big Squat' outside St Paul's Cathedral. The event was organised by the charity Toilet Twinning in solidarity with more than 1 billion women and girls worldwide who still don't have a safe, proper toilet. It drew attention to the plight of women and girls at risk – and showed the life-changing impact of the humble toilet. Bill Oddie (illustrated) enlivened the proceedings with a rendering of 'The Toilet Song'.



By donating £60 to twin their toilet, you can help fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. Further details from www.toilettwinning.org

Farewell to June



The end of last year saw the departure of June Davis who, after 70 years of membership, has transferred to Tolworth URC. As she no longer drives, the new arrangement makes it much easier for her to get to church on a Sunday.

With her husband, Cecil, who died in 2009, she was a member of KURC's 'Friendship Council' and of the church choir for many years. It was thanks to the choir that she and Cecil first met, and appropriately enough it was at KURC that they married. June was a well-known figure at the church who knew everybody - and who survived the tenure of many a minister!

We wish June well in the knowledge that after 70 years, the relationship will outlive her transfer!

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A concert with a difference

On Saturday afternoon, December 1st, four musicians comprising three pianists and a cellist, delighted the audience of almost one hundred assembled in the KURC sanctuary with piano music for two, four and six hands.

Three pianists, our very own Sulhee Kim, Constance Chow who has given a couple of lunchtime recitals in our church, and Catherine Leonard thrilled everyone with works for solo piano and piano duet. The highlight of the afternoon was an arrangement for four hands of Johann Strauss's 'The Blue Danube Waltz', played by Sulhee and Constance, the girls holding the audience spellbound with some exhilarating playing. As if this wasn't enough, we then had as an encore Sousa's march 'Stars and Stripes' arranged for six hands. And we mustn't forget Mary Munday the cellist, who played a piece by Bach and two items by Rachmaninov.



The concert was given the title 'Sleeping Bag Concert'. KCAH had told us they were in particular need of sleeping bags for the night shelter and Constance came up with the idea that people could either give a retiring donation to KCAH or donate a sleeping bag. Whilst most people opted for the former, a total of 25 sleeping bags were brought in and displayed next to the performing area for the duration of the recital. An amazing sum of around £1,100 was raised.

So, all in all, it was a most successful afternoon, both musically as those present were treated to some wonderful music performed to the highest standard by four excellent musicians, and financially.

Nigel Tunley

Christmas retrospective

Town Centre
Christian Aid
carols



Pop-up Nativity
& Gift Service



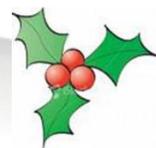
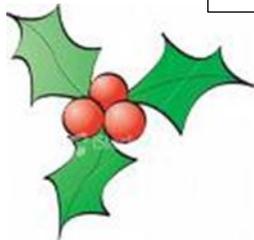
Carols by
Candlelight





FC
@
P&T

Foyer carols



Christmas Day lunch

New Year's Resolutions



Did you make a new year's resolution or two for 2019? YouGov research shows that nearly two thirds of us consider making resolutions each year, while another survey suggests that up to 90% of people making them subsequently fail to keep them. So no wonder then that some of us are just a little cagey about going

public about what, if anything, is on our new year to-do list.

All the more credit then to those among our ministers and elders who have volunteered to come clean. Here is a list of those resolutions they are prepared to share with *Church News*. But can you match each one to a name?

Resolutions

1. To eat healthily and lose more weight.
2. To improve my sun salutation (yoga move).
3. To say hello to someone I don't know well every time I come to church.
4. To have ONLY ONE slice of cake, biscuit or chocolate per day (or none!!) and to have a breakfast!
5. To study trees: so as to be able to tell my ash from my elm-bough at long last.
6. To try to make more rational sense of what seems to be presented as Christianity.
7. To read more books (aiming to read as many Christian books as secular ones and at least one each month).
8. To try to get more sleep each night (eg by turning the television off earlier).
9. to clear out every drawer in the house and throw away unwanted stuff, tidy every bookshelf and ditto, clean out every cupboard and - if that doesn't make me feel good enough - tidy up the garden.
10. To lose 1/3 of my body weight.
11. To visit all the London markets and research their histories.
12. To change priorities to make time for old friends.
13. To blitz my loft.

