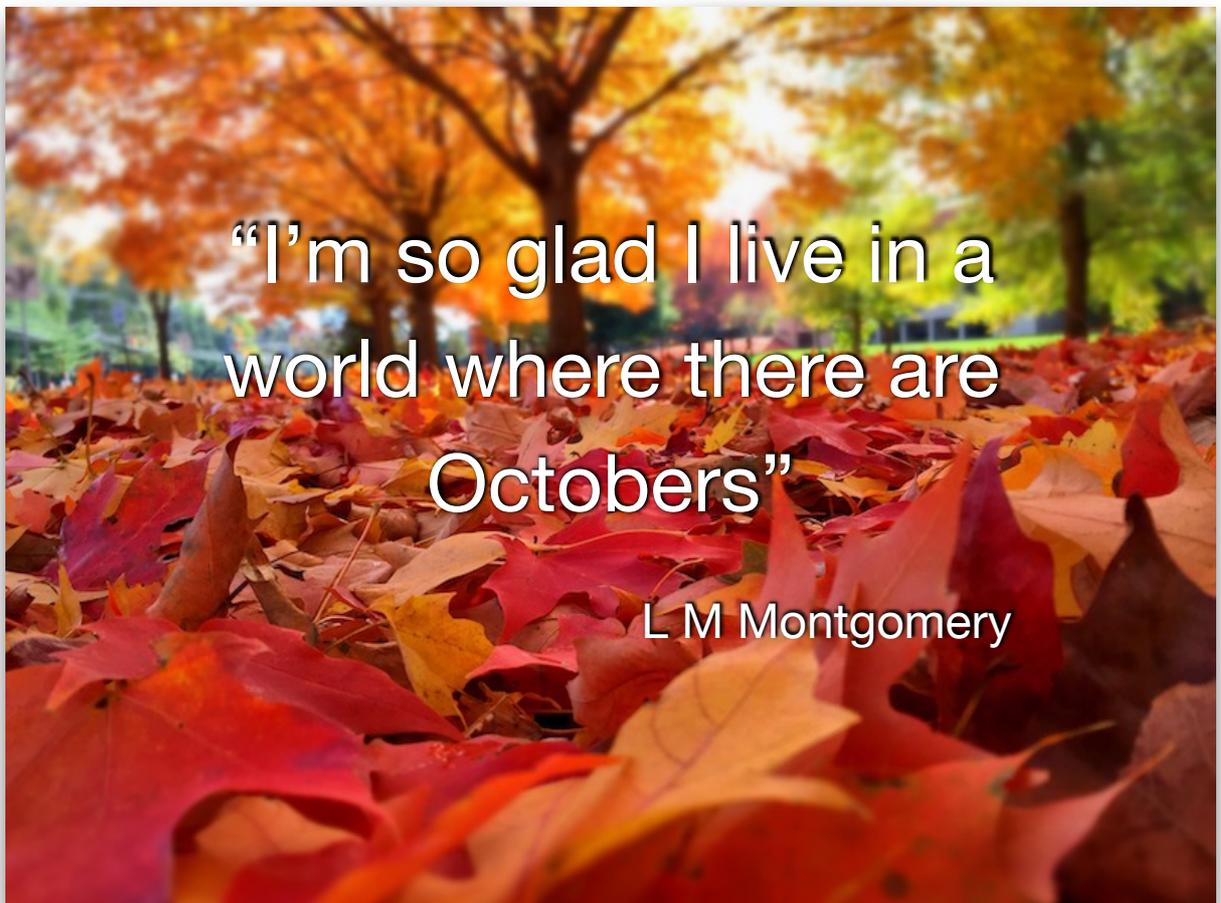




CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church



October 2021

www.kingstonurc.org

Charity No. 1131880

This edition edited by Holly Christie

Worship Diary - October 2021

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

Saturday, 2 nd	10.30 onwards KURC's Big Day In/Out
Sunday, 3 rd	10.00 Worship & Communion – also live-streamed on Zoom 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Service
Saturday, 9 th	10.00 Harvest Workshop
Sunday, 10 th	10.30 Harvest Thanksgiving – also live-streamed on Zoom 11.30 Church Meeting (Fellowship) 17.00 Reflective Service
Sunday, 17 th	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship & Communion
Sunday, 24 th	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship
Sunday, 31 st	<i>British Summer Time ends – clocks go back!</i> 10.00 Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom 11.30 All Age Worship & Communion 17.00 Reflective Worship

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

Harvest Worship

We will be having our usual workshop to decorate the sanctuary for Harvest on Saturday, 9 October, at 10 am. If anybody could spare an hour or two, you would be very welcome. No experience is necessary.

