



CHURCH NEWS  
Kingston United Reformed Church

MARCH 2021



*Bluebells, Surrey*

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

Charity No. 1131880

*This edition edited by Jean Thompson*

## Worship Diary: March 2021

At the time of writing (mid-February) severe Covid-19 restrictions are still in place. Consequently, the church building is not open for either private prayer or Sunday services until further notice. BUT as a church and a community KURC is still very much open and there is a wide range of worship and other activities available online. Please see the table below and check [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org) regularly for any changes.

For **Zoom IDs and passwords**, please refer to Catherine Treweek's weekly emails sent out on Fridays. And contact Catherine – [kingstonurc@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonurc@gmail.com) or 07808 351 801 (10.00 – 16.00 weekdays only) to be added to our mailing list.

Sunday	10.30 <i>Zoom</i>	<b>Worship and communion</b> , followed by opportunities to chat in breakout rooms. The sermon is also available, as live, via <a href="http://www.kingstonurc.org">www.kingstonurc.org</a> at any time
Any time	<i>Email</i>	Links to <b>worship resources for use with children/young people</b> are circulated each week by email. Email Sally Butler, <a href="mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org">youth@kingstonurc.org</a> for details
Daily	<i>Email</i>	<b>Daily prayers by email</b> Please contact Teresa James if you would like to receive these
Monday – Friday	14.00 <i>Zoom</i>	<b>Online prayers</b>
Monday	20.00 <i>Zoom</i>	<b>Body, Mind and Soul Workout.</b> Please contact Rosette Bali or Sally Butler for details
Every second Monday	19.30 <i>Zoom</i>	<b>Meditation.</b> Please contact Stuart Chandler <a href="mailto:stu_chandler@hotmail.com">stu_chandler@hotmail.com</a>
Wednesday	10.00 <i>YouTube</i>	<b>Tots' Praise.</b> Email <a href="mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org">youth@kingstonurc.org</a> for links
Wednesday	19.30 20.00 <i>Zoom</i>	<b>Bible study</b> – Ken Bartlett's & Stuart Chandler's session <b>'House Group'/Bible study</b> – Rachel & James Mason's session Contact Stuart Chandler <a href="mailto:stu_chandler@hotmail.com">stu_chandler@hotmail.com</a> for details and links
Thursday	20.00 <i>Zoom</i>	<b>Janine's Thursday night soir�e.</b> Relaxed chat. Contact Janine – as below
Daily	11.00 (11.30 on Sundays) <i>Skype</i>	<b>Coffee morning.</b> An informal opportunity to catch up with KURC friends or make new ones. (Sunday's coffee mornings start shortly after end of 10.30 service.) Contact Janine Goddard for links: <a href="mailto:janine.goddard@me.com">janine.goddard@me.com</a> / 07837 390330
Regularly	<i>Email or WhatsApp</i>	<b>Messages and requests for prayer from Lesley.</b> If you would like to be included in these regular communications, please contact Lesley Charlton.

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## LESLEY'S LETTER

*We live on this earth but it is not our home.  
Our constant battle is to keep our eyes on the things  
that will last for ever and not on the passing fashions  
and fears of today.*

Dear All,

How would Jesus have behaved during the pandemic? Sitting in the house watching the telly for hours, drinking beer and eating crisps in his pants? Mmm, what flavour crisps? No. Not so.

Would he have broken the law to go about preaching? Knowing that he could heal people himself.

Would he have encouraged his followers to keep going to the synagogue regardless of the R number? Like those who refuse to believe that Covid is real, would he have refused to wear a mask? I wonder - happy to hear your answers. The funnier the better.

Jesus would have known that suffering is how life is. It is not a shock to him. It should not be a shock to us. As Christians we believe in two foundational truths. God is good and loves us and there is a reality of sin and brokenness in the world. One of those truths does not negate the other.

David Attenborough's latest telly project is entitled 'A Perfect World.' That is not helpful. The world is not perfect. It never was. Good, yes but not perfect. Our challenge is to live well every day in this imperfect world surrounded by imperfect people.

What would Jesus have done? What is Jesus doing? He would have lived his life by his core purpose. That is our calling too. What is your core purpose? Maybe now would be a good time to wonder. Jesus would have reached out to people who were frightened and sad at this time. He would have cared in practical and in emotional ways too. He would not have been dismissive of our fear, nor would he have been shaped by it.

Our confidence is in God. We hope as they roll out the vaccine that we will be able to return to each other's company. We will never go back to how things were. People we loved have died. Yes, there is Easter Good News but that does not remove the potency of sadness.

***Yours, Lesley***

From Lesley - a word of appreciation for Teresa's daily prayers. For many they are a moment of peace in a noisy world. For others they remind them that we are connected to God and each other.

Thank you, Teresa, for your faithfulness.

## Memo from Martyn

What are you thankful for at this time?

Having arrived back in the UK on 8<sup>th</sup> January, our trip to Korea already seems like a long time ago. It is amazing how quickly the familiar surroundings of home become normal again. We were a bit anxious about our return as in the few weeks beforehand the headlines in Korea were all about the growing crisis in the UK. We watched as each day the case numbers grew. By comparison with Korea where greater restrictions were introduced when daily cases started to climb above 1,000, to see around that many dying each day in the UK was a big shock to everyone.

