



CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church

SEPTEMBER 2021



**Sally celebrating her 5th(?!) birthday with cherry ice cream and
5 chocolate flakes!!**

www.kingstonurc.org

Charity No. 1131880

This edition edited by Jean Thompson

CONTENTS

Worship Diary – September	3
Lesley’s Letter	4
Martyn’s Memo	5
Church Handbook	5
Sally’s Slot	6&7
Pastoral News	8
Tribute to Rosemary Moore	9
Elders’ Profile - Sojin Kim	10
A New Organ in Kingston URC	11
A Prayer of Thanksgiving	12&13
Christian Resources Exhibition	13
KURC’s Big Day Out/In	14
Archive of the Month	15
“Standing Strong”	16
Second Hand Books	16
Next Editor	16
Unusual Churches	17&18
IBRA Readings – September	19
The Fun Page	20

WORSHIP DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2021

At the time of putting Church News together (mid-August), the following is the anticipated diary for September in the church building:

Sunday, 5 th	10.00	Worship & Communion – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service
Sunday, 12 th	10.30	All Age Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	Church Meeting
	17.00	Reflective Service
Thursday, 16 th		Rosemary's Memorial Service. Time to be advised.
Sunday, 19 th	10.00	Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Worship & Communion
Sunday, 26 th	10.00	Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
	17.00	Reflective Worship

--ooOoo--

For daily prayers, Bible Study and other Zoom sessions, please see the e-mailed weekly notices.

For Jolly Toddlers, Tots' Praise and Messy Church, please contact Sally Butler, e-mail: youth@kingstonurc.org

--ooOoo--

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Saturday, 2 October, from 10.30 am **KURC BIG DAY OUT/IN**

--ooOoo--

LESLEY'S LETTER

Dear All,



I'm going to use a metaphor that most of you will only know about because you read about it in a book. Such a wholesome crew

This is the time when we are stumbling out of a tent like people who crashed into their tent late at night, a bit the worse for wear and exhausted.

Where exactly did we pitch our tent? Where are our shoes? Why am I wearing this? Who is camping with us? Are they still here? Who has left? Gone home? Run away?

Stumbling into the light we come. It will take a time to re-orientate ourselves. To going out. To meeting with people.

We are a bit dishevelled; we want to tell stories about our travels and exploits. We need people to listen to us. We have tales to tell.

The progress forward is not like people quietly getting up in a lovely 5 star hotel that we have stayed in many times before. A place where we know where the breakfast is served and what it looks like. No. For some of us this is going to be like a buffet in a foreign land. New things. There are also familiar things but they are not quite the same.

Change is in the air.

The advantage that we have is that we have a constant companion with us who loves us and wants the best for us.

The other thing we have is each other.

Lean in. We could argue about who did not pack the beans and forgot to pump up the lilo as well as they should. Or we could laugh together and make a cup of tea.

Yours, Lesley

MARTYN'S MEMO

How was your Summer? We had an early hot spell and since then it feels like we've had more rain than usual. This, at a time when much of Europe has been experiencing record temperatures, and, for the month of July, the world averaged one degree hotter than it has ever been. Once again global warming and the devastating impact we are having on the planet has been headline news.



But what can we do? Faced with the overwhelming pictures of great chunks of ice falling off the glaciers at the poles, wild fires uncontrollably spreading across acres of trees (some recently planted to help fight global warming) or flash floods washing away buildings, cars and roads, it all seems rather daunting.

Something more. I guess that is the answer. I'm sure we are all doing things differently today compared with even a few years ago because of global warming. What is the next extra thing we can do? One more trip on the bus instead of in the car. One more year using that mobile phone before upgrading. One more bag to the charity shop. One more pair of socks darned rather than thrown away. Not much, maybe, but as any wise soul will tell you, you'll only reach your target by taking one step at a time.

As a church, what more can we do? If you have ideas, please share them.

And if all this feels too much, read again Isaiah 40 v27-31 and remember to "hope in the Lord".

Martyn Verge (Church Secretary)

LAST CALL FOR CHURCH HANDBOOK

Christine and Stephen Wise will shortly be publishing an up-to-date edition of the Church Handbook. If not already done so, please check that your contact details are correct. If you are not in the current Handbook and would like to be, please let Christine or Steve know. Similarly, if you would like your details removed, please let them know.

