



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHURCH NEWS

June 2019

Kingston United Reformed Church
www.kingstonurc.org



Still Pond, Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park, May 2019

“It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart”.

(Rainer Maria Rilke)

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Registered charity no 1131880

Edited this month by Vaughan James

Church worship diary: June 2019

Sunday	02	10.00	Traditional worship with communion
		11.30	All-age worship
		18.30	Reflective worship
Tuesday	04	19.50	(Elders meeting)
Wednesday	05	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	07	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	09	09.30	Coffee available
		10.30	Combined worship
-- Copy deadline for July Church News: editor Tony Wenman --			
Wednesday	11	18.30	Reflective worship
		10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	14	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	16	10.00	Traditional worship
		11.30	All-age worship
		18.30	Reflective worship with communion
Wednesday	19	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	21	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	23	10.00	Traditional worship
		11.30	All-age worship
		18.30	Reflective worship
Wednesday	26	10.00	Tots' praise
		13.10	Lunchtime service
Friday	28	13.00	Friday prayers
Sunday	30	10.00	Traditional worship
		11.30	All-age worship with communion
		18.30	Reflective worship

Church flowers for June

2 June	Ina Atherton
9 June	Barbara Parker
16 June	Rosemary & Gordon Moore
23 June	Hellen Akao
30 June	F r e e #



Please have a word with Jean Thompson if you would like to give the flowers on 30 June.

Letter from Lesley

Dear All,



Do you believe that God loves you? You. Not only the world in some vague way. Not the people who deserve it (whoever they are). Not the people who used to be terrible and now have turned their lives around and are on the straight and narrow. But you. Not all of humanity in some generalised way, but actually you. Not God who has been tricked and loves in a way based on ignorance and blindness but loves with knowledge and acceptance.

The essence of love is that it is given and not earned. It is not deserved. It is poured out freely. The old person in their bed coming to the end of life does not deserve the time of the person who sits beside them holding their hand. It is an act of love. It could be that the person doing the hand holding has been fed by the person in the bed, given loads of things, but that does not mean that the care will always be expressed. The hand holding is done freely. The newborn child with all the cooing and delight that fills the air does not deserve that love, they are given it. They just soak it up in joy. Grace.

At its best God's love pulls us to better things. God's love captivates us and encourages us to be the best we can be. It does not drive us with a whip but entices us with tantalising music. We are wooed to be better people. To be loved and then to be loving.

If God loves you then you do not have to battle against others. You do not have to flex your muscles and put people down. You do not have to be better than them, because God loves everyone. There is room for all. It is God with an infinite capacity. You do not have to try to fill that hole in your life with work, alcohol, gossip, food, status, personal power (like knowing things others do not), or whatever your drug is.

The good news is that there is room for you in the love of God. The challenge of course is that it calls from us mature ways of dealing with the people around us. The challenge is it calls us to radically change the way we view ourselves.

How would we behave today if everyone we met was loved by God? Because that is one of the fundamentals of our faith. The call to love is ours.

How would you behave today if you knew yourself to be loved? Not because of what you used to be or because of what you will be, but here and now. Loved.

Yours, **Lesley**

Pastoral news – June 2019

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4 v 6)

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

Risen Lord,

We give thanks for the life of Ruth Anderson’s mother and pray for Ruth, her family and friends as they grieve.

We celebrate with Aby and Peter and ask for your blessing on their marriage.

We remember all those known to us who are unwell at the moment. Through your Spirit comfort them, and through our support of them, remind them they are loved.

Exams can be times of pressure and stress with decisions about the future based on the results so we ask for your peace on those studying for and taking exams.

We rejoice with those celebrating significant birthdays recently, giving thanks for the years that have past and placing the years ahead in your hands.

We give thanks for the team who edit the Church magazine; for their important role in helping maintain links among us. We pray for the International discussion group as they provide a forum for people learning English to talk and get to know each other. We remember the work of those involved in the Jolly Toddler and Young People’s Sunday groups, the leaders, helpers, children and adults who attend; may they experience something of the love you have for them through meeting together. We give thanks for the Wednesday lunchtime services, those who lead them and all who take part; may the worship be a blessing to

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all involved. We thank you for the Marketing and Communications group and all they do to promote our church; give them wisdom as they refresh the web site and perseverance as they provide regular updates on church activities.

Finally, we pray for our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In. May Your Holy Spirit be close to them to guide them as they lead us in the months ahead. May Your Holy Spirit also dwell in us as we support them and seek to serve you in Kingston and beyond.