It was great to be in Korea with He Yeon's family and friends though and to have the chance to meet up with some who have been part of our church but are now back in Korea. Most of you will remember Sulhee who is now living in Seoul and building up her piano and English teaching.



We also met Suji who works for a pharmaceutical company in Incheon. She was here for a couple of years while she was studying. Some might remember Pyeong Hwa, she was here for about a year in 2013-14. She is now married and doing some teaching.



We also met others who were in the UK longer ago. It was lovely to catch up with them all and see how their lives are developing.

It was my first Christmas and New Year in Korea. Christmas is quite a low-key event, partly because of the restrictions but also because it is not as widely celebrated as in the UK. For many it is just another day off. We had a church service but ate the same sort of food as we would have any other day.

New Year was more of an event, again Covid restrictions stopped many of the big celebrations and for us meant that He Yeon's brother and his family were unable to join us. We went to the watch-night service at He Yeon's father's church; this included half an hour when we were asked to write down 100 things we were thankful for. A daunting task at first but once you start thinking about it, we each have a lot to be thankful for. (You might try it yourself next time you have 30 minutes and are wondering what to do.)

Now we are back and into a new routine; thankful to be home but finding the lockdown, which is much stricter than in Korea, a bit of a struggle. However, we know it is for the best. We are thankful for the vaccines, all those involved in developing them and those managing their rollout. This promises some hope for the months ahead. Thankful too that KURC is still here and that despite all the challenges of the times, still seeking ways to continue the work of the kingdom in this place. Thank you!



## SALLY'S SLOT

Just a quick update for you. I'm still working part time and also partially on furlough.

I have continued to do the Introduction to the theme each week and have been sending resources to our families to do at home. Apologies for any WiFi issues that have occurred during the 10.30 service!

We ran our second Messy Church At Home session; attended by five families. A total of 20 attended, (8 children and 12 adults). The theme was 'New Beginnings' and the children made amazing models using junk and also a fingerprint tree. All about new growth, renewing things etc. We sang and prayed together and the leaders were subjected to a challenge at the end of the session – try a new food..... the children loved seeing this and some of them tried things too. Well done Jack and Sophia for trying pickled onions and Lesley trying sardine with mango chutney!! Bron still does not like cherries! Sally still HATES peas!! (not that she tried them – too traumatic!)  
*Please see next page for photos.*

Our next Messy Church will be on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm. All welcome! The theme is 'Be Still (Lent)'.

One of the options that parents expressed an interest in on our recent survey, was a Body, Mind and Soul workout, run by Rosette. By the time you read this, we will have begun these. Thank you Rose! We have about 3 parents who have said they want to do this on Zoom, and more who would do it if we were able to transfer to the church hall eventually. Rose runs an aerobics session, followed by floor exercises, some gentle weights work and finally a calming meditation. I hope we can establish deeper friendships with families through this.

I had been organising a daily play date of about an hour for children to give respite to parents. Demand for this has decreased for many reasons; younger children cannot concentrate on the screen for very long and some families do not have enough laptops etc. So we have decided to only do them as and when required rather than every day.

Ray Charlton and I are currently doing a 'Youth Mental Health First Aid' online training course, organised by Southern Synod and led by Mental Health First Aid England. I must admit it is more work than I expected, but it is really well run and going to be rather useful, given the rising mental health crisis in this country. I am due to do another Physical First Aid course and a number of us will be doing Safeguarding Training updates this year.

*If anyone needs a listening ear, Ray and I are available:*

*Ray Charlton 07785 220369*

*Sally Butler 07807 348326 **Sally, Children, Youth and Families Worker***



*Qi Nuo & Rey Rey enjoying Christingle - 24.12.20.*



*The editor 'popped in' to photo Messy Church – 31.1.21.*

### **Do you enjoy listening to music?**

Do you need something uplifting to fill some lockdown hours? There is a huge library of over 10 years of recorded services, but unfortunately no list of which hymns were sung each week. We want to compile a list of hymns so that we can reuse them during Zoom services.

Would you be willing to listen again to some previous services and write down the hymns used? If so, please contact Martyn Verge for further details.

Could you please note, if not already done so, that Teresa & Vaughan's joint email address is [jameses114@gmail.com](mailto:jameses114@gmail.com) NOT james114@gmail.com

Thanks to June Martin for faithfully sending out copies of 'Reform' – we are most grateful.

## **PASTORAL NEWS – at 14. 2.21.**

One of my Christmas presents was a delightful book called 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'. Its full of ink and pen drawings accompanied by profound and wise words. Highly recommended. In one of the illustrations the boy asks the Horse, 'What is the bravest thing you've ever said?' to which the horse replies, 'Help.'

Asking for help is often one of the hardest things we can ever do. We feel vulnerable, anxious or fearful of how people will react.

Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen says a similar thing, 'Receiving is often harder than giving. Giving is very important: giving insight, giving hope, giving courage, giving advice, giving support, giving money, and most of all giving ourselves. Without giving there is no brotherhood or sisterhood.'

