



Faith – Hope – Love –
Since 1972

CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church

www.kingstonurc.org

June 2022

Christian Aid collectors take over Kingston!



Group photo (photo credit John Watts)



Jesusalema dancers (photo credit Crispin Hughes)

(Full report in next month's Church News)

Worship and Events Diary – June 2022

At the time of putting Church News together (mid-May), the following is the anticipated diary for June:

Wednesday 1st	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 5 th	10.00	Worship & Communion – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 8 th	10.00	Tots' Praise
Thursday 9 th		Funerals Day – see Lesley's article on page 4.
Saturday 11 th	14.00	Crafternoon – Glass and ceramic painting. Drop in anytime between 2pm and 5pm. Details from Carol Clack or Sally Butler.
Sunday 12 th	10.30	Combined Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	Fellowship Church Meeting with Bring & Share lunch
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 15 th	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 19 th	10.00	Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service & Communion
Wednesday 22 nd	10.00	Tots' Praise
Saturday 25 th	15.00	Fundraising Concert for Ukraine. Tea and cakes served after the concert.
Sunday 26 th	10.00	Worship – also live-streamed on Zoom
	11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
	17.00	Reflective Service

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

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

LETTER FROM LESLEY



Dear All

God says to Moses... 'what have you got in your hand?'

God has called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of slavery and Moses is overwhelmed with insecurity. His own sense of not being up to the job... 'who will I say sent me?'. 'I cannot speak I have a stammer'. 'Suppose they do not believe me or listen to me?' He says.

God replies... 'what have you got in your hand?' It is a staff and with it God does a spectacular trick and the staff turns into a snake....

The trick may feel distant to us but the question... 'what is in your hand?' is relevant. It is not, 'what do you wish was in your hand?'. It is not, 'what used to be in your hand?' but 'what is in your hand'? Stop. Look at your resources. Really look at them.

Are we using the resources that God has given to us as well as we could?

For example every day there are prayers at 10.00.

Why don't you come? At this time many are suffering with stress and need to pause and have peace. Why not gather to pray?

For some it is because they are working. Some don't think prayers matter. For some it is because they are still in bed. Some are listening to something else that is nourishing for the soul. But for others there is a failure to look at what is actually available. Here is a golden opportunity to get together with people. To read a passage of the bible and talk about it briefly. Then to pray. Some pray out loud, some in silence.

Other things we have in our hand.....the building. Every day there is somewhere you could go and help or be nourished by conversation. Thursday night on zoom. Take time to really pause with the daily prayers that are sent out (thanks Teresa).

Bible study in Korean and in English.

What is in our hands?

Sometimes we are so busy mourning what we do not have we do not pause to use and celebrate what we do.

We are a richly blessed community, who can bask in the abundance of God's gifts to us. We have each other and we do amazing things together. Small things that together make a big difference.

Yours,

Lesley

Funerals Day, 9th June

There are some new things in the going on funeral business and we need to know what they are so you do not walk in to traps....as some have done.

On 9th June I have written Funeral Day across the page of my diary.

How can you help your family when you die? Direct cremations.....what is that? Is it a good idea to pay for your funeral in advance?

Let's talk about your funeral. What music do you want? Readings? Hymns? Does everyone know if you are to be buried or cremated? Who knows about that family plot? What do you mean you are giving your body for medical research and never told anyone?

There will be a **Zoom at 12 and at 7**. Plus I will be **in the building 3pm – 5pm**.

I am not assuming you will want to talk about your private matters in a group but this might be the event when we set up a date.

This is not only for church members – anyone.

The **Zoom links** are below:

12 noon:

Topic: Lesley Charlton's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 9, 2022 12:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87847911775?pwd=QncSi3rge-0sir7E6IFG4XmqA8mgoz.1>

Meeting ID: 878 4791 1775

Passcode: 163513

7pm:

Topic: Lesley Charlton's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 9, 2022 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83613032523?pwd=diS1qYXeI5KfAHohpb1Ee21YqCVkE0.1>

Meeting ID: 836 1303 2523

Passcode: 567037

Lesley

Memo from Martyn



A few months ago, I asked Graham in the bookshop if he could recommend anything about Mother Teresa. I can't remember why. It must have been a response to something I'd heard or read about her.

Anyway, Graham has good sources and soon recommended an authorised biography. After sitting in my 'to read' pile since, I finally got round to reading it. It is an inspiring story.

