

# **CHURCH NEWS**

**Kingston United Reformed Church**

## **SEPTEMBER 2019**



*Holiday Fun in Kingston Photo by Jenny Tarbutt*

[www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org)

Charity No. 1131880

*Edited this month by Jean Thompson*

## **CHURCH DIARY: SEPTEMBER 2019**

**(for regular activities see inside back cover)**

Sunday	1 Sept.	10.00	Worship & Communion
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Saturday	7 Sept.	09.30	KURC Outing to Bognor Regis
Sunday	8 Sept.	09.30	Coffee/Tea available
		10.30	All Age Worship
		11.30	Church Meeting – AGM
<b>*Copy deadline for October Church News – Editor: Bron Robinson*</b>			
		15.30	Messy Church does Art & Craft
Sunday	15 Sept.	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship & Communion
Tuesday	17 Sept.	19.30	KURC Book Club at Katie Frost's home
Sunday	22 Sept.	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Sunday	29 Sept.	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
		18.30	Reflective Worship

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## **FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER**



1 Sept	Madge Cole
8	“ Suk In & He Jung Kim Lee
15	“ The Clegg Family in memory of Alan & Kathleen
22	“ Evelyn White
29	“ Robin Pilbeam & David Anderson

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## LESLEY'S LETTER



Dear All,

### **A quiz.**

Someone is rude to you. They hurt your feelings. What do you do?

**A)** Make a doll shaped like them and stick pins into it.

**B)** Find them and shout in their face. Take a pal. Let them shout too.

**C)** Gossip about them behind their back. Tell everyone what they did from your point of view. This is not the time for balanced reporting.

**D)** Nothing. The role of the Christian is to allow people to behave badly and take it.

And what do you think Jesus would do?

There are certainly examples of Jesus having things happen to him which would have hurt most people's feelings. We also believe that when people are being mean to us, God is there and knows what has happened to us. We also believe that we are people for whom Jesus died on the cross and we are worthy of love and respect.

The easiest thing is to talk about someone, rather than talking to them. Find like-minded people and turn the air blue. If Jesus was visible in the room, would you still talk in that way? Is what you are saying kind?

It is a tough thing to raise with someone that they have hurt your feelings. But they may not know that is how the encounter left you. They might be thinking you had a bit of a laugh together. Or that you are not offended by their back chat.

If you do nothing, you are teaching them that that behaviour is OK for you. Is it? The loving thing to do is to speak up. Loving to yourself but also to them. The cowardly thing to do is any of the 4 above.

Courage is needed to follow Jesus and to be his loving disciples. Loving people means having brave demanding conversations. Take the time to do the conversation properly. Be rested. Pray. Plan what you will say. Get a friend to pray when you are talking. Be kind. Be curious about their side of the encounter. Listen a lot. But do it.

**Best wishes, Lesley**

*While we are without a Church Secretary, Elders are contributing an article each month. Ed.*

## **HOLY HABITS – ‘DARE TO DREAM’**

For the last year or so, we have been using a book called *Holy Habits*, written by Andrew Roberts, a Methodist minister, as source material for the reflections that open each elders' meeting. Elders have taken it in turns to introduce and discuss one of the 10 'holy habits' that Andrew Roberts identifies. A couple of months ago, *Church News* featured Sharon Henriquez-Vernon's eloquent reflection on the holy habit of 'Eating Together'. But that, we then realised, was that! – we had run out of holy habits, and the only thing left was the book's concluding chapter. My name was the next one on the rota, so it fell to me to talk about this at the elders' meeting and then, following Sharon's example, write about it in *Church News*. So here we go.

The chapter in question is called 'Dare to Dream' and reading it reminded me of my supervisor's advice when I was struggling with Goethe's *Faust Part 2* at university. She suggested that the best way to make sense of it was to start reading it at the end and work my way back through it to the beginning. I am not claiming, of course, that Andrew Roberts's book only makes sense if you read it back to front – rather that the final chapter gives tangible shape to the context in which his holy habits belong firmly in our daily lives.

At the heart of the 'Dare to Dream' chapter is Andrew's challenge to us to dream of what the world might look like if we were to adopt the holy habits the previous chapters had discussed. A world – to quote just some of the chapter headings - of gladness and generosity, service to others, of fellowship and giving - all guided by biblical teaching and prayer. He contrasts the beauties and plenty of the world around us with the dark shadows we have used these to create and, subsequently, to tolerate. He talks of 'a world of plenty but with too much poverty; a world with glimpses of heaven and ghettos of hell; a world that has never been so connected or so lonely'. But does it have to be thus, Andrew asks. He goes on to imagine and paint a vivid and rather moving picture of what has always had the potential to be an earthly utopia, although at times this can look a bit like a child's picture book guide to the Garden of Eden. But why not? He himself admits that such a picture can look 'crazy' or 'ridiculous'. But didn't, he asks rhetorically, the idea of a bunch of fishermen leaving their jobs and homes to follow a young rabbi, or Martin Luther King's dream of children holding hands across the racial divide – didn't these ideas look 'crazy' or 'ridiculous' too? Don't be put off, he seems to imply, by over-ambitious dreaming; over-ambitious for humankind could well be run-of-the-mill for God.