Christine: christine.wise@talktalk.net

Steve: steve.wise@talktalk.net

SALLY'S SLOT

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE YOUTH WORK BUT NOT ACTUALLY WORK WITH CHILDREN?!! DO YOU DRIVE A CAR?

If so, we need people who can be called upon to give lifts to volunteers, (maybe families) and also to transport equipment/materials. Please let me know and I will add you to the call up list. (This will not require you to be on a rota!)

We will be re-starting Jolly Toddlers in September but in the meantime, we are opening up the hall for Mini Mondays – a free-play session, with a reduced number of toys and staff. So far, numbers have been low as parents seem to still be reticent about coming in, but those who came were grateful and especially for the aircon!

We have had two Messy Church sessions. The first in Fishponds Park where we were reunited with a family that used to come to Jolly Toddlers! The children are MUCH bigger now but just as fun to work with. I asked them to go and find 5 things they could see, 4 to hear, 3 to touch, 2 to smell and then just to think about what nature gives us to eat. Then they made faces using natural items. They are in the photos (see next page): I had to guess what facial expression they were supposed to be! Crazy face and surprised face apparently! Then we had a lot of fun playing parachute games (think 'children squealing with laughter') and ended up sitting under the parachute for our worship slot. It just started to rain as we were finishing!

The second Messy Church was REALLY wet! Held at the Manse, the children nevertheless played in the garden – loving the trampoline, slide, swing and mini car. We went indoors to make nature pictures and do a spot of twig weaving (see photos). A song and story (Parable of the Mustard Seed) found on YouTube and watched on the Charlton's TV and then a bring and share meal. For one of the families, it was their first proper day out socialising since lockdown. It was Rey Rey's fifth birthday the day before, so we had a lovely cake and all sang Happy Birthday to her. In attendance, 7 parents, 1 church guest, 1 childminder from Tots Praise (minus the children!), 3 volunteers and 8 children.

Nature walks have included butterfly spotting, leaf ID, bug hunting and poo identification! (Yes, they loved, especially the boys, working out which animal had left which poo behind!! Isn't nature wonderful?! (You'll be relieved that there are no photos of this activity, I'm sure!).

Sally Butler - Children, Youth and Families Worker



PASTORAL NEWS AT 13. 8.21.

In the last few weeks some of us have been able to return to attending church in person. At the time of writing we can now sing, albeit still wearing our masks.

To support anyone feeling vulnerable in any way we have introduced lanyards that people can wear to identify themselves as those who do not want to be approached. The lanyard reads, "Please give me space". This is designed to help those venturing out for the first time and can also be used by those who don't want to engage in conversation for whatever reason.

We are aware that there are some people we haven't seen for a long time either in person or online. Maybe you can think of someone? It would be good to phone them or drop them a card to say they are not forgotten and encourage them to keep in touch.

As you probably know, we are going to be live-streaming from September onwards so those with computers can engage with a service at a time that is convenient for them if they can't manage a Sunday morning. So, if someone cannot physically come into the building or is reluctant to attend in person, they do not need to feel excluded.

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

Sue Shaw

TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY MOORE



It is with sadness that we heard of Rosemary's death on 21 July at the age of 96. Rosemary was born in Merton as the younger of two sisters and grew up in New Malden. After attending Tiffin School Rosemary joined the Bank of England where she worked for 11 years before marrying Gordon in 1953 at St Peter's, Norbiton. Their daughters, Caroline, Alison, Elizabeth and Rosalind followed, and in the late 1960's Rosemary became Leader of KURC's Primary Department at Tudor Hall, part of the Sunday School for many children on the Tudor Estate.

Rosemary has been a faithful member of KURC for so many years and her influence has been felt in all aspects of Church life as a Church Neighbour, a member of the ecumenical Liturgical Dance Group, catering for social events and, at various times, hosting lunches at home with Gordon. Rosemary was enthusiastic about supporting Tear Fund and Premier Radio and found others to share her enthusiasm. Her church fund raising with home-made marmalade was legendary!

Somehow Rosemary found time to help at the Oxfam shop and later at the Cancer Research shop in Kingston. She and Gordon also had a keen interest in Kingston Horticultural Society for many years.