I expect many of you know about her work. Mother Teresa chose to be poor and to live and work with the poorest of the poor. She saw Jesus in them all. Jesus thirsty, Jesus hungry, Jesus naked, Jesus homeless, Jesus unloved. With a smile, a bowl of rice, a comforting arm around a shoulder or simply a bed where they could die in peace knowing someone loved them, she and the Missionaries of Charity she led cared for them.

We aren't all called to give up everything to serve the poorest of the poor but I think we can learn something from Mother Teresa.

One of our church members ends emails "We are born with two languages; our mother tongue and a smile. The latter needs no translation." Mother Teresa too knew the power of a smile and encouraged her people to try and keep a warm smile on their faces wherever they went. So perhaps a friendly smile at someone you pass. And if we see Jesus in the people we meet maybe that will help change the way we react to them.

None of this will change the world overnight but it could be a start.

Martyn Verge

Sally's Slot

On Sundays we continue to use the **Christian Aid Big Justice Story Sack** and we use this same material at each 11.30 service that I lead. One of our children was asked after a session how it went and replied "FABULOUS"! That is what I want to hear!

Crafternoons have been going well, with a good mix of young and older! One of our older foyer visitors really enjoyed learning to crochet and has now started it as a hobby at home. Dates for the future are:

June 11

July 16

August 13 Macmillan Coffee Crafternoon

September 17

October 15

November 19

December 17

All of these are 2-5pm but you do not need to be there the whole time.

Can anyone help our **Jolly Toddlers** volunteers with a lift to and/or from church on a Monday morning? It is difficult to get in at the moment due to the buses being on diversion!

A number of parents/carers attended the **Youth Mental Health First Aid course** online, organised by Southern Synod. Here are some testimonies in case you feel like you might like to do this.

"As a parent of two kids, I was encouraged by Sally to attend this incredibly useful course for my life. This course is so well-organised and each session you have pre-learning tasks online and discussion with others through Zoom meetings. I thought this course was aimed to help young people (Sally - it was!) but I realised I gained so much for myself in looking after my own mental health too! Highly recommend for those who could contribute their time to the course. Not only for being a First Aider but perfect for anyone who wants to be aware of their family/friend's mental health."

Ting

"I was so grateful when Sally suggested I attend the Youth Mental Health First Aid training. As a mum of 3, one of whom is entering teenage years and a friend to people with children of the same age, it was great to get an insight into issues and experiences that our children can have and how to access support for them. The people running the programme were brilliant, supportive, kind, empathic. I feel much better equipped in supporting children through their experiences growing up."

Holly

Book Recommendation

‘The Heavenly Man’ by Paul Hattaway & Brother Yun

I notice that this book is available on our church second-hand bookstall. It is a biography of Brother Yun, who suffered greatly for his faith and survived. It is deeply moving and ‘a rude awakening’. I recommend it to anyone who wishes to learn more about persecution of religious faith. Graham from The King’s Storeroom, here at KURC Foyer, can also order one for you at a 10% discount.

Freedom of Religion or Belief Ministerial

Open Doors UK are asking us to invite our MP (for most of us, that is Sir Ed Davey) to the Freedom of Religion or Belief Ministerial London 2022 (5-6 July). If he receives more than one request (ie. Me!!), he may be obliged to go! Please go to www.opendoorsuk.org to invite him! This would be a great way to respond to the recent service we had on the theme of Secret Church.

Would you like to help a child to learn to read? I saw this advertised online. See <https://www.bookmarkreading.org> for more information.

“You’ll help a child learn to read so that they can succeed in school and beyond. You’ll enjoy fun, 30-minute sessions with a 5-9 year-old, reading stories and playing games on our secure online platform. Best of all, you’ll get to see your young reader progress, knowing that you personally are making a huge difference to their future.

Our online volunteering fits in with your life.

Each programme involves 30-minute sessions with the same child, twice a week, for six weeks. you simply select the programme which works the best for you and your schedule, and conveniently book it through our mobile app.”

Sally Butler, youth@kingstonurc.org

More book recommendations

Look out for regular reading recommendations in future copies of Church News. Each month Graham (King’s Storeroom in our foyer) will order in a few copies of the suggested book.

