

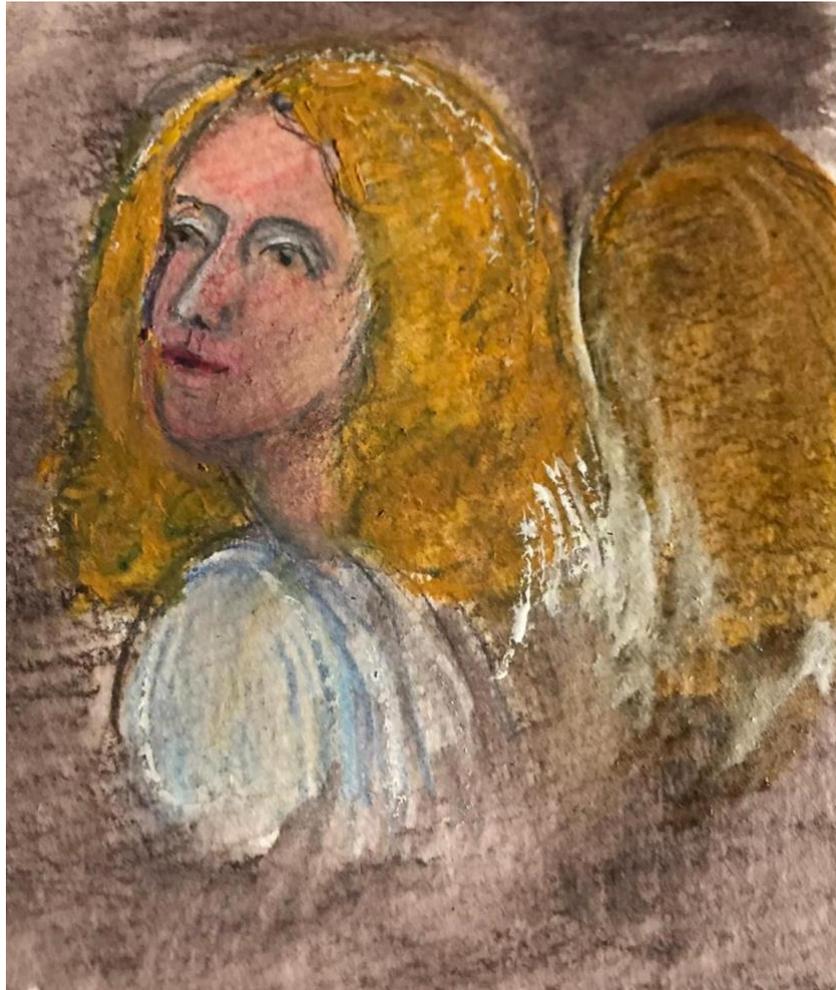


# CHURCH NEWS

Kingston **U**nited **R**eformed **C**hurch

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

**December 2020 – January 2021**



***Angel by Janine Goddard***

See more Advent and Christmas images on our Online Advent Calendar.  
Check [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org) for details!

## Worship Diary: December 2020 / January 2021

At the time of writing (mid-November 2020), England is in a further period of lockdown (until early December) due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, gathered worship and the Coffee Servery have had to stop for the moment. The KURC sanctuary is open for **private prayer** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and from 16:30 to 18:00 on Sunday afternoons. Please check [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org) regularly for any changes.

KURC is very much open as a church and community, with worship and other activities taking place online. For details of **Zoom IDs and passwords**, please refer to Catherine Treweek's weekly email sent out on Fridays. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, contact Catherine by email: [kingstonurc@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonurc@gmail.com) or by phone: 07807 351801 (10am – 4pm weekdays only).

**Regular online activities** are below. See further on in Church News for our Christmas schedule.

<b>Sunday</b>	10.30	<b>Worship and Communion</b> , followed by an opportunity to chat in breakout rooms. The sermon is also available to watch at any time via our website <a href="http://www.kingstonurc.org">www.kingstonurc.org</a>
<b>Any time</b>	By email	Links to worship resources for use with <b>children/young people</b> are circulated each week by email. Email Sally Butler on <a href="mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org">youth@kingstonurc.org</a> for details
<b>Daily</b>	By email	<b>Prayers via email</b> . Please contact Teresa James if you would like to be included on these emails
<b>Mon – Sat</b>	14:00	<b>Online prayers</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00	<b>Tots' Praise</b> Email <a href="mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org">youth@kingstonurc.org</a> for online links
<b>Wednesday</b>	19:30 20:00	<b>Bible Study</b> – Stuart Chandler's session <b>Bible Study</b> – Rachel Mason's session Contact Stuart Chandler for details and links
<b>Thursday</b>	20:00	Janine's <b>Thursday Night Soiree</b>
<b>Daily</b>	11:00 (11:30 on Sundays)	<b>Coffee Morning</b> Timing is 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. Contact Janine Goddard by email: <a href="mailto:Janine.goddard@me.com">Janine.goddard@me.com</a> or by phone: 07837 390330
<b>Regularly</b>	Via email or WhatsApp	<b>Messages and requests for prayer from Lesley</b> . If you would like to be included on these regular communications, please email <a href="mailto:minister@kingstonurc.org">minister@kingstonurc.org</a>

## LETTER FROM LESLEY



Dear all,

As I write this I am waiting. Like the rest of the world I am waiting. But in a particular sense I am waiting.

Something has happened to my father. He needs help to move in the way he did not a week ago. Stroke? A massive change in his dementia? Whatever it is it is clear mother cannot manage him alone so we are here. (It is a major plus of the Covid that I can do virtually everything from Scotland. The other plus is that the view out of my window here over the hills is amazing).

We wait.

If we have to wait for months then this is what we will do.... if it is days then this..... but we do not know which it is.....

We wait.

I remember in the church in Purley, they had a blackboard in the foyer that they kept updated of news of when Hannah was to be born. No news, no news, daily till Palm Sunday when she arrived. Well brought up minister's child, born on a Sunday morning so it can be announced that day.

Like Mary. Waiting, waiting, waiting.

If we knew the time and the hour then we would.....

But we don't.

Every day we have to act out of our core beliefs.

Generosity of spirit. Kindness. Courage matters. Knowing there is joy in each situation. Nothing is hopeless. Love is a verb.

God is with us.

Life is all about waiting.

What do you do while you wait.....?

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.

Our calling is to be that light

All of us.

Best wishes.

**Lesley**

## Memo from Martyn



Greetings from Iksan, South Korea! After several date changes, two flight cancellations, much urging from He Yeon's family and a change of airline, finally we are here!

As I write in early November, we are a few days into our trip proper with the mandatory two-week period of quarantine behind us.

The Koreans have COVID-19 pretty much under control but all arrivals have to quarantine. We were tested on our first day (negative) and again on our 14th day (negative), finally being released at noon on the 15th day!

Quarantine was an experience. The first few days were fine. We were quite happy to have nowhere to go as we overcame the jetlag. After that a loose routine developed. He Yeon's family were amazing in providing what we needed. It also felt safe and secure. But we knew it couldn't last and in fact I think it would be bad for us if it had.

As Lesley often reminds us there is work to be done. Despite covid-19 we have to remain engaged with the world, with its joys and struggles that are also our joys and struggles. It is not easy at the moment and with greater levels of restrictions it is getting harder.

We rejoice that the 5pm service is going well and being appreciated by many, as is the coffee service on a Monday and Thursday. We were very sad to hear that once again England will be subject to full lockdown with the consequences this will have for KURC.

We have enjoyed joining the 10:30 service from Korea. It is great to see people and to enjoy the different contributions to the service.

Hasn't Gift Day been remarkable! The challenge was great yet our initial expectation was small and far surpassed by the generosity of so many. We give thanks to God.

What is the next challenge? How do we prepare ourselves for the weeks, months and years ahead? What should we be doing as a church? What should we be doing as individuals?

We need to be creative and imaginative but there are things we can do. A phone call, email, Zoom meeting with someone else could be just what both need. What else?

Our challenge is to identify the next step that we should be taking, today! (For each of us it will be a different challenge. For He Yeon and I in Korea it will include how to take it when we are 9 hours ahead and 8,800km away!)

We start by praying for you all and asking for God's blessing on you during the lockdown.

***Martyn Verge, (Church Secretary)***

Post script from Cathy. Prior to leaving Martyn prepared for our meetings in advance and we are very grateful for his dedication.

