



CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church

www.kingstonurc.org

May 2019



Cwyfan Church on Anglesey

(church now surrounded by the sea and only accessible only when the tide is out)

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Charity No. 1131880

Edited this month by Bron Robinson

Worship Diary: May 2019

For regular events, see inside back cover. Diary also available on
www.kingstonurc.org

April 2019

Sun 28	10.00	Worship
	11.30	All-Age Worship (with Communion)
	18.30	Reflective Worship

May 2019

Weds 1	10.00	Tots' Praise
	13.10	Lunchtime service
Fri 3	13.00 – 14.00	Prayer Meeting
Sun 5	10:00	Worship (with Communion)
	11.30	All-Age Worship
	18.30	Reflective Worship
Weds 8	10.00	Tots' Praise
	13.10	Lunchtime service
Fri 10	13.00 – 14.00	Prayer Meeting
Copy deadline for Dec/Jan Church News – editor Vaughan James		
Sun 12	09:30	Coffee available
	10.30	Combined service
	18.30	Reflective Worship
Weds 15	10.00	Tots' Praise
	13.10	Lunchtime service
Fri 17	13.00 – 14.00	Prayer Meeting
Sun 19	10.00	Worship
	11.30	All-Age Worship
	15:30	Messy Church does Fire!
	18.30	Reflective Worship (with Communion)
Weds 22	10.00	Tots' Praise
	13.10	Lunchtime service
Fri 24	13.00 – 14.00	Prayer Meeting
Sun 26	10:00	Worship
	11:30	All-Age Worship (with Communion)
	18:30	Reflective Worship

LETTER FROM LESLEY



Dear All,

Who are we?

Not who are we but who are we?

Who is in and who is out? Is 'we' made up of people like us? Are 'we' the same religion, the same colour, the same social class? To be 'we' do you have to speak English? Do you have to behave in a certain way?

Or is it possible that 'we' could include a range of different people?

For some people the Christian faith is very clearly about us and them. Some people view Britishness in the same way. They are not us. They should clear off. Or they are not like us and have no truth to share. Their view is that the Christian faith is about this set of beliefs. Or this sort of behaviours. Or even this sort of politics. Christians are all How do we cope with people who say they follow Jesus but are a different colour to us? Or do not speak English as we do? For some, the way to deal with this is to say that they are not Christians. What about the value of people who have a different basis for the whole of their lives? Is it possible that, as a follower of Jesus, we have more in common with them than things that are different?

How would life be if, instead of focussing on who we need to keep out, we focused on how we can be building something great together?

Is it possible that we could include a range of people for a range of faith positions and none in our 'we'?

Is it possible that for Jesus, when he spoke about the Kingdom of God, he was interested in broadening the scope of in and out beyond what he saw in other people's religious practices?

What more wise, gracious thing can we do to build community than listen to the wisdom that other people offer? It is only the stupid who think they know everything. All the rest of us, particularly those of us who have a faith, know that we have so much more to learn.

We are people who want to know more. People who want to be more. More kind. More patient. More generous. More loving. We are people who aspire to live with moral integrity. We are people who try our best. We are people who want to do good with others. We are your turn

Best wishes,

Lesley

Cathy's Conversation



This is my last contribution to Church News as your church secretary. Please allow some indulgence as I reflect on what I have learnt about the church through accepting this role 5 years ago.

We are a lively congregation and each week many things happen. So much so that I am unsure if any one person knows the total. God does.

We are a passionate congregation and we try to care for each other.

We are a diverse group. People from far and near come to the church to share worship and friendship.

We wish to serve our local community. For most of the week our entrance is through the foyer. We keep it open as much as we can and offer opportunities for peaceful fellowship and gentle listening.

We are led by ministers who encourage us to embrace change and remember that we are here to serve.

Sometimes, we don't understand each other and what is in truth a small matter can become a big matter. We let ourselves get in the way of God's work.

As individuals, we do endeavour to live out our mission, which is ***to be a welcoming, caring, worshipping Christian community serving all.***

Thank you to all of you that have helped me throughout my time as secretary. I know that you will be supportive as we enter a waiting time before a replacement is found.

Very recently I became a grandmother to Conor.

