



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# CHURCH NEWS

## February 2022

Kingston United Reformed Church  
[www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org)

# Welcome to 2022



*See page 11 for the full story*

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## Worship diary: February 2022

The following is the anticipated diary for February 2022, as of mid-January. Any subsequent updates can be found, together with information on further KURC activities, in the events calendar on the KURC website:

[https://www.kingstonurc.org/kurc\\_eventsnews.html](https://www.kingstonurc.org/kurc_eventsnews.html).

Wednesday 2nd	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 6th	10.00	Worship & Communion – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 9th	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 13th	10.30	Combined Worship - also live-streamed on Zoom
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 16th	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 20th	10.30	Worship - also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 23rd	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 27th	10.230	Worship - also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service

For daily prayers, Bible Study and other Zoom sessions, please see the website or emailed weekly notices. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Catherine Treweek by email: [kingstonurc@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonurc@gmail.com) or by phone: 07807 351801 (8am – 2pm weekdays only).

For Young People's Sunday Groups, Jolly Toddlers, Tots' Praise, Stay & Play and Messy Church, please contact Sally Butler, e-mail: [youth@kingstonurc.org](mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org).

## Flowers for February



6th	Wil Bryan
13 <sup>th</sup>	Catherine & Kevin Treweek
20 <sup>th</sup>	Free
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Thompson

Thank you to those who have offered flowers for 2022. There are still quite a few free Sundays and, if you would like to take a Sunday (we can do an arrangement for you), please email Jean, [jeant@btinternet.com](mailto:jeant@btinternet.com) or telephone 020 8390 5232.

## Letter from Lesley

Dear All,



2 questions – how are you? And...who knows?

'I'm getting bored with this now.' So said a family member. She was referring not to hours of Christmas charades but to Covid. It has changed so many important things. So many losses. So much suffering.

'It was great and I did not know I had been missing it.' So said a Church member talking about getting together with friends.

It looks as though we are moving into a whole new phase of how we live. We move forward. We move back. We meet up. We isolate. Each of us has to make our choices and we have to respect different choices. Yet we have to balance our whole health needs. Our mental health matters as well as our physical health.

We have to remember that right from the beginning God created us as social beings. In the garden there was a problem. Easily there could have been loneliness. Then God created Eve for Adam. (Yes I know it's a metaphor). The point is that people need people. That is how we are made and God knows it. It is not a design flaw. Other people are essential to us. Isolation is a form of torture.

What then does it mean to come to church to watch? How is it different from sitting in front of the television? For all the technical complexity of it, we have stuck with live streaming zoom so that we are part of an interactive and relating group. Church is not merely about sitting and critiquing the sermon and commenting about how we do not like the hymns. It is and has always been about bringing our whole selves into the presence of the living God. It is about stopping. Taking time to think of the big things.

There are new things to be done. Zoom etiquette has to be learned. Zoom concentration has to be practiced. .

But also new ways of relating have to be developed. What does this sermon mean to me? How has that song or scripture touched us? That needs time. It might need people to talk it over with. What and who are we developing our faith with? One hour on a Sunday was never enough. It certainly is not now.

How are you developing as a disciple of Christ? Remember your google search is designed to lead you deeper and deeper into any topic. That might be a good thing but it might not be. Be cautious. Whose material are we exploring? Have we checked them out with anyone?

How are we making our offering? Yes our money but more. The offering of our life. Yes to the organisation of the church, but more importantly in the living of each day. Who is holding us to account? Who are we checking ourselves out with? This is a season where it is easy for us to hide. Again like they did in the garden. To hide and do things that are not for our health.

Be brave. People care about you. Reach out. We want to listen and develop together.

*Yours,  
Lesley*

### **A day of prayer and reflection**

As has been said often the URC is short of Ministers with a capital M. Everyone in the church is a minister in the sense of living and sharing the good news. Because there is an opinion we have too many Ministers ,currently Southern Synod is not allowed to call any new Ministers.

What is God saying to us?

We are having a time of prayer to listen and to reflect –

**Tuesday 22nd February 9 am till 9 pm.**

Pop in for a short time or stay for hours. All welcome

THIS IS ON ZOOM

**Thank you to all those who subscribed to KURC's 2021 Alternative Christmas Card, thereby saving themselves time and trouble, helping to protect the environment and raising **£1,918** for Christian Aid**

## **Pastoral news**

We thank God that several people are recovering from being unwell, including our ministers Rev Lesley Charlton and Rev Suk-In Lee. We are glad to hear that others who recently had minor surgery have had good outcomes and that others are on the mend after various health issues.

We continue to remember those obliged to stay at home, but it was great that some of these were able to join in our Christmas Zoom Party. Where feasible various church members visited some of our older members and helped them to join in the party silliness!

