

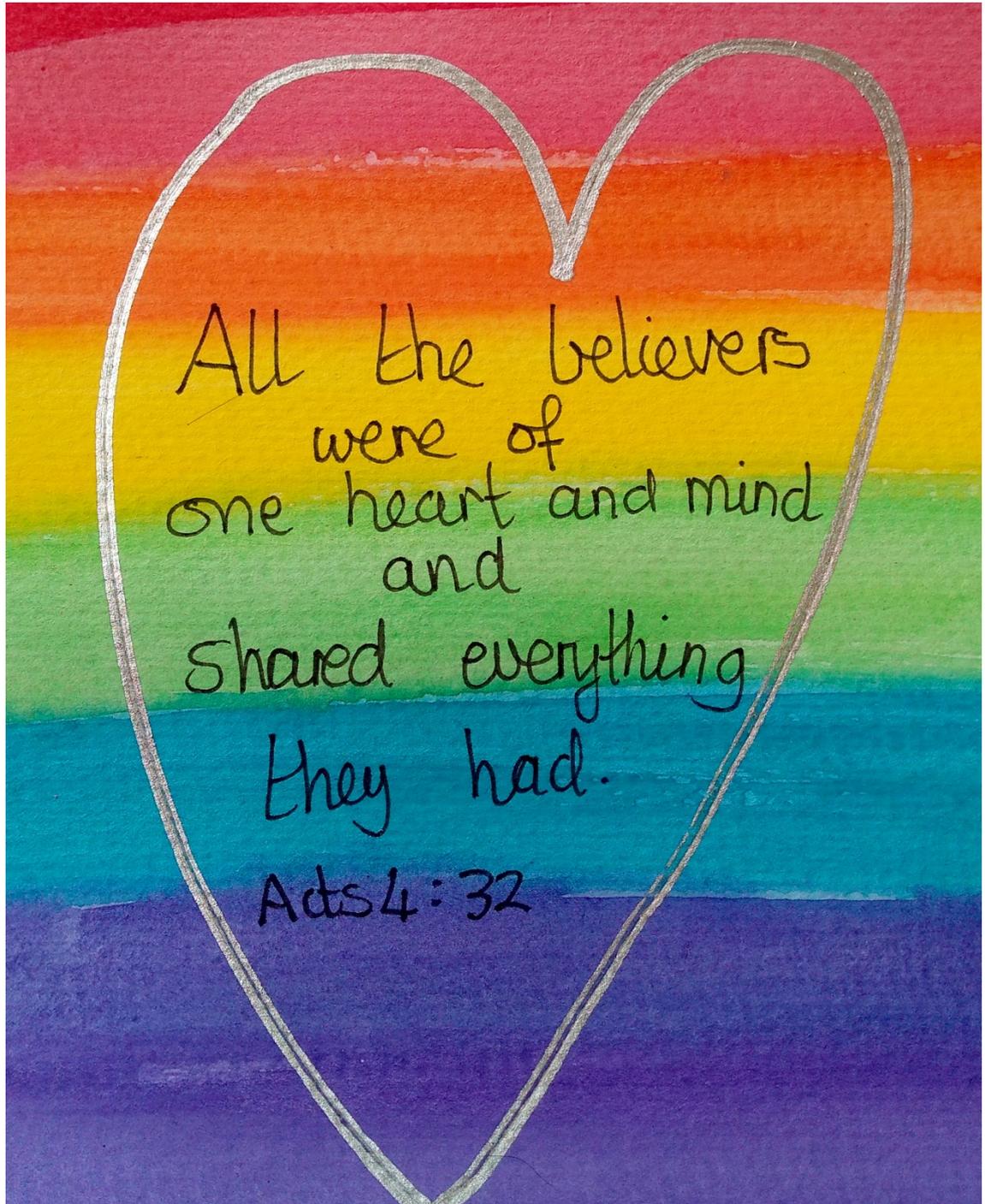


The
United
Reformed
Church

CHURCH NEWS

October & November 2020

Kingston **U**nited **R**eformed **C**hurch www.kingstonurc.org



*Front cover artwork by **Carol Clack***

Registered charity no 1131880

*Edited this month by **Robin Pilbeam***

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Church Worship Diary: October & November 2020

At the time of writing (11/9) this is the current worship that KURC has in place.

Gathered worship has begun from September 6th at 5pm each Sunday.

This is held on based on Government guidelines with masks, track & trace and chairs set apart. This could be subject to change, please check on a weekly basis before travelling.

KURC has in place other forms of Worship:

By Zoom:

Sundays 10.30 Worship & Communion Mondays – Saturdays 2.00 Prayers

Wednesdays - 7.30pm Bible Study on the Old Testament prophets with Stuart Chandler (further details on this can be found in this issue) 8.00 As above with Rachel & James Mason

Thursdays 8.00 Janine's Thursday Night Soirée

Any time Links to worship resources for use with children/young people are circulated each week by email. If you would like to be included in these emails, please email Sally Butler on youth@kingstonurc.org or Bron Robinson on bronhr@gmail.com

Daily via email Daily Prayers. Please contact Teresa James if you would like to be included.

For details of **Zoom IDs** and passwords, please refer to Catherine Treweek's weekly email sent out on Fridays or contact Catherine by email: kingstonurc@gmail.com or by phone: 07807 351801 10am – 4pm weekdays only.

By Skype:

Mondays to Sundays 11.00 Coffee Mornings. Timing is a bit later on Sundays, starting shortly after the service ends. This is an informal time when everyone is welcome to pop in or stay for a longer chat. For details please contact Rhiannon Bone by email: rhiannon.bone@gmail.com or by phone: 07837 390330

From September 20th this will be led by Janine Goddard by email: Janine.goddard@me.com or by phone: 07878 534517

Coffee Servery Mondays and Fridays 11am – 1.30pm in The Sanctuary.

Please check KURC's website at www.kingstonurc.org for possible amendments.

From Lesley:

I have 3 email addresses:

1. Catherine opens and checks – minister@kingstonurc.org - this means that Catherine either answers or she checks that I have replied. She keeps me on my toes.
2. Another one is lesley998877@gmail.com – this one only Lesley opens. It is for private/confidential matters, i.e. private in terms of Church business and Church people's stories. It is for Church people to use.
3. The last one covers family/zoom quizzes/gym/Newcastle United etc.

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Letter from Lesley

Bad language warning!

Dear all,

In the middle of the lockdown there were people putting rainbows in their windows. It is a symbol that God will never reject or abandon us. However, in our society it is more likely a sign of cheery bright happy thing after the rain. Meanwhile in Glasgow someone put a sign in their window which read, 'this is shit'.

