



# **C H U R C H N E W S**

**Kingston United Reformed Church**

## **MARCH 2020**



*Springtime at Hampton Court*

*Photo by Jenny Tarbutt*

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

**Charity No. 1131880**

***Edited this month by Jean Thompson***

## **WORSHIP DIARY: MARCH 2020**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	1	10.00	Worship & Communion
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Wednesday	4	10.00	Tots' Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Service
Friday	6	13.00	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	8	09.30	Coffee/tea available
		10.30	All Age Worship
		11.30	Church Meeting
<b>++ Copy deadline for April Church News – Editor: Robin Pilbeam ++</b>			
		15.30	Messy Church does Junk Modelling
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Wednesday	11	10.00	Tots' Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Service
Friday	13	13.00	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	15	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship & Communion
Tuesday	17	19.30	KURC Book Club at Katie Frost's home
Wednesday	18	10.00	Tots' Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Service
Thursday	19	12.30	Lunchtime Recital – see pg. 10
Friday	20	13.00	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	22	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Wednesday	25	10.00	Tots' Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Service
Friday	27	13.00	Friday Prayers
<b>Sunday</b>	29	<b>British Summertime begins</b>	
		10.00	Worship followed by Special Church Meeting - Elders' Election Results
		11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
		18.30	Reflective Worship

**ADVANCE NOTICE** *Please see pg.19 for Holy Week & Easter Services*

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## LESLEY'S LETTER



Dear All,

What do you do for play? What does fun look like to you? When was the last time you laughed so hard you thought you were not going to be able to breathe? When you did something just for the fun of it?

Play is very important for children and adults. Creative activities that allow us time to recreate and to enjoy the day - woodwork, knitting, painting, walking, reading, time with friends, listening to music, making music, dancing, sewing, time in nature, cooking, watching films, juggling, train spotting, getting your nails painted, meals with family, jigsaws, games, sports. How do you play? You. Not everyone else. What gives you joy?

What! Play! The whole world needs to be reached for Jesus. There are hungry people who need to be fed and there are sad people who need love and care. How can a Christian possibly give time to play? Simple. We are not God. We are human beings who need time to recreate. To rest and to have our senses refreshed so that we may be reinvigorated for service. If we do not stop, we become jaded and desensitised. If all we do is work, the danger is that we begin to think that we are God and the world cannot survive without our efforts. Play helps us to reconnect with important truths and to know that we have a job to do, but God can manage without us.

In the story in creation work is a curse. That is not how we usually portray it. We think of work as honourable and how we earn our living. Work is how we manifest our vocation, whatever that is. Is it possible that we need to learn to think more broadly? To realise that daftness and laughter and frivolous stuff can also be to the glory of God?

Yours, **Lesley**

*Lent Prayer Day – 0900 Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> – 0900 Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> February.  
Please come for as little or as much time as possible.*

*Lent Groups are different this year – please see pg. 18 for details.*

## **PASTORAL NEWS at 10. 2.20.**

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5 v 16-18)*

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 e-mail should send an e-mail to:

[tony.wenman@gmail.com](mailto:tony.wenman@gmail.com)

Church and church linked groups in our prayers this month are: Members and friends aged between 0 and twenty; Child Contact Centre; Friday Dance Group; Organ Group and the Community Ministry Group.

*Holy God, forgive us when we underestimate you and your love for us. Hear our prayer.*

*At this season of colds, flu and other viruses we ask for your protection from illness; on those already suffering, pour out your healing spirit.*

*We pray for all those members and friends aged from 0 to 20; give them a thirst for life and a yearning to know you. We give thanks for all those involved in the Child Contact Centre; bless their work and the families they work with, particularly the children; we ask that through it some may find reconciliation and healing of broken relationships. We give thanks for the Friday Dance Group and the enjoyment of movement and the friendships made there. We thank you for the work of the Organ Group as they set the way forward for the music of the church; give them wisdom in their planning and perseverance in its implementation. We pray for the Community Ministry Group as they oversee the outreach work from the premises; give them insight into the needs and inspire them with ideas.*

*Finally, we pray for our ministers, Lesley and Suk-In. Bless them as they continue to support and inspire us. Give them ambition and wisdom in their thinking and help us all to work together to advance your kingdom in this place. Amen.*

## **AN ELDER'S REFLECTION**

*Continuing our series of an Elder's Reflection at Elders' Meeting, here is Liz Bartlett's Reflection at the February meeting on Chapter 19 of the book "Why did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World" by Brian D McLaren.*

### **How the Christian Year can become more Christian**

Brian McLaren sets the whole book, as the sub-title makes clear, in the context of a multi-faith world. He begins chapter 19 in this way: A few years ago I was invited to preach in an old Anglican church in a rural part of the UK. On the wall was an inscription to a young man who had died as a soldier in India in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, fighting to maintain the British Empire's control of the subcontinent. The inscription read: 'He bravely fought and honourably died in service to the crown, the brave son of a conquering race.'