We are also glad that we were able to send Christmas cards and gifts to around thirty people who for various reasons are unable to attend church in person.

Please continue to pray for:

- those who have been bereaved;
- those who are unwell or recovering from spells in hospital;
- those who are waiting for surgery, for medical tests and results;
- other members suffering with COVID related anxiety and feelings of isolation.

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

***Sue Shaw***

## Memo from Martyn



How was your Christmas and New Year? It already seems like a long time ago now! However, I hope you managed to get some time with family and friends despite the ongoing worries with COVID. After last years virtually cancelled Christmas this year, for many, was more or less back to normal.

As I write that, I ask myself “is that what we really want? Things to go back to normal?”

What is normal now anyway? Is there a way back? For many the answer is a clear no! COVID has impacted many of our lives in ways that can never be reversed. Alongside all the other deaths that happen each year, people have died of covid, thousands and thousands of them. Most we never knew but some we knew well, some we loved dearly. But life goes on, new relationships are being formed; babies are being born and for COVID, vaccines are being rolled out and new treatments developed.

So, what is the normal we might yearn for? Perhaps it is the old routine. The Christmas day with one set of relatives, Boxing Day or New Year with the others? Maybe it is turkey with all the trimmings? Christmas pudding with brandy butter and sixpences? The washing up, the Queen’s speech and then the presents (always in that order in our house when I was growing up!)

Maybe it is the remembering of the birth of Jesus, the journey to Bethlehem, the shepherds met by angels, the wise men following a star. The bits we rather skip over, like the killing of the children under two years old!

I don’t think there is anything wrong with the traditions. They can help us to remember and set a framework for the other things we do. But traditions, followed or not, still mask the fact that things are changing all the time. 2022 will not be the same as 2021, or 2020 and we probably wouldn’t want it to be.

As people of faith, we can embrace change, trusting in God. We can look for new ways to share our faith. Live Streaming is a great innovation despite the frustrations it has caused.

I hope 2022 has started well for you and that whatever is happening to you this year, through the coming of Jesus among us that we remembered a few weeks ago, you are aware of God’s presence with you today and throughout the year.

**Martyn**

## Homage to Desmond Tutu



(photo BBC)

An old man is approaching our gates,  
Fling them wide, he is welcome home,  
For we have seen inside his life  
After his journey the man comes alone.

And if he was not welcome with us  
Then many would ask us to tell  
Who is it that takes up the cross  
And bears his burdens so well?

Whose movement caused such joy  
When the day of freedom came,  
And did not even finish then  
But spoke for others once again.

Yes, he comes with good deeds,  
Who fought hard against the laws  
That let the white one oppress  
The very ground on which he walked.

And the people rose up with him  
Till the tortures came to an end  
Not raising his voice, but changing  
The argument to make enemy a friend.

And so at the end of his days  
When his sun has now fallen to dusk,  
We invite him in through our gates,  
His work on earth has been just.

***Bethany Birley***

## Elders elections 2022



For a while now a group of us have been looking at ways to make the eldership as representative as possible of all in our congregation. In particular, we have considered whether there are changes we can make to the process of electing elders which would help us to reach this goal.

In order to reach our goal we believe that we must encourage all church members to consider the importance of the eldership in helping our ministers as spiritual leaders of our congregation; in the provision of church services, pastoral care of us all, our faith development, and other necessary activities for us including outreach to our local community. In addition the eldership oversees the more practical issues of looking after our building, managing the financial needs of our church, providing and managing the paid staff we require etc.. To do all this we need an eldership made up of people with varied talents, skills and abilities.

We hope that some tweaks to our process of electing elders may assist us with our needs in the future, though we are aware that this alone will not be enough. It is necessary for all church members to seriously consider prayerfully whether they are being called to put themselves or others forward as potential elders. We also need all members to diligently and prayerfully vote in elders elections.

From now on we will endeavour to help you to be better informed about what eldership is and the things we do as well as what we gain from being elders. Here and now we are providing an outline of the amended process for electing elders and the timetable for this year's election. The details are given in the two documents that follow.

***Maddie Anlezark***

### **Amended elders' election process 2022**

Any member of the church can be nominated as a potential elder.

- The process will start with a period in which members are nominated as potential elders. Individual members would be able to self-nominate (with the nomination supported by one other member); individual members would be able to nominate any other member (with the nomination supported by one other member).
- The list of nominated members will then be put to the whole membership as previously with members endorsing those they thought would be suitable by underlining their names.