True. It is.

We will not pretend that this is anything but a terrible time for people.

We will not offer quick easy- 'let's get together and pretend nothing has happened' nonsense.

The rainbow is the right symbol. It is displayed after the horror of the flood. The rainbow is the promise of God that God will never abandon the earth nor destroy it. Suffering and death are not signs to us that God has abandoned us.



We believe in a God who is with us while terrible things are happening. God is with us in the darkness as well as the light.

God is with us while we do not know. God does. We do not. This notion of not knowing is very frightening for some. How can you live with the uncertainty of this time? We have some core certainties which we need to harvest.

When will this end? We do not know.

In the middle of the darkness of not knowing our job is clear. We need to keep acting from our core values. We need to be managing our fear and doing physically what we can to protect ourselves. We are not called to be reckless. We are called to be faithful and we are called to be brave. To be generous of spirit with those around us. To show the good news of Jesus in the way we face this thing.

And we do this in God's strength and in community with others.

Best wishes

Lesley

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Memo from Martyn

In the last magazine I said a lot had changed since the magazine before. This time it feels as though not much has changed in the last two months! Things have changed, of course, but more gradually. We've seen the lockdown easing by small steps and have taken a few more steps as a Church. Behind the scenes, of what might seem a fairly static picture, there has been a mass of activity to sustain what we've built so far, round off some of the rough edges and start planning for the next moves. We are grateful to all of you who've been doing that.



Planning is underway for the Gift Day and a group is working on a return to worship in the building; something like the 11:30 service but with adaptations; held in the afternoon. Look out for details. Clearly not everyone will want or be able to join this service but for some it will be an important step.

We continue to struggle with ways to be a Church during the pandemic. Have

we retreated in to a holy huddle? How are we each sustaining our relationships with family, friends and neighbours and sharing the Good News? What about the rest of the world, how are we responding to the huge needs we see there? Tragedies like in Beirut or fragile economies in Africa further battered by the effects of coronavirus. And as I sit writing this on another sweltering day in August what about global warming, what are we doing about that? (And please let's do it quickly!)

I hope you've had a good time over the Summer and been able to enjoy some of the wonderful world we live in, even if you haven't been away. We've watched birds collecting material for their nests, dashing back and forth to our feeders to provide for their young and finally bringing their young to the feeders, before all disappearing to wherever they go in the Summer. I've also watched as seeds I planted rose as fragile shoots and observed their daily growth to the point now where we hope to get some tomatoes and onions. It's been nice to have the time and space in our lives to observe all this.

What will have changed by the time we get to the next Church News, who knows.

Martyn Verge
Church Secretary

"I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it."

Lee Maynard

Pastoral News for October/November



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.

We are Family

No Place Like Home!

Sunday 6th September at 5pm on a beautiful warm and sunny afternoon we had our first Church service for nearly six months! Of course, we all had to observe social distancing with all that entailed including signing in and masks and hand gel. Someone said the Sanctuary looked like it had been set up for a round of school exams with chairs separated and apart with a bible and notes on each chair for the forthcoming gift day. About 25 people attended and there was a smattering of people from all three regular Church services and I think the Worship Group had managed to create a new and interesting service that seemed to cater for all our tastes and needs. There was also a very wide age range of people which I also thought was very encouraging and showed that there is a real desire by a lot of us to get back into the Sanctuary. The music included some solos from Rhiannon Bone in top form beautifully accompanied by So Jin & Han Sol. In particular the piece played after a reading from Psalms was very moving. Rhiannon tells me the piece was Gounod's setting of Ave Maria, for which he used one of Bach's preludes and created the tune for the singer (or in this case, the cellist!) on the top and So Jin played it so beautifully!

There was a lot of mixed emotions from us all, crying, clapping and just sheer joy and relief that we were back where we all belong. Lesley said at the beginning of the Service that there was a commitment to run this new 5pm service into December which I thought was greatly reassuring to those of us who just wanted to be in Church again to help us on our Christian journey. I think we all left with renewed purpose to start the new week with all the challenges that we face. See you next Sunday.....

Editor

PS: The Government has just announced some restrictions on people meeting as the number of COVID infections is on the rise. Currently there are no restrictions on Church worship but maybe subject to change.



Our first service back in The Sanctuary; Sunday 6th September 2020 (Thanks to Sue Shaw for the picture)

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We are Family

New Elders – Carol Clack



Hello, my name is Carol Clack and I have recently been elected to serve as an Elder here at KURC. I had felt that if I was asked to be an Elder that I would accept so I feel very privileged to have been elected.

I have been a Christian for 43 years. My parents belonged to The Church of England but when I was a teenager I was given the choice as to whether I went any more. I chose not to. But 18 months later I was part of a young people's fellowship and it was a weekend away with this group when I made a decision to accept Jesus as my saviour – a lightbulb moment and the first time I experienced the love and the peace of God.

I moved to London to go to teacher training college in Twickenham in 1977 where I met my former husband with whom I have three grown up children – Rachel, DJ and Timothy. We settled in Tolworth in 1982 and were active members of an Elim Pentecostal Church which later became Surbiton Community Church.

Thirty years ago I suddenly spiralled into the deepest darkest pit of depression which involved being admitted onto a psychiatric ward. For a few years I was in and out of hospital but slowly with the help of professionals and friends I have become much more able to manage my mental health. As I have travelled this journey my faith and trust in God has deepened and grown – God has been by my side the whole way. I would not be the person I am today if I had not travelled that dark road.

Over the years I have been a playgroup leader, teacher, school governor, youth worker, mentor, charity shop worker, author, mother and grandmother. I have found self-expression through art and craft, writing, singing and dancing. I love being outside in the countryside or by the sea where I feel very in touch with creation. I have a passion for community and people – I am a people person.

I entered the life of KURC through the welcome and community I found on offer in the foyer. One way and another I found myself drawn into church life and became a member in 2016. I enjoy leading worship, singing in the band. I have completed the Lay Preachers course for which I am looking forward to doing my assessed service to be formally recognised as such.

I look forward to being ordained as an Elder and aim to serving the Church in whatever capacity I can – a daunting and exciting challenge.

Annual General Meeting on Sunday 13th September 2020

Reading Matthew 18 v 21 - 35

Imagine trying to write a report facing towards the future in a time like this. Hilarious. I thought it would be interesting to look at what had the potential to be the most embarrassing bit of preaching for 2019. What did I say in my future facing report AGM last year? The good news is that what was said is true. The message was - it is all about connection. This passage in Matthew speaks about the importance of depth of the spirit that is needed behind our relationships with God and with each other. The good news is that external events do not change the truths we believe in. How we live may be altered but on our best days we live out of eternal truths. Living them day by day. When we are together and when we are apart.