## Pastoral News – December 2020 / January 2021

At the time of writing we are into our second lockdown. Living with uncertainty is tough and we need to dig deep into our spiritual resources trusting that God sees all the details and believing His promises not to leave us or forsake us.

Thankfully we are looking out for one another and both old and new relationships are being strengthened.

With Christmas in sight lets pray for a different kind of pandemic, an outbreak of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy that will 'infect' people on a worldwide scale.

### Give thanks

- For those providing online activities during the week
- That we can meet together virtually
- The forging of new relationships within the church family
- For those helping to keep the church open for private prayer

**Sue Shaw**

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*Out of care for people's privacy, Personal News has been deleted from the web edition of Church News. Anyone wishing to receive the full edition of Church News by email, should send an email to [churchnews@kingstonurc.org](mailto:churchnews@kingstonurc.org)*

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## Contents

You may have noticed the lack of Contents page in this edition. My reasons ....

- 1) It is a right pain to do! Unless you print the whole thing off, you have to scroll back and forth finding the page numbers, and then if you alter or add an article, it can all go terribly wrong again (or is that just me?!).
- 2) There were so many contributions this month (double month + plus lock-down = more people writing fantastic articles), making Reason 1 much more likely.
- 3) I'm not sure if anyone ever refers to the Contents page?
- 4) The majority of readers are now accessing Church News online, so e.g. if you want to find article on Christmas, then it is easy to search for ... "Christmas"!
- 5) It makes Church News into voyage of discovery for you all, so put your feet up and enjoy!

## Christmas worship at KURC

Below is our planned worship schedule for Christmas 2020, as it currently stands. Due to the Covid-19 situation, please check [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org) nearer the time for final details and additions. We will also update plans in service notices and via the weekly emails (email [kingstonurc@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonurc@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list).

From: 6am Friday 4 December To: 6am Saturday 5 December	<b>24 hours of prayer</b> Come at any time, come in your PJs, most of it will be on Zoom Time to pause, reflect, rage and wonder ....
Sunday 13 December, 10:30am	<b>Christmas Gift Service</b> on Zoom
Monday 21 December	<b>Christian Aid musica fundraiser.</b> Details nearer the time from Ray Charlton
Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December, 11:30pm into Christmas Day	<b>Christmas Eve Communion Service</b> in the Sanctuary
Christmas Day Friday 25 December, 10:30am	<b>Christmas Day service</b> on Zoom
Sunday 27 December, 5pm	<b>Worship or private prayer</b> (subject to Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time)



**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm – 4pm ish**

***Quizzes, games, daftness and general merriment!***

***Please come and join in the fun 😊***

***More details to follow***

*And what better time than Christmas to try out this idea ....*

## **Sunday mornings live online**

Like many of us, I imagine, I have been spending more hours sitting in front of a computer screen since the outbreak of Covid-19 than at any other time in recent years. This can often feel like a poor substitute for the real thing, which I continue to miss. As do we all, of course. Top of my 'real things' list is probably meeting people face to face (preferably over a cup of coffee!), rather than as two-dimensional images on a screen. And, of course, it's perfectly valid to make the case that the online version of, say, a live theatre or concert performance lacks the atmosphere which is an essential part of the on-site experience.

Equally though, there are things I have enjoyed doing on-line which I would never thought of trying if I had had to go to the trouble of turning up in person. There have also been times when the benefits of being able to go to, say, a meeting without even having to leave home have made attendance decisively more attractive.

All of which made me wonder whether KURC could have a potential new audience out there who would possibly hesitate to come along to our services in person but who might be prepared to give us a try online. No having to leave home. No waiting for the bus or paying for parking. No need to put on one's Sunday best. No need for introductions or making conversation with strangers (however friendly) .....

Please do think about inviting your family, neighbours or friends to join us online for one of our Sunday services. It's an opportunity for people to dip their toes in the water without even having to take off their shoes! And who knows, this might prove to be the start of something more permanent.

***Vaughan James***

*Watch out for reminders during our services!*

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## **Gift Day update**

The total raised as a result of the Gift Day, as at mid-November, was £58,553.41, which does not include the generous bequest. We are immensely grateful to church members and friends who have released their gifts of money and we are grateful to God. Lesley has written a letter of thanks which will be distributed separately.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Children, Youth & Families update

At the beginning of November, we were starting to plan a return to some children and family activity sessions at the church again, adhering to Covid-secure guidelines. Unfortunately, the second lockdown delayed those plans. Although we have not had face to face contact with some of our families since March, we are still very much in contact and keen to continue serving them.

With that in mind, we devised a survey to send out to ascertain what may interest families over the next six months. We listed our regular activities (including Tots' Praise, Messy Church, Jolly Toddlers, Stay and Play) and asked what format families preferred e.g. in the building, 'live-streamed sessions', online via Zoom, pre-prepared activity packs to take home, etc. We also suggested some new activities and asked for their ideas on what they felt they needed at this time. We have had a 73% response rate to our questionnaire, which is excellent!

It was apparent that people wanted to meet again at the church. Post lockdown, we will be able to do this, as Government guidelines allow for playgroups and youth provision. We plan to re-start Tots' Praise and run it in the way we do evening church. There will be no refreshments and it will be a simple song and story time for the time being. Messy Church and Stay & Play will also run, again in a different Covid-secure way.

We have just this week (w/c 16<sup>th</sup> November) set up a private KURC families YouTube channel so that we can livestream during lockdown and in the future for those who don't feel able to attend in person. Tots' Praise will be live on YouTube (rather than Zoom) for the first time this week!

I am also currently filming school assemblies on Zoom which are sent to St. Luke's school and are really well received.

Since March 2019, we have been sending out activities to church families for the children to follow each Sunday and I prepare a short session for any children who come to the 5pm service, as well as the introduction to the theme for the Sunday morning service on Zoom.

Potential new projects include:

- Nature Detectives (socially distanced nature walks)
- Body and Soul fitness workout for parents
- Online kids' book club
- Cooking/gardening together online
- Makaton worship songs singalong
- Parenting course
- Other Christmas projects (contact me for details!)

Don't forget our Gift Day Pop-Up Nativity on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am** (costume need only be a headdress as we won't see anything else on Zoom?!).

**Sally Butler**, [youth@kingstonurc.org](mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org)

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## Things that are good and lovely – to hold on to!