At the beginning of the chapter, Andrew quotes Einstein's statement that 'what you can't imagine, you will never see' – a statement with immediate appeal to a fully paid-up, life-long member like me of the (day-) dreaming classes. Dreams can help identify and define the kind of principles by which we would like or would seek to live. Or so my adolescent idealism told me; and though such idealism may have got a bit tarnished with age and misuse, I still find that notion a valid and persuasive one. So perhaps this chapter should have come at the beginning of the book after all: Andrew Roberts makes it quite clear that dreams, invaluable though they are, are ultimately only a first step, though a very essential one, on the journey. And it's as way-markers on that journey towards true Christian fulfilment (everything's a journey these days!) that the holy habits themselves really come into their own.

***Vaughan James***



## **Members' and Friends' Photograph Album**

This beautifully and practically produced Photograph Album has captured a wonderfully happy record of current Members and Friends.

Our thanks are due to John Fisher who willingly undertook this important Church task. Our thanks, too, to those who also rose to the occasion and made their contribution.

The Album is situated on the shelf outside the Manager's Office. It is there for you to look at any time and, should your face be missing, expect to be hung by your toes from the Sanctuary ceiling! No penalty if you were away, but if not..... ! Seriously, please do ask John to photograph you for the record. The work is ongoing, so John is often available on Sundays and weekdays to fill the gaps. John will also be with the Album in the Mayo Hall on some Sundays, so be sure to ask him to show you the Album and/or have your photo taken.

***Ann Macfarlane***



## **KURC day out at the SEASIDE ... by coach to Bognor Regis Saturday 7 September**

Departure 09.30 from High Street, opposite Rose Theatre  
Back in Kingston by about 18.30



**£15\*** per person    **£7.50\*** children: 12 and under  
(lunch not included but optional fish & chips  
opportunity available on the day)



*\* if you feel able to give more,  
this will help others to  
participate who might  
otherwise not be able to*

(Toilet facilities  
available on coach)

***Limited space, so book now!***  
***Tickets available from Catherine Treweek***

## **PASTORAL NEWS at 11. 8.19.**

*“Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.”  
(Colossians 4 v 2)*

Out of care for people’s privacy, Personal News 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)

Church and church linked groups in our prayers this month are: Flower arrangers; Foyer coffee service; Foyer events and activities team and the Safeguarding group.

We remember all those who had exam results over the summer and ask for your blessing on them as they return to school, college or work.

We pray for all those restarting their post-holiday pattern of life. We hope that their time away from the normal routine has been one of relaxation and renewal preparing them for the months ahead.

We pray for all those known to us who are recovering from recent illness or struggling with ongoing conditions. May they and all those who support them be encouraged and strengthened by your love.

We give thanks for the skill of those who arrange the flowers each week; it is a small job but the results bring joy to many.

We give thanks for all those who serve drinks and refreshments or prepare and run activities in the foyer; for the wonderful welcome they give and the opportunity for people to meet that their work enables; bless them, particularly when the work is difficult; bless all who use the foyer.



We pray for the Safeguarding team; for their work ensuring volunteers and participants alike can meet in a safe environment.

Finally, we pray for our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In. May they know your love for them and the love you want to share with us all. May we all know the love that you pour out on us and help us share that love with others. Amen.

***Martyn Verge***

### **A huge thank you... and a favour**

Dear All,

I want to take this opportunity to express how grateful I am to you all for your prayers, love and support over the past few weeks. It has been a great comfort to know you have been thinking of me and to know I am cared for at KURC, and it has really confirmed to me that, despite the accommodation difficulties, this is the place I am meant to be.

Thanks to God and a lot of hard work by support workers and council workers, I am now very happy to be living in the Surbiton YMCA. I have a really lovely room which is secured for two years, at which point the council should support me to get my own permanent place. It's taking time, but I'm now starting to get everything organised and settled back into my normal routine.

I do have a slight issue in that I have two pieces of furniture, currently still at my previous address, which I am not able to bring into the Y, and my previous landlord needs me to move them as soon as I can. Is there anyone who would have room to store either one or both pieces until I get my own place and can take them back? You are, of course, more than welcome to use them! They are an antique-style tall boy wardrobe and chest of drawers, both painted a light grey. I don't have pictures and measurements as yet, but will get hold of them ASAP. Please let me know if you might be able to help.

***Rhiannon Bone***

Rhiannon's email address is: [rhiannon.bone@gmail.com](mailto:rhiannon.bone@gmail.com) Ed.