Knowing what are our guiding principles are is vital for each of us. And this strange passage highlights some of them. Things that guide us into the future. So we can check out the truth of what we are experiencing especially times like this when we are walking in a fog.

Forgiveness. We make mistakes. Jesus does not want the job he has left us to do it. People mess things up. All of us. How do we deal with that for ourselves and for others I wonder? Jesus says to Peter you need to be generous with one other. That is another guiding principle. Generosity. Of hospitality. Of assumptions. In relationships. The message is that relationships between disciples will be perpetually based on forgiveness. It is not easy to forgive. That does not make it wrong. Unforgiveness only damages us.

Which leads to another principle, the importance of relating to others, togetherness. Church is about us. Not me and my special relationship with Jesus alone. That is important but you and your coughing or subtitles or phone that rings or noises when it should be muted, do not get in the way of my spiritual journey. They make it. Being a follower of Jesus is not a solo pursuit. It involves us relating to that pain in the neck collection of people God calls the church. Human beings for whom Jesus gave his life.

This story in Matthew is meant to be funny and serious. The amounts are fantastic - think zillions. The horrific ending of the story with the selfish slave getting his comeuppance is more Tom and Jerry cartoon than real life. Another principle for the living of life and the life of the church is we need to be people who study the bible. Not swallow nonsense wholesale but use the brains God has given us and give the scriptures time. It has been one of the things people have been thankful for during lockdown is taking time in God's word.

The message though, that is worth being thought of as a principle, is that deciding what is right is beyond what is fast easy and fun. What could be harder than forgiving? And more helpful to society?

The message of the story is that one day we will have to give an account of how we have lived. There is right and there is wrong. What we have been doing with our time during this season is known to God –all of it. What we have been watching/reading. How we have been relating to others. The thoughts in our heads. Our priorities. Our levels of fear. God will ask us; how did we use our time? Our money. Our bodies. Our gifts.

It is one of the impressive things about KURC which drives some people wild is that we use the principle of the generosity of God and the importance of mission as a yard stick for how we make our choices. Of course, life would be easier if we chopped, stopped. But that would not be right. How will our mission be shaped in the future? Who knows? But it will exist. It will be beyond who is currently a part of our community towards those who are outside.

Into our future we do not know how things will pan out. We do know that God will be with us in the middle of this storm and as we rebuild. We must behave into the future in ways that match what we say we believe in. Generosity, based on the scriptures, loving each other, facing outwards in mission, forgiving each other and knowing that God who has given all for us, God who in Jesus has avoided the short cuts, expects that we will be modelling that in our relationships – in the Church and out of it.

Rev Lesley Charlton

Our first 'Virtual Lunchtime Recital'

On 27th July our good friend Constance Chow was hoping to play Elgar's piano arrangement of the Enigma Variations at a lunchtime recital in KURC. Sadly, this was not possible due to the pandemic, but Constance came up with the brilliant idea making a video of a performance in her own home and broadcasting it on YouTube.

In every respect the video she made is technically superb: the pianism, the sound, the photography and the editing. Constance gives a fascinating introductory talk about the music, and pictures and descriptions of the 14 people portrayed in the Variations accompany the performance. If you missed it - or would like to listen again - the video is still there on YouTube: just visit Constance's website.

We are delighted to report that the recital raised almost £400 for Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, via a JustGiving page.

Constance says: 'I really enjoyed spending the last month or so learning this monumental work. Thanks to everyone who watched and thanks especially to all of you who donated so generously to KCAH, a local charity that's been doing vital work supporting the most vulnerable, especially during COVID times'

Thank you, Constance!

We are Family

Healthy Lifestyle Group

Come and join us on Friday evenings at 7.30, for those who maybe want to lose a few pounds, even half a stone would improve your immune system, weighing each week is optional, talking about healthy eating, sharing balanced recipes and the importance of exercise, general chat and to socialise as well. There is also a slim & trim WhatsApp group, please just ask us for details!

Looking forward to seeing you, the hosts are Janine, Carol and Stuart.

Subject: Zoom meeting invitation - Janine Goddard's Personal Meeting Room
Lifestyle zoom meeting Fridays at 7.30 pm

Janine Goddard is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.



Topic: Janine Goddard's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9693098750?pwd=TnFYcVJsVWFvdWVSbTlvMkZtbURldz09>

Meeting ID: 969 309 8750

Passcode: qT7yjX

Thursday Night Soirée.....

Thursday Night Soirée is great time to chat grab a glass of your favourite tippie or a mug of cocoa and just relax and socialise, we are on Zoom which works most of the time and it is only 40 minutes, we do quizzes, art appreciation, dressing up etc, we have a good laugh together, our biggest highlight was when we came first in the Christian Aid quiz, there are eight of us at present but it would be brilliant to have a few more of you lovely people to join us, Linda Austin turned up as Tina Turner last week!

I will leave it there, just let me know and I will send an invitation!



Janine Goddard

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Mayflower 400 History Tour

YOUR ROTHERHITHE HISTORY

19TH SEPTEMBER 2020 2-4PM

The Mayflower's voyage to America in 1620 animated by actors from People's Company

**FREE
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Zoom Meeting ID: 821 0040 9842
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FREE! For more information contact:
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Two Men in a Boat

Jock and Tam set oot to sea
In a wee bit sailin' boat;
The day wis fine; the sea wis calm,
An' danger seemed remote.

But scarcely had they cleared the bay,
When things went a' agee;
In fact, a sudden gale arose
An' swept them oot to sea.

Fierce an' fiercer blew the blast,
Awa' went mast and sail;
Jock, undaunted, took the oars,
An' Tam began to bail.

They struggled wi' their hopeless task
Till they could toil nae mair;
Said Tam in their extremity ---
"I'll try a wee bit prayer."

"O, Lord," he said, wi' claspit hands.
"If Thou wilt see us hame,
I promise that I'll mend ma ways,
And Jock'll dae the same.

"We promise to be kind tae a',
An' steady at oor work;
And every Sabbath shair as death,
You'll find us at the kirk.

Frae gamblin' an' frae ither sins
We promise to abstain,
A' drink in any shape or form
We'll never touch again."

"Hud on! Hud on!" the ither cried
Above the angry roar,
Cut oot the last yin, Tammy lad,
I think I see the shore!"