Pastoral News

At our most recent Church Meeting Lesley reminded us that we all need to have close and real relationships with someone with whom we can be honest with and talk to about difficult things and that these relationships need to be built naturally. To be understood and accepted by at least one person in our life makes such a difference.

Swiss physician Paul Tournier said, *“No one can develop freely in this world and find a full life without feeling understood by at least one person.”*

Here at KURC we strive for everyone to have someone with whom they can be real with and feel understood.

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

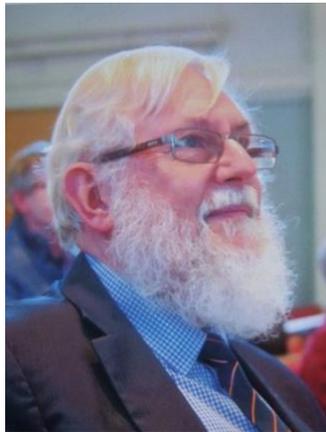
Sue Shaw

FLOWERS FOR JUNE



5th Jenny Milner
12th Ann Carrig
19th Ann Macfarlane
26th Helen Omuvwie

Remembering Tony Wenman



There will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of Tony Wenman at
Kingston United Reformed Church on

Saturday 28 May at 3pm

The service will be followed by refreshments in the hall.
Cakes would be gratefully received – please bring along on the day.

Everyone is welcome.



Fundraising Concert For Ukraine

**United Reformed Church
Kingston
KT1 1HZ**

**Saturday 25th June
3pm – 4pm**

**Donations going through DEC –
Humanitarian Appeal**



Teas and Cakes served after concert

www.kingstonurc.org

020 8549 1888

Contact Diane Slater, Liz Bartlett or John Fisher for more information.

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

KURC Gift Day 2022

Over the last few years, KURC has held a Gift Day every 2 years. A Gift Day is when those who feel able to have an opportunity to make an additional one-off donation to the church, separate to their regular offering. The last Gift Day was in September 2020.

The Elders realise that the last two years have not, in any way, been “normal”. Many have been affected financially, as well as in so many other ways. Everyone is facing rising energy / fuel prices. We also know that KURC will not be the only charity that you support financially. For all these reasons, Elders considered delaying this year’s Gift Day. However the requirement to fund the work of our church continues and we have some major projects on the horizon, just one example of which is the renewal of our old and inefficient heating system. A new heating system will not only help us become more sustainable in the longer term but also ensure that we can continue our mission of spreading the Gospel and offering a warm welcome (in every meaning of the word) to all in our building.

The Elders have therefore approved that a Gift Day should go ahead and this will take place on 11 September 2022. Unlike previous Gift Days, it doesn’t seem appropriate to set a target this year; in this season, we would be particularly grateful for whatever people feel able to gift.

- If this is not the right time for you to make an additional gift to the church, then that is absolutely fine. God knows what is going on in your finances.
- If an additional gift does not work at this time, perhaps it is an opportunity to review your regular giving and add a something? We all know how small amounts add up.
- If you feel you could gift some time instead to organise a fund-raising activity and donate the money raised, that would be fantastic. Fund raising ideas?
- If you could give your time in other ways, e.g. as a volunteer steward, that would allow us to let the building at times where we do not have cover. More events = more income.
- If you are willing to put your name down for periodic projects, e.g. re-decorating parts of the building, that would also be really useful.
- If you are someone who would be willing to explore applying for grants from third party organisations, please us know. You don’t even have to leave the house for this, and it can be done at any time!
- If you have been collecting small change in those little plastic houses and haven’t brought it in for a while, that could be part of your contribution.
- If you are not in a position to gift now, but would like to leave a legacy in your will, that may be something you want to think about.
- If you ARE in a position where you feel able to make a gift now, please look out for details on the Gift Day nearer the time.
- If you are giving, please give in the most tax efficient way – by completing a Gift Aid declaration.

On behalf of the Elders, members, friends and wider community of Kingston United Reformed Church, thank you.

URC News Update

The URC publishes a monthly email news update. If you have an email address, you can subscribe to the news update via this link: <https://urc.org.uk/news-updates-sign-up-form/> Here are a couple of articles from the May edition!