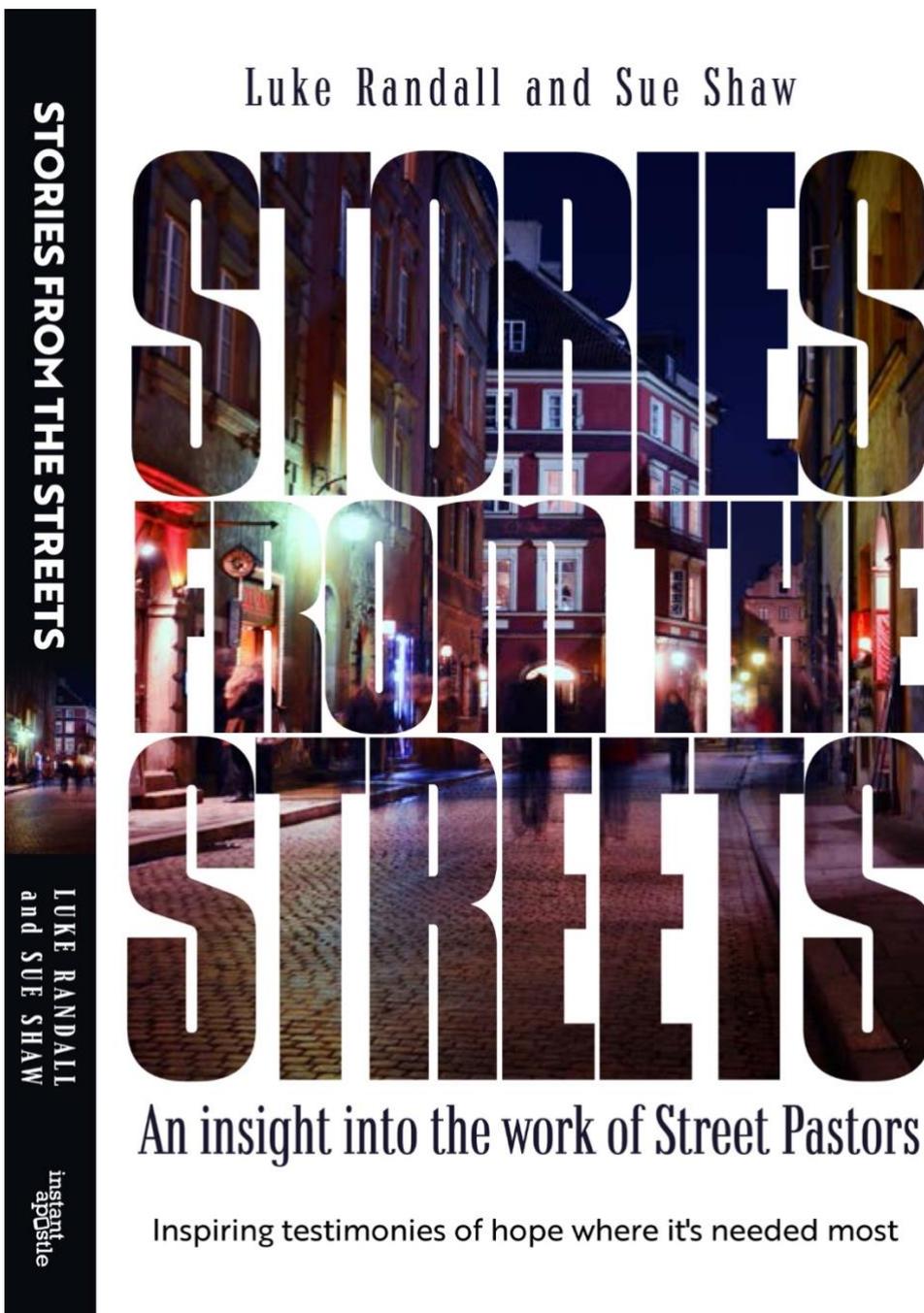
One of the great things about online worship is that you can still be interactive. During the *Introduction to the Theme* slot, Sally has sometimes been using the Zoom “Chat” function to collect our feedback, where she might usually ask the congregation to shout out our answers. A few weeks ago, the reading was Philippians 4 – *“fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable”*. The responses were indeed good and lovely and are, I think, worth reproducing here and keeping hold of. See if you can remember what you said!

The kestrel in the park	Friends
Henryk	We / us
Colours of autumn	Seeing everyone this morning
Family and friends	Curries
Parents	Support of friends
Sunrise	Sunshine, flowers, animals
Birdsong	No punctures
Rev Lesley	Walks in the woods
Flowers and sunshine	Joy
Seeing seeds that you have planted turn into veg	
The sun is shining and the oak tree is full of sparrows	
Trees and flowers and the wonderful colours	
Parks to walk in	
Next step and preparation for the next generation	
Access to internet and electronic devices	
Autumn gold	
A little wren bopping around our garden on Friday	
Walks by the river	
Love	
That the PC worked in the end this morning	
Humour	
The sun	
Access to fast, 5G internet	
For the beautiful world	
Work	
Breath	
Peace	
Technology that works	
An off button on the TV	
Alexa	

*Ed*

## Stories from the Streets

Luke Randall and Sue Shaw



An insight into the work of Street Pastors

Inspiring testimonies of hope where it's needed most

'Stories from the Streets' is written from the perspective of Street Pastors from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Antigua in the Caribbean. As well as compelling true stories, there is also plenty of background information about the organisation itself, homelessness, street drugs, safeguarding and why Street Pastors do what they do.

The stories describe real life situations where people are helped in a diverse range of places, on the streets at night, on railway platforms, after terrorist incidents or in schools.

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On the back cover is an endorsement from our own Teresa James which reads, 'Blow-by-blow accounts of what it is really like to "love your neighbour" by caring, listening, helping - the Street Pastor motto.'

You might be a Street Pastor yourself wanting to know more about the work or thinking about becoming one or just curious about what Street Pastors actually do. Either way, do order a copy and find out what God is doing on our streets.

The book costs £9.99 and can be bought from Graham in The Kings Storeroom, in the URC foyer. It is also available **via outlets such as [Amazon UK](#), [Foyles](#) and [Waterstones](#) - See [Buy book page](#) of our website.**

**Please do tell friends and family about this book which you can do by sharing the link <https://www.storiesfromthestreets.org>**

**Sue Shaw**

### Church News – update from the editors

As you know, recent editions of Church News (including this one) have covered 2 months. We are very pleased to announce that in 2021 we will be returning to 10 editions per annum, usually monthly with double editions in July/August and December/ January.



Carol



Julian

Two guest editors – Carol Clack and Julian Le Fustec – have agreed to produce one copy each later in 2021.

We're very pleased to welcome Carol and Justin to the 2021 team!

To give editors more weekend time to produce Church News, we are moving the copy date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the preceding month. The next few copy dates are listed below:

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Copy date (2021)</b>	<b>Editor</b>
February 2021	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Vaughan James
March 2021	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Jean Thompson
April 2021 (Easter issue)	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Robin Pilbream

If you would like to receive Church News by email, please email: [churchnews@kingstonurc.org](mailto:churchnews@kingstonurc.org)

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## New Elders – Robin Pilbeam



Hello, if you haven't met me before, I'm Robin Pilbeam and I have been asked to become one of your serving Elders and what a huge surprise and humbling task you have given me. I always feel life is pretty much a struggle and yet I seem to overcome and continue but of course with huge support and prayers all is possible.

My Christian path began as a child at Tooting Congregational Church which was an enormous cavernous place with beautiful stained glass and oak pews and an enormous Church organ way up high where the choir sat and of course the other "Cathedral" in my life was the Granada Tooting a few roads away which is now the only Grade 1 listed cinema in the Country.

My late Mother, Rene Pilbeam spent her entire Church life there, Girls Brigade, Old Girls Brigade, Friendship Club, married there and finally her memorial service. I was in the Boy's Brigade, got my gold badge for sewing on buttons and the like. Like all rebellious teenagers and struggling with leaving school and starting work my relationship with the Church waned though I always took a keen interest in who was still there and my Faith didn't wane but I needed to find a home for it.

When I came some years ago and had a chat with Lesley about KURC she did ask why I hadn't gone back to Tooting to continue there but I felt that my spiritual journey was very much my own and I didn't want to be defined as Rene's Son. I began here attending the 6.30pm Service and I got asked if I would join the Church News Editorial team and now edit two of these each year which I thoroughly enjoy. I had spent many years in the magazine publishing field and was one of the very first male secretaries when I was appointed as the Editor's secretary on the late Woman's Realm magazine. After about 14 years there and its closure, David my partner suggested I apply to St George's Hospital and work locally so that we could have a dog! Of course, moving from the glamour of working in London and mixing with journalists and Fashion Editors to working in Radiology was a huge shock and I felt I couldn't settle and then after a couple of years I sort of got it and 18 years later I'm still here.

As a teenager, the idea of being confirmed completely phased me and I wasn't ready. In 2017, I began to feel ready to move to it and after several months of lessons was confirmed here and became a Member. Last September to mark 30 years, David arranged to have a Blessing although years ago we had a quickie Civil Partnership to legalise things. I hadn't been asked before to become an Elder but I did feel recently

a bit of a lightbulb moment that I was ready to serve and out of the blue I got a call from Martyn two days after we lost Rosey our Sealyham so a bittersweet end to a week.

I said to Martyn can I think about it and David shouted back, “don’t hesitate, you’re ready for it now” so there we are! The Eldership role for me is daunting and I want to do my level best during the 3-year appointment to make a quiet difference and help move our Church forward in the best way possible for you all.

If the Church was a Theatre, then I’d definitely be looking out for the people in the cheap seats with a restricted view!! I don’t have an agenda or goals and each week of being an Elder another curve ball of an issue is thrown at us all to try and run with. It’s pretty exhausting as you are faced with some very human and moral questions and none of this is flagged up in the handbook! I think our Church is blessed with some very talented and hugely diverse men and women both serving and non-serving Elders and we all try and help each other and we play to each other’s strengths.