But receiving is just as important, because by receiving we reveal to the givers that they have gifts to offer. When we say, "Thank you, you gave me hope; thank you, you gave me a reason to live; thank you, you allowed me to realise my dream", we make givers aware of their unique and precious gifts. Sometimes it is only in the eyes of the receivers that givers discover their gifts.

We have been privileged to be able to give our support and pray for different people, especially at this time of Covid.

Continue to give thanks:

- For the vaccine programme and its roll-out nationwide and internationally
- For the many opportunities to 'meet' through technology with one another
- The way we can keep in touch with the church family using the phone, social media, the post and online.

**Out of care for people's privacy,  
names are not included  
in the Pastoral News section of the  
online Church News**

***Sue Shaw***

***Continuing our Elder series:*****SUE SHAW**

Born Ruby Ann Kajee to a Syrian father and Indian mother, my name changed to Susan Shaw when I was adopted aged 11 months by a couple in Manchester who lived not far from Old Trafford cricket ground.

After my parents divorced, my father brought me and my adopted sister up on his own, a rare feat for a lone man in those days.

On leaving school aged 18, I crossed the Pennines to train to be a teacher in Leeds. I had spent my childhood very actively involved at the local Methodist church but once I left home, I avoided God and church. However, much to my surprise, I had a dramatic spiritual awakening when I was 21

and returned to church.

After spending five years teaching in Skelmersdale, West Lancs, I came south to work as the national Youth Officer for Tear Fund where I stayed for ten years. I left to try my hand as a freelance writer and did have some children's books published, but eventually returned to full time paid work.

I worked for a wide variety of different charities, including a spell as a Community Worker at World's End, a council estate in Chelsea, and worked with young people at risk in Surrey. I also spent one very cold winter teaching English to Greek children on the island of Crete.

For almost ten years I worked for Victim Support, providing support to victims of crime in the community and at Wimbledon Magistrates Court. My last paid role was as Acting Co-ordinator for Street Pastors Kingston, then I took off to Antigua in the Caribbean to work for the Street Pastor scheme there. It was a wonderful and challenging experience working overseas, befriending so many remarkable characters and adapting to a new culture.

While in Antigua I tried my hand at writing again, co-authoring a non-fiction book 'Stories from the Streets' about Street Pastors in the UK and overseas, which was published by Instant Apostle last November.

I am now fully retired and, although restricted by Covid, try to serve God as best I can. I currently help with sorting and packing at Kingston Food Bank and, in my role as Elder at KURC, I am the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

## T R I B U T E S

### Ann Mackay – 17. 1.48. – 18. 1.21.



Ann had a brave and courageous life. After schools in Kingston and Cardiff, Ann worked with others similarly disabled making calendars from cigarette packets, at first in a small shop in Kingston and later at the Work Centre, now called “EnhanceAble”, in Geneva Road which her father was responsible for setting up. When her parents, Joan and Munro, were older Ann moved to nursing homes in Ipswich and Godalming and finally to Willow Grange in Surbiton.

In earlier times when her brother moved to the Netherlands there were annual trips to Holland followed by trips touring round Europe. Ann gained the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, a reflection on her determination, resilience, fortitude and true grit. She loved the theatre and concerts and loved being read to and listening to her prized collection of CDs.

Ann Macfarlane, Brenda Parkins, Ann’s cousin, Chrissie and friends from the church have been important in Ann’s remarkable life. Conversations over coffees in numerous coffee shops and Ann’s love of fruit are fondly remembered. Ann coped with adversity with such dignity and she never failed to say thank you to those who cared for her.

### Hugh Mayall



We have sadly heard of the death of Hugh Mayall, a prominent member of our church in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hugh and his wife Rosemary joined the Kingston Congregational Church in the 1950s. They had two daughters, Diane and Sarah.

Hugh had a varied career: he worked for St Mungo’s charity, then at URC headquarters and later became a driving instructor. Hugh had a very fine, strong tenor voice - almost operatic in fact - and was a huge asset to our choir in which he sang faithfully week by week. His experience at St Mungo’s enabled him to offer valued advice and assistance to the homeless who visited our foyer. He was a keen member of the Fred Friday discussion group and of the prayer group that met at the Puttock’s home. He loved cricket and helped to organise and umpire the annual KURC-All Saints cricket matches. He ran Book Fairs, edited church news for a number of years, and in recent times led many of our lunchtime services. Hugh was a very friendly, caring and lovable person with a deep Christian faith and we give thanks for his life.

**John Fisher**

## **Natasha and Marysia pay their own tributes to Nigel**

All the excitement, hullabaloo and hopes of celebration and expectations for a better 2021 just went with a bang, when on 1 January my friend, Marysia, phoned us with the dreadful news that our friend, Nigel Tunley, whom we knew for so many years, had died. I personally was in a state of shock that I couldn't write about him at the time. I just spoke to him on New Year's Eve when he was only two days after being discharged from the hospital. He sounded a little bit weak, but well enough to be on his own. He was a fit and active man until his heart started packing up at the beginning of December.