Singers needed for URC's 50th anniversary choir



If you love singing, join the URC's 50th anniversary choir! We're looking for voices in a variety of styles, to reflect the diversity of the denomination, to sing at the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on October 1, at Methodist Central Hall Westminster. Members of the choir will receive the music in advance and have a rehearsal day in central London and then a final rehearsal on the day at the hall ahead of the service. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please register your interest online [here](#). For further information, please email the team [here](#).

URC achieves 100% Eco Synods

All 11 URC Synods in England and the National Synod of Wales have now signed up to become an 'Eco Synod'. The significant milestone was announced on World Earth Day, 22 April. Simeon Mitchell, URC Secretary for Church and Society said: "It's brilliant that all Synods are now engaging with the Eco Synod programme as a structure to take forward their environmental commitments." [Read more](#)

Birthday card competition



Children aged 12 and under are invited to enter URC Children's birthday card competition. Design a card, either digitally or on A4 paper, that a church or synod could send to a child aged one-to-12. Up to three entries per child can be made. Designs must be submitted by 10 June. Full details can be found [here](#).

GOING GREEN! SALLY'S JOURNEY CONTINUES!

In 2017 Sally decided she would try and lead a more ethical, eco-friendly, socially just life!! It has been a longer journey than expected and is not something that can be achieved overnight! Last month we published some of the things she has done and here Sally is sharing some more:

Signed up to Big Garden Birdwatch and Butterfly Count. This helps the experts with nature conservation.

Litter-picking locally, having taken part in The Great British Spring Clean!
www.keepbritaintidy.org

Reduced meat consumption (or you could go veggie or vegan!)

Used a water reducing shower-head, which reduces my water consumption by 30%. I also try shorter showers and have only occasional 'shallow baths'!

Used the dual flush option on the loo! You don't always need the full flush!!

Booked train ticket using 'Trainhugger' (they plant trees for every booking and are a B Corp company – good working practices and fair tax certified)

Used Ecosia instead of Google to search on the web. www.ecosia.org plant a tree for every search!

Switched to solid soap bars instead of shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, stain remover, washing up bar, cleaning products. 'Rush' make amazing shampoo and WiDEYE make nice beauty products. Lucy Bee coconut oil is great as a moisturiser and make up remover!!

Made homemade cleaning products.

Try to use my phone instead of printing out papers, e.g. I often have my talks on my phone.

Twinned my loo, fridge, bin and tap!

Bought soap shells and then a laundry egg for my laundry.

A long list but actually, there is so much more I could do!!

If I owned my home, I could insulate it better, buy a heat pump, have a compost heap, collect rainwater, buy a more energy efficient cooker and fridge.

If I was travelling by plane, I could pay to offset the carbon usage.

Try a Farmers Market and support 'local', organic food (New Malden and Surbiton have these once a month I think?)

Join in with No Mow May (or Let It Bloom June and Knee-High July!) if I had my own garden.

Sort out solar-powered heating (again if I owned my own home).

Buy a Fairfone.

And more! Perhaps YOU could share YOUR ideas in next month's magazine?

I would love KURC to consider working towards being an eco-church.

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

My advice to starters is... Don't let perfect become the enemy of good! Do what you can and go slow!

Sally Butler

Ed: And whilst we're on the subject of Going Green

Green Apostle News

Did you know that Southern Synod has two green apostles? They are called Nadene and David and, if you have online access, you can read more about their work here: <https://southernsynodurc.org.uk/climate-change/>

The Green Apostles recently sent out a newsletter – below are a couple of items from it. If you are want to know more, I can forward the newsletter on by email, or arrange for it to be printed out for you – email bronhr@gmail.com

God's gift of creation counts

Albert Einstein is reputed to have said, “Not all things worth counting are countable and not all things that count are worth counting”, which is all by way of introducing the theme of counting, which runs through this edition of our Synod's Green Apostle News.

We offer a pointer to three distinct ways, one in each of May, June and July/August, through which undertaking a count, you can help to make a difference to the well-being of nature. Not all things are worth counting, but by participating in one or more of the surveys, you will be demonstrating just how much God's gift of creation counts in our faith and lives.

Ways your church can get involved

WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join in with the The Big Plastic Count - <https://thebigplasticcount.com>

This date will have passed by the time Church News is published, but it is an initiative asking people to count the plastic they used and throw away for a week. One of the aims is to use the findings to help show the government that it's time to commit to reduce single use plastic use by 50% by 2025, by switching to reusable options that work for everyone – and ban sending our waste to other countries.