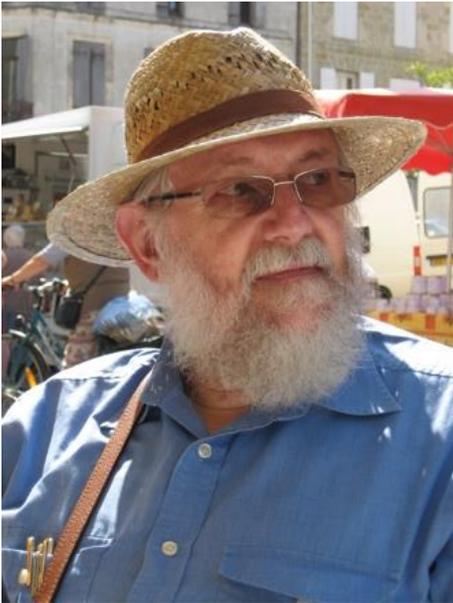
Keep the Elders in your prayers as we attempt to steer our Church through these unprecedented and challenging times. I’m here to serve so do get in touch or collar me.

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## Christmas Virus

Christine Thompson found an article about a virus that it may be beneficial to catch! Sue has already mentioned in Pastoral News – “an outbreak of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy that will ‘infect’ people on a worldwide scale”. Here are some of the potential symptoms ...

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than in fear based on past experiences
- An ability to enjoy each moment
- A loss of interest in judging others
- A loss of interest in interpreting the action of others
- A loss of interest in conflict
- A loss of the ability to worry
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature
- Frequent attacks of smiling
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others, as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.



## Remembering Tony...

As you may know, my dad, Tony, died on May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. It was unexpected and a great shock to us.

Covid restrictions meant that we were unable to say goodbye to him as we would have wanted to, and the continued restrictions mean that our grieving process has been somewhat unusual. We have missed out on opportunities to meet with friends and talk about Dad during the six months since he died, to share stories and to heal our hearts with the memories he created with the people he knew and loved.

We hope to have a thanksgiving service to celebrate Dad's life, but the chance to do so still seems unlikely in the foreseeable future. When we do meet, I hope that there will be time to share a drink and exchange stories about Dad. You might then tell us about, 'That time when Tony...' or 'My favourite thing about Tony was...' or 'You could always rely on Tony to...', and we will be grateful to learn about Dad in the many and various ways in which you all knew him. In view of the uncertain future which we currently face, I wonder whether you might be willing to share those reminiscences and stories with us now, so that we can gather them together as a tribute to Dad, until we are able to meet together in person.

If you would like to contribute to our 'Remembering Tony' book, I would be grateful if you could email me with a memory or something that you would like to share with us. It really can be just one sentence or more if you like – perhaps something you remember Dad said, or an occasion you shared together. You might even include a photograph of Dad which sparks a particular memory - even better if you are in the photograph too.

If you would like to contribute, please send your email to [rememberingtonywenman@gmail.com](mailto:rememberingtonywenman@gmail.com) by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. I look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks for your time.

***Nicola Wookey (Tony Wenman's daughter)***

## Community Meals

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November, we served our first takeaway hot lunch as part of a scheme organised by a group of local churches and Voices of Hope (see poster).

Whilst we didn't have many takers this first time, we are sure that the word will soon get around – please do help spread the word! Those who did come really appreciated the hot meal, sweet treats and fruit. Thanks very much to those who planned, cooked, served, baked and provided cakes. And a big shout out to Tony's Fruit stall and other stall-holders on Kingston Market who provided the fruit and veg. Our hot meal was vegetable soup (and lovely bread). There was quite a debate on whether people preferred their soup chunky or whizzed! Which do you prefer?

**COMMUNITY LUNCHES**

We are excited to be able to provide a takeaway hot meal to those in need:

**MONDAY: KINGSTON URC, EDEN ST**  
**TUESDAY: PIPER HALL, CAMBRIDGE ROAD ESTATE**  
**WEDNESDAY: ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HAMPTON WICK**  
**THURSDAY & FRIDAY: KINGSGATE CHURCH, KINGSTON**

From 1pm at Piper Hall,  
Kingston URC & St John's  
From 1:30pm at Kingsgate

Cambridge Road Estates  
Residents 4 Residents  
Community Group

Voices of Hope

Kings Gate CHURCH



If you would like to offer to provide any food, please contact:  
 Nick Robinson, Bron Robinson, Julian Le Fustec on behalf of Team Red  
 Cathy Seymour, Ray Charlton, Carol Clack on behalf of Team Blue  
 The teams will be cooking on alternative Mondays.

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see the last page

## Church is a People Place



If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,  
Where do I go to speak?

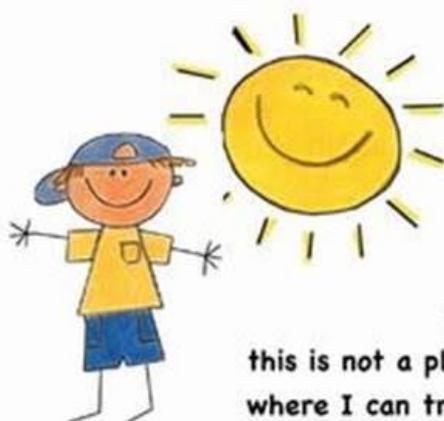


If this is not a place where tears are understood,  
Where can I go to cry?

If this is not a place where you will accept me as I am  
Where can I go to be?



If this is not a place where my Spirit can take wing,  
Where can I go to fly?



If this is not a place where I can try to learn and grow,  
Where can I just be ME?

If this is not a place where my questions can be asked,  
Where do I go to seek?



William Crockett on the Church as a "people place"

This visual was sent to Christine Thompson by the Global and Intercultural Ministries, formerly the Racial Justice Group, some years ago. It struck a chord with Christine and we felt it worth reproducing here. Copyright: Rev Doctor William (Bill) Robert Kirkpatrick Crockett from Canada, who sadly passed away in November 2018.

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## Nurturing faith

***Peter Pay, the new Lay Moderator of the URC, writes in a recent blog:***



“I was due to be visiting Kingston on Thames United Reformed Church in September. But the virus has caused my visit to be postponed. ‘King Cong’, as it was fondly known, *[our church was then a Congregational church]* is the church I grew up in *[in the late ‘50s/early ‘60s]*. Indeed, it is also the church where my parents met and married.

I recall joining a large Sunday School of well over 100 children. There I followed a teacher training process for the older teenagers and started to teach in a branch of the Sunday School that was on a neighbouring estate *[at Tudor Hall]* with at least 50 more children.

There was a Youth Fellowship with Saturday socials and Sunday evening speakers, and ‘Fred Fridays’ where one of the church couples *[Fred and Margaret Randall]* provided their front room as a venue for young people to discuss matters. I recall a small group of us being ‘allowed’ to lead worship (with a bit of supervision). It was a church where we felt welcome, included and safe. A church where I was indeed nurtured and where my faith grew and was strengthened...

... It is easy for churches and individual members to underestimate the importance and the lasting effect of their work in bringing folk to faith and nurturing that faith as it develops – effects they may never see or benefit from. Work with children and young adults, also work with folk of all ages and backgrounds, holding them in prayer, helping them to develop and to grow in faith and confidence. Simple acts of friendship, encouragement and support as well as more organised activities. Being there in times of need. I give thanks for the work of all our church communities acting as the body of Christ in their neighbourhoods, seeking to nurture and support others in their faith journey”.

*Thanks to John Fisher for sending this on.*

## Melanie Smith on why FAIRTRADE matters

### Extract from ‘Reform’ magazine, September 2020



If black lives matter, so does Fairtrade. In fact, if you say that black lives matter, and yet buy tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, chocolate or even cotton or condoms which are not fairly traded, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders and slave owners. You are continuing in the subjugation of people already disadvantaged by the legacies of slavery. You may as well be worshipping at the foot of Colston’s plinth. You

may as well be flying a ‘White lives matter’ banner. Harsh? I don’t think so.

The products I’ve mentioned are all grown in countries that were integral to the triangular slave trade. After the slave trade came to an end formally, it continued informally: workers had to remain on those farms or starve. Slave owners were compensated. Colonial enterprises continued to trade. We didn’t stop eating sugar when the slave trade stopped. Sugar came from the same places, with the same winners and losers. That distinction remains today. Most of the products we consume from the Caribbean islands, Africa and India are still produced by people who are living on or around the poverty line, with few labour rights and educational opportunities. Some of these products are made using child labour: slavery by any other name.