As I preached, the inscription seemed to heckle me from the wall on my left. 'What if a person of Indian descent came to this church? How would they feel to be dubbed 'a conquered race'? And how does it feel to be a British citizen being reminded each Sunday of your colonial past?

McLaren goes on to talk about what he calls 'the vestiges of imperial Christianity' which are still present in our churches and liturgy. We can probably all remember hymns, happily largely expunged from modern hymn books, which were guilty of that. But he says it's not only in what is said, it's sometimes in what's left unsaid that the damage lies. He recalls preaching in a predominantly Tutsi church in Burundi in which he made an appeal for the Twa people, the nation's oppressed minority. Someone came up to him afterwards and said, 'The word *Twa* has never been spoken before in this church. It is as if the Twa didn't even exist. Thank you for reminding us that the Twa too are God's children'.

McLaren's comment is how many real-world hostilities do we protect through avoidance and silence in our churches today?

The main theme of the whole book is the need for people and churches to move on from what he calls the 'strong-hostile' identity of the past. In this we define ourselves over against other Christian groups or other faiths in a spirit of competition or open hostility. Or we go to the opposite extreme in a sweet, sentimental, benign Christian identity. What he wants us to aim for is a 'strong-benevolent' identity. This, he says, would turn us into the following: peace-makers, enemy lovers, offence forgivers, boundary crossers and movement builders. In this chapter he asks how the liturgy of the Christian year could contribute to forming a strong-benevolent character in us. And how might the world be changed because of it?

Sadly, there's not time to describe McLaren's re-thinking on Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter (they are all worth reading), but I'd like to end with

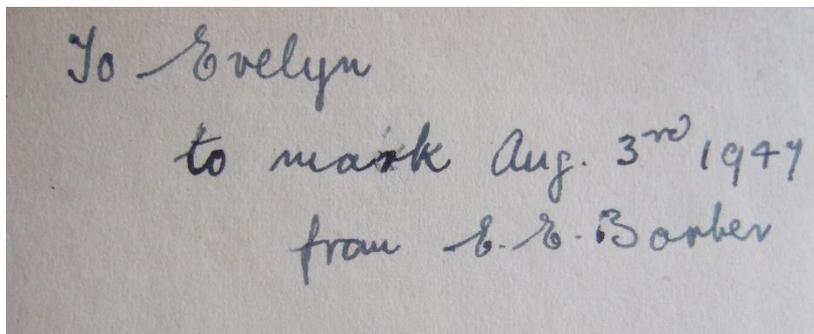
what he calls Kingdom-tide (presumably the Sundays after Trinity). This is the season to focus on the strong and benevolent fruits of the Spirit and to seek Spirit-empowerment as we practise the specific skills and habits of following Jesus' way. These skills include: active and deep listening, being able to process pain into forgiveness and reconciliation, feeling and showing compassion, the transformation of conflict, pre-emptive peace-making, serving others, giving secretly, returning blessing for cursing, doing good to those who do you evil and withdrawing to pray in solitude.

This list of Kingdom-tide to-do's would keep us all busy at least until the Advent season begins again!

## **'MOTHER OF THE HOUSE'**



When Margaret Randall died last year we lost the 'Mother of the House' – the longest serving member of our church. Margaret had joined Kingston Congregational Church (as it then was) in April 1949. So, who is now our 'Mother'? Research has established that it is **Evelyn White**, who became a full member in March 1950 – exactly 70 years ago. When Evelyn was informed of this, she proudly produced a small bible which was presented to her when she became a 'junior member' on 3 August 1947. Congratulations Evelyn!



## SUK IN WRITES:



On 20 January, after 7 years of study at King's College London, I received my Doctorate of Philosophy in Theology and Religious Studies at the Royal Festival Hall. Traditionally King's College students do not wear their cap during the ceremony. I was supported by many church members and friends and it was a very happy occasion, including a champagne reception, followed by lunch. Although it required great discipline, I gained so much that has helped me and will continue to help with our combined mission to be open to people of all nations and life experiences.