Join in with The Count on Nature - <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/love-your-burial-ground-week/>

Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th June 2022. People are invited to record wildlife within local churchyards and cemeteries. Notice and record everything you see from the smallest ladybird to the largest yew tree!

Join in with The Big Butterfly Count - <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org>

Friday 15th July to Sunday 7th August 2022. The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see.

May Bank Holiday Walk



The Bank Holiday walkers take a brief rest during their perambulation of Ashtead Common.

The Good Food Group and Community Cooking



Most of you will know by now about the Community Meals that we serve on a Monday in the foyer. Do come along if you are in Kingston on a Monday lunchtime between 12:30 and 13:30 – we provide a 2 course meal free of charge or on a “pay what you can” donation basis.

Through this initiative we have become part of the **Good Food Group**, which was set up by Kingston Voluntary association and the Voices of Hope charity. Ray Charlton, Carol Clack and Bron Robinson attend regular meetings, where we share updates on the food projects each group are running for and with the local community. We are also part of a ‘Rapid Response’ WhatsApp group where organisations and charities with excess food advertise what they have and others collect and use it. The menu of our Monday meals is often driven by food that we have been donated – it keeps us creative!

Members of the Good Food Group were invited to bid for funding from Kingston Voluntary Association (KVA) to run **Community Cooking Courses**, a bit like the ‘Cook and Eat’ classes that members of our church ran some years ago. We are pleased to say that KURC were successful in our bid and we will be starting our first 8-week course in October. The particular focus of our courses will be teaching adult participants how to produce simple, low-cost and healthy meals. The courses will be suitable for those with a diagnosis of diabetes or pre-diabetes and a dietician will be providing input into the recipes. Course attendees will be referred from e.g. doctors and social prescribers. Carol Clack, Ray Charlton or Bron Robinson can also refer people known to KURC, so if you, or someone you know, would be interested in attending, please do speak to one of us. The courses are free to the participants but they do need to commit to the full 8-weeks. Other charities who will be running Community Cooking courses are Kingston Carers, the Korean Culture & Arts Centre in New Malden, Balance (a charity supporting young people with additional needs) and Voices of Hope.

KVA’s aim is to offer a wide variety of cooking classes for different needs across the borough, rather than a ‘one size fits all’ course.

Please pray for all these initiatives.

Bron Robinson

The Good Food Co-Op

One of the projects we hear about at the Good Food Group meetings is the Good Food Co-Op. They provide weekly fruit and veg boxes at competitive market rates, where every full-priced box purchased helps a local family or individual in need to receive a box at a subsidised rate. Referrals to this scheme are steadily increasing as more people are struggling to make ends meet.

The Good Food Co-Op have produced a great video to explain the scheme (<https://voh.org.uk/tgfc.html>). If you'd like to sign up to buy a box, the link is here: <https://goodfoodcoop.org.uk/> or email info@goodfoodcoop.org.uk

BRITE BOX

Another fantastic local food project is BRITE (Building Resilience in Today's Environment) Box, a meal box distributed to families to help address the growing issue of food hunger. Families who are referred are in the project for a year and receive a weekly box with all the ingredients, a recipe guide with photos and instructions on how to cook a healthy meal together as a family. Through partnership with local authorities, local charities/schools, they are now reaching 430 families per week.

BRITE Box has been accepted to take part in the Champions for Children Big Give match funding campaign (14-21 June) when all donations can be doubled! They will be running several fundraising events and initiatives around the campaign week with different opportunities for people to get involved – including 'Come Dine with BRITE Box', an opportunity for people to order a BRITE Box to cook for their family or friends for a £20 donation (which will be doubled to £40), take part in a sponsored walk or cycle along the river from Walton Bridge in Elmbridge, via Kingston to Richmond Bridge, covering 3 of the 4 boroughs where they currently provide BRITE Box. They will also be running an online raffle and selling BRITE Box recipe booklets with favourite family recipes to try and BRITE Box wooden spoons! Look out for them at the Ham Fair on Saturday June 11 and the Surbiton Farmers' Market on Sat 18 June. They would also welcome any volunteers who would like to get involved with the projects.

More information and a link to a recent speech given by Sarah Clay, CEO of Voices of Hope, are on their [website](#). Or see the poster on the following page!