Amen

Martyn Verge

Thank you, Cathy

Recent church secretaries have shared a taste for alliterative titles to introduce their traditional monthly columns in *Church News*. We've had *Denise's Diary*, *Derek's Diary*, *Vaughan's View* and of course, most recently, *Cathy's Conversation*. Not *Cathy's Corner* or *Cathy's Communiqué*, let alone *Seymour's Soliloquy* - but *Cathy's CONVERSATION*.



The essence of a conversation, of course, is that it is a two-way process, with as much emphasis on listening as on speaking. The choice of title gives a broad hint as to Cathy's style as church secretary: co-operative, participatory, interactive. Both her 'conversations' (whether in print or in person) and her mainstream work as church secretary have reflected strongly her pro-active commitment to our church, its ministers and its congregations. We have all benefited and are hugely grateful. Thank you Cathy.

Beautiful birthday blooms!



A huge 'thank you' to Kingston URC for the graceful and sweet-smelling basket of flowers. They were totally unexpected and hand-crafted by Janine. Thank you God for giving us great gifts that bring joy and pleasure.

Ann Macfarlane

***Rejoice and Sing* - Full Music edition needed**

As the choir is expanding we need extra copies of *Rejoice and Sing* with four part versions of the hymns. The edition we use is out of print and second-hand copies are expensive - nearly £50 each. Please could you check whether there are unused copies on your bookshelf or in your family which you could donate? We already have two offers as a result of our appeal, but we need a further 6 copies. Please note it's the **Full Music edition**, not the Melody edition that we need.



Offers, please, to lizbartlett2000@gmail.com



An oasis in Kingston every Wednesday

Every Wednesday at 1.10 to 1.30 pm there is a short service in the sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of Kingston. There are many among us who, for very valid reasons, can't get to church on a Sunday. If you happen to be in Kingston on a Wednesday, or want to travel in specially, a warm welcome awaits you at 1.10 pm.

KURC Christian Aid quiz 2019.....

Shortly before this edition of *Church News* went to press, KURC fired its opening salvo in 2019's Christian Aid Week with its traditional inter-church quiz. As always, it was a great night, meticulously organised by Ray Charlton, with an inspired Richard Scorer as quizmaster. The whole event was held together by a skilled and tireless kitchen team, to whom particular thanks. Some 40 people, plus the helpers, attended.

The questions were well-pitched for a close finish, with the St John's team winning by 9 points.

Including income from a raffle held alongside the quiz, the evening raised a net total of £539, getting the week off to an excellent start.



....and how the money we raise is used

The morning and evening services on Sunday 12 May featured a video illustrating one of the projects supported by Christian Aid. For those who missed this, here is a summary of the story, a concrete example of the practical and life-saving work that Christian Aid Week makes possible.



Jebbeh Konneh is heavily pregnant. Her sister recently died in childbirth and Jebbeh fears she may be next.

Tenneh's first pregnancy ended in tragedy - her baby died when he was three months old - but thanks to nurse Judith's expert love and medical training, Tenneh's second labour resulted in the safe delivery of her son Ansumana..

Photo credit: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston



Photo credit: Christian Aid/Adam Finch



Tenneh and baby Ansumana receive care from nurse Judith at the Sawula community clinic, which is currently the size of a small bedroom. Operations, deliveries and baby check-ups all happen in a single room with only two delivery beds.

Photo credit: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of the mums and young children who come to the clinic. But the need is great. Sometimes she's forced to send people away, and there are often not enough drugs at the clinic. 'I need help,' nurse Judith says. 'Women are dying from childbirth, children under five are dying, because of poverty. Please help us.'

Supporting Christian Aid means Judith's community can build a bigger, better health centre to help more mums like Tenneh give birth safely.

Easter Monday walk

This year's traditional Easter Monday walk explored the green open spaces of South-West London and was blessed by refreshingly bright sunlight. The outward leg led through Richmond Park from Kingston Gate to Richmond Gate and on to lunch at The Roebuck with a view over the Thames. The homeward leg followed the Thames towpath to Ham House and then cut 'inland' via Ham Common to Richmond Park's Ham Gate and back to the starting point at Kingston Gate.