To put it simply, if you say black lives matter, and yet Wispa, then please shut up. You are exposing yourself as a hypocrite. If you don’t want to take a break from KitKat, as Nestlé, one of the most profitable food companies in the world, reneges on its already flimsy Fairtrade commitment, then take a walk away from #BLM. You have simply jumped on a bandwagon. If you put non-Fairtrade sugar in your non-Fairtrade tea, then you’re full of bile. If you find this a little harsh, then thank you. As a Christian minister, I take my lead from the line of Hebrew prophets and Jesus in setting out the stark challenge of justice. Now is the time to change the way you live, or stand accused of double standards. This is Gospel. This is good news for the poor.

I rarely, if ever, ask people to share my own thoughts. But this is different. This has the power to transform lives all over the world. As individuals, it is almost impossible for us to know how we are to make recompense for the legacies of slavery. Fairtrade is probably the most direct way any of us can start to redress the injustices of the past. If we don’t bother with Fairtrade, we are part of the problem. If we insist on Fairtrade, we will start an economic revolution, and that can start today, with you.

I say this knowing that I slip at times. I see something on a shelf that looks attractive and I can be seduced. I know I must do better. I recommit to Fairtrade. Will you?

**Melanie Smith is Minister of Palmers Green, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill United Reformed Churches in Enfield**

*Thank you to Jean for sending this on. What about us all making a New Year’s resolution to buy more Fair Trade products? <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk>*

## **DIVERSITY .... and KURC**

Our Elders have been considering KURC's Elders Election process and how the Elders as a group can be made more representative of KURC congregation and community - currently it is predominantly white British, women and in the upper age bracket ... compare that with, say, our Sunday morning congregations and with the wider the KURC community.

It therefore seemed a good idea to join the November 'Churches together in South London' online (Zoom) meeting which focussed on *encouraging greater racial diversity in (church) leadership and initiating conversations and practical actions to tackle racial injustice at all levels in our churches and communities, and in our ecumenical networks such as Churches Together groups or Unity groups.*

These issues were considered with the help of presentations from two speakers:

**Chine McDonald**, Head of Community Fundraising & Public Engagement at Christian Aid, author, and Trustee of Greenbelt, Christians Against Poverty and Christians in Media and **Richard Reddie**, Director of Justice & Inclusion for Churches Together in Britain & Ireland, author, commentator and researcher.

Here is a snapshot of some of their thoughts

### **CHINE**

Whiteness is perceived as the norm, superior and still holding power.

This was illustrated by an anecdote: When Chine and her husband went to join her family in Nigeria for a celebration her husband, as the only white person amongst the black (Nigerian) family group was in the ethnic minority ... yet he was treated with great reverence and attributed with 'power'.

Having power, keeping power ... sharing power

Good diversity is lots of different people in one place ... in a melting pot or mosaic of different colours but NOT monochrome.

Things can be messy and chaotic.

We need to combat stereotypes, be authentically open. Diversity literacy ensures we do not create divisions

**Diversity is a fact; inclusion a choice**

### **RICHARD**

It's not enough to say we will 'try to engage' everybody.

Relationships need to be established and from the start of the planning, everyone involved.

Don't wait for people to volunteer, be proactive by encouraging/inviting individuals.

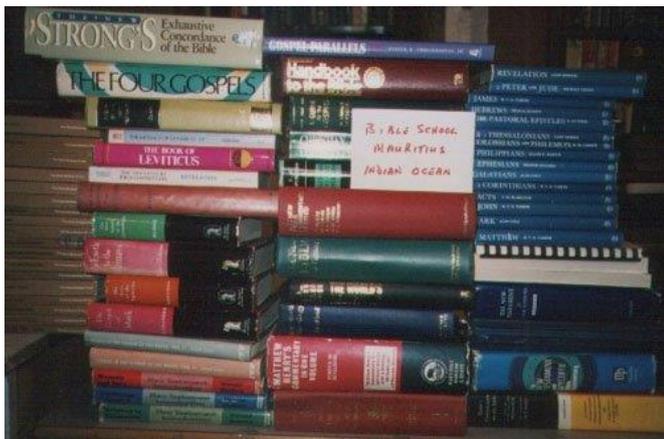
**The desire to be inclusive is not simply a tick-box exercise or an afterthought.**

### **CHINE and RICHARD**

Even when the principle to achieve greater diversity is agreed, actually putting this into practice is painfully slow, and requires everybody going beyond their comfort zone.

**Teresa James**

## BOOK AID SENDS BOOKS, CHANGES LIVES



When I had a good ‘sort out’ during lockdown, I was recommended to this book charity which may interest other members. The local representative for this area lives in Sunbury on Thames. If anybody is interested in passing on Christian books that they no longer need, I can let you have the details. You have to transport the books to the volunteer and he arranges onward transportation. There is hardly any limitation to the Christian books you can donate, but

they do like them to be in reasonable condition; all Bibles are acceptable except New English Bibles and they don’t want paperbacks where the pages have turned brown. For more information about what is acceptable, please Google Book Aid Collection Points in the UK.

Book Aid has shipped second-hand Christian books to areas of need around the world since the 1980’s. In particular, Book Aid supports Christian book shops mainly in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Books are gathered by volunteers through a network of UK collection points. They are then transported to warehouses in London and Ranskill. The books are sorted, boxed and placed in pallets ready for shipment. When the books reach their destination, they are sold at affordable prices. The money raised is used to enhance and develop local literature initiatives and support Christian ministries.

Since 1988 over 30 million Christian books and Bibles have been shipped to book hungry areas, thanks to the generosity of British Christians. Please have a word with me if you would like to know more.

*Jean Thompson*

### Han Sol on YouTube

Do you enjoy the organ music that Han Sol plays before the Zoom service each Sunday morning? If so, you can now listen to it on YouTube as well.

Just type in ‘Youtube Hansol Kang organ’ in your search box and you should discover around a dozen clips, all superbly played. Han Sol aims to learn at least one new piece each week and enjoys exploring KURC’s extensive library of organ music which was collected by our former organist, Tony Wenman, over a period of 50 years. Thank you, Han Sol!



## UPDATE

*From OXYGEN's Director John Trend:*

At Oxygen, we are continuing to work hard to adapt to the very different circumstances that have arisen this year. This has included adapting our work to comply with social distancing and lockdown measures and doing extensive work on risk assessments and policies across Oxygen (and Kingston Street Pastors) to ensure the safety of young people, the general public and our staff and volunteers.

At this particularly challenging and uncertain time, young people are more in need of support than ever before and we are committed to providing that support and walking alongside young people, showing them that they are valued and helping them to achieve their potential.

Rev. Peter Holmes is still remembered fondly for the impact he had on the community and the role he played helping to guide me and Oxygen in many key decisions.

Following the departure of Rory (Head of Youth work since 2015), new members of staff (Felicia Bhebhe, Alice Whyman and Siobhan) have been appointed to increase Oxygen's capacity to deliver projects and develop its work with the most vulnerable young people at risk of crime, exclusion from school, and suffering with anxiety and poor mental health.

**Oxygen Shop** has continued to develop as a place where young people gain valuable skills and have deeper engagement.

**Until the start of the second lockdown was open** Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Although closed from Thursday 5th November ...because Oxygen has been selected as one of several charities to be part of a new online store dedicated to charity shops. **You can still buy things from the Oxygen shop online via** <https://www.reluv.co.uk>

## **Mentor Training: 17th and 24th November**

Do you want to do something to help a young person?

We all struggle with life at some point, but young people need our help, encouragement and support to overcome the challenges they are facing.

Oxygen is looking for people who have some life experience and have a passion for seeing others discover their identity and achieve their potential. We can all influence those around us in a positive way and your support could really make a difference to a young person's life at a time when they need some guidance or just a friendly, listening ear.

***Teresa James (KURC's Oxygen representative)***

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see the last page

## An Underground Church goes Overseas

This month marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower* which took the 'Pilgrim Fathers' across the Atlantic to America. The Pilgrim Fathers are of special interest to us because they were some of the earliest independent, or Congregationalist Christians, forerunners of the United Reformed Church. We are the heirs of their tradition.

By the year 1620 almost a century had passed since the 're-formation' of the Roman Catholic Church in this country and the establishment of the Church of England. There were many who felt that further change was necessary – these were the 'Puritans' who wished to reform the Church of England from within. But there were some who were more radical and wanted immediate, complete freedom from state interference in matters of worship and church organisation. They came to be known as Separatists.