I am looking forward to spending time with him and being a part of his life. Here he is with his brother Finn.

Cathy



Pastoral News

“Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.” (Romans 12 v 12)

Out of care for people’s privacy, the list of Personal Concerns is not included in 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

God of new life,

We give thanks for the life of P and pray for her family and friends as they grieve.

We remember M now out of hospital and ask for your strength for her and those who care for them.

We give thanks for the birth of C and L. May their families be richly blessed by their presence.

We pray for HS as she begins her time among us, bless her as she settles in to her new surroundings in the UK.

We ask for your continued blessing on SY as she develops her ministry among North Koreans.

We remember all those known to us who are struggling at the moment; whether with illness or some other issue. Give them your peace and help us to support them.

We give thanks for those in our church who are between 20 and 40 years of age. Give them wisdom and courage as they make key life choices; peace where they face an uncertain future and in all things the knowledge

that You love them. We pray for the book club and the fellowship they enjoy together. We give thanks for all those people who lead the various activities of the church or represent the church on outside organisations; give them wisdom and insight in what they do. We remember the pastoral group; give them a clear vision of the needs and concerns and inspiration as they seek ways to address them.

Finally, we pray for our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In. May the new life that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus embolden them as they serve in Kingston. May that same new life enthuse us all in our support of them and in our work for your kingdom in the world.

Amen.

21st Birthday celebrations

From Isaac Henriquez-Vernon:

I just wanted to say thank you very much for giving me my first bottle of champagne on my 21st birthday. It came as a big surprise when it was given to me during the church service. I'm in my final year at uni with only a few exams left to take, then I'm finished. I'll keep it for when I get my results, hopefully I will have something to celebrate!

Here is Isaac with proud mother Sharon.



Introducing Han Sol

I was born in Seoul. I have one brother who is in the army and one sister who is at school. My parents have a scarf shop in central Seoul.

I started to learn piano when I was 6. I started to learn the organ when I was 18. I go to small Presbyterian church in Seoul and I play the organ there. I went to the Presbyterian university and theological seminary where I studied music, graduating last year. My teacher said 'Would you like to go to England'? 'Yes', I said.

Suk In asked the college for a student to come to Kingston URC to play organ and piano and here I am. I live in Mill Street near the church. My English is not very good. I am going to Kingston College after Easter to learn English.



I like the Kingston URC organ. I hope to play at most services. Everyone is friendly. I will be here one year. Please say hello to me and I will get to know your name.

I am finding English food very strange, all bread and potato and no rice. In Korea we only eat bread for dessert. I do like English cake and Earl Grey tea. When English people speak, it sounds to me like singing. Koreans speak all on one note. Thank you for having me in your church. God bless you.

Han Sol Kang

Great News! (from Sue Shaw)

A new Street Pastor volunteer has stepped up to continue in my role, Barry, a businessman who has lived most of his life in Antigua apart from a few years in the UK. He has loads of initiative, plenty of enthusiasm and knows lots of people. I am delighted and relieved in equal measure. So I have a few weeks to help him understand the issues and responsibilities. This is a wonderful answer to prayer!! Please pray for him.

Training

Seven people including Barry completed the vital two sessions of training and gradually they are coming out on observation patrols. We offered a session on Drug and Alcohol abuse and some people from different churches attended who just wanted to be informed of the issues. We also have some new men with leadership qualities. Before I leave I aim to deliver some additional training especially with the leaders.

Working with Street Sleepers

There is a community of people here who regularly sleep out and/or hang out together all day. Many have drink and drug issues. A couple have complained to me of being lonely and bored. One of them came with me to the video club at the library and really enjoyed it. Most days a group of them gather on a piece of waste land where a guy cooks a large pot of food using vegetables and other donated food. They share from a bottle of rum which some of the guys who are in work buy on a regular basis.

Recently a soup kitchen opened on Thursdays and three different churches provide hot food on other days. Many of these men are able bodied but they are also stuck in a cycle of substance misuse. One of the older guys has a place at Crossroads the private rehabilitation place on island. They offer a few free places each year. There are small signs of people wanting to change their lives. Again, need to pray that these men make that step.