- The endorsements/votes will be tallied.
- The minister and church secretary will then approach people in order of number of endorsements to ask if they are willing to become a serving elder. Once enough people to fill the vacancies are found the process will stop.
- The names of those agreeing to serve will be put to church meeting on block as previously.
- The elders, as previously, can co-opt a small number of people to the eldership if this is seen as necessary

### **Timetable, elders' election 2022**

- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – New election of elders process approved at Church Meeting
- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – Nomination process with final date for nominations on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan
- 31<sup>st</sup> Jan - 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Church Secretary to sort nominations and prepare a final ballot form
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – Church Secretary to distribute voting forms
- 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – All members to complete voting forms and return them with final date for completed forms on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb - Church Secretary and others to collate the forms and record how many votes each nominee has received
- 28<sup>th</sup> Feb - Church Secretary to compile a list of nominees from the one receiving most votes to one receiving least
- 1<sup>st</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Minister and Church Secretary to contact the people on the list and discuss whether or not they are willing to serve
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Minister and Church Secretary to compile a list of proposed new elders
- 10<sup>th</sup> April – list of proposed new elders presented to church meeting for approval
- 17<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday) – New elders presented/ordained at 10.00am service

## **It's that time of year again**

Yes, that's right. It's elders' election time again!!

If you are a member of Kingston United Reformed Church you are eligible to be an elder.

'No! No! that's not for me.' you cry.

Hold on – don't stop reading, you may change your mind

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul compares the company of believers to the human body. There is no part of the human body which is surplus to need each piece is needed for the body to function. No one part is more important than another. So, with us at Kingston United Reformed Church, no one is more important than another we all have an important part to play.

Don't simply write the idea off – pray and think about it and maybe talk to someone – first.

Yes. There is a time commitment but first and foremost it is a calling – a call to serve our church family.

As an elder you join a team of people who support our ministers in the running of Kingston URC. An elder is also a trustee of KURC.

Being an elder involves attending a meeting once a month to discuss church-related matters as well as the monthly Church meeting. And, yes, there is reading and preparation required for these meetings.

Performing duties at the services on a Sunday – to support the meeting leader.

Being part of/heading up various committees, e.g., community ministry, management, worship, faith development, etc.

**IT COULD BE YOU!!**

***Carol Clack***

### **Valerie Parkinson**

After nearly 58 very happy years living in Hampton Hill, Valerie has moved to Cranleigh in Surrey to be nearer her family.

Her new address is:

Knowle Park Care & Nursing Home, Knowle Lane, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8JL' Direct telephone: 01483 279637

She would be delighted to hear from you.

## The new organ arrives

Our new organ has arrived at last! The installation took about 10 hours and went very smoothly. First, the old console was taken away, and some of the gold painted pipes were dismantled to allow access to the



back of the two organ chambers. Then more pipes were removed so that the new loudspeakers (of which there are 16, eight on each side of the church) could be inserted. Two of these speakers are 'mega-woofers' the size of washing machines, and can cope with the deep bass notes which give the organ real 'body'. The gold pipes were replaced; the

new console (which looks and plays just like the old one) was wheeled into position; then it was just a matter of flicking the 'on' switch and hey presto (or allegro/andante...)

The background to the organ project was explained in the September issue of *Church News*. In essence, what you are now hearing is sound generated by loudspeakers in place of sound from wind being blown through pipes. It is important to emphasise that the sound coming from our new digital organ is **not** artificial synthesized electronic sound (as in older electronic keyboards) but **real pipe organ sounds** recorded from the best English instruments, digitally mastered and played through **specialist** loudspeakers (not your average hi fi equipment!) There is a separate recorded sample for each individual note of each individual stop. This is a major leap forward in organ technology and the reason why the new organ sounds so amazingly realistic. We have roughly the same number of stops as on the old pipe organ, but these now include some interesting new woodwind stops, which will give us a wider range of sounds.



The installation is not quite complete: in early February we will be visited by Ian Tracey, former organist at Liverpool Cathedral, who will spend a day making fine adjustments to the 'voicing' of the new organ so that it suits our acoustics perfectly. This is done using a laptop computer - no need to climb inside the organ chamber! There should then be no further

need for tuning or maintenance. We hope to arrange some recitals in the new year.

So once again: a **HUGE** thankyou to all who contributed to the cost of our new instrument; to Makin Organs who developed and constructed it; and to Church Organ World who installed it so efficiently. And of course we are thankful to Haeun who plays it so well! The organ committee feels that the five years spent exploring and evaluating all the options have been truly worthwhile.

**John Fisher**

## The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Reformed Church

2022 marks the URC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You can read more about this in a dedicated section of the URC website ([Our 50th Anniversary - United Reformed Church](#)), featuring, among other things an introduction by URC's General Secretary, The Revd Dr John Bradbury, a video, a competition and a colourful picture book for families.