Such revolutionary views were not acceptable to Queen Elizabeth I and her successor King James I who wanted to retain close control over their subjects: The Church of England was a state church and a 'power network' which enabled them to do this. The radical, independent Christians undermined the state's authority and were therefore hounded and persecuted by the government, especially in the later years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. They met in barns, lofts and cellars, praying, preaching and singing in the way they wished, using no prescribed liturgy. Their services would often have been 'charismatic' and might have lasted many hours. Services were sometimes raided and worshippers (referred to by the Bishop of Norwich as 'trash') arrested, though only occasionally tried. The principal leader of the separatist movement was Robert Browne who insisted the state had no right to tell people how to worship God and that there should be no coercion in religion: 'The Lord's kingdom is not by force'. Browne was outlawed.

Matters deteriorated towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1593 membership of a separatist church became a felony. Separatist books and propaganda were burned and two of the leaders of the movement were actually hanged. The situation became unbearable and the more fiercely independent Christians began to drift away to exile in the more tolerant Netherlands where they were made welcome.

Life in the Netherlands was not quite what they hoped for. They found it difficult to integrate with the local population and felt they were losing their identity. Both English and Dutch governments were increasingly keen to encourage colonisation of the 'New World', so some of the separatists decided to form a partnership with a London stock company who agreed to finance their voyage to the America and start a colony in return for a share of the profits from farming, hunting and mining.

Only one third of the 'pilgrims' who eventually sailed to America from Holland via Plymouth, England, were religious exiles. The rest were hired to protect the company's interests. After a frightening voyage, they arrived off Cape Cod and established a settlement at 'Plimoth' which became the second English colony in America, the first being Jamestown in Virginia.

The local Native Americans were surprisingly friendly at first and a peace treaty guaranteed the pilgrims' security, but cold weather and disease wiped out half of the colonists over the first winter. Fortunately, there was a bumper harvest in 1621 (thanks to assistance from the native population) and a shared celebratory meal was held which is now commemorated annually in the USA as 'Thanksgiving Day'.

Over the next ten years many less radical Puritan Christians followed the 'Pilgrims' and within twenty years there were 10,000 Congregationalists in New England. The Massachusetts Bay Company and the town of Boston were established.

It was the Separatists' respect for individual conscience and democratic government which underpinned the foundation and defined the values of the United States of America, and their philosophy of freedom of worship became enshrined in the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

I thoroughly recommend a visit to Plymouth Massachusetts where you can go on board the replica Mayflower and walk around the 'Plimoth Plantation' – a reconstruction of the pilgrims' village, complete with actors dressed in 17<sup>th</sup> century costume.

Stephen Tomkins, editor of *Reform* magazine, has recently written a book about the Separatists: *The Journey to the Mayflower: God's outlaws and the invention of freedom* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2020) which is available from [urcshop.co.uk](http://urcshop.co.uk)

**John Fisher**



## The excitement of the frontier!

*We limit not the truth of God  
To our poor reach of mind.  
By notions of our day and sect,  
Crude, partial, and confined.*

As John Fisher points out, this month sees the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the departure of the 'Pilgrim Fathers' to North America, to escape persecution. On their initial departure, from the Netherlands, their pastor John Robinson urged them not just to follow what he had taught, but to keep their minds open and receptive, because he was confident that '...the Lord had yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.' A witness to this speech, Edward Winslow, recorded his memories of the occasion, including this line, and George Rawson, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, built a hymn around the theme.

John Fisher has a longer memory than mine, but has reminded me that I once declared the hymn to be my favourite, and it could well have been, at the time, and this is the reason for this piece.

When Robinson made this statement, his church was part of a 'religious underground', an illegal English church, in exile. When Rawson wrote the hymn, England was at the centre of new thinking and technological developments which challenged and revolutionised both the established ways of work, and of our views of humanity's history on the Earth, and of the Earth's place in the Universe.

How brave then, and humble, of Robinson, and later Rawson, to grasp that these great strides in thought and practice could not be confined to the world beyond the Church's doors. It was God's world - it, and the capabilities of its inhabitants, were in continual change, and the understanding of worship and the Bible could not possibly remain static, alone and undeveloped.

It is this freedom, and its refusal to be confined by past thought and practice, that so excited me when I first came across this hymn. Coming at it from a scientific background, it was so refreshing to find this acknowledgement, in a 'religious' environment, that what we now know cannot be the whole of truth, and that pursuit of new knowledge was both legitimate and necessary. I find it exciting and liberating still.

The hymn was in *Congregational Praise*, the forerunner to *Rejoice and Sing*, but I think it fell victim to the cautious compilers of that hymnal.

When I was trying to retrieve it many years ago for a service I was leading, I was trying to find a copy of the music. Not in R&S, of course, so I hummed it to Tony Wenman. "Ah!", quoth he, " *Why was he born so beautiful, why was he born at all?* ". Exactly, Tony – that one! And on we went! In more formal circles the tune is known as Ellacombe, originally a German melody.

Finally, the works of scholarship and interpretation continue, and I would dearly love to hear much more of them. But here's an example of being brought up short when least expecting it.

People using 'like' all time, as a conversational filler, can raise one's irritation level to an unprofitable level... But look at Matthew 9:36: '*He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.*'. And now hear it read by a child, with an extra comma: '*He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like, sheep without a shepherd.*!' A light breaking forth, indeed!

**John Watts 8 NOV 2020**

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### **Prayer – Keep Going!**

*Aren't the prayers that Teresa James sends by email fantastic? (thanks again Teresa). This is from Teresa's email on 17 November. Paul's letters are full of concern and encouragement for the early Christians. We all need to hear Paul's words afresh: Keep going!*

Keep encouraging one another.

Keep close to the Good News.

Keep hoping for God's Kingdom and living as if it is now.

Keep going!

Keep going, and as we do, speak, act and care for those that can't.

Have concern for those that can't;

those who have run out of patience trying,

who are hurt and bruised by the side of life's road,

those that have hurdles and barriers to climb that others do not.

#### PRAYER

Abundant God,

we give thanks for those who encourage us and give us hope

and we rejoice that there is strength in you that revives us.

May your Good news continue to give us confidence in the world you desire for us

and that you are creating it, in and through us, by your Spirit.

Gentle God,

give us compassion for those

whose purpose and endurance has been tested to the limit;

for those who feel they cannot keep going.

May we be your hands and feet this day.

Amen

*a URC Daily devotion*

## Slimming World and me

I've always struggled with my weight  
Broad about the beam according to my dad  
So tall, fat and ugly I was  
Which I realise now was not true  
So the years came and went  
And somehow I ended up fat  
One day I realised  
This weight was doing me no good  
Health wise, fashion wise or any way at all  
So, to Slimming World I went  
Weighed – oh my goodness!  
And bombarded with information  
Free foods- fruit and veg  
Especially the speed  
Healthy extras weighed and measured  
And the SYNS – you really have to count.  
My journey had begun  
And so the weight fell off  
And my dress size dropped dramatically.  
Plain sailing it is not  
Chocolate is my downfall  
And through the Covid crisis  
Comfort eat I did  
But now I'm back on track again  
And weight loss is my aim  
It's not an easy journey  
But persevere I will  
Until my target weight is reached  
And the challenge of staying trim begins.



***Carol Clack***

## Archive of the Month

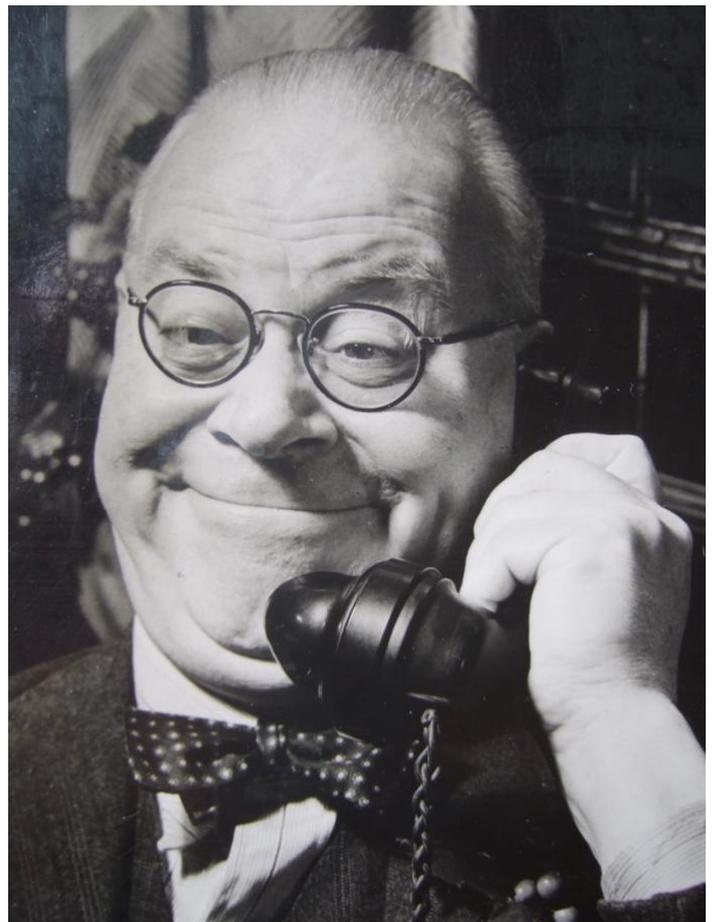
Of the hundreds of photographic portraits in our church archive these two are undoubtedly the most eye-catching. They show Harold Bardwell, who will surely be remembered by anyone who was associated with KURC before 1975.