Children's work

I have recorded over 60 short talks for Auntie May's Kids Club a Saturday morning programme on a Christian station called God First Radio. The show has been entered into a local competition to vote for the best radio programme. I was interviewed on ZDK Radio during the week when the work of the Ministry of Social Transformation is celebrated, a similar department to our own Social Services. During the same week, I also got roped into a short skit performed in the street by staff from the Ministry.

I continue to support Pastor May on a Sunday afternoon. Making our own playdoh is very popular and we produced half a bucket load recently in four different colours. They each took a handful home in a plastic bag to keep. Many come from really challenging backgrounds.

I am coming to the end of a very eventful and life changing experience. Like many people who go overseas to work and serve I have learnt a lot about myself, my limitations, my weaknesses but also about God's constant presence and unchanging goodness. I have also discovered the joys of yoga and feeling warm all year round! My life has been truly enriched.



Cheila writes:



I will soon have to go back to Brazil. Sylvain will start working on his new job in Rio de Janeiro, where I was born, in May.

I would like to thank you all for the beautiful welcome, support and friendship you have had over me for the past eight months in Kingston. For me, participating in some events and the band has a great value and I learned so much with you. I am grateful to God for leading me to you.

I pray that God will continue to bless the work of the church and the lives of all of you. I will miss you!

Flower rota for May

- 5 May – Barbara Fielding & Denise Scorer
- 12 May – Jean Hughes (Lesley's Mother)
- 19 May – Valerie Parkinson
- 26 May – Wil Bryan



New arrivals

Congratulations to Matthew and Hidemi (nee Iwashige) Watts on the birth of
Louis Edward John ('Rui' 琉衣 in Japanese Kanji!).
John and Sue are off to see their new Anglo-Japanese grandson very soon.



Congratulations also to Becca and Tim Staunton on the birth of Conor James Geraghty, brother to Finn and grandson to Cathy Seymour.



Christian Aid week is approaching!

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/Christian-Aid-Week>



Christian Aid Week Activities
WE DO THINGS 11TH - 19TH May 2019

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ?

We need people to help with the following:-

1. Door to Door Collection – 12th – 18th May
2. Flag Day – 18th May - 10:00 – 15:00
3. Market Stall – 18th May (cakes, preserves, plants)
4. Christian Aid London Walk 'Circle the City' – 19st May
5. Attend QuizAid – 11th May 7– 10 pm at the URC
6. Run a coffee morning
7. Other?
8. Donate

Last year through the above we collected over £3,500

If you can help please contact
Ray Charlton
 Tel: 07785 220 369



Palm Sunday lunch

After the combined service on Palm Sunday, 14th April, many of the congregation broke bread (and other delights) together at the bring and share lunch in the Mayo Hall.



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



A good time was had by all at Messy Church on Good Friday. Sally, Steve, Janine and Jenny had prepared a wide variety of activities including decorated crosses, stained glass crosses and windows to colour in, Easter cards, Easter gardens (one variety made with soil and plants and the other variety edible!), hens and chicks, hot cross pizzas, egg rolling competition and of course the Easter story, songs and “Aaaa-men!”

For those of you who have not yet experienced Messy Church, it really is a great way for individuals and families to come together “*to be, to make, to eat and to celebrate God*”.



Cooking many pizzas!



Eating many pizzas



Choosing prizes



Easter garden (not the edible one)



Hen and chick

KURC Book Club Review: 'A Perfectly Good Man' by Patrick Gale

Patrick Gale lays bare the lives and the thoughts of a whole community and asks us: what does it mean to be good? *A Perfectly Good Man* tells a number of stories. Ostensibly it tells of the effect had on the lives of a wife, a mistress and three children by the love of Barnaby Johnson, a parish priest in a remote mining community in the windswept west of Cornwall, and how fault lines are opened up in all their relationships when, when at the start of the book, Barnaby apparently assists the suicide of a young man (Lenny) paralysed in a rugby accident. It also tells the story of how the perfectly good man of the title came to devote his life to the seemingly impossible challenge of living as a priest in the 21st century.

In his childhood and throughout his ministry and in family life Barnaby has always tried to do the right thing in the situations in which he finds himself. Things have not always worked out well and have caused Barnaby much soul searching and questioning of his faith and even the existence of God. The chapters are not arranged in a timeline but each one deals with one of the book's characters at a given age and, gradually, a moving and compelling story is built up.