Resolvers (alphabetically by first name)

Cathy Seymour, Denise Scorer, Janine Goddard, Ken Bartlett,
Lesley Charlton, Linda Austin, Liz Bartlett, Maggie Arnold,
Martyn Verge, Sharon Henriquez-Vernon, Sulhee Kim,
Tony Wenman, Vaughan James

Resolutions solutions
1 Janine, 2 Lesley 3 Cathy, 4 Sulhee, 5 Vaughan, 6 Tony, 7 Martyn, 8 Linda,
9 Liz, 10 Maggie, 11 Sharon, 12 Ken, 13 Denise

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

THANK YOU... to the people who spent a long Saturday morning putting up the church Christmas tree and decorating the church, the vestibule, the foyer and the lift lobby. It was hard work, but we hope you were impressed by the results!

THANK YOU... to the small band of helpers who took it all down again four weeks later, with special mention for the anonymous person who cleared away all the tealights.

A BIG THANK YOU... to Phyllis Cochrane who, for yet another year, very kindly donated the Christmas tree. Phyllis's generosity over so many years is very much appreciated.

The next "decoration job" will be for Easter. Do come and join us!

Steve Wenman & Jean Thompson

News from the Book Club

Books for the next 3 months are as follows:

February: **Finding Sanctuary - Monastic Steps for
Everyday Life** by Abbot Christopher Jamison.
March: **A Perfectly Good Man** by Patrick Gale.
April: **The Red Tent** by Anita Diamant.

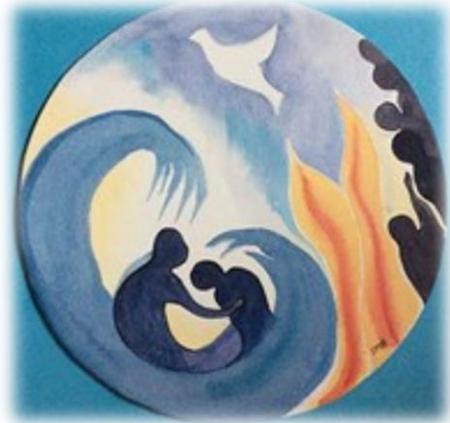


We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm at my house, and as always everyone is very welcome. We would be delighted to have new members.

Katie Frost

Just another baptism?

At the morning service on Sunday 13 January, after the reading from Luke 3, vv 15-17 & 21-22, describing the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, Lesley invited us to reflect on the event with the help of this painting. Martyn Verge's response took the form of the poem below which he was persuaded to share with Church News. Thank you, Martyn.



Just another baptism?

We were once again beside the sea
As the water lapped the shore
The sun rose over the hills behind us
Casting shadows all before.

John was there as usual
Wild and rugged hair
Preaching his message of baptism
To everybody there.

Then one more came among us,
Different from all the rest
It caused John to stop and bow his head
The son of God he said

The waters swirled as John immersed the man
And erupted as they resurfaced
Was it a dove or tongues of flame
As He emerged from the waters?

A strange day that was
Though what joy was ours as we slowly parted.
Some said "just the carpenter's son"
But we knew something special had started.



readings for February

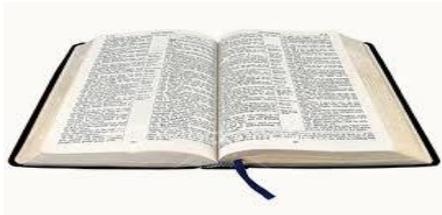
THE BIBLE AT THE MOVIES

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

Pass the popcorn

Sunday 3 February Acts 17:22–28
 Monday 4 February Psalms 139:12–17
 Tuesday 5 February Isaiah 40:1–8
 Wednesday 6 February Psalms 37:1–11
 Thursday 7 February Matthew 5:1–16
 Friday 8 February Nehemiah 2:12–20
 Saturday 9 February Proverbs 19:18–23



PHILIPPIANS

Paul's longing

Sunday 10 February Philippians 1:1–12
 Monday 11 February Philippians 1:13–18
 Tuesday 12 February Philippians 1:19–26
 Wednesday 13 February Philippians 1:27–30
 Thursday 14 February Philippians 2:1–11
 Friday 15 February Philippians 2:12–18
 Saturday 16 February Philippians 2:19–30

Rejoice always

Sunday 17 February Philippians 3:1–11
 Monday 18 February Philippians 3:12–16
 Tuesday 19 February Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
 Wednesday 20 February Philippians 4:2–3
 Thursday 21 February Philippians 4:4–7
 Friday 22 February Philippians 4:8–13
 Saturday 23 February Philippians 4:19–23

PSALMS OF ASCENT

Let us go up!