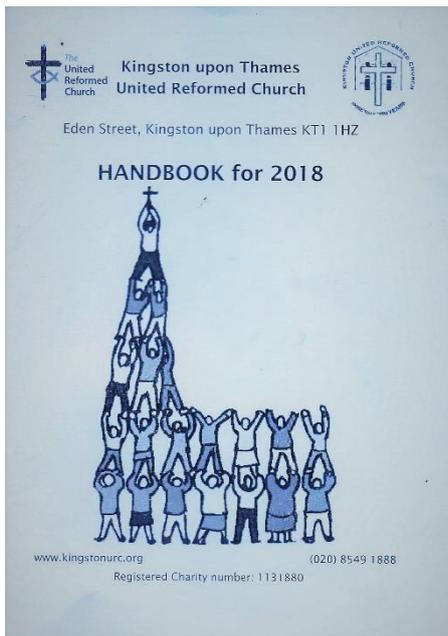
Thank you, Georgina Forbes, for organising such an enjoyably relaxing day out.

Calling all young writers

Reform, the URC's national magazine, plans to launch a new monthly column giving more of a voice to children and young people across the denomination. *Reform* needs young writers to join its team of contributors, and anyone aged up to 25 who has something to say and stories to tell is invited to apply. If you or someone you know is interested in writing for this column, please email Lorraine Webb, the URC's Children's and Youth Work Programme Officer. (lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk)

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Church handbook



We usually publish our handbook annually. The last edition was early in 2018. Since then we have had the introduction of GDPR - EU General Data Protection Regulation. This is the EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union and the European Economic Area. It also addresses the export of personal data outside these areas.

I'm sure we are all concerned about our data privacy and no one wants his or her data falling into unscrupulous hands. There are, however, some unintended consequences of the legislation. It means that we are unable to publish the data in our church manual

without each person's explicit consent so we need to obtain a hard copy signature from each member/friend associated with the church giving permission until further notice to use one or all of: name, address, landline number, mobile number, email address. Of course, you may opt out of giving any information but we hope you will see the value in participating.

We have developed a consent form available for you to complete. The hard copies will be stored in the KURC office.

Once we have the completed forms (likely in the autumn), the handbook will be produced and distributed in hard copy only. The only electronic version will be stored securely and password protected on the KURC computer and updated on an annual basis. This is in accordance with KURC computer policies already in place. The hard copies of the handbook will be numbered and their distribution controlled.

When people become members of KURC, they will be asked to complete the consent form which will be stored and their personal information included or not in accordance with their wishes.

So, to help with the production of our new handbook, please take a copy of the form which is available at the church (or let me know if you would like a copy posted to you), complete it and put it in the box at the church.

Thank you

Linda Austin

The New Malden passion play

On a cold and blustery Saturday in early April a group of members from KURC headed to Blagdon Road Park in New Malden to see the Passion Play written by Susie Pottinger of Lantern Arts and produced by Churches Together in New Malden.



Lasting about an hour, the play had taken many months of preparation and rehearsal. The language was modern and grabbed our attention. There were also a number of songs, very well sung by the 'crowd'. The large audience was ushered around the park from scene to scene. The acting was first class and so was the sound system – we didn't miss a word. I found the whole experience most moving. Thank you CTiNM!

John Fisher

Chiswick House

Now that summer is beginning to get going and we are looking forward to some warm days. you may be wondering where to go.

I recently visited Chiswick House while on a walk. I thought back to 2010 when I took the Walking Group there.

I was pleasantly surprised at the work that has been done since our last visit (mainly with the help of lottery money) and how good everything now looks in the garden. Unfortunately, the house was not open on that day.



Chiswick house was built by the third Earl of Burlington in 1729. He was inspired by the architecture he saw during his grand tour of Italy.

It is one of England's finest examples of neo-Palladian design. The large gardens are marvellous with lakes, streams and bridges. Vistas of the house through the garden planting makes this a unique oasis in this corner of west London.



The house



The conservatory

The house is open Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Adults £8. Garden free and open every day.

There is an architecturally award winning café serving good coffee, lunchtime snacks and cream teas in the afternoon.

I hope some of you may take an opportunity to visit this fine house and see if you agree with me.