BRITE Box is a weekly meal recipe kit containing all the ingredients and a recipe guide to prepare and eat a healthy meal together. Addressing the growing issue of food insecurity in children through fun, family activity, BRITE Box brings families together around food, providing children with key cooking skills and the confidence to use them, helping to build resilience for the future.



You can help us grow BRITE Box by donating to our campaign!

BRITE Box is part of the Childhood Trust's Champions for Children campaign 14th to 21st June 2022. During this week, any money that you donate to us will be **DOUBLED!** So your contribution can go twice as far in helping children facing food insecurity across Elbridge, Kingston, Richmond and Southwark.

To make a donation and find out more about the project, please visit our donation page at <https://tinyurl.com/93nz5d9a> or the QR code here



Thank You for supporting BRITE Box!

Making our churches more inclusive – training opportunity

We have received the following from Andrew Twilley, Training and Development Officer for Southern Synod. If you would like to attend, please do book a place. Funding would be available for those for whom that would be useful, please speak to Lesley if you are interested.

'I am sure that you, like me, want to be building churches which are truly inclusive. Over recent weeks I have become aware that there is potentially a people group for whom we have made very little provision to ensure this is the case, namely adults with learning difficulties.

In the light of this I have set up a training day on June 22nd at Caterham URC, and the main content will be provided by experts in the field who are part of "Count everyone in".'



Know and Grow 1

Equipping churches in
key word signing to be welcoming
and accessible to adults with learning disabilities
so that they can know Jesus and grow in their faith

Wednesday 22nd June 2022

9:45am registration, 10:00am – 4:30pm (bring your own lunch)

Caterham URC, 1 Harestone Hill, Caterham, CR3 6SX

**Advance booking essential as places are limited
- £25 per person**

Contact Rev Andy Twilley: training@urcsouthern.org.uk 07552 751 600
or Christine: info@counteveryonein.org.uk 07751 431277

Workshop includes:

- ▶ Introduction to learning disability
- ▶ A challenge and an opportunity
- ▶ What does accessibility mean for our churches?

Registered charity No. 1181852

Unusual Churches of the World – Horton Chapel, Epsom

What makes Horton Chapel unusual is not its appearance, but its history.

Built around the turn of the last century to serve Horton hospital – part of what became the largest mental hospital cluster in Europe - the Chapel found a new role in the mid-20th century as Britain's first music therapy centre.

The theory that music could be used as a form of treatment for mental illness was first put into practice at Horton in 1955. The experiment began with nine musically trained patients, an ancient piano and a gramophone. By the following year thirty patients, not all musically trained, were taking part and a superb Steinway grand piano was acquired. Concerts began, a women's choir was formed and soon experimental groups started with patients to whom rhythm might appeal at a more primitive level. Talent wasn't essential - the criteria for inclusion was that no other form of treatment had been able to hold the patient's interest. The success of the venture was measured by the volume of sound (or by the volume of complaints from neighbouring offices!), with normally silent, apathetic and asocial patients showing signs of animation, using music as a means of communication instead of words.

Following closure of the hospital in the 1990s, the Chapel fell into a semi-derelict state and faced an uncertain future. In 2016 a charity was formed to convert it into an arts and community centre, and it formally opened to the public in April 2022. I visited on day two and enjoyed lunch in the café, followed by a browse round the fascinating permanent exhibition on the hospital's history. While little of the original furniture remains, I was pleased to find the organ pipes (thought to have come from Winchester College) framing the box office. For details of opening hours and upcoming events, please see the website. <https://thehortonepsom.org/> The website also has further information on the history of the hospital and the renovation project, but I'd highly recommend visiting in person.

Ruth Anderson



Horton Chapel exterior



Organ pipes

Another unusual church

Over Easter we stayed at Ringsfield Hall, just outside in Suffolk. We hired it as a large group of friends, but usually it runs residential courses and is used by school groups, etc. The Ringsfield Hall Trust is a Christian charity which, according to its website, “exists to allow children and young people the freedom to explore, play and develop within the natural world, escaping the modern trappings of technology and social media to enter a space of imagination and adventure”.