Sunday 24 February Psalm 120
 Monday 25 February Psalm 121
 Tuesday 26 February Psalm 122
 Wednesday 27 February Psalm 123
 Thursday 28 February Psalm 124

Lunchtime Recital



Our first recital of the 2019 season will be at 12.30pm on Thursday February 7th when Dr Emilie Capulet, Head of Classical Performance at the London College of Music - where Sulhee and Julia both studied - will play two monumental piano sonatas by Beethoven: 'The Tempest' and 'The Hunt' (Op. 31 nos 2 and 3). We are delighted and greatly honoured to have Emilie Capulet

playing for us and we hope for a large audience! As usual the recital is free with a retiring collection.

The Music Committee

The story of the shepherds revisited

I am one of the older members unable to get to church regularly these days, and one week before Christmas I had a welcome visit from Lesley. Lesley came bearing a gift from church members. I opened my gift on Christmas Day and found three lovely presents: a small bag of chocolates (eaten now), a glass bauble (packed away now) and a pretty bowl holding a nightlight (now sitting on my coffee table). Thank you all very much.

Lesley asked me about my favourite nativity story. After a few seconds I said, 'the shepherds'. Lesley read the passage from Luke with me.

The reading brought back to me the story of the shepherds, humble, ordinary folk doing their work quietly in the night, when suddenly one night they are alarmed by the vision of angels and a great light. After hearing the message, their fear is overcome by curiosity, and they go to find the inn in Bethlehem. They see the baby in the manger and tell Mary how they heard the news of his birth. They leave, wondering about their strange experience. Mary is left puzzling over the news she has just been given about her newborn baby.

A wonderful Christmas story!

Evelyn White

December 2018 caption competition



Readers were challenged in December's edition to devise a witty caption to this photograph from some ten years ago.

Congratulations to Ann Macfarlane on her two entries:

*Saints or sinners?
No room in the inn*

Box of chocs on its way to you, Ann!

KURC NEW YEAR PARTY



3pm-6pm

Saturday 9 February

Mayo Hall



ALL-AGE



FUN



TEA



GAMES



QUIZ



& MORE



*but please bring
something to share
if you can*

BE THERE!

Cyprus

It would be fair to say that a visit to Cyprus did not feature on my bucket list of places I would love to visit, but earlier this year I was asked to accompany a long-standing friend for two weeks in Paphos.

An early start saw me at Gatwick where the temperature was about 5°C and five or so hours later I arrived in Cyprus, where the temperature was a far more acceptable 22°C. After being taken to my hotel by shuttle bus I quickly discovered that I was about three minutes from the sea and five from the harbour where there are an assortment of restaurants and cafes.

Cyprus, like Malta, has been invaded and overrun by most of the surrounding Mediterranean countries during its long history so if you are interested in history, archaeology or religion you are in paradise. At the harbour there are the remains of an old fort. Now a skeleton housing an ecological display, but once part of the fortifications built as a Byzantine fort. Little of the original fort is left as it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1222. The subsequent fort was built by the Lusignans and dismantled by the Venetians. Later the Ottomans restored the castle and eventually the British acquired it and used it for storing salt.

Within a few minutes walk of the castle there is a large protected archaeological site where Roman remains and mosaics are on view. The mosaics date from around the 3rd century AD and are part of the floors of affluent Roman houses. The site was discovered by accident in 1962 and is still being excavated. There are also the remains of a moated fort, destroyed in 1222, which can be explored.



For those more interested in the Christian era, there are the remains of a huge basilica with a pillar to which Paul is reputed to have been tied and whipped when he visited Cyprus. Built on the remains is a much smaller church, now used by the local Roman Catholics for their Sunday services. It was clearly an Orthodox Church in the past because the layout

includes a screen with icons and a 'hidden' sanctuary. Nearby there are some Roman baths in fair shape, but they cannot be entered.