There is also information about the 50th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving taking place on 1 October 2022, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, for which tickets are now available. The venue is where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took

place in 1972. The intergenerational Communion service is free and open to all in the URC. To ensure adequate provision is made, tickets for under 5s, 5-11s, 11-18s, and wheelchair users are available. Use the link below for further details and to book tickets.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/50th-anniversary-service-of-thanksgiving-and-celebration-free-event-tickets-163843796205>

KURC would love to hear about any ideas you may have for ways in which we could use this anniversary. Please get in touch with Martyn with your thoughts.

**Reminder:** Copy for the next edition of *Church News* should reach Robin Pilbeam by Friday 11 February.

## Children and Youth Friendly Church scheme



On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022, we were very pleased to welcome Tom Hackett, URC Southern Synod Children and Youth Development Officer, to our morning worship and church meeting. Tom spoke to the congregation about the Children and Youth Friendly Church scheme (which has replaced the previous Child Friendly Church Award).

The new programme asks churches to reflect on how welcoming they are for children, young people and families. It is an iterative process, as illustrated by this reflective cycle.



The process then goes on to reflect on and develop a strategy for children, youth and families work for the next 3-5 years, looking particularly at Vision and Values, Spirituality and Relationship with God, Mission and Outreach, Equipping and Supporting, Decision Making and Inclusion.

The scheme is intended to be a **whole church commitment** and at the service we split into groups to prayerfully consider the following questions:

- What do you think a children and youth friendly church looks like?
- What could we do to further develop KURC's ministry with families over the next five years?
- In which three areas do you think God is calling us to develop our work with children, young people and families?

Thank you to **everyone**, of all ages, who participated in the very interactive sessions – a large number of post-its were produced! Thank you also to Ella Choi and Ah Young Jang who led prayers in Korean. If you have any further ideas of where you think God may be leading us in these areas, please contact Sally Butler, So Young or Bron Robinson.

At Church Meeting Tom went through the process in more detail and then the following resolution was proposed and unanimously carried. *"We the whole church community of Kingston United Reformed Church commit to follow God's calling and journey together as we further develop our welcome to children, young people and families. We dedicate ourselves to the Children & Youth Friendly programme of the United Reformed Church and look forward to where God will lead us."*

We will continue to update you as we review the input to date and plan with Tom, as our Synod accompanier. In the meantime the whole congregation can help in one of more of the following ways:

- We would welcome a few people to be part of a core working team
- Consider what skills and talents you can offer to share
- Commit to prayer for KURC's participation in the scheme.

With thanks for your involvement and prayers.

**Bron Robinson**  
on behalf of the Youth Group



Thank you to So Young for these photos from the interactive sessions during Tom's visit

## Elders' profile – James Mason

*Each month, Church News likes to include a profile of one of KURC's serving elders. This month we persuaded James Mason to tell us something about himself.*



I grew up in the shadow of Heathrow airport, in Ashford Middlesex, in a non-religious home.

I trained as a printer, following in my Dad's footsteps, but I quit my job to become a professional musician in 2008, meaning I could go on the family holiday to Portugal that year, which is where I met Rachel.

It was on one of my visits to Rachel who was living in Manchester at the time, when I went to a service at Chorlton URC where I met Sue Shaw. She was in Manchester looking after her father and we realised we were all soon going to be living in the same area of London. It was Sue who introduced us to KURC.

We were married by Lesley in 2012, and I hope that many of you may still remember the wedding.

I'm a stay at home Dad and professional musician. I play the bass guitar and have worked in original bands, from ska reggae to folk, and have played an awful lot of pubs and weddings. In the last few years I have moved more into recording and producing albums, which is how I came to be involved in the recent JOY album project.

I didn't come to church with Rachel for a long time. When I tried, I always found that I felt like an outsider, very restless, and felt an overwhelming need to leave, sometimes in the middle of services. It was a series of cups of coffee with Lesley that gradually helped me find my peace with being in church, and I only started coming regularly to services after our girls were born.

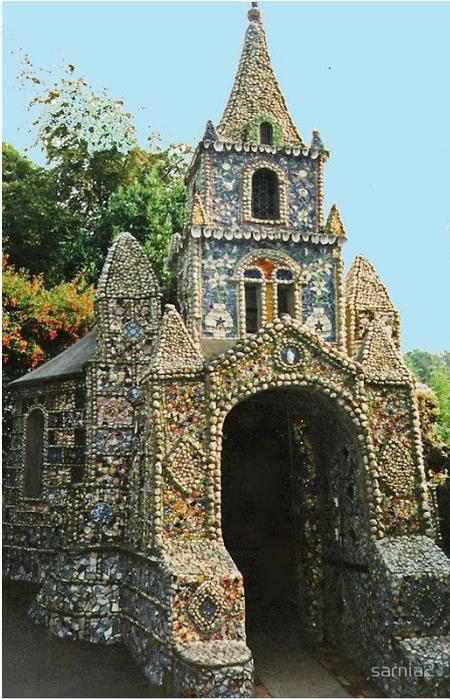
Now I have found deep meaning in rituals like communion, and, as an elder, have found myself involved in preparing and performing them. In the last couple of years I have been very drawn towards meditative prayer and I recently went on my first religious retreat. I take a lot of comfort in my Christian faith and I find myself very surprised by where I have landed!