If you are in Kingston that morning and could drop off some autumn flowers and greenery, they would also be gratefully received.

To make a financial donation please see the final page.

Our Harvest gifts will be going to the Food Bank and if you would like to leave your gifts, labelled for Harvest, during the week, they could be used for decoration. Look out for a list of needed items.

Jean Thompson

Letter from Lesley



Never has it been more ridiculous to do a state of the nation type forward facing talk than now. Anything I would say about this is what we are going to do can be easily knocked off course by events.

However there are things we know principles we live or die by and things we can say clearly.

They come from the text.

Who is he? And does that matter?

‘And who do you say that I am?’ You. Today. Who do you say that ‘I am?’ remembering that ‘I am’ is what God said as God’s name when Moses asked. Who are you?

In the middle of this change God is with us

And you who do you say that I am? Some say a wise teacher from the past....which is always better than now, just a minute while I take off these rose glasses....some say a contemporary firebrand...and you who do you say I am? It is one of the most important of questions. Jesus is Lord and Saviour yes but what does that mean? What difference does it make? What difference did it make when you were locked in your home and the church building was shut? As never before we have to rely on God. All the false gods have been found to be worthless for a life that will thrive. This relying is very different and strange for some. People who are used to making their own way now having to ask for help? Don’t like it.

The days of the ‘pleasant Sunday afternoon’ are gone. We are in a fight. Every day we battle to keep ourselves focussed in the right way. Eyes on Jesus. The temptations around us are constant and attractive. If they were not attractive they would not be temptations. At the moment the big ones are grumbling, hopelessness, and a negative view of everything. We have to challenge ourselves to hold true to what we say we believe and move beyond the mood music of our times. Blame and fear are not good guides for life. Anxiety and fear are not a wholesome basis for Church life.

Who am I, he says?

We know the One who is with us in this time. We know it our job is to reach out and to invite people to join us especially with regard to the building work going on around us. We have also learned that for us having a building
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in the middle of Kingston is important for our mission. Reaching out all over the world also matters and we are grateful to those who have worked on zoom and the live streaming. It matters that we are who we are in ways that match what we say we believe.

I say the question is one of the most important questions because another is.... ‘and us who do we say that he is?’ Not me on my individual spiritual journey but us together working to do something to change the world starting in Kingston.

The final point I would make is a practical one. It is a truism that we need to be aware and sensitive to one another but never was it more true. When it comes to covid and the disease we are in a range of places. Some of us have been commuting through this whole thing, travelling in tube trains up to central London. It would be very easy for them to be angry and dismissive of the rest of us. Some of us are anxious not for ourselves but for a close family member. It would be easy for them to isolate and drop out of view. It would be easy for them to think the rest of us are reckless. The way the UK government is dealing with this is that we are forced to make individual choices. We need to be in touch with each other but more we need to be expecting that God is with us in this.

Best wishes,

Lesley

Memo from Martyn



As I write we have just had our first 10am service in the building for many months. Coupled with that it was our first Live Streamed service. Which did you join? I think it is great that we now have the options. One thing we learned through lockdown is that having the services accessible on the internet enables a number of people, who for various reasons can't get to church, to join with us Sunday by Sunday. It is also an easy way for anyone interested to dip their toe in the water and see what church is like without having to physically enter the building.

Lots of good reasons to carry on sharing via the internet, but also of course dangers. Maybe we will be tempted to stay home and listen online on those cold winter mornings. Or perhaps after that good night out rather than make the effort we'll stay under the duvet with the service on in the background. Better than nothing perhaps but isn't worship about collective expression; "where two or three are gathered in my name" and all that. I've certainly experienced days when I really didn't want to go to church but was glad I went because I was lifted up by the praises of those around me.

It is a time of transition though and we won't all transition at the same speed. We need to respect each other's pace even if we wish everyone else would hurry up (or slow down!) But

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as with all aspects of the Christian journey the important thing is that we are moving, sometimes it will be slow going at other times we will race along. It is good to know that God is with us whichever speed we are going at right now.

Martyn Verge (Church Secretary)

Sally's Slot

I am back at work full-time now, after a long time on furlough. This means that after a fairly quiet Summer, all our activities will recommence. Numbers at Tots Praise and Mini Mondays during the Summer were comparatively low, in contrast to pre-Covid times. Many families are still anxious about returning and it may be a while before we see them back. However, three new families have arrived so that's encouraging. It feels like we are starting all over again, from scratch, which is hard, so PLEASE PRAY for us.