As one walks from Paphos to Old Paphos there are the remains of Frankish baths, catacombs and rock tombs. Further up the coast there is an area called the tombs of the kings. The tombs are believed to be the tombs of wealthy individuals (not kings) and some of the tombs date back to the 3rd and 4th centuries. The earlier tombs are believed to have housed Paphitic aristocrats. Some tombs have Doric columns and frescoed walls. Many of the tombs are underground and one can freely wander in and out of them.

Once sated with the feast at Paphos, I undertook three 'day' trips. The first was called 'Authentic' Cyprus and we were taken to taste Cyprus delights, visit a pottery, a Monastery, a Church and a winery. For lunch we enjoyed homemade bread and a salad followed by tea/coffee and a local 'moonshine'. On that particular day, the heavens opened and we also experienced a Cyprian thunder storm.

A round trip of three cities gave us a very brief glimpse of Larnica, and Limassol and a couple of hours in Nicosia. In Larnica we visited the Church where Lazarus was buried. According to legend, he went to Cyprus after the Resurrection where he became a Bishop. He was buried in Larnica. His tomb was 'lost' during the period of Arab rule and in 890 a tomb was found in Larnica inscribed 'Lazarus, four days dead, friend of Christ'. In 898 the remains were taken to Constantinople by Emperor Leo VI. The relics were looted in the 13th Century and taken to Marseille but have since been lost.

Nicosia is a divided city with a 'no go' area between the two parts. Those with passports were able to cross from the Greek side to the Turkish side. I decided to explore the Greek side. The city is redolent with different cultures. The walls were built by the Venetians and have 11 bastions. To the East there are the remains of a Venetian Gate. There are two other gates but I did not have time to visit them all. The Churches are predominantly Orthodox but there are the remains of an Augustinian Abbey with a minaret beside it. It is not open to the public but is an example of how Holy places have changed hands and character according to the faith of the predominant rulers/culture. During the Crusades Richard 1 laid siege to Nicosia in revenge for the treatment of his sister and betrothed (Berengaria of Navarre) by Isaac Komnenos, the ruler of Cyprus. Cyprus therefore is able to claim that it was host to a Royal wedding and coronation as Richard and Berengaria were married there in 1187.



My final trip was to the Troodos Mountains where my winter woollies were needed. We visited Kykkos Monastery, Pedoulas and Omodhos Village. The latter has small windy streets, a lovely Church and several shops selling Cyprian delicacies. The scenery on the trip was magnificent as we wound up hair pin bends to the top of the mountains. On the way back to the hotel we passed Aphrodite's birth place. Cyprus was a great centre for the worship of Aphrodite before being converted to Christianity and the local populace are still proud of their association with her.

There were many other areas I could have explored, time and money permitting. I found people friendly, the roads relatively deserted, and the food superb. There was time to paddle in the sea and admire the sunsets and, on occasions, the magnificent thunder and lightening.

Georgina Forbes

A little puzzle from Finlay

What do these words and phrases have in common?

1. A lecherous glance
2. To read
3. Empty
4. Scythes
5. Leather
6. I am learning



*Solutions, please, to Finlay Forbes
who will reveal all in the March edition.*

Poster found in a Church in
France... (translated):

"When you enter this church
it may be possible that you
hear "the call of God".
However, it is unlikely that He
will call you on your mobile.
Thank you for turning off
your phones. If you want to
talk to God, enter, choose a
quiet place and talk to Him.
If you want to see Him, send
Him a text while driving."

(Courtesy of Facebook)

Regular activities

Sunday:

15.30 Messy Church (monthly – for dates see Worship Diary on page 3)

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 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)

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 10 February; Editor: Jean Thompson

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.

Kingston United Reformed Church is a member of the **Local Ecumenical Project** in Kingston Town Centre with its partner, **All Saints Parish Church** in the Market Place.

The town centre ministers meet regularly.

*We are a part of **Churches Together in Kingston**.*

*Kingston URC is also affiliated with the **Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)***

*And the **Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK)***

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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.

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

The Sanctuary is also open for private prayer, with access via the Foyer.

Our Foyer is normally open every weekday and Saturday from 11.00 until 14.00 for coffee and tea.

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

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

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