As an elder, I am hoping to offer KURC the perspective of someone who hasn't grown up in the church and has in fact, taken a long time to find my place within it.

I love being involved with the music and I hope to be able to lead projects that connect people in the church. I believe that participation in music can, by itself, be one of the simplest forms of meaningful prayer.

## Unusual Churches of the world

### *The Little Chapel, Les Vauxbelets, Guernsey*



Now a major tourist attraction on the island of Guernsey, this is reckoned to be the smallest consecrated church in the world. It was conceived by Brother Deodat Antoine as a miniature version of the grotto and basilica at Lourdes. Construction began in 1914 but Deodat received so much criticism that he pulled it down and began again. The second chapel, which accommodated four people, also had to be demolished as the Bishop of Portsmouth was unable to fit through the doorway. The third version was completed in 1939 and still stands. Over the years people from around the world have brought shells, pebbles and broken china to decorate the interior and exterior

***John Fisher***

## 2022 New Year's walk

We kept the KURC tradition of having a walk on the first day of the New Year, and, on a sunny and glorious morning, we went with church members and their friends along the towpath from Kingston Bridge towards Hampton Court. We walked through Bushy Park and then through the fields to the Golf Club. It was a very gentle walk and, over lunch in the golf club, we were delighted to make plans for future nice walks in the summer.



***Natasha Reid***

# Christmas snapshots

## Celebrating online



Christmas party time ↑

Father Christmas speeds to Jolly Toddlers on his 5G sleigh →



### Traditional annual outings for.....

..... KURC's choir & friends (carol singing and raising £200 for Christian Aid) →



.....KURC's tea towels (Nativity and Gift Service) ↓



### KURC's young people paint pebbles to pave the path to the manger

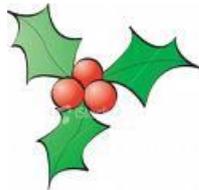


## The story of the KURC Christmas tree

Jim and Phyllis Cochrane - Holly's grandparents - were married in our church on 11 November 1951\* and decided to present the church with a Christmas tree to mark the happy occasion. Since that date the family have presented a Christmas tree to KURC every December. That's **70 trees!** A photograph in the church archives taken at a toy service around 1954 happens to show one of the first.

Jim Cochrane owned a fruit and vegetable stall in Kingston market until 1991. His mother Sophia (a widow with eight children) ran a flower stall before him. Holly says it is quite likely that the family's link with Kingston market goes back even further.

We cannot thank the family enough for their generosity over so many years, especially when the trees are of such excellent quality and delivered to the door.



*\* The happy couple outside the church on their wedding day*



## Thank you



A big thank you to our knitting team. They came up trumps again this Christmas. Building on the success of the knitted sheep in 2020, the team stepped up and knitted over 120 small, stuffed hearts. To each heart was added a label saying “Love Came down at Christmas... for you” and “with love from KURC”. The hearts were distributed to our housebound members and friends, to everyone at the foyer carol service and on Christmas eve/day. Christ is love incarnate and we hope that all recipients know his love and that we all have confidence and faith that each and every individual person is loved by him. Alleluia!

**Linda Austin**

## Tots Praise 2021 Nativity Play

*Sally Butler posted the review below on Facebook the day after the performance.*

I love Nativity Plays!.. Yesterday at Tots Praise, we had a spontaneous play, and many people were away because of Covid - hence even more silliness! Baby Jesus was a girl, dressed head to toe in Christmas Outfit including a reindeer on her bottom, our Centre Manager was a donkey, one of the Magi refused to wear a crown and then cried because she didn't want mummy to wear one either (then decided she wanted to wear Mummy's crown cos it came with 'three sparkly gifts!'), Mary and Joseph were grown ups and both women, I was an angel with no wings. Hysterical. BUT when we all sang Away In A Manger, with baby Jesus being rocked by her childminder in the makeshift stable and our shepherd gave her a furry lamb (and a Jersey Cow!), it was somehow, rather lovely!

**Sally Butler**

## Return to Antigua

Back in December 2017 I returned from Antigua leaving new volunteer Barry Sebastian to manage the Street Pastor scheme.