We met Nigel in our church a long time ago and always associated him with his dear friend, John Fisher, with whom he organised so many musical events and recitals in our church. Later he became very friendly with my friend, Marysia, and we used to see this 'trio' very often. Marysia introduced him to all her Polish friends and they even travelled to Poland last year. Even during this terrible Covid time John, Marysia and Nigel used to go for walks and coffees whenever they could.

My husband and I had so many memories of him, coming to our house, inviting us to his house, entertaining us playing the piano at Marysia's place, joining us on many Kingston University Retired Staff Association events, trips and Christmas parties and, of course, being together at so many church activities.

Nigel was a very gentle man and you could always rely on him. He did whatever he promised or whenever you asked of him. He used to sing with me in the church choir and also belonged to other choirs and music societies. He was a talented chap, playing the piano and organ and singing bass in his many choirs. We are sure that now he is singing with angels and his dear mother who lived up to 93 years of age and after whom Nigel cared so faithfully.

We have so many photos of Nigel and on the following page are just three from our albums which will remind my friends of him.

I dedicate this poem of *Percy Bysshe-Shelley* to Nigel, which will always associate in our hearts with the music and love he gave us:

*“Music, when soft voices die,  
Vibrates in the memory –  
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,  
Live within the sense they quicken.  
Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,  
Are heaped for the beloved's bed:  
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,  
Love itself shall slumber on.”*

**Marysia has added:**

Nigel was the kindest man walking the planet, always helpful, with the manners of royalty. Such good company and a very, very good pianist and singer.



The clocks go forward late Saturday, 27 March. Forget and you will miss the Palm Sunday service, presently on Zoom!

April's Church News editor is Robin Pilbeam. Articles to Robin please by Friday, 12 March. Email: [david.anderson48@btinternet.com](mailto:david.anderson48@btinternet.com) or [churchnews@kingstonurc.org](mailto:churchnews@kingstonurc.org)

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

## NEW LIFE

From Cathy Seymour:

Parents pushing the buggy towards the park. In the carriage a young baby dressed up in warm clothes, strapped in securely. The world they have been born into is their normal. People pass with masks on and they are not scared. Joy and acceptance can still be known. The trees still bend in the breeze, the robin still sings his tune, and the river still flows by. Bigger children run, or scoot, or ride their bikes. The new life watches, taking it all in with all the senses.

With care and an extra dose of caution, we will see this new life thrive.



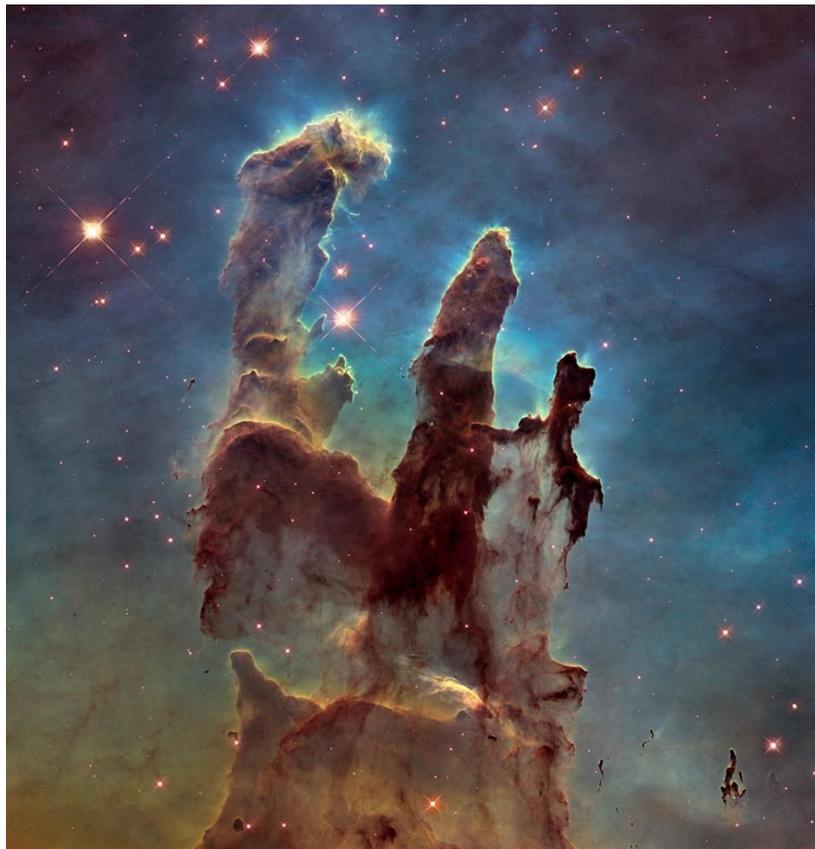
*Both photographs by Ann Macfarlane*



*Cygnets in Home Park by John Watts*



*Vaughan James took this unusual photo on the River Thames*



*Hubble Space Telescope from John Watts  
New stars being born the way that our sun, and we, were born.  
Just temporary aggregations of stardust – that's us ..... !*

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## New Things – a letter from Olive Springham

I have moved to a new area, to a new block of 55 apartments built in 2019 for people of 50 years plus (mine is termed 'retirement plus, over 70s').

