

CHURCH NEWS June 2023

Kingston United Reformed Church www.kingstonurc.org



See exclusive 2023 Christian Aid Week, Kingston feature on pages 8 - 23

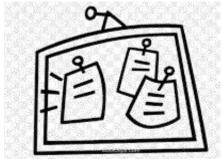


Worship and events diary: June 2023

The following is the anticipated diary for June as of mid-May. For subsequent updates and/or information on daily prayers, Bible Study and other Zoom sessions, please check emailed weekly notices or the events calendar on the KURC website: https://www.kingstonurc.org/kurc_eventsnews.html.

Sunday 4th	10.00 11.30 17.00	Worship & Communion – also live-streamed All Age Worship Reflective Service
Wednesday 7th	10.00 19.30	Tots' Praise Bible study on Zoom (Paul's letter to the Romans)
Friday 9th		Copy deadline for July's Church News. Editor:Catherine Treweek
Sunday 11th	10.30 11.30	Combined Worship - also live-streamed Church Meeting
Wednesday 14th	17.00 10.00	Reflective Service Tots' Praise
Wednesday 14111	19.30	Bible study on Zoom (Paul's letter to the Romans)
Sunday 18th	10.30	Worship - also live-streamed
	11.30	All Age Worship & Communion
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 21st	10.00	Tots' Praise
Friday 00th	19.30	Bible study on Zoom (Paul's letter to the Romans)
Friday 23th	06.00	24 hours of prayer (online) until 06.00 Saturday
Sunday 25th	10.30	Worship - also live-streamed
	11.30	All Age Worship
	14.00	Messy Church
	17.00	Reflective Service
Wednesday 2th	10.00	Tots' Praise
	19.30	Bible study on Zoom (Paul's letter to the Romans)

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



Letter from Lesley

Dear All,



Hundreds of little choices every day. That is how life is lived.

Do I say anything?

What do I say?

Do I pass that on? Should I challenge that message?

Do I eat that? Would something else be better?

Do I drink that? What more!

Do I pause to chat to that person when I have so much to do?

Do I make that call? Yes I know they have not been in touch with me for ages, and yes I know the last person to get in touch was me, but hey...shall I call?

Do I stop and rest? Or is it right to press through?

Do I watch another episode?

What shall I buy? Do I really need another one?

Hundreds of little choices. Following Jesus is made up that way. Nothing dramatic.

The other issue is that the overall direction of life has to be set.

Every now and then we need to ask ourselves whether we are heading in the right direction and then bit by bit to do it.

Being a follower of Jesus is a full-time thing. It is more vocation than job. There is not time off. Everything about us is the work of the kingdom or doing harm to the work of the gospel.

We cannot do everything but we can do something.

We plant tiny seeds of love in all our choices. That is God's work and we do it together.

Best wishes.

Lesley

Memo from Martyn



I was comforted by Lesley's sermon on the 30th April where she reminded us, that as the hymn says "The word has yet more light and truth to break forth from God's word."

The reason it was a comfort was because a week or two before I had

been struck by something that I'd never really appreciated before in the road to Emmaus story (Luke 24 v13-35).

You may think I'm very slow to be in my 60s and to only just now have been struck by this but I guess that makes Lesley's point that we see new things in the bible all the time!!

What struck me in a new way this year, was v27 which reads "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (The scriptures they had at that time of course was what we know as the Old Testament.)

Having been working my way through the Old Testament, struggling with Leviticus, Numbers and currently Jeremiah, I was beginning to wonder if it was worth it. Maybe the New Testament would be an easier read! Then, clear as day, is the message - the Old Testament has everything needed to explain about Jesus! It is like the Old Testament is the bread and the New Testament the margarine and jam on the top.

So, I'm continuing with my journey through the Old Testament, with all the fighting and prophesies of destruction and war, with a fresh eye out for the words Jesus might have referred to on the road to Emmaus.

I hope you've had a good Easter this year. Maybe if anything struck you in a new way, you'd be willing to share it though Church News.

Martyn

Sally's Stories

We have had a number of events recently.

Messy Church at the Manse organised by Ray Charlton, with a Christian Aid focus went well. Again, what brought me joy was the arrival of a family who only normally come to Crafternoons. They had responded to my invitation and felt a warm welcome. The Christian Aid theme this year is The Great Pea Challenge! Anyone who knows me well, knows how much I loathe peas... BUT fortunately, we are talking about Pigeon Peas (yellow split peas to us!), which are very resilient in poor weather conditions such as drought and therefore very nourishing to poor communities in Africa especially.