We follow his life, spiritual and psychological, from his own perspective but also from that of the various characters who are germane to that life: his wife, Dorothy ("Dot"); his daughter, Carrie; his adopted Vietnamese son "Jim", who, in the course of the book, elects to return to his native name "Phuc"; and a very creepy parishioner who goes by the name of "Modest Carlsson". In fact, the novel has quite a bit to say about the process of shifting identities; this parishioner's name has also been subjected to a change, to conceal a former prison sentence for paedophilia.

The book deals with many of what might be called 'contemporary issues'. Nuala at 36 abused by her husband Christos - a Christian. Carrie (Barnaby's daughter) in a civil partnership and having a church blessing ceremony. Jim (Phuc), his adopted son, on drugs at university and later living with a much older woman with children and almost losing contact with his family. The full significance of Lenny's relationship to his parish priest is not revealed until much later in the novel, which is structured in such a way that not only jumps from one

character's consciousness to another but also moves within those individuals' histories, back and forth in time.

The strength of this novel lies in its capacity to convey ordinariness authentically: ordinary love, ordinary failure, ordinary belief, ordinary, everyday tragedy, which of course in its particular manifestation is never "ordinary".

Why not join us in our reading? We meet at Katie Frost's home on the third Tuesday of the month as from 19:30. You would be most welcome.

KURC Book Club

Behind the scenes - thank you, but...!

It was very nice to see an appreciation of Sue's 'Back Page' (750 editions, and counting...) in April's Church News, but....

It is Sue's, and hers alone. Much as I'd like to bask in the reflected glory, I don't figure in this work at all, save for posting the latest version on the web site.

And whilst I, too, look forward to the service paper quotations, their origins have always been a mystery to me, and I'm certainly not the source!

So, thank you for my nominations, but I fear I must decline them both!

John Watts

Archive of the month

11.0 Christmas Morning Service

See Page 20

FROM
Kingston Congregational Church

MINISTERS
The Rev. Richard C. Wood, M.A.
The Rev. Michael G. Dunford, B.A.
 ORGANIST **Kenneth J. Down, A.R.C.O.**

This will be a United Free Church service attended by members of the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches

HYMNS
Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Love Divine, all loves excelling
Thou didst leave Thy throne
In Christ there is no East or West
O Come, all ye faithful

TELEVISION DIRECTION BY
GRAHAM WATTS
Associated-Rediffusion
Network Outside Broadcast

In 1963 the Christmas morning service at our church was broadcast live by ITV. The relevant page from *TV Times* is preserved in our archives. No videos in those days of course, but someone had the bright idea of taking photos of their TV screen. One of these shows the minister, Rev. Dick Wood, delivering the sermon.



The Good News Bible – has it had its day?

Zealous users of KURC's ever-changing web site will have noticed that, for about six months, the URC icon in the top left corner has been a link to the United Reformed Church's main web site. One of the items you can find there is another link, to *'Daily Devotions – a daily Bible reading, reflection and prayer'*. It's an interesting and helpful feature, but the most surprising – and pleasing – thing, to me, was that it does *not* feature the *'Good News Bible'* translation, under which KURC has laboured for so many years. Instead, it uses the *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Bible*. I find this a clear and comprehensive translation, which does not bend so far over to be 'accessible' that it loses key elements of the original texts.

A surprising example of this came up when we were studying Genesis 1 with the rabbi at the Liberal Synagogue, at one of our 'Scriptural Reasoning' sessions. I was bemoaning the fact that the GNB, to be 'accessible', used, in Genesis, the translations 'Sun' and 'Moon' for the 'Greater' and 'Lesser' lights created by God. The rabbi thought this unexceptional, and went to his Hebrew scriptures, and found – lo and behold! - Greater and Lesser lights... No Sun, no Moon. And why do his scriptures use these words, as do most English bibles from King James onwards? Because (from my readings) the first creation myth is essentially Babylonian, the Sun and the Moon were Babylonian deities, and there was no way such things were going to figure in exiled Israel's description of the creation. There are strong political *and* spiritual messages for us here, which we are supposed to take on board as we 'read between the lines'.