Peter Ashdown

KURC Book Club – review of *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn

This book is about Raynor and her husband Moth's journey along the South West Coast Path. It is so much more than a guidebook or travel log. The day after they find out they were going to lose the Welsh farm where they had brought up their two children, a doctor told Moth that he had a rare and incurable degenerative brain disease. Within days the bailiffs came knocking and they find themselves penniless and homeless. With no real options, they make the brave decision to walk the 630 miles along the South West Coast Path from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall. As their world collapses around them, the coastal path gives them a purpose and offers them the desperate hope that on the way they can find some kind of future. They buy tents, sleeping bags and set off with the bare minimum of possessions. They have almost no money for food or shelter and must carry only the essentials for survival on their backs as they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable journey. They live day to day, struggling with Moth's illness, the weather, having no money, no plan and, to all intents and purposes, no future. Wild camping in some of the most beautiful and spectacular scenery in Britain, their trip becomes not just a physical one but a spiritual one. A journey of discovery, of how much they can succeed in the face of adversity and of how strong they really are. It also questions how we view homelessness in this country. It is all too easy to look at a homeless person and say, oh, yes, it's because of drink or drugs but there are many reasons why someone becomes homeless. It was great to read how Raynor and Moth were met with such kindness from some people.

The book group really warmed to both Raynor and Moth. This is not a sad book (in parts it is) but it is an uplifting and inspirational read and makes you question what you would do if faced with their situation. There are great descriptions of the weather, scenery (familiar to some members of the group), wildlife, observations on society, nature, other people and their relationship. This is a wonderful story of coming to terms with grief and about finding yourself and what is really important when it seems that everything is lost. Ultimately, it is a portrayal of home, and how it can be lost, rebuilt, and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways. The KURC's book club meets on the third Tuesday of the month as from 1930 at Katie Frost' home. You are most welcome to join us.



KURC Book Club

Three ideas for June from KURC's Faith Advancement group

Advance your faith this month by....

- Reflecting on your day
- Drawing or painting a picture
- Inviting someone to church



readings for June

STRUGGLES AND SURPRISES

1 Struggles

Sunday 26 May Genesis 32:22–32
 Monday 27 May Ruth 1:1–21
 Tuesday 28 May 1 Samuel 25:4–13, 23–31
 Wednesday 29 May 1 Kings 19:1–11
 Thursday 30 May Job 1:6–22
 Friday 31 May Jeremiah 9:1–6
 Saturday 1 June Matthew 26:36–46

2 Surprises

Sunday 2 June Acts 1:1–11
 Monday 3 June Genesis 38:12–30
 Tuesday 4 June Numbers 22:21–35
 Wednesday 5 June Acts 10:1–15
 Thursday 6 June Matthew 13:44–45
 Friday 7 June Matthew 17:24–27
 Saturday 8 June Acts 2:1–13

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Sunday 9 June Galatians 5:22–26
 Monday 10 June Romans 15:13
 Tuesday 11 June John 16:33
 Wednesday 12 June Romans 12:12
 Thursday 13 June Hebrews 11:1
 Friday 14 June Colossians 3:12–13
 Saturday 15 June 2 Peter 1:5–7

IN MEMORY OF HER: SURPRISING WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

1 Visionaries and prophets

Sunday 16 June Exodus 1:8–22
 Monday 17 June Exodus 15:1–3, 19–21
 Tuesday 18 June Numbers 27:1–11
 Wednesday 19 June Josh 2:1–24
 Thursday 20 June Judges 4:1–16
 Friday 21 June Judges 4:17–22
 Saturday 22 June 1 Kings 1:5, 11–31

2 Evangelists and leaders

Sunday 23 June Luke 2:21, 36–38
 Monday 24 June John 19:16b–18, 25b–27
 Tuesday 25 June Mark 14:3–9
 Wednesday 26 June John 20:1, 11–18
 Thursday 27 June 2 Timothy 1:3–7
 Friday 28 June Acts 16:14–15
 Saturday 29 June Romans 16:1–2

READINGS IN LUKE (3)

1 Who do you say I am?

Sunday 30 June Luke 8:26–39



Archive of the month

In 2003 we were busy raising money to pay for our new lift, foyer and meeting rooms. One memorable event was the production of the pantomime 'Cinderella' in the Mayo Hall, which involved over 50 church members and friends. Do you recognise these two actresses?



Free logs offer

Katie Frost has a pile of freshly cut willow logs, which, she says, are apparently excellent for an open fire or a wood burner. The logs are free for collection from her garden.



Sue, John and Rui

(see page 11
In May's
Church News)

Regular activities

Sunday:

15.30 Messy Church (monthly, but Sundays vary – for dates see Worship Diary on page 3)

Monday:

10.00 Jolly 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 (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 9 February; Editor: Tony Wenman

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)***

Thank you to Mail Boxes Etc. 29 Castle Street, Kingston, KT1 1DN, 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.

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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

Centre Manager:

Catherine Treweek

Operations Assistant:

Frank Mason

Monday – Friday; 09.00 – 17.30

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Church Secretary:

Temporarily vacant

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