Thanks to all of you who have supported me so generously.

***Many congratulations, Suk In, from us all.***

-oo0oo-

## HAN SOL'S ORGAN RECITAL

Very regrettably Han Sol's organ recital at New Malden URC on 12 February had to be cancelled: the organ broke down and could not be fixed in time. However, it is hoped to re-schedule Han Sol's recital, and the date will be announced as soon as it is known. Meanwhile, you can hear Han Sol playing works by Bach and Gigout on our own organ by visiting the church website and clicking on the links provided under 'Organ'.



## **A NEW ORGAN FOR KURC**

In October 2015, our organ builders, F. H. Browne, told us that our organ required repairs costing £260,000 including VAT. We recognised that we could not afford this unless a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) covered most of the cost. In March 2019 we consulted Dr. William McVicker, an assessor for NLHF. He advised that our organ was an amalgam of many organ builders, not a heritage instrument. Sadly, there was no chance of a grant.

Over the last year, our Organ Group has considered alternative options:

1. Keep the organ going? Only possible short term and increasingly costly.
2. Buy a second-hand organ? No instrument suitable for our church.
3. Use our piano and Clavinova? Past discussions in the Church Meeting regarded their use as a useful short-term expedient but not an acceptable long-term solution.
4. Digital Organ. An improving range and the most affordable option.
5. A Hybrid organ – essentially digital, but incorporating some of our existing organ stops, once refurbished. This was an interesting new concept, but with no working organ yet available for us to inspect, it was regarded as too risky.

**Investigation of options over the last year** Members of the Organ Group considered options 1, 2, 3 and 5 before rejecting them. We then heard a range of digital organs at the Church Organ World headquarters in Mixbury. We were impressed by the three manual ‘Windermere’ digital organ by Makin, and by the professionalism and quality of ongoing service the firm offered. This organ costs £60,000 including VAT, supplied and installed. It uses the recorded sound of the finest English church and cathedral organs. On installation, each note would be voiced by a cathedral organist, to respond to the acoustic of our church. It is important that our congregation has the opportunity to assess the sound of this new instrument. Church Organ World has offered KURC a trial of the proposed organ for perhaps three weeks for approval without commitment to purchase. This would not be a full test of quality because the organ would not be fully voiced for the trial period, but it would give us all the chance to hear what we are being offered before deciding to buy it.

We will keep the existing organ case on each side of the sanctuary, with its organ pipes. Some work to allow the existing organ case to house speakers for the new organ will be required. We are advised that *some*

of these costs could be met by the sale of certain pipes in our own organ. Nevertheless, we think it prudent to set a fundraising target of £70,000.

**Can we fund the new organ?** There are significant costs in doing nothing. Running repairs for our existing organ have cost us about £2,500 p.a. on average and are increasing steadily. Costs over eight years will be at least £20,000. Digital organs require little or no maintenance and the Windermere organ comes with a ten-year guarantee. Savings on existing expenditure would support a case for drawing on our reserves for part of the new organ cost, but we would all wish to avoid calling on reserves or, at least, to keep the use of reserve funds as low as possible. We believe that given commitment from members and friends £60,000 can be raised. You may remember that five years ago, members gave £12,000 (over a three-month period) to buy our grand piano, which has been a great success. The congregation have said in the past that they value having an organ; we now have an opportunity to achieve it.

**Conclusion** This has been a difficult decision, not least because of our affection for the existing organ. However, the Organ Group has diligently examined all the options and recommends the purchase of a new digital organ as the best choice. The purchase of a new organ will solve an otherwise intractable problem for us. It will reduce our immediate and longer-term annual costs. The proposed organ is a fine instrument, reflecting the technical and artistic advances made in the digital world over recent years. Its range of stops will enhance our worship. Its pitch means that it can be with an orchestra or a band. This will increase our ability to make music in KURC to the glory of God, for our own enjoyment and for the benefit of our local community.

**Recommendation** The Organ Group recommends the Elders and Church Meeting support the purchase of a Makin Windermere three manual organ, consider a fund-raising programme and the timing of a trial for the new organ.

**Lesley requests anyone who feels called to contribute to the organ purchase to have a word with her.**

*Ken Bartlett for the Organ Group. (Nigel Tunley, Sue Watts, Tony Wenman, John Watts, John Fisher, Liz Bartlett, Ken Bartlett.)*

## MUSIC RECITALS AT KURC

On Thursday, 19 March, at 12.30 pm Julia Dewhurst (soprano), accompanied by David Elwin (piano), will be giving their recital 'Seasons of Life' (postponed from November 2019), featuring songs by Quilter, Fauré, Elgar, Britten and Walters.

*And a notice for early e-readers of Church News:*



On Thursday, 20 February, at 12.30 pm Miriam Grant (violin) accompanied by pianist Michael Bevan will be performing César Franck's Violin Sonata in A Major (1886) – one of the finest sonatas for violin and piano ever written – and Ian Venables' Three Pieces Opus 11. The latter, composed in 1986, has been described as 'brimming with melodic invention and radiant lyricism'.

### ERRATA FOR NEW CHURCH HANDBOOK

With apologies to those concerned:

Page 5: Liz Cook's phone number is 020 8549 1373

Page 5: Courses of Bible Study are held fortnightly on Wednesdays at 1400 and 1930.

Page 12: Teresa James' email is [jameses114@gmail.com](mailto:jameses114@gmail.com)

Page 15: Ann Phillips' address is Old London Road

Page 16: Diane Slater's postcode is KT2 5PQ

Page 17: Jean Thompson's postcode is KT6 6LJ

### Prayer for the World

Lord God, We pray for all those impacted by the Coronavirus. We think particularly of the people in China where so many have died or are infected. We pray for those who have died and their families, comfort them. We pray for those infected or in quarantine, worried that they may have the virus; give them your peace. Be with all those working to contain the outbreak; give them wisdom in their planning. Guide those seeking a cure and vaccine.

We pray for the people of Eastern Australia, now deluged with rain following weeks of the worst bushfires for many years. Give them resilience to cope with this new disaster and strength as they rebuild. Protect the emergency service workers responding to the situation. Amen

## “NEVER AGAIN”

On 2 February John and I went to the Guildhall to join many people who came to commemorate the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. It was an afternoon of performance and contemplation on the 2020 interface theme “Stand Together”, in the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thompson, and with contributions from local groups, synagogues and Kingston University.

Our speaker was Safet Vukalic, a Muslim survivor of the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, who survived being in three concentration camps in Bosnia and shared with the audience his horrific memories. At the end of the performance, leaders from different faiths and communities lit candles.

Sitting in the audience it was not easy for me to take photos and I could not take photos of the children and two singers who sang solos. In any case, my photos would not convey the sombre feelings of gratitude and understanding that in this country, we are free to speak and fight against racism, Semitism and other types of discrimination. And we are free to raise our voices and say loud and clear, “**Never Again.....**”

Here is one photo I can share with you:

***Natasha Reid***



# **NEW YEAR'S PARTY**

## **A big 'thank you' to Vaughan and the Team**

Pass the parcel



Lots of lovely food



Camilo & Glyn shared a birthday



Scottish dancing was fun



Nigel & Hansol played duets



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## **AN INVITATION**

### ***Fancy a night out? Are you busy on Friday, or Saturday??***

Why not join me and my friends ...?

A night out usually means enjoying the company and conversation of friends and, often, also meeting new people.

When asking about my Street Pastor experiences, most people comment on the hardship of missing sleep, and on the challenges of trying to find a solution to a difficult situation, often self-inflicted.

Let's not forget how much fun it is .....

to stroll along the river at night and see the sleepy swans drifting in the Thames near the illuminated Kingston Bridge.

to be offered chips by a stranger who, with a few friends, is 'pick-nicking' on a bench or on the pavement ... even in temperatures not much above zero!

to hear stories from groups of school friends or work colleagues, who are out celebrating and want to tell you about how long they have known each other and what is happening in their lives.

being involved in lots of smiling and laughter.

Yes, there are those moments of pure enjoyment but also others of sadness, of frustration, and sometimes of boredom. As during any night out!

Why not take up this invitation .... to come out with the Street Pastors team as an observer or to support the teams as a Prayer Pastor?

You will find out about what some of us choose to do on our Friday or Saturday nights out ... caring for, listening to, and helping the night time users of Kingston Town Centre.

For more information, just ask me.... ***Teresa James***



## **KURC Book Club – review of ‘Reality Is Not What It Seems’ by Carlo Rovelli**

The first half of the book traces the evolution of thinking about the nature of reality, from Democritus to Newton to Einstein. It’s a well-documented introduction to these ideas and provides an interesting sequence of the way which great new theories in physics tend to integrate previously disparate ideas. Quantum gravity does this in a profound manner, and as Rovelli moves into the meat of this theory, things get a lot heavier and challenging for the lay reader! Quantum gravity proposes a great unity to the universe. Space and time, waves and particles, energy and matter: all are the same. Continuity does not exist, and thus, neither does infinity.

Rovelli clearly wants to convey his enthusiasm, not just for his field, but for all science, scientific thinking and the scientific method. He wants to make physics appealing and emphasises how Einstein himself, though a great conceptual thinker, was, interestingly, not a great mathematician.

Most of the group found this book difficult as it is a specialist area, but it’s good to be challenged to embrace concepts which are hard, even for the experts.

In summary, more questions than answers, it seems, may reflect the true nature of reality – not surprising to Christians!

Do join us on the third Tuesday of the month at Katie Frost’s home.

***KURC Book Club***



**CHURCH FLOWERS FOR MARCH**

1 <sup>st</sup>	The Verge Family
8 <sup>th</sup>	Bron Robinson
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Anderson
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Natasha Reid
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>* F r e e *</b>

*\*unusually there are 5 Sundays in March; if anyone would like to give the flowers for 29 March, please have a word with Jean Thompson*

# O L I O

## The Food Sharing App

***This has come to Church News' attention from a local OLIO Ambassador***

**Hello neighbour!**

Have you heard the news? There's a **food sharing movement** going on, and it's happening **right on your doorstep!**

I'm a volunteer for **OLIO, a free app** connecting neighbours with each other so surplus food can be **shared, not thrown away**. Whether you've got a glut from your allotment, over-catered for a dinner party, are going on holiday or simply having a cupboard clear-out, why not add your **unwanted food** to **OLIO** for a lovely neighbour to collect.

And the sharing doesn't stop at food! You can also add any **unwanted household items**, such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, kitchen equipment etc. Not only does it feel amazing to give things of value a second chance, it's also really fun and social to share with your neighbours.

Since launching in 2016, **OLIO** has grown to **1.5 million users** globally, supported by **40,000 volunteers** spreading the word and hoping to build a more sustainable future for us all.😊

If you want to **share more and waste less**, then **OLIO is for you!**

**SHARE MORE.  
WASTE LESS.**

Get free surplus food from your neighbours and local shops.

Together we can **fight food waste**.

**Please visit [OLIOex.com](http://OLIOex.com) to sign up today!**

*Natasha Reid has had experience of **OLIO** in their neighbourhood with very good results. Have a word with Natasha if you want to know more.*

-oo0oo-

**4.5** The number of people in the average Christian household worldwide.  
**203,709** The number of people displaced due to aerial bombardment in northwest Syria from 1 November to 21 December 2019. The same period saw 225 civilian casualties, 74 of them children. *Source: The URC's Magazine, 'Reform'*

## Taken by Storm(zy)



Michael Ebenazer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr. (born 26 July 1993), known professionally as Stormzy, is a British rapper, singer and songwriter. In 2019, Stormzy, one of the biggest UK artists, headlined at the 2019 Glastonbury Festival where he used the opportunity to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. One commentator said: *declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, in front of tens of thousands of unbelievers takes a certain amount of courage and*

*bravery.* He is renowned for his controversial and outspoken comments on class, race and social justice. His music does contain explicit lyrics and uses 'strong' language; he drops plenty of f-bombs.

Some question whether music with offensive language is really honouring to God? A fan has posted: *He is being relevant and real! God can use anyone, and if STORMZY can reach the hearts and minds of the youth to realise God is real through his music, and that they need to stop killing each other, I say STORMZY, do your thing!*

About his school years, Stormzy has said: "I was a very naughty child, on the verge of getting expelled, but I wasn't a bad child; everything I did was for my own entertainment.



This Christian man has become the poster boy for a new generation of UK rappers. Stormzy's faith is most openly displayed in two songs, one being 'Blinded by Your Grace'.

<p>I'm blinded by your grace          Lord, I've been broken          Although I'm not worthy          You fixed me, I'm blinded          By your grace          You came and saved me          Lord, I've been broken          Although I'm not worthy          You fixed me, now I'm blinded          By your grace          You came and saved me</p>	<p>Now I'm in a better place          No longer afraid          Blinded by your grace          You came and saved me          I said a prayer this morning          I prayed I would find the way          To another day, I was so          afraid          'Til you came and saved          You came and saved me</p>
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*Songwriters: Uzoechi Osisioma Emenike / Michael Ebenazer Kwadjo Omari  
 Owuo Junior / Fraser T Smith  
 Blinded By Your Grace, Pt. 2 lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc*

Although I am not a devotee of Stormzy's Grime, British hip hop R&B music, I chose to work as a Rose Theatre front of house volunteer when Stormzy recently performed there (for him the Rose with just under 1000 seats is a small intimate venue).

I was curious to witness first-hand the organisation needed to run an event with a major music star. I was interested see his audience...and discovered his fans were of all ages and background, so not so different from all of us.

During the short ca. 35 minute sets, Stormzy thanked all those who had helped him in his career so far ... including his fans. I was lucky enough to see him chatting with a smallish group of some of them afterwards.... and to get my own selfie(!)... thus gaining street-cred with my younger relations and friends!!



***Teresa James***

## **ARCHIVE OF THE MONTH**

**The start of the wheelbarrow race at a KURC summer picnic in the grounds of St Matthew's School, Surbiton, 1986.**



\*\*\*\*\*

## **All Saints and United Reformed Church** **Lent Groups**

### **Introduction**

We have had a tradition over several years of Lent Groups of people meeting once a week during the five weeks of Lent to consider and discuss some aspect of our faith and its relation to the world.

We usually do this ecumenically.

This year we are suggesting something different: a course of personal meditation, of disciplined reflection on some passages taken from the Gospels. The point is not to generate argument or discussion, but to

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deepen our intimacy with the figure of Jesus as he is presented in those texts.

The passages have been chosen because often they convey a Jesus rather different from his churchy stereotype; there is often a sense of strangeness with which we have to struggle. So there are challenges here.

Though this course is offered primarily for personal use, there will be points when we can gather to share our experience of living with those passages; not Bible study in a traditional analytic way, but a communicating, as far as we wish, the experience of living with those texts over a period of time.

There are five passages, one for each of the weeks of Lent, of varying length, taken from the four Gospels. The idea of this course is to live with each of these passages in a sustained way over a period of a week.

This would be one way of doing that:

- Read the passage (slowly) at the beginning of the day.
- When you have a gap in your routine (sitting on a train, drinking a coffee) go back to the passage in your mind and imaginatively recover it.
- Read it again at the end of the day.

*The important point is to live with the text.*

Analysis, interpretation, may be part of what you do. But it shouldn't be the whole. Acquaintance and response are the main points.

If you find that nothing comes, that you don't respond, don't give up.

Continue with the practice. Non-response is also a response.

**There are chances to reflect in a group on:**

**Tuesday, 25th February at 7pm and Thursday, 2nd April at 6pm  
in All Saints Choir Vestry- everybody welcome.**

### **HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES**

Monday,	6 <sup>th</sup> April	19.30	Taizé service at St John's
Thursday,	9 <sup>th</sup> "		Holy Communion at Fairfield Methodists – time to be announced
Good Friday,	10 <sup>th</sup> "	10.00	Gather at KURC for hot cross buns and coffee
		11.00	Walk of Witness
		12.00	Joint Service at KURC
		13.00	Time to reflect
	also at	13.00	Messy Church till 15.00
		14.00	At the Foot of the Cross
Easter Day,	12 <sup>th</sup> "	09.00	Holy Communion followed by breakfast
		11.00	Service with Holy Communion
		18.30	Reflective Service with Holy Communion

## IBRA READINGS FOR MARCH 2020

### THE RESPONSIBILITIES WE SHARE

#### Living planet

Sunday 1 March	Psalm 8
Monday 2 March	Proverbs 8:22–31
Tuesday 3 March	Job 38:1–9
Wednesday 4 March	John 1:1–5
Thursday 5 March	Luke 12:22–31
Friday 6 March	Genesis 1:26–31
Saturday 7 March	Psalm 104:1–13

#### Building a community

Sunday 8 March	Exodus 23:1–11
Monday 9 March	Deuteronomy 15:1–11
Tuesday 10 March	Deuteronomy 24:10–18
Wednesday 11 March	Nehemiah 5:1–13
Thursday 12 March	Amos 8:1–9
Friday 13 March	Micah 6:6–8
Saturday 14 March	Isaiah 58:6–11