Then Covid came along and, like other countries, Antigua went into lockdown, with curfews and more recently vaccination programmes. Currently the country is open for travel with the usual conditions re testing.



The Soup Kitchen



Although street patrols stopped, Barry continued to organise the weekly soup kitchen in St John's the capital town. Working out of a shipping container close to the main market, they serve between fifty and eighty people with soup and bread. The soup is freshly made by volunteers from a wide range of different churches.

I've kept in close contact with Barry and am hoping to go back out in the middle of January 2022. The plan is to return with a Street Pastor trainer, Sarah Williams, in order to run a 'Train the Trainers' course so that they can start to do their own training and so become less dependent on external input. Sarah has been to Antigua before to deliver Street Pastor training, so she is familiar with the culture and has met various people before.

We also aim to run a skills session with both existing and interested new recruits. We will be borrowing rooms in local churches to run the sessions, as the rented office I once worked in no longer exists. The building has been sold to developers.

As it happens Rev Les Isaac, founder of Street Pastors, will be in Antigua during January, which will bring an added encouragement and motivating factor.

I am hoping to stay on after Sarah has left, giving support to the new trainers, to new recruits and to Barry.



Pastor May and children from Gray's Farm

Having kept in touch with local children's evangelist Pastor May, there'll be opportunities to support her work with children and teenagers. Pastor May runs Sunday school classes, does home visits and provides clothing and school supplies in a deprived area called Grays Farm where 99% of families are headed by single women.

I'm looking forward to seeing my rough sleeper friends again. They no longer sleep under derelict shipping containers but have moved to an abandoned house also in Gray's Farm.

Of course, these plans are subject to whether there are new Covid restrictions. But God willing, we will go ahead and we'll be a blessing to the work. I'll provide feedback on my return, but if you'd like to be kept updated while I am there, do contact me on [sue.shaw24@gmail.com](mailto:sue.shaw24@gmail.com).

**Sue Shaw**



**Lateral  
thinking  
for  
beginners**

## I (God) love YOU

I love YOU  
Not the person  
To your left  
To your right  
In front or behind  
I love YOU

I Love YOU  
Not because you are  
Rich or poor  
Bright or dim  
Shy or a party animal  
I love YOU

I love YOU  
You are not too bad  
Too sinful  
Too unsure  
Too unstable  
I love YOU

“But you don’t know me.”  
I do  
I love YOU

“There are things I’m not proud of.”  
I know  
I love YOU

There is nowhere  
You can hid from me  
Even when you think  
You are completely hidden  
Not wanting to be found  
I love YOU

I will always love you  
Through everything  
And I mean everything  
I will always love you

I will never love you  
More or less  
I will always love you  
With my whole heart  
With my whole being

**I love YOU.**

***Carol Clack***



Holly and Julian with their daughter Amilyn at her baptism at KURC on 28 November 2021

## The six Ms

*Sally Butler used the article below from the London Institute of Christianity as the basis for her contribution to KURC's most recent 24 Hours of Prayer. There was consensus that it worthy of a wider audience via Church News.*

One of the great joys of being a Christian is realising that God chooses to work through us, wherever we are.

One of the tricky things, however, is learning how to spot it. So many of us just don't have the words, the tools, or the means by which to see how we are already being fruitful for Christ in our daily lives.

So, here at LICC, we developed a framework to help us see how God is already working through us, and those we know, and to inspire our imaginations for how he might in the future.

It has six facets, and they all begin with M.

### **Models godly character**

Maybe it's displaying self-control by keeping a cool head when a colleague or someone you are serving is provoking you. Maybe it's promoting peace by mediating an argument between two businesses.

Maybe it's bringing joy by encouraging those around you.

Whatever we do, wherever we are, we are either reflecting God's character or we're not. So, with this M, we are reminding ourselves from the start that it is in our everyday that God forms our character to be like Jesus so that we can better reflect his character to those around us.

And as that happens, we become bearers of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This M is about these in action.

### **Makes good work**

Sometimes, our everyday tasks can seem a bit meaningless, or just means to an end. But 'making good work' means realising that everything we do is to and for the glory of God. After all, that's what we're instructed to do in Colossians 3:23-25.

Independent of anyone else, we can do everything – the fun, the interesting, the big, the small, the mundane, and the just plain boring – for the glory of God. To impact on people and the world he created and redeems, with joy, for it is the Lord Christ we are serving.

### **Ministers grace and love**

This looks like the friend who came with me to the hospital at 1am when she had an (at that time unwritten) essay due in 10 hours. It's found in

the boss who doesn't just fire someone, but gently offers support and comfort in the redundancy meeting, and maybe even follows up afterwards. It could be as simple as a timely cup of coffee, or taking ten minutes out to talk stuff over with someone who is struggling.