Nature walks and Messy Church are set to continue and we are now running Jolly Toddlers and Stay & Play. We will also be considering projects outside and working alongside St. John's, Kingston in a joint project for older children.

The photo this month is a flower arrangement by Jean Thompson, incorporating two giant leaves given to us by two toddlers!! I love it when they bring things in to show me.

We will be taking part in the newly renamed 'Children and Youth Friendly Church Award' scheme. The Synod Youth Officer, Tom Hackett, will be attending KURC on Sunday 10th October to explain more. Some of you will have seen an article in the URC Reform magazine, by Reuben Watt, Moderator of the URC Youth Assembly, about this scheme. Let me quote his description of the scheme. 'This is an exciting opportunity to look afresh at a church's life with children, young people and families. Guided by a trained accompanier, a local congregation can begin to explore their strengths, their values, their opportunities, their hopes and dreams.'

His reflections gave me food for thought and I hope that the youth team (and all of you) will be able to think about these things too. Let me quote him again! 'is it the Child-Friendly Church Award' or 'Church-Friendly Child Award?'

Church in this country is changing and culture is rapidly changing! Some scary stats: 81% of those that attend Messy Church would not otherwise be linked to a church. Scripture Union state that 95% of children and young people don't go to church (not Sunday church as most of us know it anyway!). We need to be a. equipped and ready to take Jesus to the places and spaces they are (this is why going into St. Luke's School is important to me) and b. get ready to welcome unconditionally, any who do make it over the doorstep and into our building (on a Sunday or otherwise).

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So here's the challenge from Reuben: 'How could your church become more of a child-friendly church rather than making your children church-friendly?' A subtle difference but an important one!

Sally Butler, Children, Youth and Families Worker



Happy 100th Birthday Gordon!

Here's Gordon with his telegram from the Queen!

Gordon and his family were delighted with the flowers sent by the church in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Congratulations Gordon!

News from Street Pastors, Antigua

Some of you may remember I worked as the volunteer Coordinator for Street Pastors in the capital town St Johns in Antigua. Thanks to social media I keep in touch with the team and my successor Barry Sebastian. Covid has prevented them from going on patrol until recently when they began going out again on Friday nights.

They have managed to keep providing a Soup Kitchen every Wednesday lunchtime. The numbers receiving food have doubled since I was there, from around forty people to eighty.

Covid has dramatically affected the tourist trade which the island depends on for income. Thankfully the number of Covid related deaths are less than fifty and tourists are gradually returning.



Barry (second from right) with some team members

Another great development is that the Governor General of the island Sir Rodney Williams (who represents the Queen) has incorporated Street Pastors into his personal charitable foundation. This gives Street Pastors more status and may open doors to new opportunities.

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The wife of the Governor General, Lady Williams, and members of her office staff have been out on patrol with Barry to see for themselves what is happening on the streets of the capital at night.

Street Pastors Antigua no longer have an office as the building I used to work in was sold to developers. Maybe the foundation will be able to help them find a new central venue? For the time being the patrols meet at the soup kitchen.

It's great to keep in touch via What's App and email but I'm hoping I can go and see them all again next winter Covid permitting. If you can please pray for Barry, the Friday patrols, the soup kitchen, and the urgent need for an office.

Sue Shaw



Sunday 22nd August – it was great to welcome Jacob Bali who led the 10am and 11:30am services. Jacob is one of Rose Oming Bali's sons. He is now an ordained URC minister serving in the East London area. Jacob grew up in KURC and was where he met his wife Esther (known better to many of us as EJ).



Jacob challenged us, were we followers or just fans of Jesus?

During the services we were finally able to give him the gifts we had for him to celebrate his ordination. (COVID had prevented him coming to lead worship until now.)

One of our gifts was a fabulous picture that Carol Clack had painted on the theme of the Spirit, the theme Jacob had asked for.

We hope to see them again soon and wish Jacob every blessing in his ministry.

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Songs of Praise - Archival Recordings

Readers may not be aware that the church website now contains a section where you can access and listen to over 100 hymns and worship songs being sung by our congregation, choir and band. Just click on 'What goes on here', then 'Events and News', then 'Church Magazine', then 'Back copies of Church Magazine', then 'Archive of Hymns' and scroll down through the alphabetical list of titles with dates.