Rosemary's energetic spirit will be greatly missed and we give heartfelt thanks for a Christian life well lived.

A memorial service for Rosemary will be held in the church on Thursday, 16 September – more details to follow.

Editor



Congratulations to Gordon Moore as he celebrates his 100th birthday on 25 August. Gordon has joined the elite band of KURC centenarians during the last 40 years – Dolly Brown, Fred Burch and Ralph Ashbery.

We send our very best wishes for the special day with the family.

SOJIN KIM

Continuing our series of Elders' Profiles, this month Sojin shares her story

I grew up in North Korea. My father was a famous doctor and later he was a politician.

As the youngest of two boys and two girls, I majored in music from an early age and spent my youth in a reputable art troupe.

Until I left North Korea at the age of over 40, I had no idea what God was or what Jesus was.

In the midst of a political whirlwind, my father was taken away and my brothers were sent to a political prison camp overnight.

When I came to England with my son and daughter, the three of us got off at the airport holding hands.

I came to this country and learned what liberal democracy is and about God and Jesus. Today our lives have completely changed.

Our family has grown from three to 13 and all are living healthy and happy lives.

I can't explain anything other than that God was caring.

Our family will continue to work harder to live a life of prayer with a grateful heart and a life of faith.



Sojin with her daughter & So Young



Sojin with her son & daughter

A NEW ORGAN IN KINGSTON URC



The new digital organ on trial

Our venerable 150 year old pipe organ is terminally ill and will soon be no more. Though still just playable, it suffers from almost every ailment one can imagine - dangerously out of date electrics, split bellows and sounding boards, leaking pipes, rotting leather parts. Over the last five years the Organ Committee has been deliberating what to do. To restore it or purchase a new pipe organ would cost us a quarter of a million pounds. There is no way we can afford or justify that expenditure. And grants are not available for repairing 'mongrel' organs like ours.

But here's the good news... in recent years huge advances in digital technology have resulted in the development of digital electronic organs which sample sound from real organ pipes and reproduce the sound through specialist loudspeakers, all controlled from a conventional 'console' (ie a keyboard with stops and pedals). Digital organs cost just one fifth of the price of a pipe organ and have numerous other advantages: they don't need servicing, they can be tuned at the touch of a button, they have a good life expectancy, they can record and play back, there is no background noise from a blower. Even a pianist with no experience of pedalling can play a digital organ effectively by pressing a button to link the lowest note played on the left hand with the pedal. Most important of all, **digital organs sound like real pipe organs**: few people can tell the difference in a 'blind hearing'.

Those who have attended the recitals held during the past few weeks will have seen and heard the three-manual Makin digital organ which we are trialling. The feedback has been positive, both from the audiences and the organists. The best news of all is that sufficient money has been pledged by KURC members to enable us to purchase an organ identical to the one on trial without calling on general church funds. Therefore, an order has now been placed. The new organ will take a couple of months to manufacture. When it

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

arrives, the old console will be removed and the new console will slot into the same position. The 16 loudspeakers will sit on boards located behind the existing gold pipes, so the appearance of the sanctuary will be unchanged. We are confident that the new organ will contribute hugely to the worship and musical life of our church and we are immensely grateful to the generous donors who are enabling us to buy it.

The Music Support Group and Organ Committee



A Prayer of Thanksgiving from Bron with plenty of food for thought

Sitting in my garden this morning, these are things that I would like to thank God for...

For those who live a long life,
Also those who live a short life but have a real impact during their few years and are remembered with gratitude and love.

For highly educated people like doctors, scientists, inventors of vaccines.
Also for those who may have never passed an exam in their lives but who serve us every day in different ways and we couldn't get by without them.

For loud music, for classical music, for fantastic musicians and singers who fill our ears with incredible and complicated compositions.
Also for the quiet of sitting in a garden in the early morning (before the noisy neighbours are up) and listening to the music of the birds as they call out to each other.

For those books that may have been written years ago, taken years to write, best sellers, Booker prize winners maybe, that people discuss for hours in Book Clubs and Radio 4 programmes, that stick with you and that people re-read again and again.
Also for off-the-cuff wisdom, written in minutes, profound, makes you think, like the All On The Board signs on the Underground.