**SO YOUNG JUNG, who is working with North and South Koreans at KURC and New Malden URC, recently gave a report to the Elders' Meeting. Here are some extracts:**



**Widening Local Church and Society Experience:**

All of the congregations of New Malden and Kingston are so welcoming and nice to me and I respect and appreciate to them. I have joined a number of Church activities between New Malden URC and Kingston URC as well as local activities among British and North and South Korean society around these areas. I have attended International Friendship Café every Thursday, Wednesday worship service in Kingston, Wednesday Church Café among Koreans in New Malden. I attended the 'Tongil Junbi Moim' which is North Korean gathering.

I had a meeting with people who are working in the Kingston Safeguarding Board, Kingston Children's Services-AFC, Safeguarding adviser for the Southwark Diocese with a number of Korean ministers. We explored how we might develop stronger links between statutory and support services with Korean community.

**Ministry in the Church:** On third and fourth Sunday I attend New Malden URC. I attend every evening worship service in Kingston. Among Churches, I welcome and take care of Koreans (especially North Korean congregations). I translate children's talk, sometimes discussing about the Bible story among North and South Koreans and British. I joined the North Korean membership class every week. Among 8 membership members, four of the North Koreans in Kingston were baptised on Easter Sunday. I am also interested in Sunday School, so from April, I am looking around the Junior Church after getting permission from both teachers or youth leader in New Malden and Kingston.

**Ministry in Synod and Church House:** I had my commissioning service in Synod in March. I had meetings with Synod members and learned how they operate the Synod and help Church. After commissioning I also attended the Spring School from 13 to 16 May and multicultural gathering (BAME) from 16 to 17 May. From the Spring School I shared fellowship with many ministers from Southern Synod,

we spent good time praying, worshipping God and studying in the presence of God. It was such a great opportunity to meet many ministers and learn how to have a rest in God. In BAME, I met with Black and Asian Ministers from URC. We spent time together talking about the theme of debt, Jesus' mission to forgive debt, and debt's role in the present situation. All of the ministers were very enthusiastic about suggesting the way of living from the Bible in this society. All of them are very humorous, relaxed, but very hard workers.

**With North Koreans:** I started searching the North Koreans who have an experience to come to Church but not anymore. I visited their house and met them, talked and shared food. I started looking for South Koreans who know the Korean Society in New Malden and Kingston and also met them. On weekdays, once or twice, I spend time building relationship with North Korean children. I meet 5 to 8 children in their house getting permission from their parents. We share Bible story and play, eat together.

I applied as a London Korean School teacher and I became a class teacher. My class includes 24 students and they are over 13-14 old. Even though it is rather energy taking to teach the puberty teenagers, I think this will be a great opportunity to reach out to Koreans. Two of the students are joining my regular North Korean Children Meeting.

**Small suggestion:** I know how British people are warm and try to be nice to North Koreans. North Koreans are also warm and nice in Kingston URC. They are prepared to say hello, but seem to be too shy to greet first. So, when British Church members approach North Koreans first, they feel absolutely pleased. We could learn simple greetings in Korean language for the first step of the greeting. If we put some Korean language greetings in the Church magazine, I think we can have much warmer relationship together in the Church.

**Prayers:** Approaching and building relationships with North Koreans are usually not easy. That is very sensitive and careful ministry. The people who came from the North overcame the line of death. They were covered with all the dangers while they escaping. So they have lots of doubt when meeting new people and rather sensitive to reveal their names and identity. **Please pray for me to overcome every tough situation with God's wisdom.**



## **MARGARET TOWNSEND**

**31 March 1930 – 20 June 2019**

**Here are extracts from Lesley's Address at the Thanksgiving Service on 22 July 2019**



Margaret was born in Twickenham on 31 March 1930. By her own narration she had a tumultuous uneasy, childhood. She spoke of it often. Indeed, in many ways, she and brother John had a classic war life. Money was tight – not scarce. Resources were to be considered and there was not the capacity for the

lighter things of life because life was a serious matter.

Church attendance was always part of life, moving from St Matthew's where she was baptised and went to Sunday School, to St Nicholas's where she was married, to Holy Trinity, Claygate, where she volunteered with the administration. And then to KURC. Margaret's life was the regular moves of people travelling to escape the bombings, but with additional family tensions.

Returning to Tolworth, Margaret went to Tolworth Girls. At 13 she sat an examination and passed to go to Kingston Day Commercial School. There she acquired a vital set of skills and friends that lasted her lifetime. On leaving she began working as a bank clerk at Westminster Bank in Kingston – a time of real joy for her. This came to a sudden end when the years of not eating properly and neglect caught up with her and the doctor sent her for an x-ray, only to discover tuberculosis, which meant hospital in Ventnor for a year. Told she would never work again and not to marry or have children, she decided not to listen to the gloomy prediction and got work at an architectural practice in New Malden.

Margaret met Victor Townsend in 1953 and they married in 1954 at St Nicholas's, Thames Ditton. She thought that would provide her with the security she needed, in contrast to the home life she had had. Indeed it did. For her it was the happiest 22 years of her life. There was the joy of the arrival of Jane and Paul. However, soon she was widowed and was a widow for 43 years. This left her with an insecurity about her place and the place of others in society. She did though enjoy working on keeping and rebuilding the business of Hart's Boatyard.