Once described by the Surrey Comet as the 'grand old man of Kingston' who 'set the highest standard of Christian service', Harold was a stalwart member and deacon of our church for many decades and a great comedian and ventriloquist.

Harold and his brothers started a successful clothes shop in Kingston in 1909 which survived for 65 years. Harold became president of the Kingston Chamber of Commerce, but his primary concern was always for old people in the borough. He set up the day centre in Knights Park which bears his name, and was chair of the Kingston Old People's Welfare Association for 19 years.

Harold had, in his own words, 'an india rubber face', rather like Les Dawson, which he was able to mould into countless expressions. He enjoyed practical jokes – he was for instance fond of dressing up and standing in his own shop window – and he employed his gifts as an entertainer in old people's homes and prisons.

**John Fisher**



## BOONGUH BBANG

Have you ever tried a fish waffle? They look like fish but don't contain fish! They are a Korean fast food speciality. And no worries for Vegetarians!

We call them BoongUh Bbang (Boong Uh means Fish and Bbang is Bread) and they are normally filled with Korean red bean paste. Suk In has a portable Boong Uh Bbang oven and is an expert waffle cook. I bet you will buy his BoongUh Bbang again and again if you try it once. He makes and sells fish waffles occasionally outside New Malden URC. He recently decided to try cooking BoongUh Bbang outside KURC. The cost was £1 for two waffles and all proceeds go to the church.

The key point is that it is an excellent opportunity for evangelism as English people are curious to see what a fish waffle is. I handed each customer a leaflet explaining the Christian faith and was able to have a brief chat with some of them. I know it'll be little hard to hand out the Gospel leaflet to people on the street. However, if we sell Boong Uh Bbang with leaflet, they get the leaflet even giving money to us. So, actually we are selling the leaflet, and the BoongUhBbang is a free loving service. We're going to do it again!

**So Young**



*Nigel Tunley enjoys one of Suk In's 'fish waffles' which were cooked and sold outside KURC on Thursday 24 September. A traditional Korean street food, the waffles are fish-shaped but actually contain red bean paste, not fish. (Photo by An Sunghi).*

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see the last page

## Short story by Hannah Green

The day Katie Clearwood stepped into my English classroom was a day I'll never forget. She was certainly brave, outgoing. She'd walked in with a large smile plastered across her face. She was in skinny jeans and a white crop top that extenuated her stretch marks. Her makeup was, I mean I'm no expert, but it was definitely something. Bright, bold blue was smeared across her eyelids, matched with a mat nude lipstick. Her hair was in a high ponytail with a few bumps here and there. I had so many questions, we had so many questions. Did she not care what people thought of her? Why was her makeup like that? Did she look like that on purpose?

That day there was a variety of different people roaming the halls. There the ones who made fun of her, for various reasons. She wasn't even a particularly 'large' girl, yet people still made comments on her weight.

Then there were the people who just completely ignored her, as if she was invisible. But between all these people, there were the ones who thought she was brave, like me. Although, one thing I could not work out was how did she stay smiling that long? I mean she was obviously faking it. No one can keep a real smile whilst having people shout despicable things at you. Can they?

I'm Katie Clearwood. I know you've heard of me, I can't blame you. I'm the talk of the town. To answer one of your questions, no, I did not know what I looked like the day I walked into that English classroom. Your mind may now be going to many different places, maybe you're thinking, is she blind? Nope. Not blind. I'm an extraordinary person just like you. Yes. You've more than likely noticed I called myself extraordinary instead of ordinary. That is because I don't like the word ordinary. It's been twisted, manipulated. Nobody is ordinary and that's a fact, ordinary does not exist.

I might be like you, but I'm pretty sure that there's at least one difference between us. I live in a house with no mirrors, I don't take pictures of myself, or look in a camera. And no, this is not because I feel so ashamed of myself that I feel the need to hide, quite the opposite actually. It's because I know I'm beautiful, inside and out. I don't need to look in the mirror to confirm that because if I do that, I may doubt my beauty. And there's two things in life that I'm sure of:

I'm beautiful.

And so are you.

***Hannah Green, age 13***

## Unusual Churches of the World

### “The Chapel of Silence” in Finland

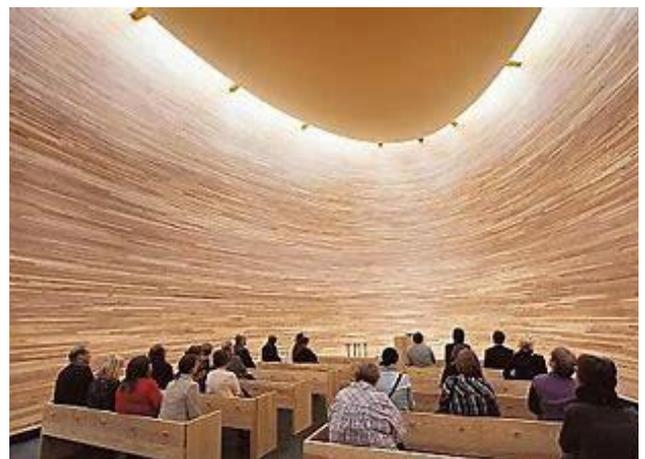
*Former member James Fells has sent this contribution to our Unusual Churches of the World series.*

In a paved open space in the busy heart of Helsinki stands the Kamppi Chapel. An oasis of calm and silence, it is a stark contrast architecturally to the surrounding buildings. Like an outsize egg-shaped cup or bucket, it is made completely of wood, the outside of spruce treated with a transparent wax which gleams in the sun, and the interior of curved strips of oiled alder planks. There are no windows. The inside is plain to the point of being austere; the only furnishings are a few severe wooden pews, at the front a wood table with a small silver or polished steel cross, and a similar-looking bowl in which visitors can place lit candles. The only natural light is from an oval-shaped skylight which provides a strong white light that encircles the roof like a halo. The overall effect is beautiful and exudes a quiet spirituality.

The chapel was designed by the Finnish firm K2S Architects Ltd, and opened in 2012. It is ecumenical and welcomes everyone, of whatever belief or none. It is staffed by a team of clergy from the Helsinki Parish Union and of social workers from the City Council, from an office adjoining the entrance space, which also has a shelf on which stand perhaps a couple of dozen Bibles, each in a different language, for people to read silently if they wish. Moments of prayer are held regularly, but no services. Otherwise, total silence is to be observed; hence the Chapel’s nickname.

I visited the Chapel in 2013. After the bustle and noise of the city outside, it was an intensely moving and calming sanctuary for quiet contemplation. And as architecture, an inspired, innovative building, featuring the timber and its products which have long been such an abundant and staple part of Finland’s economy.

***James Fells***



## The “Late 8”

Cathy Seymour’s challenge on the theme of 8 (for the Gift Day) was to produce these 8 lovely teddies. Cathy finished them a little bit after the Gift Day, hence them being called the “Late 8”!



## Eight churches on the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Walk

My challenge for Gift Day was a bit of a cheat, as I was already planning to do it. So, to make it fit with the theme of “8”, I tried to visit at least 8 churches on my way around Anglesey. Here they are!