### **Moulds culture**

Culture can be thought of as 'the way we do things round here'. Moulding it means making small changes to dynamically express Christian values.

It's the person who counters the blame culture of the corporate world by admitting when they've made a mistake and offering forgiveness to those who slip up as well. It's quenching gossip with a positive word for the person who is always the butt of the jokes, or championing trust and honesty in our departments, nurturing a safe space for the rest of the team to work well in.

### **Mouthpiece for truth and justice**

Whether we realise it or not, this is something that we get to do every single day. It can be as simple as refusing to engage in gossip at the school gate, or speaking up for the colleague who has been overlooked.

Or it could be bigger – ruling our patch, the area of responsibility that God has given us, and ruling it well. Making sure other people get the credit they deserve when we could have taken it for ourselves. Big or small, being a mouthpiece for truth and justice looks like standing up – often at personal cost – to promote good, fair, and just practices.

### **Messenger of the gospel**

This isn't about delivering a pre-packaged gospel warhead and retreating to a safe distance. Instead, it could be drawing on biblical wisdom during a conflict or a business deal. Or it might be simply testifying to God's action in your life where it is appropriate to do so. It means having an intentionality, a desire to share something of Jesus with those around you and, when you can, to communicate the message of the gospel.

These 6Ms all work together. They are all a part of our witness to those around us of God's action in our lives. Hearing about a God of love becomes a lot more believable when you've seen the person who's sharing him with you act in a loving way. A God of justice makes sense when you've seen his follower stand up in the face of unfair practices.

So, whether you're at uni or school, at work, or a stay-at-home parent, retired.. may you be encouraged, equipped, inspired, and released to live for God's glory, wherever you are.

*Sally's challenge: How can you apply this to YOUR 'frontline'?*

## “Things from 2021 that I am grateful for”

Church News asked its readers to share details of anything from last year for which they felt especially grateful. Not an overwhelming response, so special thanks to Ann, Jean and Natasha for breaking the mould.

### **Ann Macf**

One of the happiest moments in life is to have the courage to let go of those things that cannot be changed. This was yesterday's happiest moment that I wouldn't want to change. Taken at Wisley along with first snowdrops.



### **Jean T**

In the middle of last year I was grateful for new hearing aids which are tuned into the television, even when there is no sound on the TV, achieved by a tiny device next to the TV. I think the neighbours are pleased too! When I think of my grandmother's contraption for hearing problems, we live in a wonderful 'tech' age.

### **Natasha R**

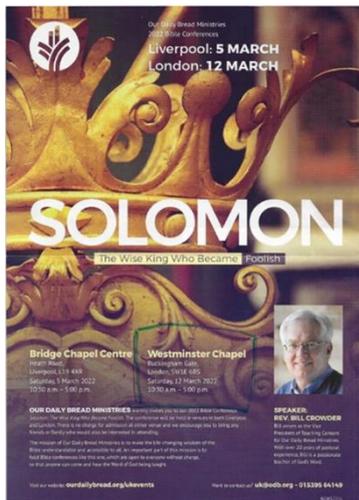
- that all our family (grandchildren, children and relatives with their families) are healthy enough and managed to face the new year;
- that the garden was so beautiful this summer;
- that John's and my health problems were manageable with employment of different medicines;
- that I did not swallow my dental implants which fell off on Christmas day and that the dentist managed to stick and glue them back;
- that thanks to the advancing technology which allowed me to communicate with my relatives and friends all over the world!

### **Vaughan J**

Two not immediately obvious things I have been grateful from last year (and the year before) are:

- Outdoor coffee 'dispensaries' in green spaces within an hour's walk of home. It's great to commune with nature in foot, but even better when strengthened by or looking forward to a freshly brewed flat white.
- Church News. What a pleasure to get this cracking flagship journal 10 times a year, especially in these times of social restrictions and overexposure to Zoom. (Yes, I know - I would say that, wouldn't I) But I do genuinely look forward to each edition and would like to say a sincere thank-you to all those who contribute.

## Solomon Bible Conference



The 'Our Daily Bread' Ministries are organising a 2022 Bible Conference, with the theme as shown in the adjacent poster. The conference will be held in London on 12th March 2022. In the previous few years I attended their conferences and would really recommend it. Usually people from all over England attend this conference, and in the large Westminster Chapel they have a big screen behind the speakers. This time a speaker will be Rev. Bill Crowder, who has 20 years of ministerial experience, a writer in his own right and an enigmatic speaker.

It is an all-day conference (from 10.30am until 5.00pm), but audience members are free to leave at any time. The admission is free, and you do not have to book in advance. There will be a one-hour lunch break. In the past, the organisers have provided biscuits and drinks during lunch breaks, but it is strongly advised that people bring their own box lunches or just go across the road from the Westminster Chapel to nearby cafés.