From the Glasgow Daily Record 1930's – 40's



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We are Family

KURC 2020 Gift Day 'BIG 8' CHALLENGE

There's still time to get involved with the BIG 8 CHALLENGE programme which supports this year's Gift Day. The Gift Day itself is on Sunday 27 September, and the Big 8 challenge programme is there to remind each of us of the challenge presented by the Gift Day itself.

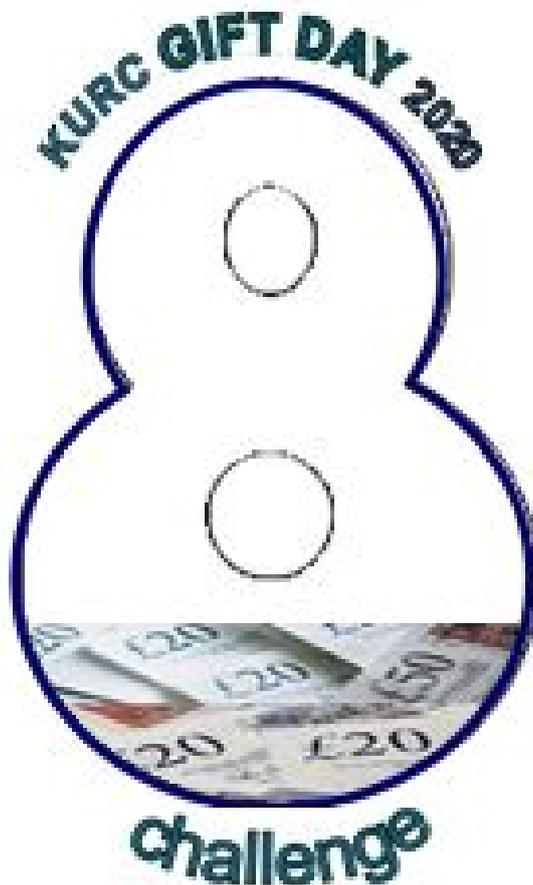
And what a meaty challenge it is: to plug the gap in our budget caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, so that we can meet the commitments our work entails and build on our mission in Kingston town centre. Read more about the Gift Day appeal in Lesley's letter on the opening page of the KURC website (www.kingstonurc.org).

On the same page you will also find details of the associated Big 8 challenge programme. Why not take part by:

- setting yourself a short-term personal challenge (if possible involving the figure 8) which, ideally, you can complete by the Gift Day itself; and/or
- taking a look on the website's Donations and Fundraising page at what other people have been doing, and challenge yourself to show your support by responding generously to the Gift Day appeal. Let us know about your challenge by emailing vaughanrjames@gmail.com, and we will feature it on the website.

Thank you.

Vaughan James



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More from Martyn

Sometimes as Church Secretary, it feels like I can no longer be me in Church circles as anything I say will be taken as church policy or the churches view! These two pieces are written by me as Martyn Verge without my Church Secretary hat. I hope you will read them in that context. The first is a light-hearted piece, the second more reflective.

Does the Old Testament speak to our times?

I'm reading the start of the Old Testament at the moment. If you've tried it recently you will know that it can be pretty tough going in parts – all those sacrifices, rules about when you are clean and unclean. Then there are pages about the Tent of Meeting how it should be made, managed and funded. BUT.... hang-on a minute! All that has suddenly taken on a new contemporary relevance.

Read Exodus 35 and 36, and substitute KURC for the Tent of Meeting and Lesley for Moses and suddenly it's our Gift Day! (I note that the Israelites brought so much to Moses that he had to ask them to stop! That would be a nice problem for our Minister and Treasurer to have during our Gift Day!)

Then all that stuff in Leviticus about when people are unclean, the periods of uncleanness, the washing needed. Substitute coronavirus in there and suddenly Matt Hancock's instructions to self-isolate, socially distance and wash our hands were written for him thousands of years ago!

Who says the Old Testament isn't relevant to our Christian journey! 😊



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How did we afford our first Church minibus?

Knowing that the Gift Day was coming up I was thinking about the past.

We need to be wise stewards of God's gifts of course, and I am grateful to the Management group and Treasurer who look after the day to day finances on our behalf, but I think sometimes we worry overly about money. In my memory, as a Church we have regularly struggled with money but always found a way to make ends meet, including funding some pretty major work at times. It's not been easy. Gift Days have helped, as have lots of other initiatives and creative thinking. (When we needed a minibus, someone suggested Green-Shield Stamps; we collected 1,332,480 of them!)

For us in 2020, the Gift Day may just be a start but if we are faithfully doing what we think is right can't we be confident God will continue to provide the means?

I'm reminded of a line that Bono of U2 says in one of their songs "the God I worship isn't short of cash, mister!". We can reasonably expect some of that cash to come KURC's way can't we? (I am, of course, conscious that at the moment some of that cash may be sitting in my pocket!)



Martyn Verge

Martha

He held both my hands in his, "look at me, Martha"

I wiped my hand across my face, tears streaming down my cheeks.

Angrily I met his eyes, "If you had been here he would not have died"

"I sent messages to you, over a week ago"

"He suffered so, I thought you were his friend our friend, couldn't you take time out, for us

when we needed you"

he looked at me, those hypnotic eyes, that seemed to see into your heart,

He was crying too.

"Even now, isn't there anything you can do?"

I looked away, I could not bear it,

thought of my sister, at home crying, refusing to leave her room.

She had not eaten for days.

Of course, everything had been left to me to do, arranging the funeral,

feeding all those people that seemed to drop in every day, offering condolences, eating my meals,

and not understanding at all what this meant to us, our grief

two women, without a man to provide for us, what were we meant to do now

I knew why he had not come of course,

He was a wanted man, in hiding,

the Authorities had put a death warrant out for him, offered a massive reward.

I looked up, stared into those deep brown eyes.

"come on then" he says, turning and going ahead of me towards the tomb,

"let's do it"

"He's been dead for three, days, he's rotting now, there'll be a stink"

I ran to catch up.

He had put his arms to the stone, leaning his full weight to roll it away.

I hardly noticed those others following, standing in a huddle, watching us, staring, waiting to find fault or approve, who knows,

He bows his head,

“Father I know you always hear me, even now listen, so you will be honoured and glorified”

He stands tall and yells out,

“Lazarus, Come out!”

there is silence, the world holds its breath,

Unbelievably, there is movement inside, a shrouded figure staggers to the entrance.

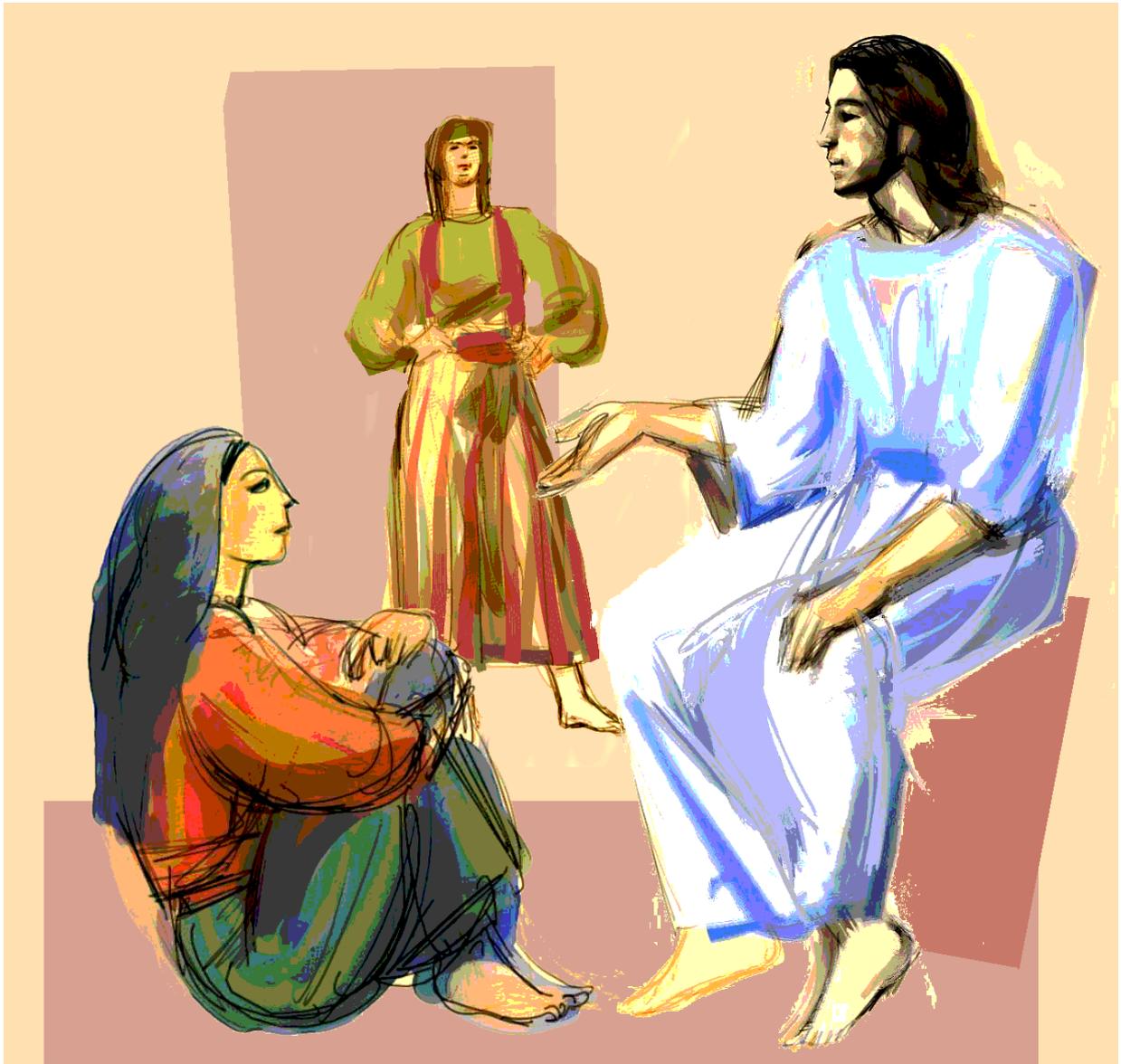
He is wrapped in cloths, stained and smelly,

“Untie him, release him”

Someone from the crowd comes forward, the doctor?

My brother is unbelievably alive

“give him something to drink”



BEFORE

I think back to when we first met the teacher,
My brother had met him “quick Martha lay on a feast”
His eyes were shining with excitement, “He's coming to our house for lunch!”
“Who? What?”
“the teacher, Jesus, He's coming here, now to OUR house”
yea, just rustle up a feast Martha, at a moment's notice!
And it wasn't just Him, he seemed to be accompanied by a whole crowd of followers,
who also wanted feeding.

I went to the market, bought up the stalls, went home got cooking, luckily I bought the bread fresh baked, there was no time to make my own, salads, cold meats, pastries, fruits, olives....

Of course, my younger sister Mary was starry eyed, hung on his every word, sat at his feet, gobsmacked,
and no one, but no one seemed to appreciate how much work it took to lay this all on,
or how much it had cost.

They lay back against the cushions chatting, drinking the wine,
hanging on the great teachers' words.

My head was spinning, getting very stressed, yes and angry at being taken for granted,
Yes, Martha will do it, like she does everything.

So, I approached the 'great man',

“Tell my sister to help me, she has ears only for you”

He looked at me,

“Martha, Martha, you are stressed and worried about so many things!”

yes, right on,

But, “only one thing is necessary”

“Mary has chosen the right thing and it shall not be taken away from her”

so that was that really, I just had to get on with it,

and do all the clearing up afterwards.

Though Mary bless her, had a guilty conscience and did help when the visitors had gone.

LATER

I remember another time, after Lazarus was given back to us.

He came with his close band of followers.

I set out a feast, there were crowds of people wanting to see him, all wanting to gawp and gossip,

we were quite famous after what had happened to Lazarus.

Mary was so excited to see him, she was so beautiful and had quite a thing for him.

She brought this really expensive perfume, saved for when/ if she ever gets married!

She poured it all over his feet, yes washed his feet with it!

And then dried them with her beautiful long hair. That spoke volumes.

Caused quite a stir, and all gossips had a field day, what a waste, must have cost a fortune, she should have given the money to the poor if she wanted to do what was right.

Hint, hint what was her relationship to Jesus anyway?

He told them to leave her alone, she was anointing his body for his funeral.

I guess he knew then what his end would be.

IN END

So now, maybe I understand a bit more,

It's all over, they caught him in the end, executed him horribly.

He was a lovely man, and I remember his words to me.

Me and Lazarus and Mary had to move away.

It was not safe, they were coming for His followers

We ended up in Cyprus, a beautiful Island, took just what we could carry.

Mary was seasick the whole way.

It's a lovely place to live, and we set up a sort of church, to tell everyone about our great teacher

and friend, Jesus, His words seem to live on after Him,

And perhaps, this is not the end after all....

Mary says he is NOT dead.

She went his tomb to anoint his body, properly this time with spices and Myrrh.

She was heartbroken, and then the tomb was empty and his body gone.