Margaret had long friendships with neighbours and people she had known at school. For many she was an easy conversationalist and a pleasure to know.

Her life teaches us lessons about loyalty and hard work, about giving to the community. In many ways she has had a tough life, the challenge is what you do with those experiences. For some, they are the bedrock of empathy and understanding of others. For others, they make them anxious. Margaret did not lose capacity for love, she had close friends and a great love for grandsons, Jarrad and Conrad, taking a passionate interest in their achievements.

A garden is often used as a metaphor for life. It is usually used as a sense of somewhere that is beautiful and relaxed. But only those who know nothing of real flowers would think that. There are bugs and thorns and the thing about a real garden is they never stop. In a garden you battle continually to make it look perfect. But you turn around and the weeds have sprouted. They are always on the move, growing, needing pruning and weeding. Margaret was a restless soul. She knew nothing of rest or ease until the very last phase of her life when she received excellent care from the Home of Compassion. Of course, there were holidays in Sidmouth. But there were the house moves and the anxiety. She was a tremendous worrier. She did not stop. If there was a lawn, she was mowing it. She also worked hard for a range of good causes.

There were though things that gave her delight – her gardens, her grandsons. She was delighted by the number of roles she had fulfilled as a volunteer. By long friendships that she sustained from her school days. From close relations with neighbours who helped tremendously when Vic died. By her travels. In the 90s she travelled to Amsterdam, China, Russia, Australia, South Africa and to Oberammergau for the Passion Play.

Of course, some might have wished she had taken more time to stop, to play, to know the softer, more tender things of life, but there are certainly things to admire – her grit, hard work and determination to do her best.

And now her life is over, what shall we say? She leaves a legacy about showing your love, expressing it to those closest to you. About forgiveness and letting things go. Here we are in the face of mystery, the border between this world and the next. Christians believe in God who, in Jesus, has conquered death. We are in the world of faith, not proof. Whatever we believe, we know that the last challenging phase is over and that if God is, then God is surely love and knows her story – all of it. God will give her the rest, welcome and acceptance she missed on the earth.

## **KURC Book Club Review (1)**

### **The Red Tent by Anita Diamant**

*The Red Tent* is historical fiction (yet thoroughly researched) first-person account of the life of Dinah, the only daughter of Biblical patriarch Jacob (who is more famous for having twelve sons). With Dinah's help, women's histories are traced; daughters, sisters and mothers are remembered and honoured. Through Dinah's eyes we see women come of age, begin menstruating, fall in love, make love, bear children, bear losses, age and die.

In the Bible, Dinah's life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the book of Genesis that are about her father, Jacob and his dozen sons. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood - the world of the red tent. Dinah opens the story by recounting the union of her mother Leah and father Jacob, as well as the expansion of the family to include Leah's sister Rachel and the handmaids Zilpah and Bilhah. They love Dinah and give her gifts that sustain her through a hard-working youth, a calling to midwifery, and a new home in a foreign land. Dinah's story reaches out from a remarkable period of early history and creates an intimate connection with the past. *The Red Tent* combines rich storytelling with a valuable achievement in modern fiction: a new view of biblical women's society. It's sometimes quite a challenging read.

According to the Bible's account in Genesis 34, Dinah was "defiled" by a prince of Shechem, although he is described as being genuinely in love with Dinah. He also offers a bride price fit for royalty. Displeased at how the prince treated their sister, her brothers Simeon (spelled "Simon" in the book) and Levi treacherously tell the Shechemites that all will be forgiven if the prince and his men undergo the Jewish rite of circumcision so as to unite the people of Hamor, king of Shechem, with the tribe of Jacob. The Shechemites agree and shortly after they go under the knife; while incapacitated by pain, they are murdered by Dinah's brothers and their male servants, who then return with Dinah. In *The Red Tent*, Dinah genuinely loves the prince and willingly becomes his bride. She is horrified and grief-stricken by her brothers' murderous rampage. After cursing her brothers and father she escapes to Egypt, where she gives birth to a son. In time she finds another love and reconciles with her brother Joseph, who is now vizier of Egypt. At the death of Jacob, she visits her estranged family. She learns she has been all but forgotten by her other living brothers and father but that her story lives on with the women of Jacob's tribe.



The story is not only historical but also contemporary. Jacob's sons all married women from other tribes which caused many issues. Even today there are frequently problems when there is marriage between persons of different races or religions. It is not a problem confined to Jacob's family.

Not all the book club members enjoyed the book but there can be no doubt it caused us to think about the life of women in 1500 BC.

Why not join us? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at Katie Frost's home. See you then?

***KURC Book Club***

## **Anonymous Giver**

On Sunday, 19 May, I was given a gift by an anonymous Church Member. The gift is a painting created by another Church Member who is a professional Artist, Janine Goddard. This gift is extremely precious as it shows part of one of my favourite local gardens, Wisley. A friend and I go every two weeks and we have done this for over 15 years. There is always creativity and design change, with colours, shapes and scents to keep one returning and involved.