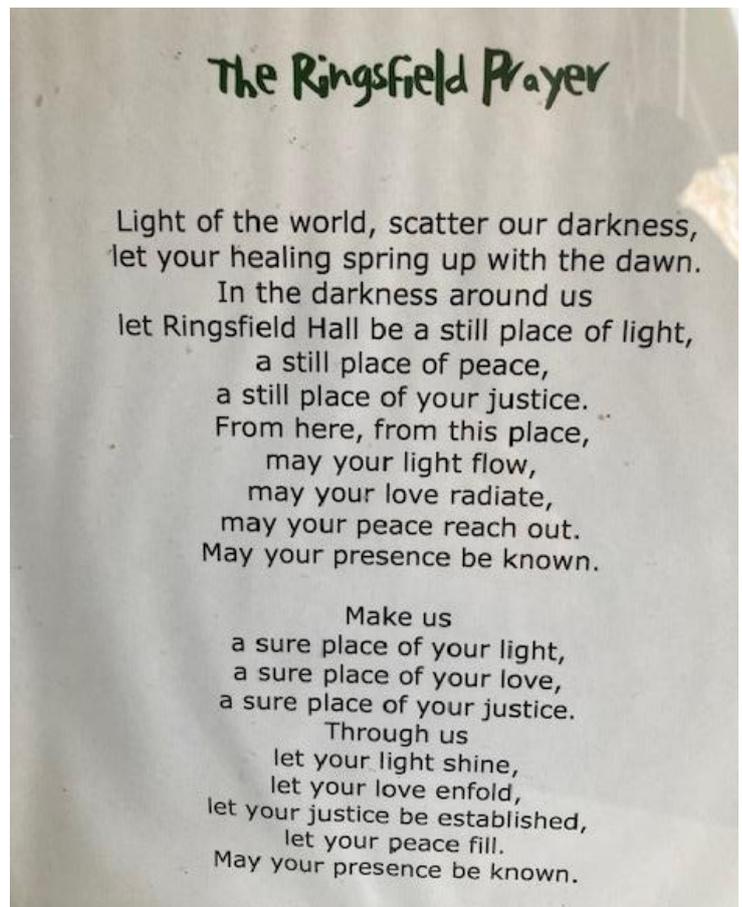
We certainly enjoyed exploring the extensive grounds and connecting with nature. However, we didn't quite escape the trappings of technology, as I joined Easter Day worship on Zoom from the little chapel in the grounds. For the very early morning worship I sat in the chapel itself, but by mid-morning the weather was so beautiful that I joined from the chapel garden. A lovely peaceful spot, and I was thankful for the technology and technicians that enabled me to do this!



Chapel interior



Chapel garden



Bron Robinson

Archive of the Month



This month's photo shows a church summer garden party in 1912. The venue is believed to be the home of the Glover family in The Avenue, Surbiton. The young man in a white shirt, fourth from the right, is Cyril Glover who four years later was killed in the Battle of the Somme.

John Fisher

**Going to a garden party or street party in June? ...
Remember to take photos for the archivists of the future!**



I wonder how many of you are going to garden or street parties in June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee?

Spare a thought for the John Fishers of the future, who, in 110 years' time, will be looking for an archive photo for KURC Church News June 2132. So take a photo and store it somewhere safe!

Meantime – enjoy the celebrations and the long bank holiday weekend!

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

More food for thought on dates

Nick said the other day: “Remember 1970?” I said, “of course!”. 1970 was 52 years ago. Then he pointed out that 52 years **BACK** from 1970 was 1918...

Bron

Garden Open Days at Hampton Court Gardens



(As recommended by Teresa and Vaughan James and John Fisher!)
You can visit Hampton Court Gardens free of charge on the following dates.
4-10 July, 10-11 September, 19-20 November.
Pre-booking not required!

Do you have good design / presentation skills?

Are you a whiz at Powerpoint, Word, or design packages? If so, we could do with your help!

We occasionally need to design eye-catching posters and flyers to advertise our activities. Maybe you're at school or college, in which case you're definitely going to be more up to date with technology than the majority of us! If you can help, please speak to Sally or Bron.

On being Weird

Some will whisper behind your back and others mock,
They judge and say the hurtful things cause who I am,
And if many narrow minds will be closed, their loss,
They stare while I have fun and dance, doing what I can.

If the social rules will insist on people fitting in
When your heart is racing around to be free,
And say “be quiet and don’t rock the boat”.

Well, I tried for years, but it really was not me.