It does mean that I am near family members, but it is an unfamiliar town and I am faced with many new things - an all-electric apartment with full-on modern devices which I need to learn about - for example, an electronic key fob where I can select channel 400 and see who is at the front door on my TV. I have a fully-fitted kitchen with a ceramic hob, a separate oven and grill – a real challenge for one used to gas!

Due to the pandemic, all the beautiful, extensive communal areas are closed. There were once many and varied activities to join but we now have to stay in our apartments and not mix with other residents at all. The duty managers are very helpful and caring. They try their best to make life easier. Although the main restaurant is closed, I can order a meal and have it delivered to my door.

Hunstanton is a small town, very quiet at present but I can imagine how it could wake up in summer as a family seaside resort.

Although I am surrounded by newness, I am very grateful for all the contacts I still have from the past. I have been overwhelmed by gifts and good wishes from my friends at KURC. It is a joy to receive phone calls - they do make a difference as life here is very quiet. I don't have a local church link here yet, but I do value the opportunity to be part of the Sunday services from KURC on my telephone.

With many thanks for your care and friendship. **Olive**



The grounds of Olive's new home in Hunstanton  
*(reproduced with permission)*

## Flowers of Spring Project

We are starting to see colour springing from the ground. How wonderful is that? We are all looking forward to longer, warmer days when the Coronavirus news is not so depressing and we are able to start getting out and about. We are also looking forward to Easter and we would like you to be part of our **Flowers of Spring** project.

The idea is to create a 'hanging' to share on Easter day and to have on our premises thereafter. The hanging will be the compilation of decorated fabric squares made by you on the theme of 'Flowers of Spring'. We will provide you with a fabric square (15 x 15 cm / 6" x 6") and we would like you to create an image of flowers. Do use your imagination to create a colourful image using fabric paint, embroidery, appliqué, felt, buttons, beads, ribbon, string, wool or any other medium which will work as part of a fabric hanging. Paper or card is not suitable.

Carol has made a few examples:



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It would be great if you could let us know if you would like to be part of this and we will send you the fabric and detailed instructions. We need your completed square by Saturday, 20 March, to enable us to sew them together in time for Easter.

We would like to involve as many people as possible. You certainly don't need to be an expert in creating this sort of art. We are looking for any contribution, however simple.

Carol, Janine and Linda would be happy to answer any questions. Let's be creative as a family!

***Carol Clack, Janine Goddard, Linda Austin***

## **UNUSUAL CHURCHES OF THE WORLD**



An Sunghi has sent us this contribution. It shows Seoul Anglican Cathedral, in the heart of Seoul. It was built in 1922 during the Japanese colonial era by an English architect, Arthur Dixon, in the south European Romanesque style. It looks decidedly out of place amongst the traditional Korean buildings and high rise tower blocks but is certainly eye-catching. It is now listed and a significant tourist attraction.

The Anglican mission to Korea began in 1885. The first bishop, consecrated in 1890, built a traditional Korean style church on the same site. In 1950 the Dean and a priest were both martyred by communists. The cathedral has recently been restored and enlarged.

***John Fisher***

## ARCHIVE OF THE MONTH



Do you remember the 'original' foyer? This photo was taken about 20 years ago, before the big improvements made in 2005. Note the green carpet, the square wooden tables, the 'dentist's waiting room' seating arrangements and the trolley from which tea and coffee were served in the foreground. The entrance to the foyer from the street was at the very far end through a rather draughty 'push-bar' door.

Friends will note Malcom Levy and Betty Edwards talking together, near left of the photo.

*John Fisher*



## **Meditation – A response**

There is a Christian Ignatian online meditation and a Zoom call that happens every second Monday evening. If you'd like to join and know when the next one is on, please contact me, Stuart. The meditations are provided by a Christian organisation 'taketime' and they have excellent resources on their website which you can freely use as you wish. The web address is <https://taketime.org> and I strongly urge you to look and try – meditation can be an especially useful tool in many situations and especially just now, with anxieties running high during COVID-19.

On Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, the meditation was based on Matthew chapter 22 verses 1-14, the parable of the Wedding Banquet. From this, Elisabeth Cole, a church member and band member at the 11.30 services, contacted me with a set of responses that she had received while doing the meditation and I wanted to share these with you now:

**I love you**

**You are welcome**

**No-one is good enough**

**But all are worthy**

**Because my Father made you**

**You did not make yourself**

**Rest in me**

**Trust and do not be afraid**

**All will be well**

**If not well, it is as it was meant to be**

**Bad things come and go**

**Trust in me**

**All things have a purpose**

**A teaching - heed it**

I asked Elisabeth about putting together an article for the Church magazine, she eventually agreed, citing:

There is all the difference in the world between hearing:

Don't worry God will keep you safe, he always has and ...

**I am with you, I will never leave you child, I am keeping you safe.**

And that notion of Jesus' love and care for us, my dear readers, I leave with you.

**Stuart Chandler**



## What will you will in your Will?!

You may be familiar with the well-known English phrase “where there’s a will there’s a way”; meaning if you want something to happen enough, there is a route to make it happen. Using Will in another sense, there is the equally well-known joke – “where there’s a Will there’s a relative you never knew you had to contest it!”; “Will” in this joke is the legal document that says what you want to happen to your money and possessions, your ‘estate’, when you die. Apparently, a lot more wills are now being contested.

