



CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church



"Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know."
L.M.Montgomery

www.kingstonurc.org

Charity No. 1131880

This edition edited by Holly Christie

WORSHIP & EVENTS DIARY – APRIL 2023

The following is the anticipated diary for April, but please see the e-mailed Weekly Notices, particularly for daily prayers, Bible Study and other Zoom sessions. Updates, together with further KURC activities, can be found in the Events Calendar on the KURC website.

Palm Sunday, 2 nd	10.00 Worship & Communion – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship
Monday, 3 rd	20.00 Lent Study – Zoom
Wednesday, 5 th	10.00 Tot's Praise
Good Friday, 7 th	10.00 Coffee & Hot Cross Buns – KURC 11.00 Walk of Witness 12.00, 13.00 and 14.00 Worship
Easter Sunday, 9 th	06.30 Worship – Zoom 09.00 Worship & Communion 09.45 Breakfast 11.00 Worship & Communion – also live-streamed 17.00 Reflective Worship
Wednesday, 12 th	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Saturday, 15 th	14.00 Crafternoon – glass/ceramic painting
Sunday, 16 th	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship & Communion
Wednesday, 19 th	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Sunday, 23 rd	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship
Wednesday, 26 th	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Saturday, 29 th	10.30 – 14.30 Clothes Swap
Sunday, 30 th	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship & Communion 14.00 Messy Church 17.00 Reflective Worship

LETTER FROM LESLEY



During the month of February we sent out a joke 6 days of the week.

Jokes!! Why?

For a whole range of reasons is the answer. Just to lift the mood is the most simple reply. It's a way of keeping in touch is also part of it. It shows a concern for the whole of who we are, not merely being interested in members of the church when we are sick or in some sort of crisis or when the church needs someone to do a job.

However important these elements are there is even more depth to this.

A few things to ponder on

“The best way to drive out the devil, if he will not yield to texts of Scripture, is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn.” — Luther. This is from C S Lewis' introduction to the Screwtape letters.

Or watch [Catherine Price: Why having fun is the secret to a healthier life | TED Talk](#)

Psychiatrist Howard Cutler says, 'Survey after survey has shown that it is unhappy people who tend to be the most self-focussed and are socially withdrawn, brooding and even antagonistic. Happy people, in contrast are generally found to be more sociable, flexible and creative, and are able to tolerate life's daily frustrations more easily than unhappy people.'

Of course jokes are not the same as joy. Joy is much more substantial and strangely develops from coming through times of suffering. News flash Easter day works only because of good Friday. You need death to enjoy resurrection

Psychologist Sonja Lyubromirsky's research contends that 50% of our happiness is due to our genes and temperament. Which means 50% is determined by our circumstances and our attitudes and action. 'Over our attitudes many of us have control. Our happiness is our ability to reframe our situation more positively, our ability to experience gratitude and our choice to be kind and generous.'

Maybe read the book of 'Joy -lasting happiness in a changing world'. This is the conversation between two old friends the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. Both of them have suffered and yet are notorious for their mischief making and laughter. Douglas Abrams who wrote up their encounter describes how they 'skewered humbug, status, injustice, and evil with the power of humour.'

Who knew that our laughter was such a powerful weapon?

Jesus wept at the death of his friend. He is the one who shouted in agony from the cross. Yet he was the one people invited to parties. Would they really have kept inviting him if he was not good to be with? Jesus who he knew how to laugh as well as cry.

Yours, Lesley

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



READINGS FOR APRIL

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW (2)

1 Passiontide: the coming of the kingdom

Saturday 1 April Matthew 25:31-46

2 Holy Week: the way of the cross

Sunday 2 April (Palm Sunday) Matthew 26:1-16

Monday 3 April Matthew 26:17-35

Tuesday 4 April Matthew 26:36-56

Wednesday 5 April Matthew 26:57-75

Thursday 6 April (Maundy Thursday) Matthew 27:1-26

Friday 7 April (Good Friday) Matthew 27:27-44

Saturday 8 April Matthew 27:45-66

CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 9 April (Easter) Luke 24:13-35