But the GNB blithely ignores all this, and simply obliterates these key dimensions. It uses 'Sun' and 'Moon', and a very large baby is thrown out with the bathwater. And we're only 16 verses in!

When our members choose to read passages from other translations in our services, it seems more than nostalgia. I think they find the impact of the original texts is so diluted and insipid in the GNB that they resort to sources that *do* capture the spirit of the thing.

I submit that a revision of the translation we use in general worship is long overdue. I have a feeling that in the past the GNB was not so much a choice, as a gift we couldn't turn down. Could we say it has had its day and needs to be replaced? There have been excellent attempts at translation since the GNB, and the English of our bibles ought, surely, to be the best and clearest representation in English of the messages in the original languages of the scriptures.

John Watts, March 2019

International Bible Reading Association - IBRA

The readings for May 2019 are reproduced below.

The list may also be downloaded at from the IBRA website at: www.ibraglobal.org



Sing a new song

Wednesday 1 May
Thursday 2 May
Friday 3 May
Saturday 4 May

2 Chronicles 5:2-14
Act 16:25-31
Colossians 3:12-17
1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Sing to the Lord

Sunday 5 May
Monday 6 May
Tuesday 7 May
Wednesday 8 May
Thursday 9 May
Friday 10 May
Saturday 11 May

Psalm 96:1–13
Psalm 150
Exodus 15:1-12
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Isaiah 12:1-6
Colossians 1:15-20
1 Peter 2:21-25

Dramatic stories

Sunday 12 May
Monday 13 May
Tuesday 14 May
Wednesday 15 May
Thursday 16 May
Friday 17 May
Saturday 18 May

Daniel 1:1-20
Daniel 3:1-18
Daniel 3:19-30
Daniel 4:1-18
Daniel 4:19-37
Daniel 5:1-9, 17-30
Daniel 6:1-24

Dramatic visions

Sunday 19 May
Monday 20 May
Tuesday 21 May
Wednesday 22 May
Thursday 23 May
Friday 24 May
Saturday 25 May

Daniel 7:1-18
Daniel 8:1-14
Daniel 8:15-27
Daniel 9:1-19
Daniel 10:1-21
Daniel 11:21-35
Daniel 12

Struggles

Sunday 26 May
Monday 27 May
Tuesday 28 May
Wednesday 29 May
Thursday 30 May
Friday 31 May

Genesis 32:22-32
Ruth 1:1-21
1 Samuel 25:4-13, 23-31
1 Kings 19:1-11
Job 1:6-22
Jeremiah 9:1-6

Regular Activities

Sunday:

15.30 Messy Church (monthly, but Sundays vary – for dates see Worship Diary)

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

Wednesday:

10.00 Tots' Praise
13.10 Lunchtime Service
14.00 & 19.30 Faith Studies – check date & frequency of 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 & Latin American dancing with Lyn
22.00 All night prayers and Street Pastors (until 04.00)

Saturday:

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

How to contribute to Church News:

Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome.

Copy for **Church News** must reach the editor by midday on the **second Sunday of the month**.

The next copy deadline is 11.30 am on Sunday, 12 May 2019. Editor: Vaughan James

FINANCIAL DONATIONS may be made to the church in a number of ways, including via our “My Donate” page, accessible through every page of our website at www.kingstonurc.org. You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-76, account number 33054942. If you would like more information on giving to KURC, please ask any elder.

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)**.

Thank you to Mail Boxes Etc. 29 Castle Street, Kingston, KT1 1ST, for printing Church News.
Tel: 020 8547 1547 e-mail: info@mbekingston.co.uk

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.

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 open for private prayer with access via the foyer.

Coffee and Tea: 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.

Ministers:

Rev Lesley M Charlton, tel: 020 8399 4423 e-mail: minister@kingstonurc.org

Rev Suk In Lee, tel: 020 8949 2070 e-mail: leesukin@hotmail.com

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Sulhee Kim, e-mail: sulhee.kim4him@gmail.com

Centre Manager:

Catherine Treweek

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Stuart Chandler

Monday – Friday: 09.00 – 17.00

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