Have you made your Will? Perhaps you’ve been thinking about it for some time but haven’t yet got around to it.

It is not hard to do and they don’t need to be long or complex; the world record for the shortest valid will is “Vse zene”. This is Czech and means “All to wife”.

Leaving things to family probably dominates most wills, but what about others? Have you considered leaving some of your estate to charity? What about leaving some of it to KURC? You can donate a fixed amount or a percentage; an item; or whatever is left after everything else you want has happened. There can also be some inheritance tax benefits from giving to charity.

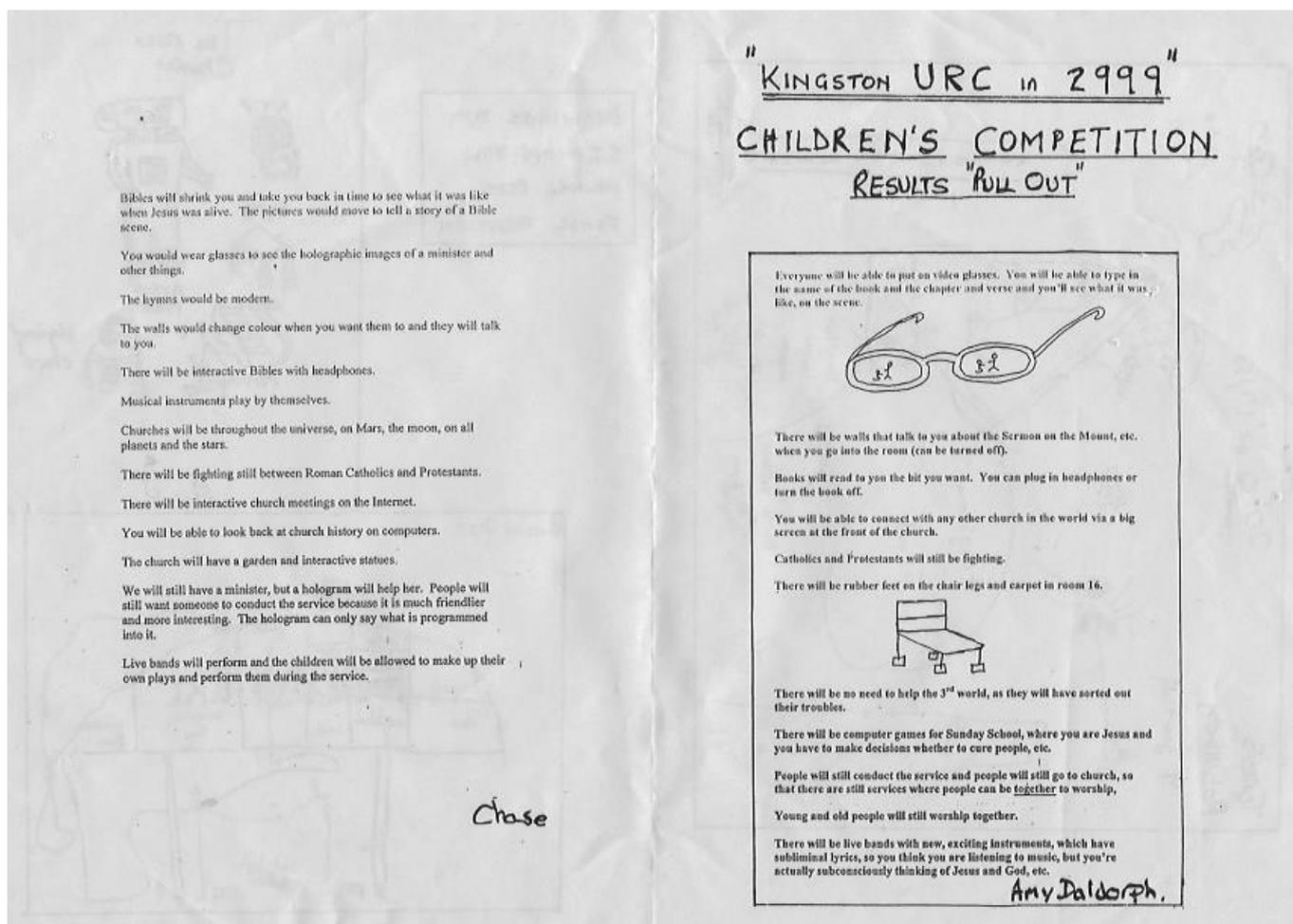
Maybe now is the time to make a will if you haven’t got one already and if you have, does it need a review to make sure it still says what you want to happen? KURC has a leaflet that gives more information (<https://www.kingstonurc.org/wills.pdf>) and there are plenty of other places you can go for help and advice.

Please do think about it and think about leaving something to KURC!!

Finally, what about your funeral! Not something you want to think about maybe, but it can be a huge help to those who have to organise it if you let someone know what hymns, readings and perhaps other material you would like to be included.

***The Elders***





Bron has been spending the current lockdown clearing out a few cupboards and came across these drawings which were probably produced about 1999.