For people who are totally selfless, whose first thoughts are for others, who fill their lives with serving, who won't take anything in return.
Also for those who think of themselves first, who gather possessions and money that they can't take with them, but who some day may come to realise that sharing is good too.

For sunny hot days of summer where families go to the beach, play in the sand, swim in the sea and make memories that they have for the rest of their lives. Also for the rain that waters the crops. In this country we complain about rain that many countries in this world desperately need.

For a line of washing hanging in the sunshine, something very satisfying about that sometimes. Also for inventions like washers and dryers that make this task easier (even though not so good for the environment).

For those who speak out against injustice, who demonstrate, who care about the plight of refugees, who help people find homes and work, who fight to prevent deportation of people who have lived in this country for 20 years and given so much. Also for those who are less actively involved but who will sign a petition.

For healthy tomato plants that you have nurtured from seed and are filling your patio. Also for weedy looking aubergine plants that have done nothing but provide a nice dinner for the slugs.

For those who have large families, extended families, lots of cousins, go to big family celebrations, can depend on their help and support. Also for those who have no blood relatives, or they live far away, and for neighbours and friends and churches who fill that gap and make them feel loved.

For our church and its variety of members, community and activities, that we are outward looking and not just inward looking. Also for every gathering of Christians anywhere in the world, from massive congregations to 2 people worshipping together, maybe in secret even, that they know that God is with them.

Random I know, but that's what has come into my head this morning.

P.S.

For fancy meals in expensive restaurants that are a real treat. Also for porridge and fresh fruit, sometimes nothing better.

Bron Robinson

Christian Resources Exhibition and Seminar Programme

The Christian Resources Exhibition is back at Sandown Park from 12-14 October. There will be lots of organisations providing services to the Christian community exhibiting.

Alongside the exhibition there is a seminar programme offering sessions on a wide range of topics – Church Digital; Church Universal; Church Worshipful; Church Resilient; Church Gen Z; Church Connected; Church Creative.

Further information and how to book are on their website:

<https://creonline.co.uk/seminars/>

KURC'S BIG DAY OUT/IN, Saturday, 2 October 10.30 am onwards



A day for everyone from 0 to 110

Begin and end the day in worship

Then enjoy a range of activities

Be creative

Learn something new – Korean maybe

Enjoy music in the Sanctuary

Games in the Mayo Hall

Treasure hunt, cycle rides & walks

There will be food and drink

Space to be quiet, chill and chat

Come and spend time with your Church family

See people you've maybe not seen in a long while

Is there something you would like to offer to this day – a skill, a talent you'd like to share?

Then let Carol, Maddie, Aby, Janine or Lesley know

Unable to come to the building itself?

Don't fret

Some of the day will be live-streamed for you to join in from the comfort of your favourite armchair

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

ARCHIVE OF THE MONTH



41 years ago, in the summer of 1980, our minister 'exchanged pulpits' for three months with an American minister, the Rev Glenn Rader, from the United Church of Christ in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Rader family were all excellent singers - a bit like the Von Trapps. They were delighted to discover the excellent acoustics in our sanctuary, and sang unaccompanied anthems and hymns at many of the services. The photo shows our current church secretary (yes, it really is Martyn on the right) presenting Glenn Rader with a gift during the farewell social.

John Fisher

--ooOoo--

Little Known (Topical!) Fact:

Margaret Somerville, who joined our Church in 1970, became a ladies' fencing champion and led the British Team at the Rome Olympics in 1960. For her services to fencing she was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977.

From Sally Butler:

I am attending an online event called “Standing Strong”. It is hosted by Open Doors UK on behalf of the persecuted church. I attended last year. It was informative, moving and inspiring.

Saturday, 25 September, 8 – 9 pm.

Tickets are free. Go to: www.opendoorsuk/standingstrong

Join me ?!

SECOND HAND BOOKS



Not everyone likes a pre-owned book but it is a good way to recycle and benefit charities. For many years KURC has had a book stall in the foyer, but recently I found another source. (This won't be news to those of you who've known about this for ages, but it excited me so I thought I'd share it!!)

When I worked in Guildford I discovered an Oxfam charity shop exclusively devoted to books and spent many a lunchtime browsing their collection. Now retired I no longer go to Guildford, but recently I discovered that Oxfam have an online bookstore (go to www.oxfam.org.uk and follow the link to the “Online shop”). This brings together the books held in many of their shops across the country, so makes it much more likely you will find what you want. You can search for something specific or just browse by category.