The recordings were made chiefly during the last decade, but there are three historic recordings which are of special interest. 'Love divine' and 'The God of Abraham praise', were recorded at Lesley's induction service almost a quarter of a century ago! On that occasion there was a packed church singing with immense gusto, accompanied by our late organist Tony on top form. The overall effect could pass for Westminster Abbey. Even more fascinating is a recording made of 'Thy hand O God has guided' as long ago as 1956 (on a Grundig reel to reel tape recorder!) at a service marking the centenary of the church building. Again, there is a big and enthusiastic congregation, but a noticeably different acoustic (the church was at that time full of thick carpets and curtains). Also the organ was not as big in those far-off days and doesn't sound quite so impressive.

John Fisher

A Christmas CD from KURC!

The Music Committee is producing an album this year for Christmas. We are hoping to capture a compilation of worship and Christmas themed music. We have all missed playing and singing together over lockdown and thought it would be nice to record and share our efforts with friends, family and people around Kingston. The collection will be produced on CD and will also be available on Spotify, YouTube, iTunes and Amazon platforms. The theme is

'JOY!' The album will be recorded over October in the church and remotely. If anyone would like to get involved with the choir or has song ideas, please reach out to James Mason: jimmymack1@gmail.com or Liz Bartlett lizbartlett2000@gmail.com The deadline for submissions is 19 November!!



James Mason

Introducing Haeun



Hello everyone! My name is Haeun Lim and I'm your new Music Coordinator. I was born in South Korea and our family has been Christian for generations and has been working for God. I studied at PUTS (Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary) in Seoul. I majored in organ playing in undergraduate and choral conducting in graduate school. I lived with my grandmother, parents and younger brother so I am familiar with all

generations. I like to hang out with people. You can talk to me anytime and I'm always welcome if it's about music. I'm not allergic to anything so you can ask me to eat anytime. I will try to do my best to make music for God's glory in Kingston URC. Thank you very much for welcoming me!

50th Anniversary of the URC



There is to be a service on Saturday, 1 October 2022 at the Methodist Central Hall in London where the original commissioning Service took place. Various celebrations, both nationally and locally are being planned.

A Meditation

Be still and know that I am God
 Be still and know
 Be still
 Be.

URC Daily Devotions

Next month's Church News will be edited by Alice Charlton.
 Please submit your copy entries by 8th October to:
alice_charlton@outlook.com

To make a financial donation please see the final page.

Big day in/Out Programme

Saturday 2nd October - Building open from 10.00

Welcome! All day there will be a range of activities in a range of spaces and tea and coffee will be available from 10:00 - 16:30. There will be a treasure hunt and the bookshop will be open throughout the day.

When you arrive there will be a welcome desk to help you navigate the venue and the day.

We are aware that some will be anxious. Pop in for a cup of tea. Or use the yellow lanyards to ask for space. Feel free to wear a mask – or not.

	Worship	Hall - Food & Fun Zone	Training Room	Room 22	Meeting Room	Outside Zone	Kitchen
10:30	Act of Worship	Games					
11:00				Craft Zone			
11:30	Hymn Singing		Boundaries with Jonathan Wilkes			Cycle Ride (bring a bike lock)	
12:00							
12:30							
1:00	Lunch (we will provide lunch)						
2:00	So Jin & musician friends Come and listen	Games (with toddler area)	2:15pm Continnence with Rebecca Geraghty-Staunton	Craft Zone	Church History archives available	Nature walk in Home Park	
2:30							
3:00							
3:30	Drumming workshop suitable for all ages		Euthanasia - Anne MacFarlane				
4:00		Scots Dancing					
4:30							
5:00	Worship inc songs from the Korean Kids						
6:00	Dinner (please bring to share)						
7:00	Musicians to play the night away. Bring your instrument & join in.	Comedy Improv					
7:30							
8:00			Scots Dancing				

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Foyer

A place to catch up

Worship zone There will be a prayer space always available.

Join using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81950145229> (This is our regular Sunday morning link)

Ministers' Vestry

A safe space to escape to if it all becomes too much.

Come and invite others

Everyone bring food to share for the evening.

The bookshop will be open. Please say hi to Graham!

Bring an instrument to play in the evening.

Bring anyone you know who would enjoy some part of it.

We also are aware that for some it will be too much. There will be zoom for some of the sessions plus it is OK to pop in for a cup of tea and leave.

Unusual Churches of the World



The Travellers' Church, or the Church in the Wood at Bramdean, Hampshire

Deep within a wood at Bramdean, just east of Winchester, stands this little corrugated iron church built in 1883 at the suggestion of the local vicar to provide a place of worship for itinerant gypsies and charcoal burners who at that time frequented Bramdean Common. The vicar's widow left enough money in her will to ensure the church was well maintained and that regular services took place. The church survives purely on donations from the congregation and well-wishers. Evensong is held twice a month in spring and summer and it is an attractive venue for weddings. Average attendance at services is currently around 17. 'Dogs, wellington boots and horses are welcome'. The church is not easy to find: visitors are advised to 'listen for the bell'!