In the photos, you can see us balancing pots of peas on our heads and taking part in a relay race, without losing our load! The children also made musical pea-cussion instruments! (Sorry, that's Christian Aid's pun, not mine) and it was rather moving to use them as we sang 'Walk With Me For The Journey is Long' together at the end. We also had a Peatle (not Beetle Drive) and lots more. I spoke about Proverbs 30:8 Give me neither poverty nor riches; only what I need...

A number of our families who attend Tots' Praise are army families. Husbands are involved with the marching bands for the Coronation. So we decided to have a *Coronation Party* and have photos of the King, Queen, AND the children's Daddies on our screen! Everybody brought food to share and we had a great turnout.









Sally

Pastoral News

as of 11th May 2023



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

Prayer

Loving God, life gives us the unexpected, often without warning. At times, it seems impossible to manage and we feel like giving in.

Whatever the outcome and whatever lies ahead, we know that You came that we may live in your everlasting love. We place our trust in You. You know suffering intimately and you faced an horrendous and humiliating death, and you did it for us. Unexpected life changes can bring happiness, even when suffering is prolonged. Take us through life's 'ups and downs, and the unexpected' as we journey with You. Give us courage, give us patience, as we live our life in You. Amen

Ann Macfarlane

Flower rota for June

Sunday 4 June Ann Carrig

Sunday 11 June Vacant

Sunday 18 June Ann Macfarlane

Sunday 25 June Helen Akao



Reminder:

Copy for the next (July / August) edition of Church News should reach Catherine Treweek by Friday 9 June.



Eco tip for June

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Make plans to source locally grown foods that you can add to your diet/ shopping list throughout the seasons. Produce grown locally is picked at the peak of its ripeness and will be full of flavour, tasting better than the produce that has been imported and travelled thousands of miles.

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

Christian Aid Week - Dancing over Poverty

For Christian Aid week this year, as well as the Quiz, Envelopes deliveries, Coffee morning, service and plant sales, the main event in the town was the SINGING and FLASH DANCE led by our own minister, Lesley. The Kingston Christian Aid Group, is supported with members from the URC, All Saints, St Johns, Kingston Methodists, ST Matthews and St Marks, Surbiton – all were represented on Saturday.

Once Ray Charlton had fired the starting pistol, the The Quiz, led by Richard Scorer, was a great first event for the week, raising nearly £600.





Bron and her choir had a few practices and they were off, with a number of classics including Alison Moyet's 'Only You', which was beautiful. It was a great way of getting people to gather around before the dancing started.





Early practice ensured a seamless dance fit to grace 'Strictly'!



Practice for the dancing started at 9:45am and went through to 12:00 midday, when we moved into Kingston town.

Lesley said "I thoroughly enjoyed the 2+ hours of practice and the dancing and can't wait for next year – I wonder why others don't volunteer to lead the dancing? ". Sally has suggested " Whoops up inside yer head" but we don't think the pavement suits.



Here we see Rose, Susan and Vaughan really getting with the groove but Rev. Karl Rutlidge just could not get the swivel step in practice and wondered if he should have stayed at home.



Rose and Bron taking time out of practice.



Setting up for the BIG FLASH DANCE



Nick and
Maddie
encouraging a
QR Code
Donation
straight to our
Just Giving











Another great day Fundraising for Christian Aid.

(With thanks to James Mason for music and video production of our dance, and to Natasha Reid, Bron Robinson and John Watts for their contributions to the photography)

For those who do not know Christian Aid (CA), they were formed in 1945, by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. For more than 75 years, CA has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights. This includes working with refugees in Ukraine, where we heard last week, that one of their partners warehouses in Ukraine had been damaged and all goods lost to fire.

A big thank you to all who have helped make this week a great success.

If you have not already made a contribution, please donate. You can do so via our JustGiving Page https://www.justgiving.com/page/christian-aid-kingston-2023

Or pass a donation to me.