Why not give it a try! ...and once you have read your book, donate it back so they can sell it again.

Martyn Verge

Holly Christie is Guest Editor for October's Church News. Articles/photos to Holly please by **Friday, 10 September**. E-mail: holly@thisdemandinglife.com

UNUSUAL CHURCHES

Church of St Michael the Archangel, Booton, Norfolk

On a recent trip to Norfolk, Nick and I were cycling along a country lane early one evening, when we suddenly came across a cathedral-like structure, with 2 enormous, impressive towers and something similar to a minaret. It was the church of



St Michael the Archangel in Booton, Norfolk.

The church was closed but we decided to return the following day.

There don't seem to be many houses in the parish to support such an enormous church, and sadly it is no longer open for regular worship; however, it is maintained by The Churches Conservation Trust. The caretaker, who we met the next day, gave us some of the history of the church. It was a much more ordinary-looking Norfolk church until Whitwell Elwin took over as rector in the late 1840s. By all accounts Elwin was a bit of an eccentric, as well as being a friend of Charles Darwin. Elwin was not an

architect, but toured a number of cathedrals across the land to gain inspiration for the re-build, or rather covering up and expansion of the old church. This took place between 1876 and 1900. You can find out more about the history of the church online, e.g.

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/visit/church-listing/st-michael-booton.html>

or: <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/booton/booton.htm>

or, of course, Wikipedia.

We were also interested by the camp beds and camping chairs in the middle of the church. This church is part of a scheme called "Champing", which we'd never heard of before. It is camping in churches. (<https://champing.co.uk>). You can book to stay overnight in a selection of churches (mostly dis-used) in the scheme and, apparently, it's quite popular with walkers or family groups who fancy somewhere a bit more interesting to stay. In Booton you may also share your accommodation with a few bats! This explained the note we saw on the door the previous evening (see photo next page).

Even if "Champing" is not for you, St Michael is worth a visit if you're in the vicinity – a bit of a mish-mash of architectural styles but some lovely stained-glass windows and impressive carved angels (modelled on female acquaintances of Elwin apparently!).

Final interesting fact – according to the caretaker, the family of Stephen Fry, actor and author, worshipped at this church and his parents were both church wardens at one point.

Bron Robinson



Church interior showing camping area



Champing poster



Stained glass window

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



READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Letters to the churches

A theme based on the letters to the churches in the opening chapters of Revelation.

Wednesday 1 September	Rev 2:12-17
Thursday 2 September	Rev 2:18-29
Friday 3 September	Rev 3:1-13
Saturday 4 September	Rev 3:14-21

Galatians

1. All one in Christ

Sunday 5 September	Gal 1:1-10
Monday 6 September	Gal 1:11-24
Tuesday 7 September	Gal 2:1-10
Wednesday 8 September	Gal 2:11-21
Thursday 9 September	Gal 3:1-14
Friday 10 September	Gal 3:15-22
Saturday 11 September	Gal 3:23-29

2. Freedom in Christ

Sunday 12 September	Gal 4:1-11
Monday 13 September	Gal 4:12-20
Tuesday 14 September	Gal 4:21-5:1
Wednesday 15 September	Gal 5:2-15
Thursday 16 September	Gal 5:16-26
Friday 17 September	Gal 6:1-10
Saturday 18 September	Gal 6:11-18

The Bible through the seasons: Autumn

Sunday 19 September	Deut 26:1-15	harvest offering
Monday 20 September	Jer 31:10-14	celebrating the goodness of God
Tuesday 21 September	Ps 126	reaping with shouts of joy
Wednesday 22 September	Lev 23:23-25	the festival of trumpets
Thursday 23 September	Lev 23:26-32	the Day of Atonement
Friday 24 September	Lev 16:2-10, 29-34	the high priest makes atonement
Saturday 25 September	Lev 23:33-43	the Festival of Booths (Tabernacles)