It can be likened to my experience of Church life, always full of creativity, change and mystery. Mystery, especially around the love of God and his ever-thoughtful gifts.

I've come to realise and appreciate the anonymity of the giver who gave me the wonderful painting, even though this is not as important as it being a person who was moved to act with kindness and generosity. This is one of the many ways I accept and appreciate the mystery of God. It's the giving of one's gratitude and love with heart and soul when people act on God's blessings.

***Ann Macfarlane***



**MARGARET RANDALL****1931 – 2019****Extracts taken from Rev Roy Lowes' address at the  
Service of Thanksgiving on 23 July 2019**

Picture the scene. The shore of Lake Galilee, a beautiful morning, a glorious sunrise. No, not 2,000 years ago. But maybe 25 years ago. It's the last day of a pilgrimage to Israel for a party I had been leading and we were about to head home. On my way down to breakfast in our lakeside hotel I spot Margaret standing by the lakeside gazing across the water. I go down and stand beside her. Margaret looks at me, smiles and says, 'We're just looking our last on all things lovely'.

It's a phrase which beautifully encapsulates the sweet sorrow of such moments. Looking at a lovely thing and rejoicing in its beauty. Looking at a lovely thing and grieving because you know you are not going to be seeing it like that again.

Today we are gathered with that same sweet sorrow to look our last on the lovely thing that was Margaret Randall.

And such a lovely thing. And someone who loved so many things. She loved Fred, her children, their partners and grandchildren and their partners, she loved people generally and children especially. She loved travel and adventure. She loved sport, gardening and flower arranging. She loved her church and sitting in the sun.

Born in Kingston on Thames, she moved relatively little from her point of origin. This was the church she grew up in, went to Sunday School in,

brought her children to, made life-long friendships in, started her life-long love of playing table tennis in, met Fred in, worked and served in to support its life and witness.

She, being at Junior school when the war broke out, was evacuated, we think, to Elgin in Scotland. She went to Tiffin Girls school and after full-time education took up the first of a range of jobs she did throughout her life. Her first job was as a cashier for the Bank of England.

Margaret and Fred married in 1952 in this church and as I said at Fred's funeral, they spent part of their honeymoon at BB Camp! They moved briefly to Mortlake, but after a short time were back in Kingston, Canbury Park Road initially, and then Villiers Avenue until now.

Whilst Paul and Lynne were young Margaret was at home to support them. She was a good mother, the sort of person you would want as a mother, warm and compassionate.

Marriage, according to church teaching, is about two people becoming one. Arguably Fred and Margaret were never one. They were certainly never in each other's pockets. Their interests and inclinations were too divergent for that. But in an important example of love across divergence and difference, they were an utterly devoted couple, a marriage of souls. An example our society needs - loving across difference.

But it's Margaret's sense of adventure, her fearless, dare devilishness, her almost tomboyishness that made her quite distinctive. And it gave an exciting edge to her mothering and her grandmothering.

Margaret was aware of dangers, aware of rules, aware of good sense. She just never felt any of it applied to her and never let it get in the way of her enormous sense of adventure!

She grasped every opportunity for adventure and when Lynne was in her early twenties and saw an advert for a trip on the Trans-Siberian railway, off they went!!

With sister, Hilda, Church friends and others she travelled widely including Israel, Jamaica, India, Southern Africa, China, Italy, Morocco and had been in a Winnebago across the USA.

Fred and Margaret had discovered Corfu and went there together for years, enjoying the place, the family they stayed with in the Taverna and their holiday patterns.

But as for the other holidays that Margaret went on alone, they were enhanced always by knowing that she would be coming back home to tell Fred all about them. Fred was not interested in travel but he delighted in what Margaret wanted. Trips after he died were therefore less complete and sadder.

At home with the children gone she took on some jobs, she was a cashier at Kingston Poly, worked in the kitchens at Surbiton High and in the domestic science department at Digby Stuart college.

She supported Fred, of course, in all he was doing, his work and study and writing and his work for the Voluntary sector and here at the church where he was Secretary. Not to mention her essential part in the Fred Friday gatherings at their house for years.

And all this love of adventure, interest in everything, love of fun she put into her love of and time with her grandchildren. Lynne tells us how she was a wonderful Grandma. There was always a party with her.

But travel and family were not the sum total of her diary even after Fred's death. For decades here at church she has played a major role in the Parents and Toddlers Group. She did flower arranging and was also a member of Ham Horticultural Society. She was part of U3A and took every opportunity to keep up her table tennis with them. And she always engendered affection wherever she went.

Nevertheless, these are still the broad brushstrokes and occasional examples of her life. So, let your memories travel back through the years and recall the details of her, what she was to you, how she connected with you, how you related to her.

Remember that she would want you to go on and make the best of your lives with her love and encouragement within you and in front of you to urge you on. You are not entirely without her. Death may have robbed you of her body, nothing can rob you of your memories. The good things that she said and did are yours for always.

Margaret was not perfect of course, because none of us are. She had a certain determination and single mindedness. All such good human characteristics can have a down side and some of you might have felt them. This is a point to acknowledge and experience them so that they can be an honest part of your love for her.

Margaret was a lifelong Christian. I am not sure how much she spoke of that. Her Christianity was often an unspoken part of her deep engagement in this church. By being here she suffused her life with the hymns, readings, prayers and teachings of the church. They meant a lot

to her. So, remember that for her all suffering and anxiety are at an end, she is meeting her loved ones who died before her. She is also meeting the God to whom she prayed and finding the peace that she needs.

But certainly, we are here today looking our last on the lovely thing that has been Margaret and sending her home.

*Margaret was the longest serving member of our church, having joined in April 1949 (70 years!). Ed.*

### **Giving a Practical Gift**

Would you like to give something in memory of someone you love? Or as a thank-you? Or to mark a celebration? Of course, there are many causes that people choose to give money to and they are the work of the Kingdom – we do not have a monopoly.

However, would you like to give something specific in the building?

Maybe you could bear this in mind for the future.

If you would, we have a number of ideas. Please speak to Catherine, Cathy, Lesley or Suk In.

Specifically, at the moment we have an issue with the Bibles in the Sanctuary chairs and, speaking of chairs, we could do with some new ones in the hall. ***Thanks, Lesley***

### **10.30 am Service, Sunday, 8 September**

Barry Fisher (who some of you know) and Christine Thompson will be talking about the work and vision of Kingston Samaritans. If there is a question that you would like answered or some aspect that you would like to hear about, please let Christine know, and we can make sure we include that. There will also be time to ask questions after the talk.

*Jason Lee has recently been posted to Afghanistan. He has sent Church News the following email:*

**Subject: Wish you were not here, Jason from Kabul**

Hey y'all,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-48825400>

It's been a hard shocking first few days but I feel settled in now. The facilities are mostly American so living-wise I'm well cared for! +Wifi! Weather-wise, open a really hot oven and that's how it feels constantly with the odd stench, but I am drinking a large amount of bottled water and eating healthy, with the odd PopTarts. There are Church services here and a British Padre whom I've yet to meet.

For those who strongly insist on sending me welfare parcels:

(Shoobox sized, under 2kg is free to send!)

Any sweets you send will be greatly appreciated by all here!

30145504 LCpl Lee  
LAD  
OP TORAL  
BFPO 762

God bless you all for your prayers, I really do feel Blessed! **Jason**

--ooOoo--



Joan and Gavan Kelly celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary at a special celebratory Tea Dance in the Mayo Hall in June. Joan and Gavan are very keen members of the Friday afternoon Ballroom Dancing Club. They were presented with a large bouquet of flowers from the Church. Congratulations, Joan and Gavan!



## PEGGY CHEGWIN

*Peggy's obituary slipped through the net, but here is a summary of Lesley's address at her funeral service in March this year. Ed.*

Peggy was born in Glasgow in 1925 but grew up in Edinburgh, the eldest of four children. Her first job was in the office of the Royal Aircraft Repair Yard in Donibristle, Fife, which is where Peggy met Dick and they were married in Edinburgh in 1951. Two children followed, Ann and Richard. Promotions took them to Kent and back to Perth.

In 1967 the family settled in Chessington and carved out new lives locally, Peggy attending KURC weekly and working in the VG Supermarket. Peggy loved her family, but life was not always easy and she lived through the death of Dick as well as Richard. At various times interests included country dancing, the cinema, caravan holidays in the North of Scotland, overseas travel, the New Forest and Cornwall.

Faith was one of the rock-solid things in her life. Peggy was a strong, brave woman who lived her life well. With failing health, she still had the ability to laugh easily and celebrate what she had. She will be greatly missed by daughter, Ann and grandchildren, Christopher and Nicola.

### **Advance your faith this month by .....**

- Singing a hymn in the bathroom
- Praying the Lord's Prayer before you go to sleep
- Listening to 'Thought for the Day' on BBC Radio 4 at about 07.45 on weekday mornings

### **A Thank-You from Jane:**

The Townsend Family would like to thank KURC for all their prayers, support and advice during the sudden death of Margaret who attended this church until she latterly resided at the Home of Compassion.

I would also like to thank those of you who attended the Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, on 22 July.

***Jane Townsend***

## **URC DAILY DEVOTION: Prayer and Meditation: a recommendation**



AND / OR



### **DID YOU KNOW that.....**

...every morning at 6am the United Reformed Church sends out a daily devotion – a reading, reflection and prayer – which can be read on phones whilst commuting, on tablets in coffee shops, on computers over lunch, or on Facebook on the way home,

They are VERY VARIED ... they are written by a team of well over 100 writers reflecting the wide range of perspectives within the United Reformed Church, just as at Kingston United Reformed Church.