Ray Charlton



You can also use the QR code to access our Just Giving Page



Church leaders speak out on climate change

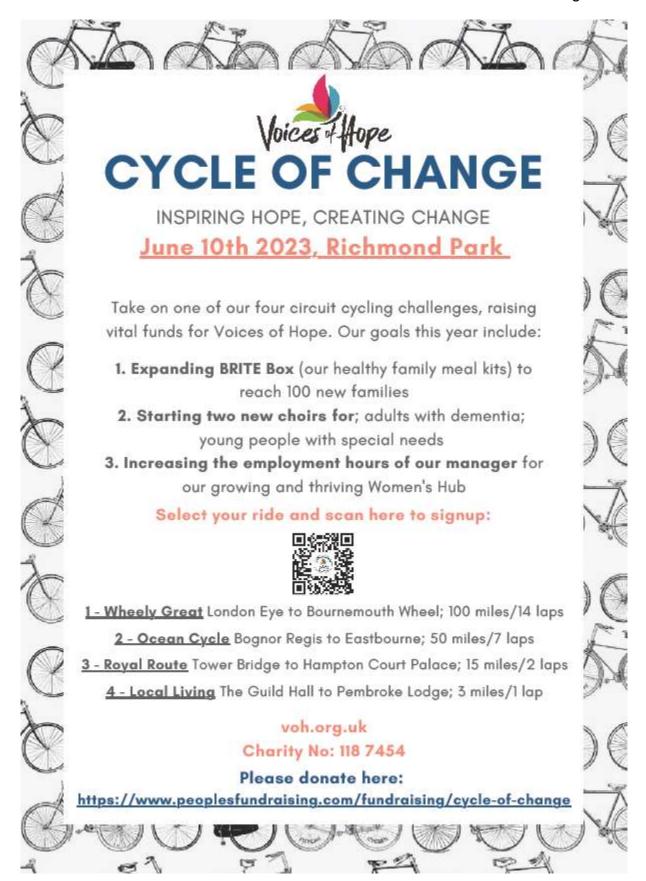
Church leaders are speaking out on climate change. In support of the recent climate protests, the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu who chairs Christian Aid, said: "Climate change is the greatest insidious and brutal indiscriminate force of our time. The people suffering the most have done the least to cause it. That is why continuing to search for new sources of fossil fuels, despite explicit warnings against this from the International Energy Agency, is such an offence against humanity. If we want to limit climate suffering, we have to leave fossil fuels in the ground. The Church has a proud history of standing up against injustice, and once again we need to see Christians calling on the Government to take decisive action."

URC's Joint Public Issues Team is encouraging churches to employ a range of strategies to engage local councillors and MPs in climate justice action and other areas of injustice. Developing a meaningful relationship with councillors and MPs is another way to speak truth to power, and the team is hopeful that churches' combined efforts will encourage our leaders to do all they can to implement policies that do good for people and the planet.

Representatives from many Christian organisations are calling on Shell to stop all new fossil fuel exploration and extraction. There is an urgent need to change the world's energy system and this clearly ranks as a higher order of importance than whether or not decreasing the sales of oil and gas products will affect Shell's company's finances and shareholder value. It is not just up to governments to act. With its huge resources of finance and expertise, Shell does have the ability to play an important role in the energy transition by switching to become an energy company rather than an oil company and working with customers to reduce their emissions.

Shell has been invited to meet with representatives of Christian organisations who signed a letter to discuss its responsibilities at this crucial time. Shell is asked to reflect humbly now on the need to change course rapidly, in order for there to be justice and mercy, and life at all, for future generations.

The letter ended: Be assured of our prayers for wisdom, courage and strength as you consider your response. Please look into the eyes of a child that you love, as you do.



Let the word of God dwell in you richly

Colossians 3 v16

During Lent a small number of us took on the challenge of learning bible verses off by heart. Colossians 3 v 16 was one such verse. Not only did we have fun but our spiritual lives were enriched as we reflected on the implications of the words we were learning. Some of us met in person at church, others online using Zoom.

Initially we thought about good reasons for learning bible verses. In no particular order we identified at least ten reasons. No doubt there are more.

- 1. Affects our whole being
- 2. To help us in good and bad times
- 3. To give us wisdom
- 4. To help us to pray
- 5. Because Jesus did
- 6. To keep God in the centre
- 7. Useful for meditation
- 8. Good for reinforcing Christian teaching
- 9. May be used to help others in a time of need
- 10. Can make a meaningful difference to how we live

We then went on to think about any disadvantages of learning bible verses. We identified four:-

- 1. Because their use can be abused and used out of context
- 2. Need to be careful not to take some verses literally as their meaning may be nuanced.
- Because our behaviour and attitudes are more important than having head knowledge
- 4. Because it isn't a competition

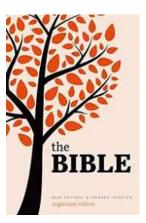
We learnt that we have 4 Learning styles. We each have a strong preference/leaning towards one of these learning styles:-

V is for Visualisation – using images, pictures, photos

A is for Auditory – hearing the words spoken. Recording the words and listening.

R is for Reading and Writing – seeing the words written down.

 ${\bf K}$ is for Kinesethic – using all the senses e.g. signing, singing, actions, movement



We predominantly used Auditory and Reading styles but recognised that other styles could complement these and be preferred by others.

We are so blessed that we can read the bible for ourselves. For many centuries in this country people were illiterate and depended on the clergy to read from the bible aloud. In fact, the church often discouraged personal bible reading and persecuted those who translated it from inaccessible Latin to English. Now we have innumerable versions at our disposal.