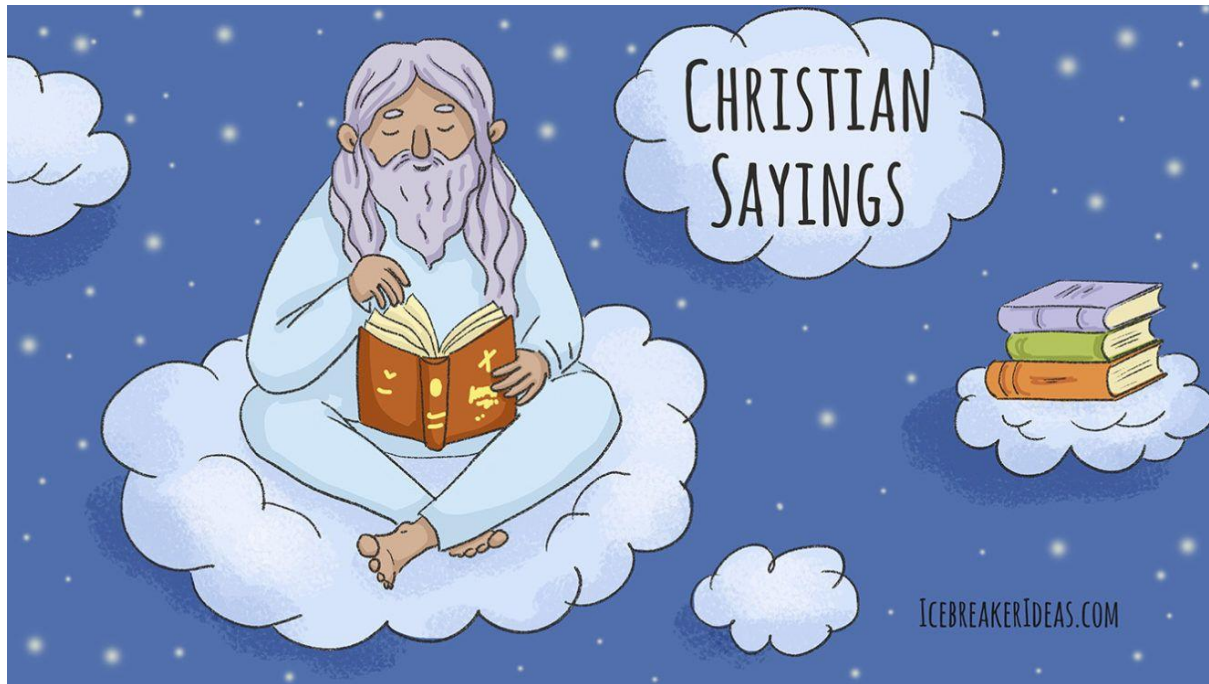
Mercy

1. The mercy of God

Sunday 26 September	Lamentations 3:22-33
Monday 27 September	Deuteronomy 4:25-31
Tuesday 28 September	Psalms 25:1-10
Wednesday 29 September	Psalms 123
Thursday 30 September	Hosea 14:1-7



THE FUN PAGE



God didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close!

Don't give up! Moses was once a basket case!

Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent didn't have a leg to stand on.

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

God recycles. He made you from dust.

If God is your co-pilot, switch seats.

Honk if you love Jesus; text if you want to meet Him.

God loves us the way we are, but too much to leave us that way.

Church Welcome Sign: ATM inside – Acceptance, Truth, Mercy. No card needed.

Adam and Eve: the first people not to read the Apple terms and conditions.

Sometimes God will put a Goliath in your life, so you can find the David within you.

Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.

--ooOoo--

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

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

Church Secretary:

Martyn Verge, mobile: 07801 979009 e-mail: chsec@kingstonurc.org

Treasurer:

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

Children, Youth & Families Worker:

Sally Butler, mobile: 07807 348326 e-mail: youth@kingstonurc.org

Missionary:

So Young Jung, e-mail: 2005eo@naver.com

Mission Development Worker through Music:

Ha Eun Lim

PA to the Minister and Premises Manager:

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

Premises Assistant:

Georgi Todorov

Tel: 020 8549 1888 e-mail: premises@urckingston.org.uk

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, 10 September. Editor: Holly Christie

E-mail: holly@thisdemandinglife.com

FINANCIAL DONATIONS may be made to the church in a number of ways, including via our *Virgin moneygiving* page, accessible via our website at www.kingstonurc.org. You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-73, account number 60921289 and quote Kingston United Reformed Church Charity. 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. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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