*Those who are unable to get to church find these a great spiritual connection with the URC.*

*Elders and lay preachers use them to create services.*

*Small group discussions are based on them.*

*The most delightful feedback has been the joy that many people feel about the fact that the URC is praying together each day.*

### **Why not give them a try?**

**They are a brilliant at-least-once-a-day 'prompt' to prayer and contemplation.**

**You can get these Daily Devotion emails for FREE by going to:**  
[devotions.urc.org.uk](http://devotions.urc.org.uk)

And you can catch up with archived earlier Devotions. People who prefer to read these on paper can download a pdf version of the Devotions formatted as a Booklet.

**STOP PRESS!!** Now available as Daily Devotion Podcasts.

***Teresa James***

## **IBRA READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER**

### **AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD**

#### **Living with difference**

Sunday 1st Sept.	Psalms 100
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mark 13:3-13
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Acts 2:43-47
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Acts 7:1-8
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	1 Peter 2:9-17
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Revelation 7:9-17
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Revelation 18:1-3, 11-24

### **WATERS: FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION**

#### **Cosmic waters**

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Genesis 1:1-10, 20-22
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Job 38:1-18
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Job 38:19-38
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Psalms 93
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 4:35-41
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ezekiel 47:1-12
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Revelation 22:1-5

#### **Quenching thirst**

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	John 7:37-39
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 21:8-19
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 26:17-33
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 24:10-27
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 7:14-24
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 17:1-7
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	John 4:7-15

#### **Waters of new life**

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept.	John 3:1-15
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Exodus 2:1-10
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Exodus 14:10-31
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2 Kings 5:1-14
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 1:1-13
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	John 19:28-37
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	1 John 5:1-12

### **READINGS IN LUKE**

#### **An open invitation**

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Luke 14:15-24
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 14:25-35



## **KURC Book Club Review (2)**

### **A Tree Full of Angels by Macrina Wiederkehr (1990)**

This book had a very mixed reaction at our Book Club. Some of us didn't start it, some of us didn't finish it and some of us completed it out of a sense of loyalty! The best thing is to read it for yourself and make your own decision! Macrina Wiederkehr is a member of St Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the author of many books. In this text on everyday spirituality, her intention is to teach us the art of seeing the presence of God amid our daily activities. The author models for us Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) as a way of life. It is based on her belief of spirituality which finds God fleshed out everywhere.

In this book, the author asks us to imagine that we are invited to a table each day. This, the table of love and the table of life. We do not have to be worthy, only willing to let God serve. We have to be mindful enough to recognise love's invitation. Wiederkehr recommends us to make a journal in which we reflect on experiences, feast on memories from the past and surround them with prayer; these are precious memories that perhaps were not understood or cherished at the time. They can be gathered up like crumbs for nourishment in our later years. *A Tree Full of Angels* essentially promotes a contemplative spirit, making holy time and space.

The next Book Club will meet on Tuesday, 17 September at Katie Frost's home. We are reading *The Cut-Out Girl* by Bart van Es (2018). All are welcome.

***KURC Book Club***

### **From Wallington URC's Magazine:**

Blessed are those who use their electronic devices, for they save trees.  
Blessed are those who are observant, for they shall witness great things.  
Blessed are those who cultivate the soil, for they witness the miracle of nature.

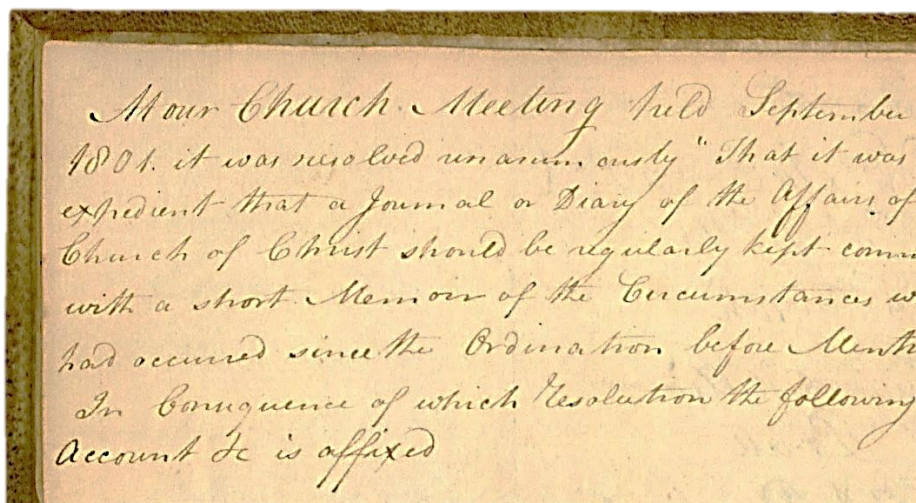
Blessed are those who must walk everywhere, for they help to save the environment.

Blessed are those who have internet access, for they shall inherit the kingdom of the world.