It was the vision that some of our young people had for what a church could look like in 2999, or indeed in 2050 (see next page). Whilst we haven't yet got a water slide coming off the top of KURC, or flying chairs, we have achieved a few of them, e.g.

The hymns would be modern.

The walls would change colour when you want them to (some people can do this on Zoom).

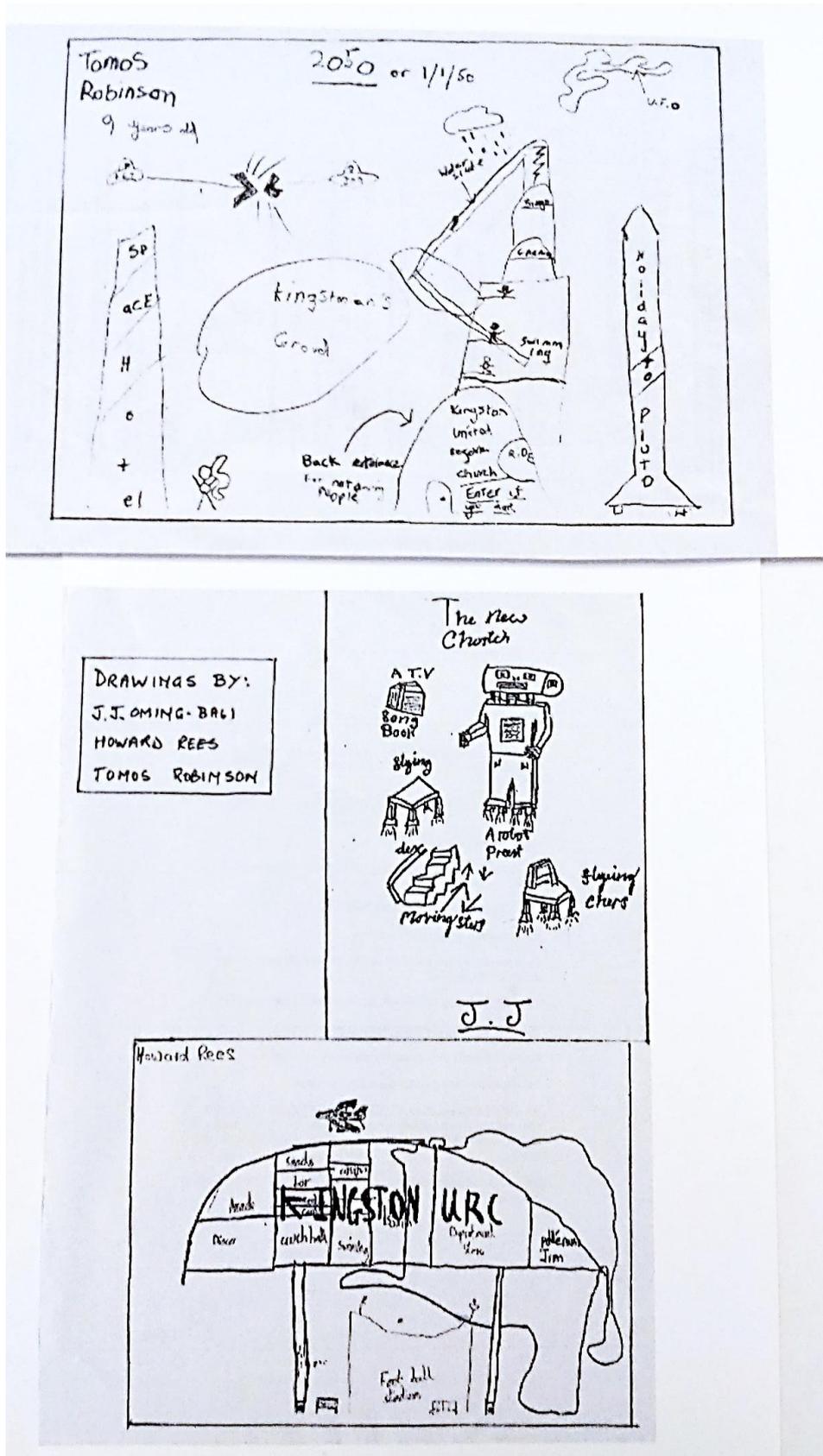
There will be interactive Bibles with headphones – Podcasts?

Musical instruments play by themselves – some organs do.

There will be interactive church meetings on the Internet – definitely!

You will be able to look back at church history on computers.

Live bands and plays – tick that one too!



Interesting to note that JJ is now a minister himself – wonder what he would think about the Robot Priest that he drew?!

## **Samaritans ‘Brew Monday’ Winter Campaign message**

For many people the last months of winter can be a miserable time. So Samaritans is encouraging everyone to have a ‘Brew Monday’ and reach out to someone. (As KURC does with our soirées, virtual coffee mornings and phone calls.) Feeling alone with your problems can have a big impact on your mental health, so we at Samaritans are encouraging you to reach out to a friend, family member or colleague for a virtual cuppa and a chat.

Of course, it doesn’t have to be Monday, or a cup of tea, the important thing is to take time to really listen to another person and allow them to work through what’s on their mind. Over the coming months, can you reach out to one or more friends, family members or colleagues for a virtual chat and cuppa, to check in to see how they are doing?