#### Life in community

Sunday 15 March	Mark 10:17–27
Monday 16 March	Acts 4:32–37
Tuesday 17 March	Acts 6:1–6
Wednesday 18 March	2 Corinthians 8:10–15
Thursday 19 March	1 Corinthians 8
Friday 20 March	James 2:1–9
Saturday 21 March	James 5:1–6

#### Bearing the burden

Sunday 22 March	Psalm 112
Monday 23 March	Exodus 30:11–16
Tuesday 24 March	Numbers 18:21–32
Wednesday 25 March	2 Kings 23:31–37
Thursday 26 March	2 Chronicles 24:4–14
Friday 27 March	Mark 12:13–17
Saturday 28 March	Romans 13:1–7

### THE PASSION WITH MATTHEW

#### Stories and questions

Sunday 29 March	Matthew 18:1–10
Monday 30 March	Matthew 18:12–14
Tuesday 31 March	Matthew 18:15–20



## **OUR YOUNGER NEIGHBOURS AT KINGSTON UNIVERSITY .....**

Although they don't worship with us, the students are aware that they are part of a wider local Christian community and thank us for our support (be that in prayer, provision of food, use of church buildings and much more).

Last term they ran a “**See for Yourself**” dinner in which they read the first chapter of Mark's Gospel, followed by discussion and questions. Some had never read the Bible before and there were great conversations about what would have had to be unique about Jesus to cause *them* to drop everything and go with Him as the disciples did.

In December they did “**Message a Mince-pie**” that encouraged students to message a question about God or Christianity in exchange for a mince-pie! The event wasn't as successful as expected, but it was encouraging to see how many of the Christian students wanted to get involved in delivering mince-pies and answering questions. “Message a Mince-pie” was a week before their Carol Service which was hosted in Everyday Church.

***The Christian Union would appreciate our prayers.***



## **Religious Community and Mental Health**

Separately, Kingston University are running a series on “Conversations about Mental Health and the World we live in” which runs until May 2020. The first discussion – “Developing Constructive, Supportive Responses” is on Thursday, 27 February, at 6.30 pm in Room 5002, John Galsworthy Building, Penrhyn Road Campus. Details of other events can be found on the Kingston University website.

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## **THE FUN PAGE!**

### **A BILLION – it’s a VERY BIG number ....**

If I give you £1 billion and you stand on a street corner handing out £1 per second, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, you would still not have handed out £1 billion after 31 years!

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases:

1. A billion seconds ago, it was 1959.
2. A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive.
3. A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
4. A billion days ago, no-one walked on the earth on two feet.

!!!!!!!

### **ARAPROSDOKIANS (pnew) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is unexpected.**

Winston Churchill loved them.

1. Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.
2. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
3. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
4. They begin the evening news with ‘Good Evening’, then proceed to tell you why it isn’t.
5. To steal ideas from someone is plagiarism. To steal from many is called research.
6. In filling in an application, where it says, “In case of emergency”, notify: I put “Doctor”.
7. I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
8. A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.
9. I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not so sure.
10. I am not arguing with you, I am just explaining why you are wrong.

## Regular Activities

- Sunday:** Messy Church (monthly, but Sundays vary)  
15.30
- 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  
13.10 Lunchtime Service  
14.00 & 19.30 Bible Study – check dates & frequency of courses
- Thursday:**  
19.00 International Friendship Café  
19.30 Line Dancing
- Friday:**  
13.00 Friday Prayers  
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, preferably by email, no later than midday on the **second Sunday of the month.**

**The next copy deadline is 12 noon on Sunday, 8 March. Editor: Robin Pilbeam**

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS** may be made to the church in a number of ways, including via our *Virgin moneygiving* page, accessible via 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)

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**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.**

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

## Kingston United Reformed Church – Information

*A warm invitation is given to all who read this magazine to come and share in our services and activities*

The Sanctuary is 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:** *Temporarily vacant*

e-mail: [chsec@kingstonurc.org](mailto:chsec@kingstonurc.org)

### **Treasurer:**

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

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

Han Sol Kang, e-mail: [hansolk524@gmail.com](mailto:hansolk524@gmail.com)

### **PA to the Minister and Premises Manager:**

Catherine Treweek

### **Facilities Assistant:**

Gaffar Zarei

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