Monday 10 April Leviticus 23:4-14

Tuesday 11 April Daniel 5:1-12

Wednesday 12 April Luke 15:22-24

Thursday 13 April Luke 5:27-32

Friday 14 April John 2:1-10

Saturday 15 April 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

JUDGES OF ISRAEL

1 Deborah and Gideon

Sunday 16 April Judges 2:6-23

Monday 17 April Judges 3:12-31

Tuesday 18 April Judges 4:1-24

Wednesday 19 April Judges 5:19-31

Thursday 20 April Judges 6:11-32

Friday 21 April Judges 7:1-21

Saturday 22 April Judges 8:22-35

2 Jephthah and Samson

Sunday 23 April Judges 10:6-11:11

Monday 24 April Judges 11:29-40

Tuesday 25 April Judges 13:2-25

Wednesday 26 April Judges 14:1-20

Thursday 27 April Judges 16:4-22

Friday 28 April Judges 16:23-31

Saturday 29 April Judges 19:10-30

BIBLICAL LIBRARY (2)

History

Sunday 30 April Judges 6:1-10

Memo from Martyn



By the time you get to read this I will be in Korea with He Yeon visiting family and friends and exploring more of the country.

Korea is a country rich in culture and with many beautiful temples and much wonderful scenery and I am looking forward to seeing more of this. I hope we get to see the cherry blossom this year. There are some roads lined with trees that are apparently spectacular when the cherry blossom is out. Catch the right moment and the blossom falls like pink snow, I am told.

It is lovely to see beautiful places and to enjoy the richness of the culture but it is meeting the people that will be the most important part of our trip. It has been nearly two and a half years since we last saw He Yeon's family. Our nieces and nephews will have changed a lot in that time, particularly her brother's children who are still quite young. For all the people we meet their lives will be different from when we last saw them and it will be good to catch up. Of course, things have happened to us too so we will have things to share.

While we are away others will be filling in and we are grateful to them. As we are reunited with family and friends in Korea it is good to know that in KURC we are among people willing to support one another.

We'll join you in worship through zoom when we can and will be worshipping in Korea when we can't. When I go away, I often think of the third verse of the hymn, "The day thou gavest, Lord is ended". You may know it:

As o'er each continent and island
The earth leads on another day
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

Isn't it great to know that somewhere in the world at every moment someone is praying and praising God.

Martyn

30 Minutes of prayer time

Starting on the 13th April you are invited to join with others in the South London Synod Area each Thursday for 30 minutes of prayer at 5pm.

Zoom ID: 896 3882 1888

Passcode: URC5

Everyone is welcome.

Sally's Slot



The team all enjoy the youth and children's work. It's really good fun and all that we do are an opportunity to share and show the love of Christ. I would like to invite you all, once again, to come and not just see but experience our community for yourselves.

'Your presence and personal conversation are vital'.

Mondays 10-12 Jolly Toddlers

Tuesdays 1pm Youth and Children's Prayer Zoom

Wednesdays 10 -1 2 Tots 'Praise

Saturdays (third Sat. of the month) from 2pm Crafternoons (this really is all-age; many people come without children!)

Sundays Messy Church (see website or notices for dates)

As I write, I have been thinking about the phrase 'the penny dropped' for a YPG session. We will be hearing the story of the blind man who was healed on the Sabbath (much to the annoyance of the Pharisees). He saw in a very literal sense – he saw Jesus' face in front of him and the world around him. But the 'penny dropped' and he 'saw' deeper things; spiritual things. He saw (understood) who Jesus really was. My prayer for the families who come to us during the week, is that they will see beyond the friendship, welcome and kindness we offer (and they do comment on these things, often!) I hope they will see Jesus and want to see and understand more. Join me in this prayer please?

Sally Butler, Children, Youth and Families Worker

Pastoral News: 15th March 2023

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

Homes for Ukraine – could yours be one?

The war in Ukraine has now been going for over a year and there doesn't seem any end in sight. This leaves many millions of Ukrainian families displaced and refugees, many have come to the UK.

Thanks to the generosity of people in over 160 Kingston households, about 370 Ukrainians have been placed with host families in Kingston. Initially hosts were asked to offer space for six months. Many have extended this to a year and many others continue to support their Ukrainian families. Some hosts, however, have come to the end of what they can offer and Kingston council is now looking for new hosts.

Do you have a spare room? Could you host a Ukrainian family or individual? Would you benefit from having someone living with you?

Kingston council offer lots of support along with a monthly thank you payment. There are people from KURC who are already hosts who you can talk to as well.

If this is something you might consider there is more information on the Kingston council web site. I also have some more information and links.

Martyn, Church secretary



Jacob & Esther Bali's son, Iwan Timothy, was baptised on 12 March 2023.

Bron Robinson will be editing May's Church News.
Articles and photos to Bron please by Friday, 14 April.
bronhr@gmail.com

The 24 hours of prayer

What happens? Nothing frightening is the answer to that. We do not suddenly change in to being snake kissing, foot stomping types. We are the same people as always. The 24 hours though is to allow us to return to the source of who we are....God. It's a bit like having a retreat day

OK. What happens? The answer to that is a whole range of things. For some of the hours there is quite a bit of silence. For many of the hours there are parts of the bible read. At other times people have prepared stimulating presentations. We learned about the 10 commandments, times in the desert, the Jesus prayer, hope, and whispers from God. There were chants and different ideas of how to pray.

Mostly we stopped for some time and waited on God.

The great thing is the range of people who make a contribution to it. Because it is on zoom people were able to join who were not out of bed, or in another country.

People sent requests for prayer from other parts of the UK and the world. Children and adults brought up things for us to pray about.

One strong theme that came up was how important it is for us to learn bits of the scriptures...and hymns. This is a theme we have spoken of but it returned.

The next 24 hours will be on 24th November to 25th. The one difference is that we will have some sessions where the predominant language is Korean.

Someone commented that it would be good if we could 'go back to normal'. By that she meant have our time together in the building. We then realised that because it was on zoom she was able to pop in 3 times during the day which would not have happened if there had been a journey to Kingston involved.

Try it... you might like it ...you certainly could be surprised.

Happy to discuss,

Lesley

Lunchtime recital

We have a lunchtime recital on Thursday 23 March at 12.30pm. Gideon Gray (cello) accompanied by Michael Bevan (piano) will be playing Beethoven's cello sonata no.4 in C and Brahms' cello sonata in E minor. As usual, admission is free with a retiring collection. We hope to see you there!

The Music Support Group





Eco Tip for April

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

HAMPTON COURT Garden Open Days

All palace gardens will be open to visitors free of charge on the following dates (Entrance to the Palace, Maze and Magic Garden will still require a ticket):

25 - 26 March
06 May
20 - 21 May
04 - 09 July
16 - 17 September
18 - 19 November

A HUGE THANK YOU

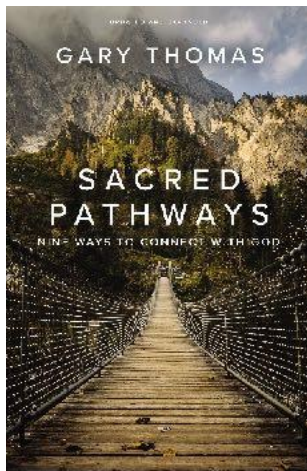
To all of you who generously donated to Child Action Lanka (CAL) following my trip there in January to Volunteer at 5 of their centres. CAL has 9 centres where they work with the poorest children, where they provide an environment for children to learn and to empower them with education and economic opportunities. Providing care and early learning activities for those of pre-school age. For the older children, who attend basic state schools (8:30-13:00), they provide a lunch and additional in depth teaching, focusing on language in their mother tongue and English (common business language), mathematics and computing. So hopefully they are equipped to work and make a difference in the world.

If you would still like to donate, you can do so at [Ray Charlton is fundraising for The Epiphany Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/EpiphanyTrust)

Thank you again.

Ray Charlton

Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas



Allow me to thoroughly recommend this book! We all have a 'spiritual temperament', a preferred way of connecting with God. This explains, for example, why people have a favourite way to worship in church.

This book helps you to learn what your temperament is, how to nurture it and then how to learn from others who are different. It's so liberating and informative. Gary Thomas has identified 9 different temperaments. There is a 5-6 question quiz at the end of the chapter that will help you identify yours. He looks at Bible characters who display these temperaments, outlines how we can build up our faith, pitfalls and temptations for each one and how to be tolerant of those who are made in

a different way.

We are all unique and we meet with God in a huge variety of ways. It can really help if we truly know ourselves and can better understand why others are the way they are!

Graham (King's Storeroom book shop in foyer) can get this book for you. You'll want to go back to it more than once! Price £12.99 less 10% discount.

Sally Butler

Amusing graffiti

There has recently been a flurry of correspondence in The Times recently on the subject of 'graffiti'....

Farm entrance sign read "potatoes" – someone had written underneath "twinned with Pommes de Terre"

Tube poster promoting a visit to the Tower of London with a beaming image of Henry VIII, a balloon from his mouth reading "Return to Tower Hill, please". Underneath someone had written "And a single for the wife".

A large sign at Liverpool Street Station that read "Harwich for the Continent". Underneath someone had scrawled "and Bournemouth for the Incontinent".

Prayer of Hope and Healing

God of Compassion

We thank you for our lives and an opportunity to remind ourselves of your many blessings. Be near us in times of weakness and pain, sustain us by your grace; that our strength and courage may not desert us; heal and encourage us according to your will; and help us always to believe that what happens to us here is of little significance if you hold us in eternal life. This prayer we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

Ann Macfarlane



This 'Homeless Jesus' sculpture was spotted recently by Cathy Seymour in Rome - food for thought?

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13-20th May 2023

We hope to run the following activities, which I hope you will be able to help with and/or participate in.

1. 13th May Quiz at the URC.
2. Dropping off Collection envelopes
3. Collecting at Kingston Station
4. Coffee/Tea events
5. And..... **DANCING in CLARENCE STREET.** All who participated last year got such a buzz from this and it raised a great sum for the charity. If you can, I urge you to come along and join us for this.
6. Other event you may be able to run?

Please speak with me for further details. 07785220369

Ray Charlton

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



Archive of the Month

The choir singing at the service to celebrate the reopening of the church in May 1977 following the re-building of the sanctuary and halls. Can you spot the two members of the choir who are still members of our church?

John Fisher

April Flower Rota

2nd - June Martin
9th - Easter workshop
16th - Isobel Griffiths
23d - Shirley Davy
30th - Liz and Alistair Borthwick

A prayer partnered with Global Justice Now.

At Global Justice Now we see that the principles of social and economic justice are central to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We wish to follow his example by standing with the oppressed and marginalised, upholding principles of solidarity, equality and justice. We pray for residents of countries in the Global South facing economic crisis due to the Global North's refusal to cancel debts, such as Zambia which spends almost 50% of its national budget on foreign debt repayments. We pray for communities fighting trade deals that prioritise corporate interests and profits over human rights and public services. We pray for all of those who have lost their homes and livelihoods because of the climate crisis; who suffer through extreme weather events knowing rich countries refuse to take real action.

We pray for Black communities and people of colour who face relentless racial injustice, prejudice and hate. We pray for those struggling to access vaccines, treatments and medications in the face of an unfair and profiteering global pharmaceutical system. We pray that all communities and campaigners championing the causes of climate justice, debt justice, trade justice and universal access to adequate healthcare are successful in their fight. Amen



Image Credit: Christian Aid/ Zimbabwe BRACKT – Chipso Kodogo collection.

Bron Robinson will be editing May's Church News.
Articles and photos to Bron please by Friday, 14 April.
bronhr@gmail.com

Kingston United Reformed Church – Information

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

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How to contribute to Church News:

Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome.
Copy for **Church News** must reach the editor by the second Friday of the month.

The next copy deadline for May is Friday, 14 April 2023

Editor: Bron Robinson email: bronhr@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 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.