John Fisher

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FEEL-GOOD NEWS STORIES SO FAR IN 2021

We all know about Marcus Rashford's amazing achievement of giving out more than **21 million meals** and that FareShare who Marcus partnered up with, also gave out **128.5 million meals** since 23 March 2020, but here are some more.

- England's largest ocean re-wilding scheme began in April, with the aim to plant 8 hectares of seagrass meadows – which are incredible habitats for marine creatures, as well as absorbing carbon 35 times faster than a rainforest. *See photo below.*
- Anonymous artist Banksy has raised more than £16 million for an NHS charity through the sale of a painting depicting a little boy playing with a nurse doll wearing a superhero cape. *See photo below.*
- An autistic teen from Scotland sent hundreds of cards to NHS Covid staff after becoming overwhelmed by statistics related to the pandemic. Paddy Joyce sent 663 individually-named cards to front-line workers at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary to thank them for all their hard work.
- In an effort to reduce carbon emissions, France has recently voted to ban short-haul domestic flights where the same journey could be taken by train in less than 2.5 hours.
- It's been revealed that not one single rhino was killed by poachers in Kenya in 2020 – something that hasn't been achieved since 1999.
- Free mental health text service SHOUT (85258) released a report revealing it has had more than 500,000 conversations with those in need. While the fact so many people are in crisis is troubling, having a service for people is welcome news.
- A start-up travel company in the UK called Trainhugger has implemented a green initiative to encourage people to travel by train as opposed to using their cars. They have pledged to plant a tree for every train ticket booked through their platform and their fare costs are in line with those of their competitors.
- An 11 year old boy from Devon has spent 500 nights sleeping in a tent after his neighbour, who later died of cancer, gave him a tent to "have an adventure in". Max Woosey has raised more than £640,000 for the North Devon Hospice. On his one-year anniversary (28. 3.21.) about 1,000 children joined Max in a "big camp-out" from as far away as North America and Singapore. Our very own Barney & Matilda McMahon participated in the camp out on 27th March and raised an incredible £170 for BBC Children in Need.

See photo below.

Main source: [happiful.com](https://www.happiful.com)



Over time the seeds will poke through the sandbags & re-colonise the ocean floor
Image: OCT



Banksy's painting of young boy playing with superhero nurse doll



Max Woosey in his tent in his garden

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READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2021

The mercy of God

Friday 1 October Matthew 9:10-13
Saturday 2 October Ephesians 2:1-10

2. Called to be merciful

Sunday 3 October 1 Samuel 24:1-7
Monday 4 October 2 Samuel 9
Tuesday 5 October Zechariah 7:8-14
Wednesday 6 October Matthew 18:21-35
Thursday 7 October Luke 6:32-36
Friday 8 October Luke 10:29-37
Saturday 9 October James 2:1-13

The Gospel of Mark (4)

1. Seeing more clearly?

Sunday 10 October Mark 10:1-12
Monday 11 October Mark 10:13-16
Tuesday 12 October Mark 10:17-22
Wednesday 13 October Mark 10:23-27
Thursday 14 October Mark 10:28-34
Friday 15 October Mark 10:35-45
Saturday 16 October Mark 10:46-52

2. Who is this man?

Sunday 17 October Mark 9:1-13
Monday 18 October Mark 11:1-11
Tuesday 19 October Mark 11:12-19
Wednesday 20 October Mark 14:1-9
Thursday 21 October Mark 14:10-16
Friday 22 October Mark 14:17-25
Saturday 23 October Mark 14:32-42

3. Controversy in Jerusalem

Sunday 24 October Mark 12:1-12
Monday 25 October Mark 12:13-17
Tuesday 26 October Mark 12:18-27
Wednesday 27 October Mark 12:28-34
Thursday 28 October Mark 12:35-44
Friday 29 October Mark 13:1-13
Saturday 30 October Mark 13:14-27

On eagles' wings

This theme looks at the surprisingly rich image of the eagle in the Bible. The Bible sees the eagle as one of the strongest and most resilient birds and uses the image positively and negatively.

Sunday 31 October Ex 19:1-6 carried you on eagles' wings



Kingston United Reformed Church Information

A warm invitation is given to all who read this magazine to come and share in our services and activities

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How to contribute to Church News:

Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome.

Copy for **Church News** must reach the editor by the second Friday of the month.

The next copy deadline is Friday, 8 October. Editor: Alice Charlton

E-mail: alice_charlton@outlook.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.

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