Saint Rhwydrus, Cemlyn



Llanbadrig



St Gwenllwyfo, Dulas



Penmon Priory



St Tysilio, Church Island



Rhosygdad, Llanfairpwll



St Mary's, Llanfairpwll

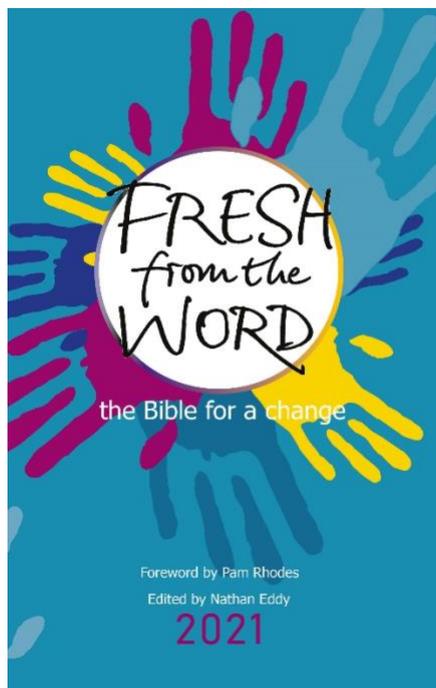


Llangwyfan, Porth Cwyfan

Capel Rhosygdad is not actually on the route, but it’s where we were married. Typical stark Methodist chapel!

**Bron Robinson**

## FRESH FROM THE WORD



If you enjoy the International Bible Reading Association (IBRA) readings, they also provide the very useful book each year which complements the daily Bible readings with 365 sets of notes, prayers and suggestions for action for £9.99 plus postage. The notes are written by over 50 theologians and biblical scholars – all creative and inspirational writers from around the world.

### Themes for 2021 include:

- Against the grain: looking again at familiar stories
- Dealing with disappointment
- Fake news and the good news

This helpful book can be obtained from IBRA by:

Email: [ibrasales@christianeducation.org.uk](mailto:ibrasales@christianeducation.org.uk)

Tel: 0121 458 3313

## International Bible Reading Association - [www.ibraglobal.org](http://www.ibraglobal.org)



### TRUMPET CALLS AND WHISPERS: ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY IN ADVENT

#### 1 Trumpet calls

Sunday 29 November (Advent Sunday)	Exodus 19:10–25
Monday 30 November	Leviticus 25:1–15
Tuesday 1 December	Joshua 6:1–7, 15–21
Wednesday 2 December	Joel 2:1–16
Thursday 3 December	1 Corinthians 15:51–58
Friday 4 December	1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
Saturday 5 December	Revelation 11:15–19

### TRUMPET CALLS AND WHISPERS: ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY IN ADVENT

#### 2 Whispers

Sunday 6 December (Second Sunday of Advent)	1 Kings 19:9–18
Monday 7 December	Psalm 131
Tuesday 8 December	Luke 8:22–25
Wednesday 9 December	Ecclesiastes 3:1–8
Thursday 10 December	Nehemiah 8:1–12
Friday 11 December	2 Corinthians 10:7–18
Saturday 12 December	2 Corinthians 12:1–10

### TRUMPET CALLS AND WHISPERS: ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY IN ADVENT

#### 3 Encountering the holy

Sunday 13 December	Genesis 28:10–22
Monday 14 December	Exodus 20:18–21
Tuesday 15 December	Isaiah 6:1–8
Wednesday 16 December	Ezekiel 1:1–14
Thursday 17 December	Ezekiel 1:15–28
Friday 18 December	Revelation 4
Saturday 19 December	Revelation 5

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**THE WORD BECAME FLESH: CHRISTMAS WITH JOHN****1 In the beginning was the word**

Sunday 20 December	1 John 4:7-19
Monday 21 December	John 1:1-9
Tuesday 22 December	John 1:10-18
Wednesday 23 December	John 2:13-22
Thursday 24 December	John 3:27-36
Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)	John 3:16-21
Saturday 26 December	John 5:19-27

**THE WORD BECAME FLESH: CHRISTMAS WITH JOHN****2 God's greatest gift**

Sunday 27 December	John 10:11-18
Monday 28 December	John 12:44-50
Tuesday 29 December	John 14:1-7
Wednesday 30 December	1 John 5:1-5
Thursday 31 December	John 8:12

**The Enlightening Word**

This 9-day series draws attention to the transformative powers of the study of scripture. In biblical view, this power of the Bible is God's doing, not our own; yet it is also our responsibility to seek it out and to embody it in our own living. For Christians, that divine-human interplay is exemplified by Jesus, the light of the world (in the John reading below), and the teacher of righteousness (in the Matthew reading). Scripture is enlightening, but those who seek to live by it are also called and empowered to be enlightening to others.

**1. A light to my path**

Friday 1 January	Ps 19	enlightening the eyes
Saturday 2 January	Ps 119:105-112	a light to my path

**2. Arise, shine!**

Sunday 3 January	Prov 4:10-19	path of the righteous
Monday 4 January	Ps 36	In your light
Tuesday 5 January	Ps 112	the righteous as light
Wednesday 6 January (Epiphany)	Is 60:1-6	arise, shine!
Thursday 7 January	John 1:1-9	in the beginning
Friday 8 January	Matt 5:14-20	let it shine
Saturday 9 January	Rev 21:22-27	God's light

**The Bible through the Seasons: Winter**

The year is shaped by the rhythm of the seasons, although these manifest themselves differently in different parts of the world. For our readings under this theme, spread across the year, we have taken our cue from the biblical environment. Winter is a time of storms at sea, and fires in the hearth, as well as of the Feast of Dedication (now Hanukkah).

Sunday 10 January	Gen 1:14-19	lights for signs and seasons
Monday 11 January	Eccl 3:1-8	for everything a season
Tuesday 12 January	Ps 107:23-32	storms at sea
Wednesday 13 January	Luke 8:22-25	Jesus calms the storm
Thursday 14 January	Acts 27:9-26	Paul caught in a storm
Friday 15 January	Jer 36:20-32	Baruch's scroll burnt
Saturday 16 January	John 10:22-30	the Feast of the Dedication

**The Gospel of Mark (1)****1. The Beginning of the Good News**

Sunday 17 January	Mark 1:1-15
Monday 18 January	Mark 1:16-28
Tuesday 19 January	Mark 1:29-39
Wednesday 20 January	Mark 1:40-45
Thursday 21 January	Mark 2:1-12
Friday 22 January	Mark 2:13-22
Saturday 23 January	Mark 2:23-3:6

**2. Good News for All**

Sunday 24 January	Mark 3:7-12
Monday 25 January	Mark 3:13-19a
Tuesday 26 January	Mark 3:19b-35
Wednesday 27 January	Mark 4:1-12
Thursday 28 January	Mark 4:13-25
Friday 29 January	Mark 4:26-34
Saturday 30 January	Mark 4:35-41

## 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

### Ministers:

Rev Lesley M Charlton, tel: 020 8399 4423 e-mail: [minister@kingstonurc.org](mailto:minister@kingstonurc.org)

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

### Church Secretary:

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### Treasurer:

Christine Chippendale, mobile: 07738 562457 e-mail: [treasurer@kingstonurc.org](mailto:treasurer@kingstonurc.org)

### Children, Youth & Families Worker:

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### Mission Development Worker through Music:

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

### PA to the Minister and Premises Manager:

Catherine Treweek Work Mobile: 07807 351801 (between 10am and 4pm only)

### Premises Assistant:

Georgi Todorov

Monday – Friday: 09.00 – 17.00 (with reduced access during Covid-19 lockdown)

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

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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 by the **second Friday of the month**.

**The next copy deadline is Friday 8 January 2021. Editor: Vaughan James:**

[vaughanrijames@gmail.com](mailto:vaughanrijames@gmail.com) or [churchnews@kingstonurc.org](mailto:churchnews@kingstonurc.org)

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS** may be made to the church in a number of ways, including via our Virgin moneygiving page, accessible through via our website at [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org).

You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-76, account number 33054942. If you would like more information on giving to KURC, please ask any elder.

**Kingston United Reformed Church** is a member of the **Local Ecumenical Project** in Kingston Town Centre with its partner, **All Saints Parish Church** in the Market Place.

*The town centre ministers meet regularly.*

*We are a part of **Churches Together in Kingston**.*

*Kingston URC is also affiliated with the **Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)** and the **Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK)**.*

You can keep in touch with worship and activities at our church through our website: [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org).

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter