



CHURCH NEWS

February 2023

Kingston United Reformed Church
www.kingstonurc.org



Ham Common at dawn in early winter
(with thanks to Rebecca Fletcher)

“If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”
(Shelley – Ode to the West Wind)

Worship and events diary: February 2023

The following is the anticipated diary for February 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.

Wednesday 1st	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 5th	10.00	Worship & Communion – also live-streamed
	11.30	All Age Worship
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 8th	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 12th	10.30	Combined Worship - also live-streamed
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 15th	10.00	Tots' Praise
Sunday 19th	10.30	Worship - also live-streamed
	11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 22nd	10.00	Tots' Praise
Friday 24th	06.00	24 hours of prayer (online) until 06.00 Saturday
Sunday 26th	10.30	Worship - also live-streamed
	11.30	All Age Worship
	14.00	Messy Church
	17.00	Reflective Service

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

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

And in the meantime.....



Saturday January 28th at 5pm:

KURC's New Year's Party. There will be games and karaoke. Please bring food to share. Posters will be up around the building to remind you. Everyone is welcome!

Letter from Lesley

Dear All,



The journey into holiness is a slow journey. Much of the time it looks as though nothing is happening. Often challenges repeat themselves. Or take a new form and then reappear.

For many people the grand gesture would be easier but that is not how real change happens. A life shaped by the power of the Spirit and desiring to be like Jesus means hundreds of micro choices every day. Brick by brick by brick a good life is built. Often no one notices what is happening. No one apart from God applauds. We make our small choices and try to aim in the right direction and keep on going.

What is the point then of New Year's resolutions? There is something good in taking time to review the direction of travel of one's life. Not 'have I arrived?' But 'am I heading in the right direction?' It is though a questionable idea that purely by force of will we can change ourselves overnight. Much better are small changes building on what we already do. These will be habit forming and slowly make a difference. Why does a Christian have to consider what they weigh? Or how they spend their time and money? Simple - all of life matters to God. Jesus became a human being, took flesh. Flesh, our flesh matters. The money we have and the time are gifts from God and we have to use them wisely.

Need to increase your water? Replace one cup of tea or coffee with water. You could try hot water.

Need to eat more healthily? You could try packing meals with additional vegetables. Or having a meat free day. Or only eating sugar one day a week. Or crisps if they are your weakness.

Need to be more organised in your spending? Then start a list to see what you buy.

Need to exercise more? Increase just a little what you already do. If now you do nothing, then 10 minutes a day is a start. Get a pedometer on your phone. There are walking videos on YouTube. Dance to your favourite songs.

Need to free up more time? Step away from our screens whether pc, iPad, phone or TV. Even if only one evening a week.

Need to pray and read your bible. What do you do now? Just increase it a little. What about a 5 minute silence. Or deliberately praying when you prepare your dinner or wash your hands. Or listening to a meditation.

Massive changes are setting ourselves up for failure and slipping back to a worse place than when we started.

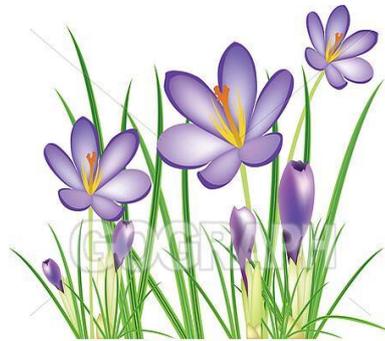
Each brick is small but together, and the wall is built - and it could be something inspiring a beautiful.

Our bodies are what we use to serve the Lord. It is our responsibility to look after ourselves as well as we can. That is easily said and hard to do. Small changes rather than big gestures may help us to cherish ourselves and live a fuller life for God's mission

Yours,
Lesley

Flower rota for February

Sunday 5 February	Will Bryan
Sunday 12 February	Vacant
Sunday 19 February	Vacant
Sunday 26 February	Jean Thompson



Reminder: Copy for the next edition of Church News should reach Jean Thompson by Friday 10 February.

Confirmation classes

KURC is beginning a series of confirmation classes.

Are you ready for this? To declare your faith for yourself?

Classes are at 4.00pm in the URC building on:

- January 15th, 22nd, 29th
- February 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
- March 5th.

The actual confirmation is at 15.00 on 12th March.

Please join in. More information if you need it from Lesley or So Young.

Memo from Martyn



Over the Christmas period, like many I expect, I've been doing some reading. Charles Dickens "The Christmas Books" was one book I read. This included Scrooge with its famous line "God bless us, Every One", but also stories I'd never come across before "The Chimes" and "The Cricket on the Hearth" both good short stories with a nice feel-good ending.

Another book that I've slowly been working through is "Inspiring Leadership – Staying afloat in turbulent times" (not perhaps top of many Christmas reading lists!) It is the findings from research carried out among the captains and crew members of the 2001 BT Global Challenge round the World Yacht race. The research was carried out from 1999 to 2001 so is a bit dated now, but I'm finding it very interesting.

It looked at the successful boats and specifically the attributes and behaviours of their skippers; what was it that made them successful.

Alongside the focus on success there was one section that struck me particularly as being relevant to us as a church. One of the skippers, though his boat was not one of top few, was noted for the "cohesive, happy, loyal and supportive team" he had built. The skipper was interviewed further and said that his goal was to "build a team that would learn and invest in the university of life." He wanted them to learn from the race and gain things they could take back in to the rest of their lives.

It struck me that this was probably similar to what Jesus was doing with the disciples and is trying to do with us. Preparing us, not for a single specific event, but equipping us to work together to serve, whatever might come our way.

Martyn



**Happy
(significant)
Birthday,
Catherine**

Pastoral news

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

For the dawning of the New Year

Thank You

For new opportunities, possibilities to be explored

Thank You

For fresh insights and different perspectives

Thank You

For deep breaths and steps in the right direction

Thank You

And for the frustrations and anxieties,

*the issues which weigh heavy and persistent
on heart and mind*

Thank You that we do not face them alone.

BIG thanks to Holly, Julian, Carol, David and Sally plus a host of others who organised the **Christmas day lunch**. (See pages 10 and 11)

In your thinking about Christmas day 2023, could you bear in mind we will need someone different to organise it this year. Could it be you?

Offers to Lesley please.

Thanks

Sally's slot

First, a word about the Eco Church Award. Having completed the survey, the Green Group made the happy discovery that Kingston URC have achieved the Bronze Award! In one category, we even made it to silver. The Green Group consist of myself, Christine Thompson, Rhiannon Bone and Diane Slater. A summary report was given to the Premises Group and the Elders. As we celebrate, we must not be complacent. There are still LOTS of action points that we would need to complete to improve our score and certainly, if we wish to go for silver!

The Green Group need to add in some supplementary comments and then submit the survey.

We are keen to start implementing more initiatives and this will mean a series of projects for the whole church, children included. Two examples on which we are keen at the moment are greening the outside of the church with window boxes on the balconies and hosting a clothes swap event.

We would also like to lead a service on the theme of God's love for His planet and ask a speaker from A Rocha to attend.

But for now, we are happy with our progress.

Secondly, an update regarding our youth and children's work...

Christmas with the children... we deliberately focussed on Advent with the families this year and then the 12 days of Christmas, followed by Epiphany. This was well received as most of the families have a lot of Christmas celebrations and Santa already. A quite time of waiting, with an ever-decreasing Advent candle was appreciated. The children still had presents which were opened on Boxing Day or during the 12-day period. You may have noticed some beautiful window displays. Adults, young children and teenagers contributed. These were changed or added to each day and we will be using them again. Each day a photo and a message was sent to all our families (Sunday morning and midweek families). The designs are featured elsewhere in this edition. One parent wrote to me on the 12th day saying, "Absolutely beautiful. We have really enjoyed looking at these. It's actually helped with the boys understanding of Christmas." That made my heart sing!

The Gift Service was lovely. A big thank you to all who helped, especially the Grillo family. Stefan made a fantastic baby Jesus!

The New Year started with a bang! We were asked by parents and carers if we could have a Tots' Praise session as early as the 4th Jan. It

was the 11th day of Christmas so we had mince pies, Christmas chocs, a game of Pass the Parcel and some Christmas music!! This was our Christmas Party and 38 guests attended: 16 adults and 22 children.

Our December Crafternoon, was also very well attended by families and adults as they decorated Christmas candles, organised by Carol Clack. Janine Goddard was also there to help them make table decorations with greenery and Christmas fruits and spices. Again, nearly 40 people attended.

I would like to finish with a plea. Now that numbers are increasing and volunteers are retiring, we really need extra help. At the last Crafternoon, I spent most of the afternoon making and serving refreshments when I really should be out there chatting to families. Can you help make teas and then wash up or can you come and help clear up afterwards? We need people to help at Crafternoons once a month and at Jolly Toddlers and Tots' Praise every week, although that could be on a rota basis.

Sally Butler

Children, Youth & Families Worker

Archive of the month

Church News recently heard from Michael Dunsford who was assistant minister at KURC from 1962 to 1966, having come to us straight from college. He wrote in appreciation of the copy of *Church News* that he receives monthly, adding that it reminded him of “a very happy time long ago when I was with you as one of your ministers”. One of the activities which he is remembered is to have married Tony and Steve Wenman. His subsequent pastorates were in Southampton, Stockton and Felixstowe. In the 1980s he was Secretary of the URC's Church Life and Ministries Departments. He now lives in Norfolk, having settled back at the family cottage at 9, Burnt Street, Wells-next-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1HS, where, as he writes, “there is always a warm welcome”.

Our photo from the archives shows Michael getting plenty of attention from the young ladies of the church at his farewell party in August 1966.



Fairtrade churches

'What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God' Micah 6:8.



Small farmers especially in developing countries suffer from low prices for their products and frequent price swings. This makes it very difficult to plan, support their families and pay the children's school fees. Trade can be a way out of poverty but unfair trade can keep people trapped in poverty.

Fairtrade was set up to combat this. Fairtrade pays a constant price for several years (usually above the world market price) so that it is easier for farmers to plan. They also pay a social premium that the community decides how to spend -eg on better equipment, a clinic, a school, increasing sustainability.

In Britain the Fairtrade Movement is represented by the Fairtrade Foundation. The British churches were in the forefront of the move to establish the Fairtrade Foundation in the 1990s. Many of them signed up to become Fairtrade Churches which is a solemn commitment to (as a minimum) only use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar in the church. To find out more about Fairtrade visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk> and to learn about the benefits of buying products with the Fairtrade mark visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/>

KURC is a Fairtrade Church which means we have made this binding commitment.

As a Fairtrade church we commit to:

1. Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight and integrate Fairtrade into the life of your place of worship through other faith-based holidays, sermons and services.
2. Engage with other Fairtrade campaigns and connect with community groups, such as schools and towns, where possible.
3. Use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and to share this information with congregants.

We therefore should not be serving non-Fairtrade coffee and tea. If someone offers it explain what we believe in and politely refuse it. If in an emergency you have had to buy some non Fairtrade product as soon as the Fairtrade product is available remove the other one.

This is a small act of support for the majority world.

Christine Thompson

Christmas Day at KURC

Christmas Day came with joyful gusto! In the morning, we had a nice service and children lit all five Nativity candles. The small orchestra of our Korean friends played beautifully, and the members of the congregation showed off their colourful jumpers! During the prayer session, Lesley asked people to say the words “Peace, Justice and Hunger” in their various languages. And that is what she asked all the congregation to pray for: that there will be no hunger in this world, that justice will prevail permanently; and that we will have peace on Earth.

After the service, people went to the foyer for refreshments, with plenty of mince pies! It was so nice to see children running around and showing each other their presents! There were a few games to play and some quizzes to solve. In the meantime our volunteers in the kitchen worked very hard, preparing Christmas lunch for all who felt lonely or simply wanted to celebrate and have a joyful time together. Our volunteers brought nicely made canapés with salmon and cream cheese for everyone

Lunch was served, and people were invited into the Mayo Hall where the tables were laid with crackers and fancy napkins. We had nice traditional turkey with vegetables and all the trimmings, while vegetarians had plenty of their food “without turkey”. We finished with Christmas pudding and humongous pieces of brightly decorated cake! There were so many tangerines and sweets to take home for everyone who wanted them.

A lonely lady who sat next to us at the dining table said that she has asked many churches in Kingston whether they would be serving Christmas lunch, but no one was doing so, which made her very grateful to be able to come to KURC.

We were so grateful to the group of volunteers who served us during this day and to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this celebration happen.

Natasha Reid





Festive fun à la KURC



A reminder that the 2023 **elders elections** process is now underway and that completed nomination forms are due by 29 January. Further details and the necessary blank forms are available at the back of the church.

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

Surbiton Community Fridge

“Our mission is to end food waste”



The Surbiton Community Fridge is a non-profit charity project that redistributes surplus good food, free of charge, to the general community. It aims to reduce local food waste, relieve pressures on household food budgets, and raise public awareness around food waste. All are invited to

come and collect food that would otherwise be dumped. Visitors are asked to bring a reusable carrier bag and will be helped with selecting items

The Community Fridge is located at 115 Brighton Road, Surbiton, KT6 5PR, at The Museum of Today, and is open Sunday to Friday from 10.00 to 14.00.

Surbiton Community Fridge is a project run by the Migrant Advocacy Service, Angels of the Hood, New Era, and The Community Brain, supported by the Co-op Food Share initiative. See

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/surbitoncommunityfridge/permalink/901375344407999/>

for further details.

KURC is in contact with the Community Fridge in support of the church's community lunches programme.

URC jubilee jigsaw



A limited edition 500-piece jigsaw of the blue multi-coloured fish design for the URC's 50th anniversary. Made by All Jigsaw Puzzles in Devon for the URC using 100% recycled board with no plastic inner bag. Each box has an explanation about the URC on the bottom of the box. £12.99 +p&p

Thoughts from East Anglia

In these ever changing times, St Neots has managed to retain the atmosphere and status of a classic English market town centred on a handsome market square with a slightly European feel to it - European that is apart from the fact that on the continent, no self-respecting town square of such size and prominence would tolerate the high ratio of estate agents' offices to cafés, bars and other assorted more beneficial institutions.

The busy town centre offers the usual collection of supermarkets, banks (for now) and assorted emporia common to all high streets but the narrow alleys that run off the market square harbour the kind of interesting establishments that can pose a serious threat to passing wallets (e.g. a genuine Italian deli and a specialty beer shop).

Life seems to be lived at a slower pace than in London. People stop to chat, nobody seems in a rush to get anywhere yet things still happen and the bustling city of Cambridge is only a forty minute bus ride away provided that you catch the right bus. Catch the wrong bus and you will reach Cambridge only after a protracted tour through rural East Anglia, which is not a part of the world renowned for scenic splendour.

Our new house is about fifteen minutes walk from the High Street and very close to the vast open greenery of Priory Park, a space large enough to offer a sure fire means of exhausting hyperactive grandchildren or at least tiring them into a state of relative civilisation. In fact, the amount of public space in the town is of Spanish proportions (and anyone who has been to Spain will recognise that as praise indeed). Even the banks of the Great Ouse have been left relatively free of "development" tasteful or otherwise although this apparently enlightened policy may owe more to the Great Ouse's tendency to flood than to aesthetic sensitivity or a desire to be at one with nature.

We shall provide our friends in Kingston with our new contact details as soon as British Telecom has managed to solve the mysteries of a contraption called the telephone. As yet, we do not have an operating landline but "Hope springs eternal" as Alexander Pope ("Wee Pope the knurlin" as Burns called him) said. Mind you, even eternity may be too short for the wondrously convoluted workings of BT.

Georgina and I send our warmest good wishes to all at Kingston URC.
May God bless you all!

Finlay Forbes

The twelve days of Christmas

The adjacent CHRISTMAS IS HERE poster was on display in the front window of the church the run-up to Christmas and helped inspire KURC families to create additional posters for each of the subsequent 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. There was an enthusiastic response to the idea, and a new poster went up in the window on each of the twelve days.





... and finally



Epiphany,
and
The Three Kings

With thanks to all the participating artists:

- Day 1: *A partridge in a pear tree* Christmas Day 25th Dec: Christina Reeves and Bella
- Day 2: *Two turtle doves* Boxing Day 26th Dec: Sarah Teague and children
- Day 3: *Three French Hens* 27th Dec: Christina Reeves, and Sophie
- Day 4: *Four calling birds* 28th Dec: Marzena Krenska and Holly
- Day 5: *Five gold rings* 29th Dec: Carol Clack
- Day 6: *Six geese a laying*: 30th Dec. Rae Rae
- Day 7: *Seven swans a swimming* New Year's Eve 31st Dec: Sophie Parry and Matilda/Jessica
- Day 8: *Eight maids a milking* New Year's Day 01 Jan: Qi Nuo
- Day 9: *Nine ladies dancing* 02 Jan: Dahee
- Day 10: *Ten lords a leaping* 03 Jan: Clee Lumley and Ledua
- Day 11: *Eleven pipers piping* 04 Jan: Pau Han Chen
- Day 12: *Twelve drummers drumming* Twelfth Night 05 Jan: Hannah Charlton & Jack
- Epiphany! 06 Jan. Joanita Mirembe and Craig/Clara Kasakula

Ray Charlton's visit to Sri Lanka – the first few days.....



On Friday 6 January Ray flew to Sri Lanka as a volunteer for the charity Child Action Lanka which works with street children. Here are some first impressions in the form of brief diary excerpts, accompanied by a few photographs.

Saturday 7 January

Eventually we all arrived at our first hotel in Colombo. Sri Lanka are playing India at cricket at the moment so there's a good atmosphere.



Monday 9 January

Afternoon spent at a shelter, run for at risk children and attached to a safe refuge. Violence within some families, living in one room, is not uncommon so great that these sanctuaries are available. Please pray for CAL (Child Action Lanka) and the work they do.

Tuesday 10 January

Working with children today. Lovely kids – keen to learn. Evening by Kandy Lake.

Wednesday 11 January

Morning making playdough with 20+ preschool children. After work, stroll around Lake Kandy.





Thursday 12 January
Flying fish with the little ones in the morning and power cuts in the afternoon.
Evening at the Temple of Buddha's Tooth in Kandy. Last night here before
moving on

New Year's walk



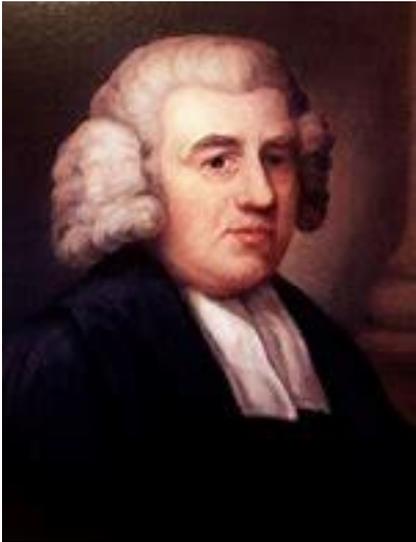
KURC's Bank Holiday Strollers and friends welcome in the New Year
with an invigorating saunter round Home Park on 2 January

Lent is nearby

What about carving out a limited amount of time to focus on the things
of God?

We will be running some groups, but you could do something by
yourself...a book, read something of the bible, fast, try a different method
of prayer.....

Amazing Grace



January 1 2023 marked the 250th anniversary of one of our best loved hymns – Amazing Grace. The words were written by John Newton (1725-1807) – a hymn writer with a highly unusual background. Having been abused during childhood and press-ganged into the navy, he later got involved in the slave trade, and was even enslaved himself in Africa. He nearly lost his life in an Atlantic storm and soon afterwards underwent a religious conversion. Newton later became a significant figure in the anti-slavery movement. He became curate of Olney in

Buckinghamshire where he developed a close friendship with the poet William Cowper who lived nearby. It was then that he began to write hymns to accompany his sermons.

On New Year's Day 1773 he preached on 1 Chronicles 17 v16-17 and composed Amazing Grace for the congregation to sing. It was sub-titled 'Faith's Review and Expectation.' The words really need to be read in the context of the whole of 1 Chronicles chapter 17. Newton's experience of the 'grace that had brought him thus far' and would 'continue to lead him home' was very real. We don't know what music it was set to - or indeed if a tune was involved at all. The hymn was published six years later in 'Olney Hymns' and although largely ignored in England, it achieved some notice in America. Here, its popularity took off when it became a favourite of Baptist and Methodist preachers in the American South during the pre-Civil War era.

In 1835 the American composer William Walker set Amazing Grace to the tune so familiar today, which almost certainly derives from an old Scottish folk melody. According to one commentator, words and music are 'a marriage made in heaven'. Amazing Grace is now arguably the most famous of all folk hymns and an emblematic black spiritual. The hymn has migrated into the world of secular music and it has been calculated that over one thousand recordings have been made in the last century.

John Fisher

Crafternoons 2023

An opportunity to try out some new skills in the company of those old and young. Come for the craft, the company and the tea, coffee and cake

January 21 st	Let's print
February 25 th	Paper folding
March 18 th	A 'lush' afternoon
April 15 th	Glass/ceramic painting
May 20 th	Pressed flower art
June 17 th	Winter watercolours!
July 15 th	Stencilling fun
August 19 th	Sun, sea and sand
September 20 th	MacMillan tea and cake
October 21 st	Wood Art
November 18 th	A Recycled Christmas
December 16 th	Summer is a coming!!!

Saturdays 2-5pm

Kingston United Reformed Church

£3 per family

Tackling climate change locally

Did you go along to the Greenzone event in Kingston Market Place on 25 September? Local environmental groups, green businesses and the council's Climate Action team set out their stalls to promote their messages about climate change and suggest practical things we could all do to help reduce the adverse effects.

But what else is going on in Kingston? Christine Thompson, discussed this with campaigner and local activist Marilyn Mason, currently chair of Transition Town Kingston, coordinator of Canbury Community Garden and editor of Kingston Environment News.

Green Activity Locally

In the voluntary sector there is a wide range of environmental groups and initiatives, many of which could benefit from u3a members' experience and skills: community gardening; harvesting and conservation projects; campaigning and pressure groups; practical recycling; and repair workshops. One group is working towards establishing a Library of Things (<https://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/>) in Kingston, where you will be able to rent things like DIY and gardening equipment at an affordable rate and learn or share your DIY and repair skills. Another group is planning a local climate emergency centre, the Kingston Hive (<https://www.kingstonhive.org.uk/>), where anyone could go to learn more about the climate crisis, find worthwhile things to do and meet like-minded people.

'Doing your Bit'

If you want to do something practical or share your expertise to help our area become greener and more sustainable, Kingston Environment Forum website (<https://e-voice.org.uk/kef>) has a comprehensive list of local green groups you could contact. You can also subscribe to the monthly electronic newsletter, Kingston Environment News at <https://tinyurl.com/yyyglx4t>

What is Kingston Council doing?

Kingston Council declared a climate emergency a few years ago and now has a small team of climate action officers actively engaging with the local community. Full details of its very extensive plans are at <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-emergency-citizens-assembly> 4 examples of what the council is doing are:

- supported three rounds of the Solar Together programme, linking residents with providers of solar panels and battery storage

- opened a new cycle hub next to Kingston train station with space for almost 400 bikes and a new cycle and pedestrian bridge linking the station, and river and adjoining cycle routes
- funded a programme to move Kingston's streetlights to be LED by 2023. This will reduce the amount of energy used for street lighting around 50 per cent.
- held five round-table discussions to encourage the greening of businesses.

And on a Wider Scale ...

Sadly the UN conference on climate change, COP27, which took place in Egypt in November 2022 achieved less than had been hoped. Its key focus areas are the promise of innovation and clean technologies; the centrality of water and agriculture to climate change; the role of science; biodiversity loss; energy transition; decarbonisation efforts; and finance. See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference for more information and any of the environmental or international development charities for what civil society wants.

This is not something we can ignore thinking we will be dead before the worst happens. It is happening now and its effect on your grandchildren will be immense.

Christine Thompson

A message from Ray Charlton

At the time of writing I know that we have made £1,489 via the Alternative Christmas Card for Christian Aid. I hope we can top the £1,500 with a late donation. - This is fantastic given the short notice we all had!



Many thanks for your continued support to the work Christian Aid does with its local partners. 😊

Start thinking about May and Christian Aid week – dancing and collecting for all.

Happy New Year

Ray

A quick guide to email scams and spoofing

For as long as there have been electronic communications, or any communications for that matter, there have been people attempting to intercept or impersonate the sender and the message. Back in the Roman Empire that involved faking seals on the backs of letters. In the modern day, it's all about spoofing the "From" address in an email.



You may have recently received an email stating it was sent by Lesley, our Minister, but the content may have seemed unexpected in some way or even asking for personal information that she would already know. It seemed in some way odd – yet it clearly stated 'Lesley Charlton' as the sender.

This is unfortunately a not uncommon practice, used by scammers and fraudsters to illicit often personal information from unsuspecting people, by pretending to be sent by reliable/trustworthy people that you know or by a bank or other institution. It's a practice known as 'email spoofing'.

So, what to do if you suspect that email you've received is a scam/spoof?

First – contact the sender of the email using another method (e.g. phone call). Ignore whatever the email suggests or instructs, until you know it is genuine. If it isn't, delete it.

Any sent email has two pieces of information – *the name of the sender and their email address*. The key is to check the email address of the sender.

So, look at the *top* of the email in question. You'll usually see the name of sender e.g. 'Lesley Charlton' and their (correct) email address – i.e. minster@kingstonurc.org.

If the email is a spoof the name may well be 'Lesley Charlton', but the email address could be a different, often nonsensical, email address. Perhaps a series of random letters or numbers i.e. minister@4h68f3rh34.com or it could be a spoof 'Gmail' address.

If the email doesn't seem genuine for any reason, check the email address as it could be a scam or spoofing attack. It is always worth double-checking with the sender.

If you are concerned, please do talk to someone that you trust, ideally the alleged sender – as you know, we are a loving community at KURC and here to help each other - you are *never* alone with such things. If you have any concerns, please do reach out and together we can avoid any unfortunate scams.

Stu Chandler

News from Valerie Parkinson

KURC received the letter below from Valerie in December, but too late to be included in CN's December edition

Greetings from Surrey

Please forgive the written nature of this message but my hands are not co-operating very well with writing these days.

I hope this message finds you well. I have settled in well at Knowle Park and have now been here a year – time flies! It is a large extended house in beautiful gardens and grounds which overlook the Surrey Hills. We have regular visits from wildlife including pheasants, partridges and rabbits plus a local rookery.

The food is good and the staff are lovely, especially the Activities Team who arrange all sorts of activities each day, including people coming to do music and singing, dancing and art, a recent addition. One of the team even brings in her guinea pigs to visit.

I hope that you enjoy the forthcoming festive season. I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

With best wishes,

Valerie Parkinson

Knowle Park Nursing Home
Knowle Lane
Cranleigh
GU6 9JL

Tel: 01483 279 637

24 hours of prayer

We will wait upon the Lord together.

Starting at 6 am on Friday 24th till 6 am on 25th.February.

Could you lead a part of this? Would you be interested in working with someone else?

Offers to Lesley or Maddie.

Thanks

Will power

There is no shortage of good advice on the internet and elsewhere about why you should both make a will and ensure that you keep it up-to-date. Should you die without a will, there are certain rules that dictate how your money, property or possessions should be allocated. This may not be the way that you would have intended and could mean that the people you care about are by-passed. By some estimates as many of 60% of people haven't made wills.

Once you have provided for your loved ones, you can use your will to donate money to causes that are close to your heart. Not only can leaving a gift to charity possibly reduce the level of inheritance tax due, but, more importantly, your generosity can live on through you in this way.



KURC's mission and work are a cause that is close to many of our hearts. A legacy would help the church in a practical way to build on its mission to be a welcoming, caring, worshipping Christian community in the heart of Kingston. It would help to fund the Christian and social outreach with which we can touch the lives of some of the most needy in our community.

At the back of the church you will find a supply of small leaflets entitled 'A place in your will'. Please do take one to help you consider the power of your will to help KURC.

Thank you

New Year's resolutions

Just a handful from the huge and enthusiastic postbag received from *Church News* readers.....

Chris Stuart

I don't usually make new year resolutions but the Bible study on Tuesday from Colossians 3:12-17 made me think again. Verse 12 in particular inspired my change of heart:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

These almost sounded like new year resolutions.

So my New Year resolution is to try to keep positive even when life throws a spanner in the works! Just hope no one throws a spanner at me for being positive!



Christine Thompson

I never make them. The depths of winter is a stupid time to make resolutions (as is shown by how few of them are kept). If it's important and sensible you can start it at any time. If you must have a date 2nd April or 1st September are better.

Sally Butler

Take the stairs!!

Vaughan James

Time to get a bit more out of walking by learning to identify trees not just from their leaves but also from their bark, blossom, skeletal shape etc.

Editor's confession

I can't remember how to write 1, 1000, 51, 6 and 500 as Roman numerals.

IM LIVID

Book of the month at KingsGate

KingsGate Church Kingston's book of the month for January is *Repenting of Religion* by Greg Boyd. He shows us how to begin practicing a religion of love rather than embracing judgemental doctrine based on human perceptions of morality.

Congratulations to Margaret



Margaret Davies's 100th birthday was celebrated at a lovely tea party for church friends. Here are a couple of photos celebrating the happy occasion.



readings for February

HEALING DIVISIONS

Divisions in the Old Testament

Monday 30 January Genesis 50:14-21
 Tuesday 31 January 1 Samuel 15:24-31
 Wednesday 1 February 1 Samuel 19:1-18
 Thursday 2 February 2 Samuel 14:21-33
 Friday 3 February 2 Kings 5:1-15
 Saturday 4 February Daniel 6:1-23
 Sunday 29 January Genesis 33:1-11

Divisions in the New Testament

Sunday 5 February Luke 11:17-20
 Monday 6 February Luke 12:49-53
 Tuesday 7 February John 2:13-22
 Wednesday 8 February Acts 15:36-41
 Thursday 9 February 1 Corinthians 3:3-9
 Friday 10 February Galatians 2:11-21
 Saturday 11 February Philemon 8-21

THE LETTER OF JAMES (1)

Sunday 12 February James 1:1-12
 Monday 13 February James 1:13-27
 Tuesday 14 February James 2:1-13
 Wednesday 15 February James 2:14-26
 Thursday 16 February James 3:1-12
 Friday 17 February James 3:13-18
 Saturday 18 February James 4:1-12

THE LETTER OF JAMES (2)

Sunday 19 February James 4:13-17
 Monday 20 February James 5:1-12
 Tuesday 21 February James 5:13-20

EXPLORING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in this way

Wednesday 22 February (Ash Wednesday) Matthew 6:1-6
 Thursday 23 February Matthew 6:7-15
 Friday 24 February Matthew 6:16-24
 Saturday 25 February Matthew 6:25-34

Our Father in heaven

Sunday 26 February John 1:14-18
 Monday 27 February John 17:1-5
 Tuesday 28 February Exodus 3:1-6





The
**United
Reformed
Church**

News Update December 2022

Following on from the postponement of the original event due to rail strikes, we have been working hard to find a new date to celebrate the URC's 50th.

You will no doubt appreciate that finding a revised date which works for those leading the service and the availability of Methodist Central Hall has not been an easy task. Our initial hopes for May 6 were scuppered when the new King chose that date for his Coronation!

15 April 2023

We're delighted to announce that the new date is Saturday 15 April 2023. In an ideal world, we would have opted for a longer gap after Easter, but we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations.

The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on April 15 from 10am-12 noon.

Tickets

If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order.

If you are no longer able to attend, please <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. 50@urc.org.uk and we can cancel the order for you.

Anniversary Choir

If you would like to sing in the Anniversary Choir, you can find out more details and the dates of the rehearsals by visiting <https://bit.ly/urc50-choir>

Stewards and enquiries

If you are able to volunteer as a Steward at the service, please email 50@urc.org.uk which is also the email address for any enquiries relating to the new date.

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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Premises Manager and PA to the Minister:

Catherine Treweek, Landline: 020 8549 1888

Work Mobile: 07807 351801 (between 8 am – 2 pm only)

e-mail (Premises Manager): premises@urckington.org.uk

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

Premises Assistant:

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 copy deadline for the March 2023 edition is Friday, 10 February,

Editor: Jean Thompson; e-mail: jeant@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. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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