To be weird is to be shining with a new light
That means the world will try to shut you up,
But to be weird is to be free and live your life
Not quietly but full of passion, and, yes, it sucks
When no one else is free for fun or adventure
And you long so much to be around more noise.

But you’re living in a quiet, middle-class suburb,
Even then you aren’t trapped if you raise your voice.

So, raise your voice, don’t act your age, have fun,
If fitting in means you are sacrificing your heart,

Dance by yourself or with a friend, travel, sing,
And if they judge, move past, lost is what they are.

And when the world mocks, make sure you laugh too,
It will drown out the meanness and nasty names.

Stand up, speak up and please rock the boat,
Be childish, be fun, be you because there is no shame.

Beth Birley

Celebrity Chef

Inspired by John 21 v 12 - 14

“Come and have breakfast,” the man said pointing to a line of fat fish cooking on a bed of hot coals. We stared, open mouthed. There were also large rounds of flat bread, browned and puffed up.

We were all hungry and weary after spending all night out on the Sea of Galilee searching in vain for a catch.

“Come, there’s plenty! “ There was too and it tasted delicious. Food cooked out of doors always seems to taste better but this was just sublime.

We sat in silence munching the delicate white fish, licking our oily fingers and mopping up the juices with the chewy warm bread.

He was hungry too. He ate two whole fish and four rounds of bread. The juices ran down his chin. He smacked his lips together and ran his tongue round his teeth.

“Very tasty, though I say it myself,” he laughed. “Cooked to perfection. ”

We laughed too.

“How long have you been out on the lake? How’s trade? How are your families?” he asked us. He used our names and those of our loved ones but we didn’t dare say his name.

We knew Jesus was back amongst us just like the old days but now he was different. Not in the way he talked and joked. But he looked healthier and happier than ever. His cheeks shone, his eyes sparkled. He radiated joy and peace.

“That breakfast was heaven, “he continued.

No-one spoke. We didn’t know what to say. Had we just enjoyed a taste of heaven, here on earth?

Sue Shaw

Photos from some recent children and young people’s groups



Enjoying a new toy (thank you Jenny!)



Story time



You can't beat play dough



“This is the way we clean our teeth” (Jolly Toddlers had a visit from an oral health community worker).



George helping to clear away (and testing out the toys!)



Watching a video on sharing at Tots' Praise



Sunday morning



Messy Church Bible story



Messy Church in the sun

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

International Bible Reading Association - www.ibraglobal.org



Bible Readings for June 2022

2 Tears

Wednesday 1 June	Psalm 80:1-7
Thursday 2 June	Isaiah 42:14-17
Friday 3 June	Isaiah 49:13-18
Saturday 4 June	Psalm 145:8-21

BEING CHURCH

1 On the way

Sunday 5 June (Pentecost)	Acts 2:1-13
Monday 6 June	Acts 1:12-24
Tuesday 7 June	Acts 2:29-42
Wednesday 8 June	Acts 6:1-7
Thursday 9 June	Acts 11:1-18
Friday 10 June	Acts 11:19-26
Saturday 11 June	Acts 28:23-30

2 The Church and the churches

Sunday 12 June	Romans 16:1-16
Monday 13 June	2 Corinthians 8:16-24
Tuesday 14 June	Galatians 3:23-29
Wednesday 15 June	Ephesians 3:1-13
Thursday 16 June	Philippians 2:19-30
Friday 17 June	Colossians 4:10-18
Saturday 18 June	1 Thessalonians 3:1-10

READINGS IN EZEKIEL

1 Vision of glory

Sunday 19 June	Ezekiel 1:1-14
Monday 20 June	Ezekiel 1:15-28
Tuesday 21 June	Ezekiel 2:1-3:3
Wednesday 22 June	Ezekiel 3:12-27
Thursday 23 June	Ezekiel 4:1-17
Friday 24 June	Ezekiel 10:1-8, 15-22
Saturday 25 June	Ezekiel 11:14-25

2 Restored to life

Sunday 26 June	Ezekiel 18:1-17
Monday 27 June	Ezekiel 28:1-19
Tuesday 28 June	Ezekiel 31:1-14
Wednesday 29 June	Ezekiel 34:1-16
Thursday 30 June	Ezekiel 37:1-14

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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Georgi Todorov Landline as above.

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, 10th June 2022

Editor: Vaughan James E-mail: vaughanrjames@gmail.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 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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