For further information: [Events | Our Daily Bread Ministries](#)

**Natasha Reid**

## New Year's appeal from



Dear Oxygen supporter

These are tough times for all of us, and we have all had to re-calibrate expectations, aspirations and behaviour in the light of Covid.

I have been moved by the level of commitment and motivation of the staff and volunteers, in responding to the needs of young people and the local community, through the shop, through mentoring, through Street Pastors, through offering holiday activities for those on free school meals and in tackling knife crime across London.

At Oxygen we have had to adapt and find new ways of doing things which has helped us to reach more young people, particularly through digital youth work, but also through more 1-2-1 engagement, providing tailored support. We have seen a significant increase in the level of need for mental health support across young people of all ages to enable them to cope with the challenges they are facing. This is reflected in the high number of referrals we are

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

receiving from schools and statutory partners, desperate to ensure that young people get the help they need.

So, as we face the challenge ahead we could really do with your help, in any way you can give it. We need more mentors, volunteers at the shop, more donors to help ensure financial stability and more prayers. You can play your part in many ways, building hope in the lives of young people who might struggle to see it themselves. Help us rise to the challenge! Help us bring hope!

Happy New Year!  
*John Trend, CEO, Oxygen*

★ KURC supports Oxygen and Street Pastors

## A seasonal COP26 reminder

50,000 people motivated by Christian Aid signed a Christmas card to Boris Johnson (or sent him a personal one), urging him to continue work for Climate justice and make sure the promises made at COP26 aren't forgotten.



Christmas is a time of hope, and we continue to hope for action on climate justice in 2022. Some campaigners, dressed up as Christmas puddings with the slogan 'The proof of the pudding', delivered the card and walked round the local area of Parliament. Let's hope it appeals to Johnson's sense of humour.

For those of you who are into hashtags:

[#TheProofIsInThePudding](#), [#ClimateJustice](#) and [#COP26](#)

You can see the video of it at:

[Protest Puddings take over Parliament Square for Climate Justice - YouTube](#)

*Christine Thompson*

## First hints of spring (January 2022)



Richmond Park



Ham House



## readings for February 2022

### WEATHER WARNING

#### 1 And it rained!

Sunday 30 January	Jeremiah 10:11-13
Monday 31 January	Deuteronomy 11:10-15
Tuesday 1 February	Jeremiah 5:20-25
Wednesday 2 February	Genesis 7:11-24
Thursday 3 February	Leviticus 26:3-5
Friday 4 February	Exodus 9:22-33
Saturday 5 February	Deuteronomy 33:13-16

#### 2 Watering the Earth

Sunday 6 February	Job 29:21-23
Monday 7 February	Isaiah 19:5-10
Tuesday 8 February	Acts 11:27-30
Wednesday 9 February	Jeremiah 18:14-15
Thursday 10 February	Isaiah 55:8-12
Friday 11 February	Isaiah 43:1-7
Saturday 12 February	James 5:13-18

### IT STARTED WITH A KISS

Sunday 13 February	Genesis 27:1-27
Monday 14 February	Song of Solomon 1:1-5
Tuesday 15 February	Ruth 1:6-18
Wednesday 16 February	1 Samuel 20:34-42
Thursday 17 February	2 Samuel 20:1-13
Friday 18 February	Matthew 26:47-56
Saturday 19 February	2 Corinthians 13:11-13

### JONAH

Sunday 20 February	Jonah 1:1-6
Monday 21 February	Jonah 1:7-17
Tuesday 22 February	Jonah 2:1-10
Wednesday 23 February	Jonah 3:1-4
Thursday 24 February	Jonah 3:5-10
Friday 25 February	Jonah 4:1-4
Saturday 26 February	Jonah 4:5-11

### THE GOSPEL OF LUKE (2)

#### 1 Preparing for ministry

Sunday 27 February	Luke 2:41-52
Monday 28 February	Luke 4



## 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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### Missionary:

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### Mission Co-ordinator:

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### Premises Manager and PA to the Minister:

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e-mail (PA to Minister): [kingstonurc@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonurc@gmail.com)

### Premises Assistant:

Georgi Todorov, Landline as above.

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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 for the March 2022 edition is Friday, 11 February**

**Editor: Robin Pilbeam e-mail: [david.anderson48@btinternet.com](mailto:david.anderson48@btinternet.com)**

### FINANCIAL DONATIONS to KURC can be made in a number of ways:

Complete one of the forms at the back of the church to set up standing order payments.

Make regular cash gifts at the Sunday services. By using the offertory envelopes, you allow the church to reclaim Gift Aid.

You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-73, account number 60921289 and quote Kingston United Reformed Church Charity.

*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 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.

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