Blessed are those who care, for their reward will be great.

Blessed are those who can't think of what to say, because they make the best listeners.

## Archive of the Month



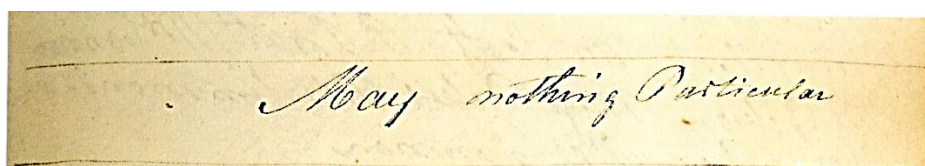
Our archives contain church meeting minutes going back over two centuries to September 1801. For many years, until the invention of the typewriter, the minutes were written in beautiful (if somewhat illegible) 'copperplate' script. This month we reproduce the very first minute (above) which reads as follows:

*'At our church meeting held September 10 1801 it was resolved unanimously that it was expedient that a journal or diary of the affairs of this Church of Christ should be regularly kept commencing with a short memoir of the circumstances which had occurred since the Ordination before mentioned...'*

In 1801 our church had just been re-founded as a Congregational church, meeting in a small house at the south end of Brick Lane (now Union Street) - on the site we occupy today.

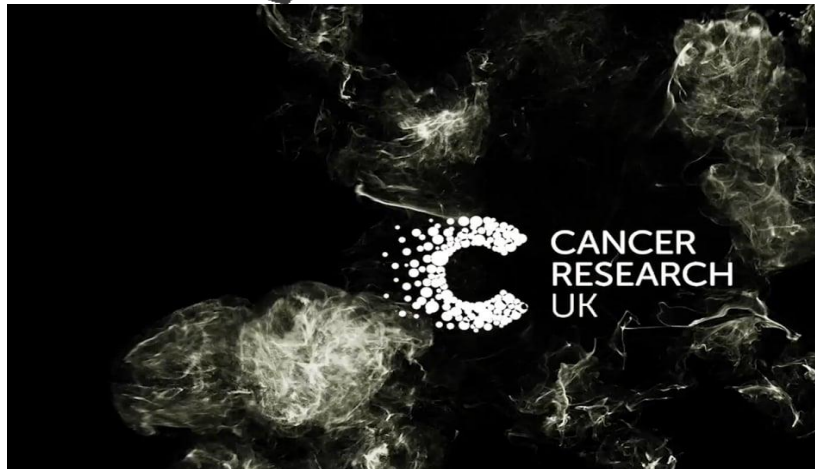
The extreme brevity of some of the early minutes possibly qualifies for the Guinness Book of Records:

*'May: nothing particular'*



**John Fisher**





# CHARITY RECITAL FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK

**12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019 7.30PM**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,  
KINGSTON UPON THAMES**

**Dreaming of a  
whole new  
world?  
Journey through  
Rhapsodies and  
Reveries with  
music by Brahms,  
Popper,  
Piazzolla & Ravel**

**Cello -Amy Gould  
Piano – David Harrod**

**For tickets:**

**E-mail:**

**[amycgould@  
outlook.com](mailto:amycgould@outlook.com)**

**£12 or £15 on the door**

**[https://amycgould.wixsite.com/  
myweb](https://amycgould.wixsite.com/myweb)**



## Regular Activities

<b>Sunday:</b>	Messy Church (monthly, but Sundays vary)
15.30	
<b>Monday:</b>	
10.00	Jolly Toddlers (during school terms)
<b>Tuesday:</b>	
19.30	Book Club (third Tuesday monthly) Speak to Linda Austin or Katie Frost for location
<b>Wednesday:</b>	
10.00	Tots' Praise
13.10	Lunchtime Service
14.00 & 19.30	Faith Studies – check date & frequency of courses
<b>Thursday:</b>	
19.00	International Friendship Café
19.30	Line Dancing
<b>Friday:</b>	
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)
<b>Saturday:</b>	
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, preferably by email, no later than midday on the **second Sunday of the month**.

**The next copy deadline is 12 noon on Sunday, 8 September. Editor: Bron Robinson**

**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](http://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](mailto:info@mbekingston.co.uk)

**You can also 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.**

## 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 on the 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](mailto:minister@kingstonurc.org)

Rev Dr Suk In Lee, tel: 020 8949 2070 e-mail: [leesukin@hotmail.com](mailto:leesukin@hotmail.com)

### **Church Secretary:**

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### **Treasurer:**

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### **Youth & Families Worker:**

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### **Mission Development Worker through Music:**

Sulhee Kim, e-mail: [sulhee.kim4him@gmail.com](mailto:sulhee.kim4him@gmail.com)

### **Centre Manager:**

Catherine Treweek

### **Facilities Assistant:**

Gaffar Zarei

Monday – Friday: 09.00 – 17.00

Tel: 020 8549 1888 e-mail: [premises@urckington.org.uk](mailto:premises@urckington.org.uk)