



Front cover artwork by **Carol Clack**

"I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong!". **2 Corinthians 12.10**

Letter from Lesley

Dear All,

I thought I would share with you my **sex talk**.....

Not the one for marrying couples you will be pleased to hear but the one that was the basis of a discussion at the meeting preparing people for membership/baptism/confirmation.

Human beings are sinful. They do bad things. Humans can take any good thing and use it badly. (Yes they can use it well and beautifully but that is not the total scope of things and this is a tiny article)

Human beings can take anything that God gives us and use it for bad purposes. Any good thing given to us we can pervert. That includes sex, intellectualism, education, religion and science. Anything.

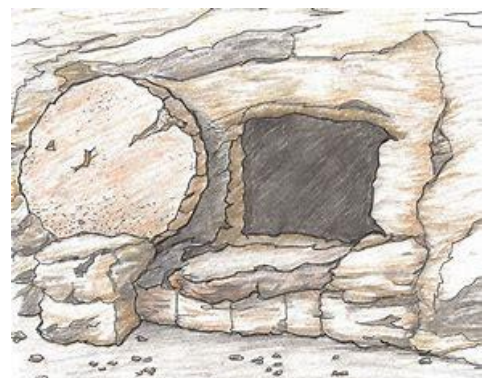
People trot out the line, 'religion is the basis of all wars'. That is not true. The next silent thing is...therefore we should ban/avoid it. Nationalism is the cause of wars and sin is the cause of wars. People do not say we should do away with nations

People who say religion is all bad need to hear us say, 'yes religion can be used for bad purposes but so can all the good things that God gives us- like science' Be ready to challenge worn out clichés Just because someone is harmed by something that does not make it of itself harmful. The example I read somewhere and offer to you is sex. Sex is a good gift that God has given to humanity. However there is rape, incest, necrophilia, bestiality and child abuse. Does that mean that we should deny sex its place in society? Its importance to human beings? Should we deny the fact it is a good gift from God? No. We need to acknowledge that we can use good things for bad purposes.

We need help. We need God. We need each other.

Best wishes

Lesley



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PS: From Lesley:

24 hours of prayer what happens?

In a room. Candles lit. People come in. They stay for as long as they can. People come and go all through the 24 hours. Cups of tea are drunk and conversation is had. There is silence sometimes. Music. Sometimes someone gets stiff and walks around. Sometimes someone gets sleepy.

At various points different people stimulate our thought. We had input bringing various items from the news. We reflected on the problem of second-hand clothes being dumped overseas, the world of work, light and darkness, we had communion together. We prayed about modern slavery. We used some set material and reflections which others have written. We read a lot about the wilderness and the need for it to be in us not merely around us. We spent an hour playing 'thanks' pass the parcel. Usually we support the prayer pastors and hear from them all through the night while they are on patrol. So we pray for Kingston in the night.

People go when they have to. Arrive at all sorts of strange hours. It's refreshing and an important time to stop and be together. Time to be with God. It is time to talk about the big things.

Our next one will be on **27th- 28th November** – come!

Lesley

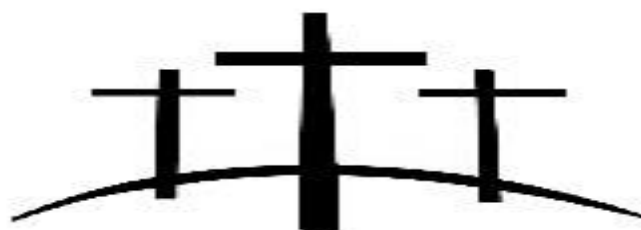
Coronavirus

As Elders, we were asked to consider how to mitigate the risk of coronavirus in order to support our staff, volunteers and visitors. As a church community we take the risks and potential impact seriously. In response hand sanitisers are being installed at the entrances to the building. Look out for these and we encourage you to use them as you enter and leave the building. If you are returning from travel in areas badly affected by the virus we ask you to stay away from church for 14 days.

The other steps you should take have been widely shared in the news but are essentially no different to how we already behave in the face of other illnesses like flu. Good hand-washing is still the best way to prevent the spread.

To keep things in perspective there was a BBC report recently reminding us that 4,000 people die every DAY from TB (which is a treatable disease that is well understood). From Christian Aid we know that millions, particularly of young children, die from water borne diseases each year.

While praying and doing all we can to avoid the spread of coronavirus we also need to keep praying for those people here and around the world who face disease every day of their lives.



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A Message from Suk-In:



Here is a timetable of my ministry focusing on Korean speaking people in New Malden and Kingston.

These are the times of the week when you can meet me and participate in prayer, Bible study, worship and English conversation. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

On Sunday Mornings

I am at New Malden URC on the first and second Sunday of the month, and at Kingston URC on the third and fourth Sunday. I am at Kingston URC every Sunday evening for their evening service at 6.30pm

On Sunday afternoons

From 3pm to 4pm I lead a Korean Bible study at New Malden URC.

Every Tuesday to Friday morning prayers

I can be found at New Malden URC from 6am until 8am. It is interesting

to observe that people who have been strong in the faith like Martin Luther were anxious if they did not spend at least three hours in prayer at the beginning of each day.

On Wednesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon I hold an international café at New Malden URC. These meetings are usually busy with three volunteers from the church and provide an opportunity for conversation in English as well as a welcoming atmosphere. Whilst the majority are Koreans other nationalities are also represented.

On Wednesday lunchtimes at 1.10pm there is a service of worship at Kingston URC and I attend most of these services and lead the worship on the first Wednesday of the month when we have Holy Communion.

On Thursday afternoons at 4.30pm at Kingston URC I plan to start a Korean Bible study class. We will be following the 'Disciple' course, which is hard work, but well worthwhile.

On Thursday evenings I hold a café evening at Kingston URC from 7pm to 9.00pm where a meal is cooked and served, and Koreans and other nationalities are invited to come to share conversation with English speakers. This is helpful for the non-English speakers because they get an opportunity to learn conversational English and thus gain confidence when they are in shops etc. They will feel more comfortable at Sunday morning worship where they will meet people they have already met.

On Friday evenings I spend the time **from 10pm – 4am at Kingston URC** praying for the churches in Kingston and New Malden. Again, you will be most welcome to join me. The Street Pastor prayer support group is also on the premises at that time, so we are

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not alone in the premises. However, I must make it clear that I feel called to pray mainly for the churches.

You may be interested to know that I regularly meet with local Korean congregation leaders and am a member of the National URC Global and Intercultural Ministries (Mission) and Racial Justice Committee.

Future plans include a local Korean festival. This will be arranged by local Korean churches in the New Malden area. An international food festival is also planned and a Fish Waffle street food evangelistic southreach.

May God's blessing be with you always

Rev. Dr. Suk In Lee

Pastoral News – April Church News 2020

“Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.”

(Romans 12 v 12)



Out of care for people's privacy,
since January 2012 the list of Personal Concerns
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

Lent and Easter

Church Worship Diary: April 2020

(for regular activities see inside back cover)

Wednesday	1 st April	10am	Tot's Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Prayers
Friday	3 rd April	13.00	Friday Prayers
Sunday	5th April	10.00	Worship & Communion
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Wednesday	8 th April	10am	Tot's Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Prayers
Good Friday	10th April		See Easter Services on separate page
Saturday	11 th April	11.00	Decorate the Church
Easter Sunday	12th April		See Easter Services on separate page
	12th April ** Deadline for the May issue of Church News		Editor is Bron Robinson, please email her on: churchnews@kingstonurc.org
Wednesday	15 th April	10am	Tot's Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Prayers
Friday	17 th April	13.00	Friday Prayers
Sunday	19th April	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship
		18.30	Reflective Worship & Communion
Wednesday	22 nd April	09.30	Tot's Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Prayers
Friday	24 th April	13.00	Friday Prayers
Sunday	26th April	10.00	Worship
		11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
		18.30	Reflective Worship
Wednesday	29 th April	09.30	Tot's Praise
		13.10	Lunchtime Prayers

Please see separate page for Holy Week & Easter Services

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Holy Week and Easter Services

Monday 6th April

19.30 Taize Service at St John's

Maundy Thursday 9th April

Light supper at 7pm followed by Holy Communion Service. Fairfield Methodist Church

Good Friday

10:00 Gather at KURC for Hot Cross Buns & Coffee

11:00 Good Friday Walk of Witness

12:00 Joint Service at KURC

13:00 Time to Reflect

13.00 Messy Easter for Families until 15.00

14:00 At the foot of the Cross

Sat 11th April

11:00 Decorate the Church for Easter

Easter Sunday 12th April

09:00 Holy Communion followed by breakfast

11:00 Service with Holy Communion

18:30 Reflective Service with Holy Communion

Unless otherwise stated, all services are at the Kingston United Reformed Church, KT1 1HZ

Lent and Easter



CHURCH FLOWERS FOR APRIL

5 th	Ann Macfarlane
12 th	Ann Phillips & Easter Workshop
19 th	Shirley Davy
26 th	Margueritte Scott

"The sun was warm but the wind was chill. You know how it is with an April day."

Robert Frost

EASTER WORKSHOP – Saturday, 11 April

Our usual Easter Workshop is on **Saturday, 11 April**, at **11 am**.
(Please note the new time to avoid a clash with Choir practice.)

Helpers to decorate the Church for Easter Sunday would be very much appreciated, as would spring flowers and greenery.

If you have not helped before, please come along – no experience is necessary.

*For more information, please contact
Jean Thompson.*



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Lent and Easter

What is good about Good Friday?

It is after all the day Jesus died
When He was forced to carry His cross to Golgotha
His physical strength ran out
The day when He needed help to carry His cross

It is the day when the crowds who had welcomed Him into Jerusalem just days earlier
Praising Him and waving Palm leaves
Now stood in silence as He passed
Stooped low, beaten, mocked, humiliated, weak
Wearing a crown of thorns
On His way to His death

It is the day when Jesus was nailed to a cross
Raised up
Hung to die
In agony as his joints dislocated, his muscles tore
And he slowly suffocated to death

It is the day when the sky turned black
And Jesus shouted out in agony
'My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?'
The temple curtain tore in two
The earth shook
Tombs broke open
And Jesus died

This is the day
Jesus was taken down from the cross
Wrapped in grave clothes
Placed in a sealed tomb

This is the day
Despite His agony
Jesus promised a thief a place in heaven
When a Roman soldier recognised that Jesus was indeed
The SON OF GOD

This is the day we remember the death
Of our Saviour Jesus Christ
When His devastated followers
Watched their mentor die

Left alone
Abandoned
In their grief and sorrow

This is the day we remember the death of our Lord and saviour
Knowing that in two days we will celebrate
The Resurrection of our King
Singing praises to God
Celebrating
Feasting
But this is a day to ponder the price Jesus paid
That we may have eternal life

Carol Clack March 2019



Loving God,
Source of healing and comfort,
Fill us with your grace,
That the sick may be made whole,
That those who care for us may be strengthened,
That the anxious may be calmed,
And those most vulnerable be protected
In the power of Spirit
In the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Lent and Easter

From our Archives:

Church News, February 1990

Perhaps you don't give up anything for Lent! Or if you do, perhaps only in a token way, for a short period of time, or maybe you simply joke about it! "This year I'm giving up visiting the Mother-in-Law", or ".....drying the dishes", or ".....reading the Minister's letter in Church News"! In any event I wish to suggest you take it more seriously this year, even though it is not something our denomination has always emphasized a great deal.

Why do I say this? Because I see a little more clearly something of its point. Giving up something is not just a mild form of masochism, or because Christianity is about making you miserable as possible. There is a real point in it. It is, of course, preparation for us as we approach the events in Christ's life that lead up to Easter Day. But to prepare for, in essence, the participation of ourselves in that process of loneliness, dying and rising by giving something up is particularly appropriate. Jesus said we are to pick up our cross and follow Him. What I understand that to mean is that we are able to crucify those things which are sinful ie. those habits, feelings, dependencies, fears, etc which restrict us from the more abundant life that could be ours.

So then to spend time in Lent giving up something is particularly appropriate, provided that what is denied is something which has to do with what is in you that needs crucifying. It's no good giving up chocolate if it's not a problem for you in any case! But if, after thought, you can identify that you eat a lot, especially sweets, to comfort yourself and avoid certain feelings in you; then giving up sweets, or excessive eating, or eating between meals would be right for you. Or it may be that your weakness is in hiding in too much work, perhaps for Lent you can give up running away to it and get home early from the office! The 'crucifixion' you will face if you did this properly, would be face and give up the guilt you would feel and the need for approval at work.

Anyone who has had half an ear to the dumbfounding events around the world this year would realise how foolish it is to predict how things will go in the 90's; and yet I would suspect that it will see a great deal of jostling for position as new national and international alliances are formed, and a degree of insecurity while new frameworks are found. So the inclination towards moral certainty is likely to continue whilst people gain the security of new alliances and governments.

In the midst of all this, where is the Church? Surely continuing to speak the whole truth to a world that tends to see only part of the Church at any one time. It will be speaking of hope, and the certainty that comes through being aware of Life's absurdities, it will speak of the need to ground the wish for peace and love in the depths of the battle against sin, and will guard against freedom becoming license, irresponsibility and a negative way of thinking, and when we all want to become very morally certain about what is good and bad and who is in and who is out, it will remind us of Christ the lover of the outcast and sinner, and that love is by no means that same as a moral rectitude which borders on Phariasism.

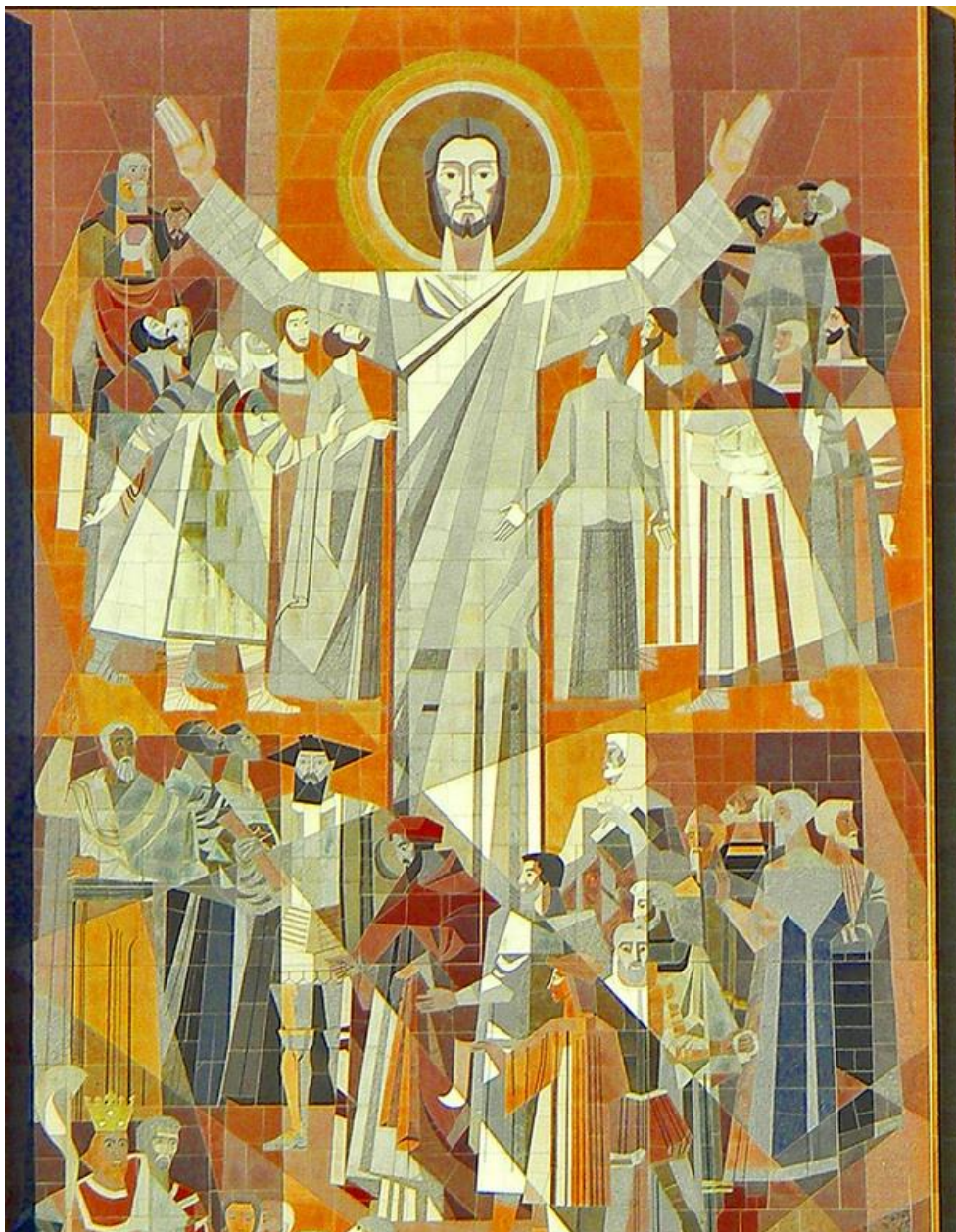
So, as we begin the 90s at a time of people seeking security in the midst of changing days, the Church needs to give clear warnings about judgmentalism and to pronounce

clearly for toleration and acceptance. This is why in the midst of an apparently upright and successful town like ours we will continue in these days, only with new vigour and imagination to be open to people and to be a listening ear for them so that they can be acknowledged and loved as they are whatever they are. And in these days when after a time when the Church has been distinctly unpopular, there is a sense in which more people may be turning to us for an anchor in their lives, and when the disillusionment with the Church that characterises the first three quarters of this century fades, then we must be clear about this Christianity that we share and be ready to tell it.

We must be ready to tell our story, ready to accept new insights but not to be distracted by the needs of any new comers, however few or however many, from the goal of proclaiming the basic truths of our faith and the centrality of the cross. Our goal is not to survive. That is God's business. Our goal is to live and share the gospel for today. This is why my first series of sermons for this decade will be on the basics of our faith. For us any new decade means the same good news told in the way that this generation can hear it best. Our resolution for the 90s then can only be to be clear about the faith we share and open-eared to the state of the world.

May God bless you all,

Roy Lowes



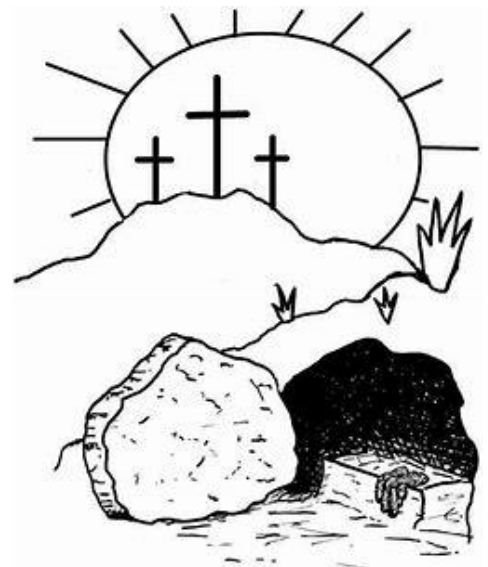
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Lent and Easter

Holy Week quiz

How much do you remember about the people and events of Holy Week? Here's a little quiz to test your knowledge. The answers are at the bottom of this page.

1. Where did the Agony in the Garden take place?
2. Who betrayed Jesus?
3. Who denied Jesus three times?
4. Who ordered Jesus to be scourged?
5. What criminal was released instead of Jesus?
6. How many Stations of the Cross are there?
7. How many times does Jesus fall on the way to Calvary?
8. Who helped Jesus carry his cross?
9. Who wiped the face of Jesus?
10. What did the sign on the cross say?
11. Who made arrangements for the burial of Jesus?
12. Who was the first to discover that Jesus had risen?



We are Family

Prayers for the world

Following the collapse of a school building in Nairobi that killed many children, all schools with at risk buildings were ordered to close. This impacted a small, volunteer run, Christian run school in Kakamega. The school caters for children too poor to buy shoes and who cannot make the trip to other nearby schools.

The Green Olive Trust, a small charity, of which Ken Bartlett is a trustee, were able to raise enough money to allow volunteers to build three new classrooms and a toilet block enabling the school to remain open for all of its 350 students.

Please pray for the school and the local trust overseeing the work. Give thanks for all the volunteers who support the school and pray for the children who attend as they prepare themselves for later life.

Amen

We pray for the crisis in Syria. May the political discussions lead to a lasting peace and stability in the region of Idlib. We remember the millions of refugees living in Turkey and particularly those now seemingly trapped at the border with Greece. We pray that a solution for their future is found soon.

Amen

The Communion Fund

The Communion Fund is a separate pot of money which is for Lesley to use. It is there so that she can respond quickly to members or friends who may be in a difficult situation where some cash can be of help. There are many occasions when Lesley has called on the fund and many stories to tell about how it has been used, but they are all private stories. Sometimes Lesley may be able to give an example of its uses (with the permission of the recipient) and she has done this in the past from the pulpit and will probably do so again in the future. But the Elders and Members put their trust in Lesley to use the fund appropriately in times of need.

The Communion Fund is made up of money donated at Communion services. This is not the loose offertory but rather in the plates which are left at the three main exits from the church on the days we have communion. One is the main door and there are two leading out to the foyer. So, if you have ever seen some rather nice wooden plates on your way out of the door on communion days, they are waiting for some cash – coins or notes are fine – with which to keep the communion fund topped up. Please give if you are able to.

Denise Scorer



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We are Family



I am writing this because I really feel passionate about the matter which was raised in the article “*Olio*” and which was published in the previous issue of Church Newsweek. I think that the issue about food wastage has to be raised more frequently as the huge problem of food waste could be twice as big as thought and researched originally by the United Nations (Food and Agriculture Organisation) in 2011.

Many other organisations tried to bring to our attention the growing worldwide problem. Food waste reduction is now becoming one of the world’s Sustainable Development Goals.

My mother’s words are echoed in my ears, “Never throw away food. It is a big sin”. I could give her credit, after all she survived the devastating famine during Stalin’s rule, the hunger of the Second World War and the scarcity of everything in the post-Soviet era. Later I went to live in Tanzania, East Africa for 17 years during President Nyerere’s time where I saw the big respect with which people there treated their food. For the past 30 years living in a civilized western country I saw many things which made my mind boggle and I used to ask over and over again: Why do our shops and bakeries throw away tons and tons of food which is perfectly good for human consumption but has simply passed its “sell by” date? Why are we creating a greater number of food banks in the country? Why have people become so greedy and pile mountains of food on their plates in restaurants, but do eat even a quarter of it and leave it for the waiters to throw into the bins?

Those of you who are not that aware (or do not want to be aware) of what happens around you, just read the articles and look at the photos published on the internet of how much food is going daily into landfills in this country. What are we doing to our Earth? How many food items are flown, shipped or delivered to us by trucks, using a lot of fuel and spilling carbon dioxide into the atmosphere? How many fields were stripped of good nutrients to grow the crops for us and animals in order to feed us? What quantity of gas emission do these items produce when they rot in the landfills?

Fortunately, many people are now coming to their senses and arranging for the food items to be utilized as much as possible. Around this country many organisations, like “*Olio*” for example, are helping people to swap food and other items and share it around. We have to change peoples’ conception that why should we bother to take “sell-by date” items when we can buy perfectly fresh food? Unfortunately, in our society very often we believe and shamefully stigmatize those people who buy or take food which was reduced, as “those who are needy and cannot afford better”.

To save our planet we all have to do our bit, however small it is. We all have a responsibility to reduce food waste. I will give you a small example of what we are doing in our 3 neighbouring blocks of flats, thanks to our volunteer Andy, who introduced us to this idea and practice. We all have the application “*Olio*” on our mobiles which has a slogan “Share more. Waste less”. You can download it from **www.OLIOex.com**. Andy and other neighbours help those people who are not “very advanced” with their mobiles.

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He goes to pick up twice a week and collects bread and food items from CAVAN Bakeries and TESCO, and we collect what we want from Andy's flat. Every collection he picks up 4 or more large boxes of food. Then he gets home and lists them up, so we can see what has been collected. Some weeks he can collect up to 100 items.

With a loaf of bread, for example, if you don't need it immediately, you can put it in your freezer, as we all do, and put it directly into a toaster when you need it. Sometimes I bring surplus of bread or buns to our church or the Foodbank in our neighboring Everyday Church for any people to collect it. I know that it is a big sacrifice for someone like Andy and his wife Elena to open doors to their neighbors in order to shift these food items, but people like them are those who care for the future of their children and the planet. The problem is much worse than we think. We have to wake up. I hope this is a wake-up call.

UN Environment and FAO are working with other international stakeholders to establish detailed methodologies and guidance. If you would like more information, please search on internet for "reducing food waste", or do not hesitate to contact me in person or by using my contacts which are in the Church Handbook. **Natasha Reid**

As we celebrate International Women's Day, our KURC Book Club reviews America's former First Lady, Michelle Obama's autobiography 'Becoming':

Michelle Obama's autobiography is well-written and has pace. We all enjoyed reading it. The book is in four sections: Becoming me, Becoming us, Becoming more and Epilogue. Her life story reflects the importance of her relationships with the people in her life who, as she says in the dedication, 'have helped her become'. These are her parents and brother and her extended family; her circle of 'strong women who always lift her up' and her loyal and dedicated staff. Alongside these are her two daughters, Malia and Sasha, who she says, are her reasons for being, and her husband Barack, who always 'promised her an interesting journey'.

This is an honest record of how the author has viewed her life at all stages so far. She has come to see 'becoming' not as arriving or achieving certain aims but as evolving, reaching towards a better self and the need always for optimism... As she says, 'There's power in allowing yourself to be heard, in owning your unique story in using your authentic voice and there's grace in being willing to know and hear others'.

She grew up in a stable, middle class and mixed-race neighbourhood in Southside Chicago during the 1960s and early 70s as employment declined and white families began to move to the suburbs. Even though her father was diagnosed as having MS he went to work every day – a strong worth ethic. As a teenager she became more aware of racial issues and the lack of opportunities for her parents' generation in employment and education. This was also the time of a surge in the Civil Rights Movement. Santita daughter of Rev. Jesse Jackson was one of her school friends.

The book takes us through her high school days, on to Princeton where her brother was also a student where she found the white and predominantly male environment difficult. She strived academically to prove herself but also to win other people's approval. She ends up as a high-flying, highly paid lawyer in a prestigious law firm in Chicago where she is asked to mentor a student from Harvard, one Barack Obama, who arrives late on

the first day of his summer placement. The only thing she didn't like about him was that he smoked.

The relationship with Barack blossoms. They had a 2-year long-distance relationship while Barack was still at Harvard. They got married and have two daughters. Michelle describes how the difficulties of being a wife with a husband often away, holding down a job and looking after two small children led to them going to marriage counselling. Her mother was the mainstay during all this time and especially during the highly stressful and exhausting campaigning in the primaries which involved Michelle as much as Barack.

After the deaths of her father at 55 and her University friend, Suzanne, from cancer at 26 it was quite a time of reckoning for Michelle which caused her to wish for more joy and meaning in her life. She was prompted to look for a new, more meaningful job so she decided to take a job at Chicago City Hall at half her solicitor's salary. She later moved into the not-for-profit sector.

While Barack begins to pursue a political career Michelle states that she has little faith in politics which have been 'traditionally used against black people, as a means of keeping them isolated and excluded, undereducated, unemployed and underpaid' and in 1996 when Barack decided to run for the Illinois Senate, she was reluctant for him to become a politician worried about its impact on him and their family life.



The Inauguration Ball of 2009 where the President and First Lady danced to the song "At Last"

'Becoming more'... describes their time at the White House from 2008; the security strictures under which both they and their daughters had to live and Michelle's work as the First Lady, always supported by her mother who came to live with them. She set about carving out a role for herself. Her main projects being to develop a large vegetable garden in the grounds of the White House; to encourage healthy eating across the U.S.; to support returned and injured service personnel and their families and the education and development of girls from minority backgrounds, including from London. Alongside her husband she also championed the provision of healthcare for the poor in the United States. She recounts her meeting with Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela and other international visits and describes her visits to London and Windsor to meet the Queen in personal detail and quite touchingly.

The book ends with the Inaugural Ceremony of Donald Trump on 20 January 2017. When they leave the White House, Barack Obama was only the 11th President to serve 2 terms of office. Their 8 years in the White House was a sizeable part of their daughter's lives and theirs too. Throughout the book it becomes clear that Michelle loathes politics and is glad to be rid of the political life. She has absolutely no intention of running for President.

The KURC Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 19.30 at Katie Frost's home – why not join us? If you would like to borrow any books we read and review please let Linda Austin know.

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We are Family

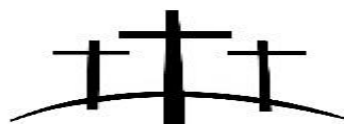
Creator God

Ann Macfarlane's sermon on Sunday 23 February was a real mind-challenger. I suppose that the idea of man being made by God in his own image is a familiar idea. Genesis 5:1 (AV) tells us that: "In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him." So Ann goes on to wonder if God must also be disabled, because she is and, apparently, she is made in God's likeness. The very idea of God and man having a shared image, as Christians thoughtlessly rattle off in a variety of circumstances, undermines the credibility of the Christian church in many peoples' eyes. In doing so they cannot give anything like sufficient thought to the real implications of God's alleged statement. Some Christians even assert that in the presence of young children, and as a retired primary school teacher I am ashamed to admit that.

To be so simplistic as to suggest that God made us may have been perfectly understandable in the age when the Bible text was first developed orally and then written down, some-time between 6 and 10 thousand years before Christ. Hence we have the book of Genesis which gives what is now, surely, a totally incredible view of creation. Our scientific understanding of the world and its origins is now far, far removed from that understood by Moses, the editor of the book of Genesis, or by the several other authors who probably contributed to the book. The picture generated of the wise male figure with the long beard, wearing a white robe (see the inside of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral) and making the universe "and all that therein is" (including humanity) can no longer be held to be true - and even our young children will tell you that if they are allowed to think for themselves! (NB Children should not be told what they have to believe. Belief is something we should come to by our own reasoning.) How we got to be humanity on earth is a complete mystery which science currently struggles, and fails, to solve completely. Clearly the process of creation has been going on for a vast duration of time, far longer than it took to produce the book of Genesis. Archaeologists have recently reported the discovery of wall paintings presumably done by humans in Indonesia that are 44,000 years old. Those who claim that the Bible is "true" are clearly undermined by that notion alone, and one must constantly ask, and so must they, what do they mean by the "truth" of the Bible, the truth of the Word of God. Genesis comes from written sources that could date from 10,000 years before Christ. Was God creating at least that much earlier than Genesis seems to imply? Think of the irony of people of our generation in a law-court with their hand on a copy of the Bible promising to tell, "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth". The 'evidence' from the dock following such statements, during many cases over time, has ranged from the facts of the cases to pure fiction. What is truth? That might also have been a good question to ask of politicians on the recent hustings!

Where does that leave God? It leaves God where and what you, and not necessarily anyone else, believe God to be. Some believe "God is in his heaven, and all's right with the world" and others, like me, can only understand God as the mysterious energy that started processes the like of which you and I are the result so far.

Tony Wenman



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**Question: These pictures were taken somewhere in our Church.
Can you guess where?**



by John Fisher

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Church marks 75th anniversary of WWII bombing

The morning of 9 February 1945 started off much like any other at Presbyterian Church House, Tavistock Place, London.



Staff arrived at their desks for a busy day of work and by the afternoon, colleagues, delegates, ministers and lay people from across the country gathered for a conference with the newly formed British Council of Churches' Department of International Friendship.

When the conference had finished, the Revd William Thorburn Elmslie,

General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England, made his way to another appointment – a church extension committee meeting which was also being held in the building, now the central office for the United Reformed Church (URC).

He never made it.

Mr Elmslie, along with nine others – eight men and two women – died when a German V2 rocket struck the building.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the bombing, the URC held a short memorial service at Church House on 10 February and displayed Second World War memorabilia.

The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the URC, said: "War takes a terrible toll of life and hope. This rocket ended many lives, including ten people in Church House. Others had to spend time in hospital, and the building was utterly wrecked. We remember these our predecessors with sorrow, with honour, and in thanksgiving for all who work for peace in our world."

According to the [National Archives](#), V2 rockets were first launched against England in September 1944. Launched from mobile units on the continent, each V2 rocket was 14 metres (46ft) high and carried a ton (900 kg) of explosives. The V2 was a new type of weapon, it travelled at the speed of sound and made no warning noise before impact, unlike the V1 rockets, which were also known as flying bombs, buzz bombs and doodlebugs.



Over the next few months, more than 1,400 V2s struck London. Thousands were killed or injured and massive destruction was caused. V2s were less accurate than V1s, but since they travelled so swiftly and silently, it was almost impossible to defend against them.

The V2 was effectively [the world's first space rocket](#), developed during the Second World War in Germany, to attack Allied cities in retaliation for bombings against German cities. It was fuelled by liquid ethanol and oxygen and built with a powerful motor capable of

propelling the rocket more than 50 miles above the earth in a trajectory of around 120 miles.

Colleagues at the then Presbyterian Church House sadly did not stand a chance. Along with Mr Elmslie, those who died were:

- Alexander James Polson, Treasurer of the Publications Committee, who also served as an Elder at Ilford and then Watford.
- Ernest Henry Morris, Book-Keeper. Mr Morris had worked in the offices since he was first employed and was responsible for all book-keeping at the time of his death. He was a member at Richmond.
- George Moir, Assistant to the Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. Mr Moir was also Treasurer at St Andrew's, Ealing, and Treasurer to London North Presbytery.
- Ida Muriel Warner was known as the 'voice' of Church House as she was its Receptionist. She was the youngest of the ten, aged just 21.
- Muriel Kenyon, Book Room Assistant, and a member at St John's Kenton.
- The Revd Reginald Herman Tribe, Minister of Anglican Society of the Sacred Mission, was attending the British Council of Churches' Department of International Friendship meeting.
- Wilfred Henry Wright, Financial Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England. Mr Wright had joined the staff as a school leaver and one of his responsibilities was to prepare the Report Book for General Assembly. Mr Wright also served as an Elder at Bromley PCE.
- William Thomas Stubbs, Assistant to the General Secretary. Mr Stubbs had previously held office as organising Secretary for the Youth Committee, and was an Elder at Southend.
- The Revd Thomas William Douglas James, Foreign Missions Secretary. Mr James used to fire watch at Church House and was particularly concerned for the pastoral care of families whose missionary members were interned or whose fate was unknown.

The complete casualty list for the attack came to 34 dead and 121 injured.

The threat from V2s ended in 1945 after the British army and their allies advanced across France, Belgium and Holland, capturing the launch sites.



Pictures: Bomb damage to and around Presbyterian Church House facing Wakefield Street/Courtesy of The National Archives HO 192/764

Thanks to Vaughan James for directing me to this. Editor

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Start time to change for Jolly Toddlers

I've just heard from Ray Erskine that from Monday 20 April, when it returns from its Easter hols, Jolly Toddlers is being brought forward half an hour, starting at 9.30 rather than 10.00.

Vaughan James

Holy Week quiz answers!

1) Gethesemane, or the Mount of Olives 2) Judas; 3) Peter; 4) Pontius Pilot; 5) Barabbas 6) Fourteen; 7) Three; 8) Simon of Cyrene; 9) Veronica; 10) King of the Jews; 11) Joseph Of Arimathea; 12) Mary Magdalene

Question: These pictures were taken somewhere in our Church. Can you guess where?

Answer: Inside the organ console

Archive of the Month

This is the earliest photograph we have of the interior of our Church sanctuary. There are two clues which help to date it. On the left-hand pillar you can just pick out the Richard Mayo memorial tablet which was put up in 1912 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the foundation of our Church. (The tablet is now located in the foyer.) Secondly, there is no sign of the great wooden cross which was erected in 1919: it originally hung from the ceiling directly above the pulpit. One can clearly see the decorative stencilling on the walls, long since painted over. In fact almost everything has changed: lighting, pulpit, pews – even the doors on either side of the pulpit have been repositioned.



If you liked this piece then watch out for a full article from John Fisher regarding the 1970's refurbishment of the interior of KURC, coming soon. **Editor**

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

THE PASSION WITH MATTHEW

1 Stories and questions

Sunday 29 March	Matthew 18:1–10
Monday 30 March	Matthew 18:12–14
Tuesday 31 March	Matthew 18:15–20
Wednesday 1 April	Matthew 18:21–35
Thursday 2 April	Matthew 19:16–30
Friday 3 April	Matthew 20:1–16
Saturday 4 April	Matthew 20:17–23

THE PASSION WITH MATTHEW

2 The holy city

Sunday 5 April	Matthew 21:1–11
Monday 6 April	Matthew 21:12–17
Tuesday 7 April	Matthew 26:1–16
Wednesday 8 April	Matthew 26:17–30
Thursday 9 April	Matthew 26:36–56
Friday 10 April	Matthew 27:32–50
Saturday 11 April	Matthew 27:57–66

EASTER: WITH THE RISING OF THE SUN

1 Break of day

Sunday 12 April	Matthew 28:1–10
Monday 13 April	John 20:1–10
Tuesday 14 April	John 20:11–18
Wednesday 15 April	Read John 21:1–8
Thursday 16 April	Genesis 32:22–32
Friday 17 April	Daniel 6:16–24
Saturday 18 April	Psalms 108

EASTER: WITH THE RISING OF THE SUN

2 Rising early

Sunday 19 April	Genesis 19:15–28
Monday 20 April	Genesis 21:8–20
Tuesday 21 April	Genesis 22:1–14
Wednesday 22 April	Job 7:4–19
Thursday 23 April	Psalms 119:145–152
Friday 24 April	Genesis 40:5–19
Saturday 25 April	Mark 1:35–39

1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

1 The labour of love

Sunday 26 April	1 Thessalonians 1
Monday 27 April	1 Thessalonians 2:1–12
Tuesday 28 April	1 Thessalonians 2:13–16
Wednesday 29 April	1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:5
Thursday 30 April	1 Thessalonians 3:6–13
Friday 1 May	1 Thessalonians 4:1–12
Saturday 2 May	1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

From our Archives – March 1950

On Sunday 5th March 1950, the following letter from the Rev Richard C. Wood, MA was read at both services:

Dear Mr Long

Will you please pass on to the members of the Church my acceptance of their invitation to become its Minister. My years of service here have been happy and useful ones, and you can well understand that this has not been an easy decision for me make. I have been giving the matter very much thought and trying to discover the will of our Master, and I believe that He has led us this day when we decide to work together for His Kingdom.

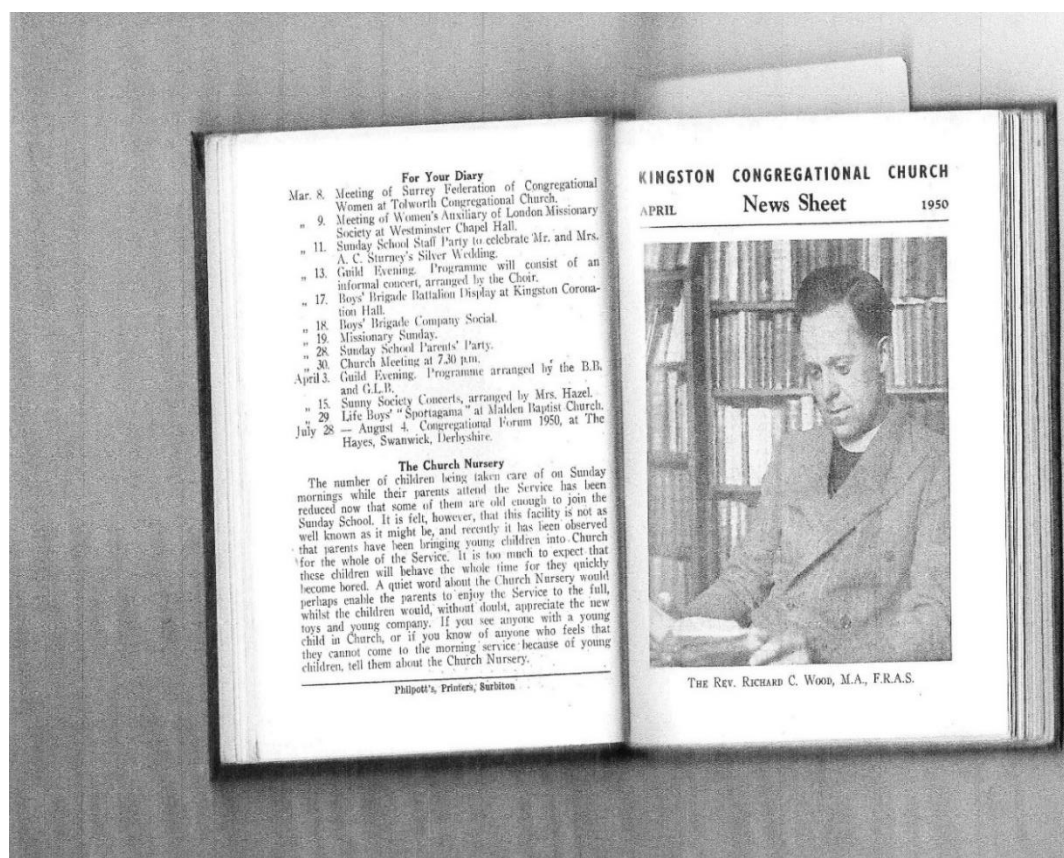
I know that you will welcome me as a friend; I hope that you will allow me to share in your lives as a pastor. Let us use the intervening months before I come among you to pray that God may guide us in the work that He will set us, so that not only may the achievements of your previous beloved Minister be maintained, but also that Christ's Kingdom may be made manifest in our midst.

With divine help I shall do my best to serve you, to be your friend and that of your children, and to deliver faithfully the Word of God as it is committed to me.

Yours in the Master's service

Richard C Wood.

We rejoice in this happy consummation of our prayers and plans, and we look forward with eager hearts of the new partnership of Worship and Service in which we shall soon be engaged. By mutual agreement, Mr Wood's ministry with us will commence in June 1950.



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Regular Activities

Sunday: Messy Church (monthly, but Sundays vary) 15.30

Monday: 10.00 Jolly Toddlers (during school terms) ** see time change from April 20!!

Tuesday: 19.30 Book Club (third Tuesday monthly) Speak to Linda Austin or Katie Frost for location

Wednesday: 10.00 Tots' Praise 13.10 Lunchtime Service 14.00 & 19.30 Faith Studies – check date & frequency of courses

Thursday: 19.00 International Friendship Café 19.30 Line Dancing

Friday: 13.00 Friday Prayers 14.00 Quiz afternoon for Foyer guests (second Friday monthly) 14.00 Ballroom & Latin American dancing with Lyn 22.00 All night prayers and Street Pastors (until 04.00)

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

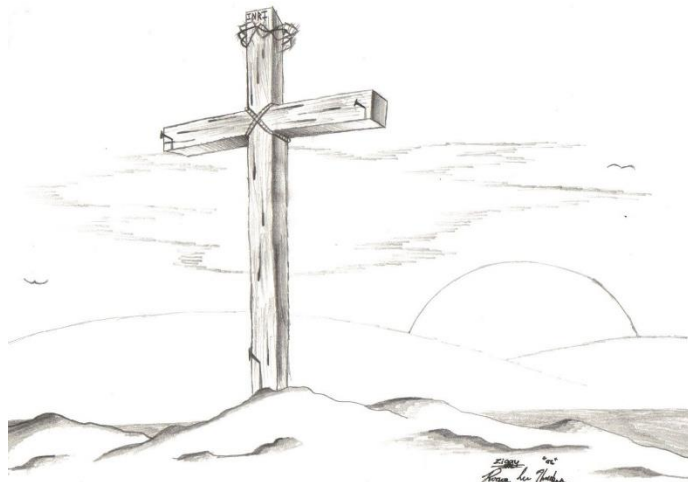
How to contribute to Church News: Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome. Copy for Church News must reach the editor, preferably by email, no later than midday on the second Sunday of the month. The next copy deadline is **12 noon on Sunday, 12 April, 2020**. 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. You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-76, account number 33054942. If you would like more information on giving to KURC, please ask any elder.

Kingston United Reformed Church is a member of the Local Ecumenical Project in Kingston Town Centre with its partner, All Saints Parish Church in the Market Place. The town centre ministers meet regularly. We are a part of Churches Together in Kingston. Kingston URC is also affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) and the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK).

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

You can also 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 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

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

Church Secretary: Martyn Verge, Mobile: 07801 979009. E-mail: chsec@kingstonurc.org

Treasurer: Christine Chippendale, mobile: 07738 562457 e-mail: treasurer@kingstonurc.org

Youth & Families Worker: Sally Butler, mobile: 07807 348326 e-mail: youth@kingstonurc.org

Mission Development Worker through Music: Sulhee Kim, e-mail: sulhee.kim4him@gmail.com

Centre Manager: Catherine Treweek.

Premises Assistant: Georgi Todorov

Facilities Assistant: Gaffar Zarei Monday – Friday: 09.00 – 17.00 Tel: 020 8549 1888 e-mail: premises@urckington.org.uk

A Prayer from New Malden KURC

Father, help me to see this Holy Season of Lent as a time of Spiritual Renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your Grace.

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