She was completely devastated.

Then she said she was lying there weeping and a man approached her.

She thought it was the gardener and asked him what had happened to the body.

The man spoke, she says it was Jesus and she clung onto him and he said not to hold onto him,
to let him go....
she says she will never marry, no one could live up to Him.
Crazy, and yet I think of Lazarus and his tomb and I wonder.....



Prayer postscript

Mary: *Let us wrap up our work in a time of prayer,*

Martha: *and our prayer in the work of each day,*

Martha: *Let us wrap up our work*

Mary: *in Mary's listening*

Martha: *and Martha's working*

Both: *for there is not one without the other*

May the One who needed both Martha's busyness and Mary's calm,
help us to hear Him when we are too busy,
and stir us to action when we are too calm.

I guess the best ending is Jesus own words

"Martha you are worried about so many things, one thing only is necessary

Listen to me"

Insert your own name instead of Martha

It is true we fuss and worry about so much, I know I do

If we just take time at the beginning of the day to listen to Jesus, to the universal spirit deep within us, to God, which are all the same thing

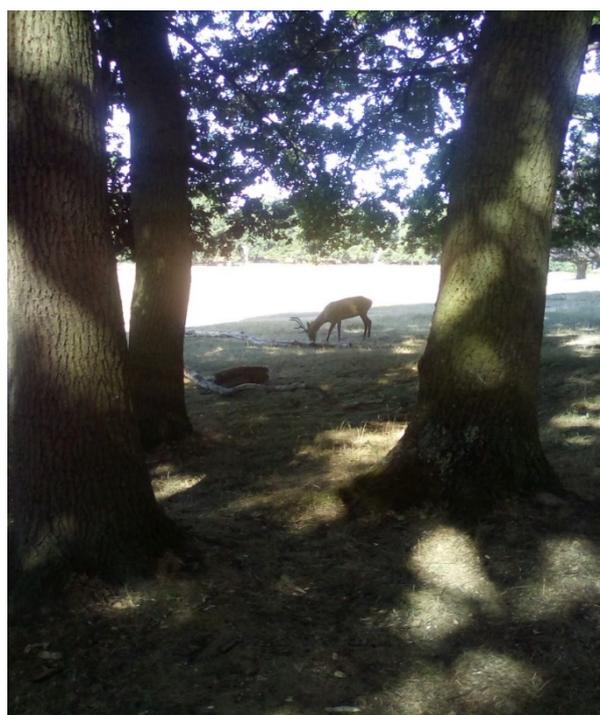
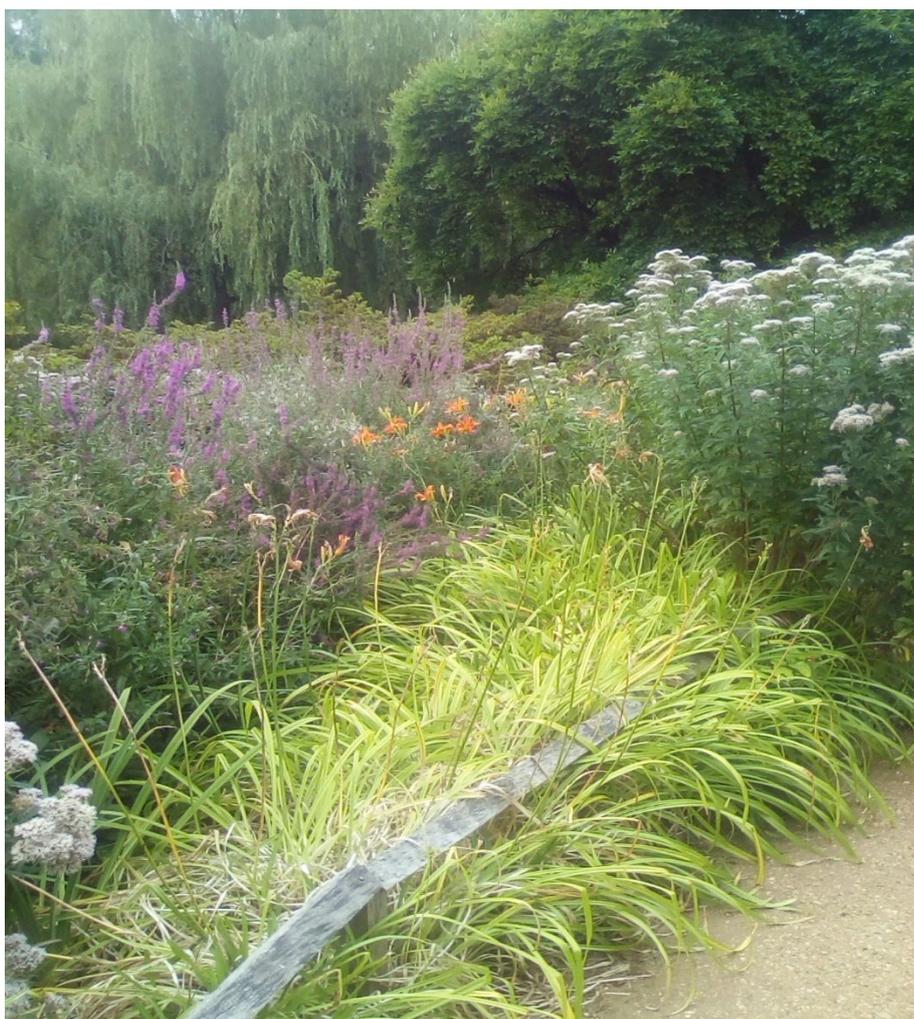
To ask for guidance for our steps, our thoughts, our words,

Then our days will go smoother and we won't waste the precious time we have been given

We are Family

Bernie's Beauties

Photos of Hampton Court Park from Sunday evening service worshiper Bernie Gulliford.



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New post on [From Lichfield to John O'Groats and beyond ...](#)

Walking Day 4 – Amlwch Port to Moelfre

by [lichfieldtojohnogroats](#)

Nick dropped me off in Amlwch about 9.30 for a bit of solo walking.

At my own pace I do tend to linger a bit more and it took me a while to even get out of Amlwch Port. My first proper stop was to look at Ffynnongroew Eirian which is a really pretty spot. Fields and cliffs until I dropped down into Porth Eilian- here is the view back from the next incline.

The guide book (my Bible, written by Carl Rogers) suggested a detour to Point Lynas. I'm so glad I did. Walking up behind the lighthouse to the end, I heard the blowing of the dolphins before I saw them. About 10 minutes later a couple joined me who knew a lot more than I do and told me they were Risso dolphins. Didn't manage any photos but they offered to email me some of theirs, so if they come through I'll post them. We counted 6 in all, including a baby and another young one. Absolutely magical, I stayed for ages. Here is my spot with dolphins all hiding.