***Maybe have a Brew Monday at work*** - Connect with your colleagues with a workplace get together. Having a virtual Brew Monday helps pick people up, lets colleagues get to know each other, and is a lovely way for employers to show they care about wellbeing.

Just taking time to really listen to another person could help them work through what’s on their mind. Because now more than ever it's about reaching out, checking in and staying connected with others. Nobody should have to struggle alone.

***Useful Listening tips:*** Here are the Samaritans’ **SHUSH** listening tips:

- **SHOW YOU CARE** Focus on the other person, make eye contact, put away your phone.
- **HAVE PATIENCE** It may take time and several attempts before a person is ready to open up.
- **USE OPEN QUESTIONS** That need more than a yes/no answer, and follow-up e.g. ‘Tell me more’.
- **SAY IT BACK** To check you have understood, but don’t interrupt or offer a solution.
- **HAVE COURAGE** Don’t be put off by a negative response and, more importantly, don’t feel you have to fill a silence.

For further information on Kingston Samaritans and this campaign, go to <https://www.samaritans.org/branches/kingston-upon-thames> and follow them on twitter on @sams\_kingston. Their free help line is available day and night on 116 123.

***Christine Thompson***

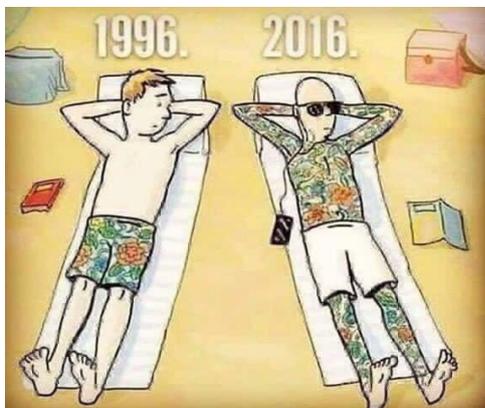
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# THEN AND NOW

## How did the world go from that to this?

*Phil Crump has sent Church News these amusing cartoons – so true!*

Generation Gap! 😂



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



*Phrase of the Pandemic 2020/21?*  
The elephant in the Zoom!!

## IBRA READINGS FOR MARCH

### Walking as one

Sunday 28 February	Leviticus 26:3-13	God and people walking
Monday 1 March	Ps 133	life together
Tuesday 2 March	Proverbs 27:17-22	sharpening
Wednesday 3 March	John 13:31-35	new commandment
Thursday 4 March	John 17:20-26	at one
Friday 5 March	1 Cor 3:10-23	a living temple
Saturday 6 March	Heb 10:19-25	encourage each other

### Peter the disciple

Sunday 7 March	John 1:35-42	Calling
Monday 8 March	Luke 9:18-27	Confession
Tuesday 9 March	Luke 9:28-36	Transfiguration
Wednesday 10 March	Matthew 14:22-33	Walking on water
Thursday 11 March	John 13:1-20	Foot washing
Friday 12 March	Luke 22:54-62	Denial
Saturday 13 March	John 21:15-17	Feed my sheep

### Peter the church leader

Sunday 14 March	Acts 3:1-16	In the name of Jesus Christ
Monday 15 March	Acts 5:1-16	Peter the judge
Tuesday 16 March	Acts 11:1-18	Peter and Cornelius
Wednesday 17 March	Acts 15:1-20	Peter the leader
Thursday 18 March	Acts 12:1-19	Peter in prison
Friday 19 March	Galatians 2:1-14	Peter and Paul
Saturday 20 March	John 21:18-19	Peter's death foretold

### God on the inside

A week devoted to stories of life in prison in the Bible. There are many instances of people in prison in the Bible. Some escaped, some were released and some died in prison. The question could be asked, 'where is God when one is in prison?' This can be seen as a cost of discipleship, but in many instances proves that God is with prisoners in the depth of the prison cells. Many people in prison today live a life without much hope. How can these stories and experiences help both those behind bars and those outside to support and care?

Sunday 21 March	Genesis 39:6b- 23	Joseph
Monday 22 March	2 Kings 25:27-30	Jehoiachin released
Tuesday 23 March	Isaiah 61:1-3	Release the captives
Wednesday 24 March	Jeremiah 38:1-13	Jeremiah
Thursday 25 March	Matthew 11:1-14	John the Baptist
Friday 26 March	Matthew 25:31-46	Sick and in prison
Saturday 27 March	Acts 16:16-36	Paul & Silas

### The Cost of Love

Jesus is our exemplar of what it means to love God. This Holy Week, we consider Jesus' last days as part of our 'into the unknown' discipleship theme: that is, under the idea of the mystery and challenge of discipleship. Like the women at the cross in Mark's gospel, can we stay true to Jesus in our walk of discipleship?

Sunday 28 March (Palm Sunday)	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Monday 29 March	Mark 14:53-65
Tuesday 30 March	Mark 14:66-72
Wednesday 31 March	Mark 15:1-15

## 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:

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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, 12 March. Editor: Robin Pilbeam**  
[david.anderson48@btinternet.com](mailto:david.anderson48@btinternet.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 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** 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 also keep in touch with worship and activities at our church through our website: [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.