Dolphin watching and getting lost in a field of cows, meant that Dewi, who was walking towards me from Dulas and Mary walking towards us from Moelfre and Nick walking towards us later from Moelfre all got longer walks than they expected!

Dewi and I had lunch sitting by the lovely St Gwenllwfo Church. Some people who passed by told us that one of its stained-glass windows has one of the only depictions of Jesus in a straw hat. Unfortunately, the church isn't open but here's a photo on the notice board. Across Dulas estuary (luckily tide was out), and beautiful Traeth Ora with its golden sand to Traeth Lligwy where we had a cuppa. We'd met up with Mary by then. This is the second cafe I've seen buckets and spades used as 2m markers.

Met Nick and walked into Moelfre together. Tragic shipwreck of the Royal Charter here in 1859 (Google it).



Archive of the Month



These two pictures show the old Hall of Remembrance, predecessor of the Mayo Hall. Built during the First World War, it was demolished in 1974. Though not quite as large as the Mayo Hall it had the advantages of natural light and a permanent stage - with a 'green room' behind. The stage was used regularly by the Church's drama group, the Tabard Players.



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The Benefits of Gift Aid

With the forthcoming Gift Day on 27 September when many of you will be taking the decision to donate a sum of money to the Church, I have been asked by the elders to write about Gift Aid and how it works for our Church. I make the claims for Gift Aid on your behalf once a quarter.

Gift Aid was introduced in 1990. It can only be reclaimed on money donated by UK taxpayers. It is a scheme which allows charities such as our Church to claim from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the basic rate of tax their donors have paid. Gift Aid increases the value of donations by 25% so it means even more money goes to the causes you care about – and it doesn't cost you extra!

In order for a charity to claim the Gift Aid you must complete a Gift Aid declaration form which must include the amount, the name of the charity and the donors full name and address (or at least the house number or name and postcode) Many of you have already completed the form and through this we have been able to claim over £4K for the last three months. Non-UK-taxpayers can still make a donation but our Church won't be able to reclaim any money.

In our Church this personal information is held only by myself and our treasurer.

If you are a taxpayer who gives money to the Church, either regularly or perhaps with occasional donations I will be able to help you ensure that your giving is tax efficient.

Nigel Tunley

Virtual Harvest Festival – Sunday, 11 October 2020



Look out for details!

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UNUSUAL CHURCHES IN THE UK



St Nicholas is a parish church at Moreton, Dorset. It is a Grade II listed building and has been rebuilt twice, once in 1776 using the medieval foundations and again in 1940 following extensive bomb damage. It is known for its 13 beautifully engraved glass windows created by the poet and artist, Sir Laurence Whistler.



The windows give a wonderful light and airy feel to the inside of the church and each window depicts a particular theme.

T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) is buried in the separate churchyard.

If you are in the area (autumn staycation this year?), it is well worth a visit.

Jean Thompson

Crossway Mayflower 400 Festival

18TH-25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

EXHIBITION

ONLINE

An amazing and exciting journey through the history of Crossway, The Pilgrim Church and its links to the Mayflower 400 Story.

🕒 For a **FREE** visit click here

ANIMATED COACH TOUR

ONLINE

The Mayflower's voyage to America in 1620 animated by actors from People's Company.

19 SEPTEMBER 2-4pm

🗓 Zoom Meeting ID: 82100409842
Passcode: 914370

SHARED STORIES & FOOD

SOCIALLY DISTANCED

People who have journeyed to our community share their stories and reflect on the experience of the migrants who sailed on the Mayflower to America in 1620 in search of a better life. A celebration of our diversity.

22 SEPTEMBER 4:30-6pm

🕒 To join and book **FREE** tickets via Eventbrite click here

🕒 To see the event click here

TALKS

ONLINE

FREE Talk 1 - Reverend Doctor Robert Pope: *Making haste from Babylon: The Pilgrims and the search for Beulah land*

21 SEPTEMBER 7-8:30pm

🗓 Zoom Meeting ID: 844 1076 1530
Passcode: 843607

TALKS

SOCIALLY DISTANCED

FREE Talk 2 - Reverend Doctor Peter Stevenson: *Mayflower 400-Southwark and Stamford, a shared American history*

22 SEPTEMBER 3-4:30pm

🕒 To join and book limited tickets via Eventbrite click here

🕒 To see the event click here

TALKS

ONLINE

FREE Talk 3 - Rita Cruise O'Brien: *The Story of the Mayflower*

23 SEPTEMBER 7-8pm

🗓 Zoom Meeting ID: 835 5709 3896
Passcode: 247428

FREE! Go to www.crosswaychurch.org.uk for more information

WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL THAT TELLS THE STORY OF SOUTHWARK, CROSSWAY, THE PILGRIM CHURCH AND THE MAYFLOWER IN 1620

Partnership between People's Company and Crossway United Reformed Church

Funded by and partners:



The New Foyer

After much discussion it was decided to reopen the coffee bar service in the Church for two days a week. The mobile servery from the Mayo Hall was moved in and the foyer chairs and tables put in place. The social distancing and hygiene rules were complied with and our track and trace sheets were ready to go. We also created a prayer space within the Sanctuary. We had the staff so on Monday 6th July the coffee bar in the sanctuary opened.

The first two or three sessions were quiet but by word of mouth people got to know that we were open again and started to visit. We welcomed back many of our regulars – it was so good to catch up with them and find out how they had managed the lockdown. Up to 13 people came in on any one day. Church members visited and single lonely people enjoyed the opportunity to meet and be with other people.

From time to time Nigel Tunley turned the Sanctuary into the Ritz as he played light music which was really appreciated by all. Sometimes we had CD music playing in the background

A single man who had been asking over the lockdown when the Church was opening again was so pleased to have the space open again.

There was a lovely atmosphere in the place and an appreciation of the service. Our thanks go to the people who have made this possible from those who helped clear and set up the space and to ensure the smooth running of the service.

Due to an electrical fault but we had to close but hopefully by the time you read this we will be up and running again.

Carol Clack



Church News re Prayer email

Church News wanted to find out more about KURC's daily prayer email

Church News: How and when did KURC start sharing daily Prayer emails/WhatsApp messages?

Teresa James: Towards the end of March our minister Lesley suggested that if people wanted more prayer information or to share something and ask for prayer, that they should contact me.

During the first couple of weeks of Lockdown, there was a lot of information which needed to be emailed and it seemed a good opportunity to include a prayer...

The emails became regular almost daily messages, whether or not Lesley, or Catherine, had a letter or information to circulate.

CN: How do you decide which prayer is right for each day?

TJ: Practically, I feel the prayers should, ideally, be quite short so they can be read on a (mobile phone) screen without having to scroll down.

And I aim to choose prayers of different styles. As for content - on a Monday the prayerful email often follows on from Sunday's service - the Bible reading, the sermon.

When deciding the main message or theme, I hope to reflect how we are all feeling, which might depend on the international, national or local news, or link specifically to something happening within our own Church community. Sometimes I receive personal prayer requests from Lesley or others.



Before sending, I 'test' what I have prepared by thinking about some of the individuals who will be receiving and reading the prayer ... and hope that that day's prayerful offering will 'hit the spot', and not cause anyone distress. And of course, deciding which prayer is right for each day depends on ... literally, Divine inspiration!

CN: Where do you find the prayers?

TJ: I adapt what I find in books or online; or I quote Bible verses or a few lines from Hymns. Sometimes I write something new, often based on something I have found. I am really grateful when people send me prayers or reflections which they have written or found.

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We can continue to pray together even though we can't meet in person.

But when you pray, go into your room,
close the door and pray to your Father,
who is unseen.....
Your Father knows what you need
before you ask him.

This, then is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven....

Matthew 6:6

“Prayer is simply talking to God—and the most important thing I can say about this is that God wants you to talk to Him! He loves us and He has promised to hear us when we pray”.

Billy Graham

Bible Study

Bible study on the Old Testament prophets.

Starting Wednesday 16th September by Zoom at 7:30 PM.

Many people enjoyed the Bible study series on Mark's gospel. This new series studies the life and work of a selection of Old Testament prophets. For Jesus, the Old Testament was the Scriptures, because the New Testament had not yet been written. In them, Jesus found teaching and inspiration about the nature and will of God. The stories and the words of the Old Testament prophets continues to be an inspiration. Their message is that what God has decided, decreed, and does, decides what happens in the world.

This course can serve only as an introduction to the richness of the prophetic contribution to the life of Israel. It will be built round the life of individual prophets. The first study on 16 September will be about Samuel. He was called to be a prophet when he was a boy – and his first assignment was to tell his employer that God had condemned him and his family for immorality! Later, Samuel appointed Saul as king and then was commanded to appoint a David to replace him. Not therefore an easy life!

The readings for the Samuel study 1 Samuel Chapters 3 and 8, GNB page 268 and 272. Later sessions will be about Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

Notes for the Bible studies will be provided every week. If you wish to take part in the zoom meetings, please contact Stuart Chandler (stu_chandler@hotmail.com) or on 07914 536621.

I very much hope that you will join us.

Ken Bartlett

Readings for October & November 2020

1 Resting with Jesus	THE BIBLE ON THE WORLD STAGE
Sunday 27 September Matthew 11:25–30	Sunday 1 November
Monday 28 September Matthew 12:1–14	(All Saints' Day) Romans 5:1–11
Tuesday 29 September Matthew 12:38–50	Monday 2 November Psalm 9
Wednesday 30 September Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23	Tuesday 3 November Amos 5:18–24
Thursday 1 October Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43	Wednesday 4 November Psalm 119:33–40
Friday 2 October Matthew 13:44–58	Thursday 5 November Galatians 5:1, 13–25
Saturday 3 October Matthew 14:1–12	Friday 6 November Proverbs 31:17–21
2 You are the Messiah	JEREMIAH
Sunday 4 October Matthew 14:13–21	1 A call to pluck up and to break down
Monday 5 October Matthew 14:22–36	Sunday 8 November Jeremiah 1:1–10
Tuesday 6 October Matthew 15:1–20	Monday 9 November Jeremiah 1:11–19
Wednesday 7 October Matthew 15:21–28	Tuesday 10 November Jeremiah 2:1–13
Thursday 8 October Matthew 16:13–20	Wednesday 11 November Jeremiah 4:19–31
Friday 9 October Matthew 17:1–13	Thursday 12 November Jeremiah 6:13–26
Saturday 10 October Matthew 17:22–27	Friday 13 November Jeremiah 8:22–9:11
3 The greatest commandment	2 Jeremiah's tribulations
Sunday 11 October Matthew 22:1–14	Sunday 15 November Jeremiah 18:1–11
Monday 12 October Matthew 22:15–22, 34–40	Monday 16 November Jeremiah 20:7–18
Tuesday 13 October Read Matthew 23:1–12	Tuesday 17 November Jeremiah 26:1–15
Wednesday 14 October Matthew 24:1–14	Wednesday 18 November Jeremiah 26:16–24
Thursday 15 October Matthew 24:33–44	Thursday 19 November Jeremiah 27:1–15
Friday 16 October Matthew 25:1–13	Friday 20 November Jeremiah 28
Saturday 17 October Matthew 25:31–46	Saturday 21 November Jeremiah 29:1–14
THE HEAVENS DECLARE	3 Glimmers of hope
1 The beginning	Sunday 22 November Jeremiah 30:1–11
Sunday 18 October Genesis 1:14–19	Monday 23 November Jeremiah 30:12–22
Monday 19 October Job 38:31–38	Tuesday 24 November Jeremiah 31:1–14
Tuesday 20 October Psalm 8	Wednesday 25 November Jeremiah 31:15–30
Wednesday 21 October Psalm 19:1–6	Thursday 26 November Jeremiah 31:31–40
Thursday 22 October Psalm 33:6–9	Friday 27 November Jeremiah 32:1–15
Friday 23 October Psalm 115:14–18	Saturday 28 November Jeremiah 32:16–25, 42–44
Saturday 24 October 1 Chronicles 16:23–34	TRUMPET CALLS AND WHISPERS:
2 The ending	ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY IN ADVENT
Sunday 25 October Proverbs 3:19–26	1 Trumpet calls
Monday 26 October Isaiah 51:13–16	Sunday 29 November
Tuesday 27 October Psalm 148	(Advent Sunday) Exodus 19:10–25
Wednesday 28 October Psalm 102:25–27	Monday 30 November Leviticus 25:1–15
Thursday 29 October 2 Peter 3:8–13	Tuesday 1 December Joshua 6:1–7, 15–21
Friday 30 October Revelation 21:22–27	Wednesday 2 December Joel 2:1–16
Saturday 31 October Revelation 6:12–17	

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

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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, 8th November**. Editor: Bron Robinson

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. 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)

*“Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence.
Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance.
Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence.
Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.”*

Yoko Ono

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