At the recent Coronation Service, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that, 'The Coronation Bible was the first and most important gift offered to the new King'. May that be true for us too.

Sue Shaw

URC (finally) celebrates its jubilee



Members, ministers and friends of the URC gathered in London on 15 April to mark the denomination's 50th anniversary. Around 1,200 people attended the rail strike-postponed celebrations at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, the same place that English Congregationalists and Presbyterians gathered on 5 October 1972 to vote the URC into being. Led by the Revd John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, and the

Moderator and Moderator-Elect of the URC General Assembly, the Revds Fiona Bennett and Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, the service reflected the denomination's past, present and future, as well as its place in the world Church.

So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.





Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown

God save King Charles indeed. It was quite a ceremony, wasn't it? The monarchy is something that tends to split the people of our beloved country so I won't go into my view on them as a whole. Instead I thought I might look at what sort of King he may be.

Mike Bartlett made a prediction into this matter in a play first released in 2014. It showed a Charles who did not agree with parliament and would not sign a bill ordering less freedom of the press. This causes a revolt and in the end he has to hand the crown down to William. Some of the final lines are "It is much heavier than I thought. And from the side, bejewelled, it looks so rich but turn it thus, and this is what you see... Nothing. My son, God save you."

The point is Charles has a lot of weight on his shoulders and probably less freedom than most of us. While he is a partner in the government, they most likely prefer him to be a silent one. One can hope he will speak to them in support of the common people and rule well.

However, the crown does seem to be a bit of a doomed chalice. He may be our monarch but his life is not his own, he is not free to do as much as others but accountable to all.

Mostly, Charles, is just a human like any other upon whose shoulders is thrust the hopes of the nation.

Just something to think about perhaps?

Beth Birley

A taste of (K)URC....without leaving home



The Jubilee blend has been produced by Kingdom Coffee for The URC to mark its 50th anniversary and its decadeslong support for the fair trade movement. This Fairtrade Certified Coffee is perfect for use in cafetières or filter machines. The strength level is 3 and is an everyday blend. The 100% Honduras Arabica comes from La Entrada in Copan, Honduras. £2.75 +p&p.

Use the link below to order:

<u>Kingdom Coffee 50th Anniversary Jubilee Blend - URC Bookshop</u>
(urcshop.co.uk)

Archive of the month



This month's picture is a watercolour by Fred Barber FRIBA showing the interior of our church in the early 1950s. Comparing this picture with the sanctuary today, how many differences can you spot? There are quite a few: answers in next month's *Church News*.

John Fisher

CN reading recommendation

Have you seen and enjoyed something online or in print – in a newspaper or magazine for example - that you think others too would get pleasure from reading? If so, please do let *Church News* know.

Christine Thompson gets the ball rolling with a warm recommendation for an 'amusing thought-provoking' article on page 43 of May's *Reform*: 'Do stay for tea or coffee' by Paul Kerensa. If you are not a subscriber, you will find a reference copy of *Reform* in the Foyer, but please don't so engrossed that you forget to return it to the rack after use.

Words of encouragement from Mother Teresa

"People are often unreasonable and selfcentered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

- Mother Teresa



Spring comes to Richmond Park



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

Fear Not - reflection on the Bible....

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine" [Isaiah 43.1]

We are all familiar with fear. So many times, during our lives, we overcome fear and anxiety of different things. Some people have it on a daily basis and from my own experience, it can be exhausting and tiresome. My friend (I do not want to mention his name) told me so often, not to fear. He told me this experience from his life story.

Long time ago, when I lived abroad, he and his wife experienced this fear, as his wife became seriously ill during her pregnancy with a second child. As doctors struggled to find the problem, she continued dangerously to grow weaker and weaker. He was so worried as she was suffering and he had that helpless and horrible feeling of desperation. There were days when he felt that God did not hear his prayers. One day, when he prayed and read the Bible, his eyes stopped on the first verse of Isaiah 43. The words were "Do not fear, you are **mine**". He cried and felt that the words were so personal to him. He felt that God was addressing not only Israel, but himself: "When you pass through the water...through the rivers...through the fire" - it said in verse 21. He said that these words brought some comfort to his troubled heart in the hours when he was so despairing. His comfort at that time came to him and he knew that he should not expect miracles, but simply believe that God hears and that He will decide what is the best for him and his wife.

Luckily, everything was fine for my friend, his wife slowly recovered, and their new born baby grew into such a healthy and beautiful woman. But he never forgets that God used His words to comfort him at that time and prepared him for the harder moments in his future life.

"We shall never forget in the darkness what you know to be true in the light" – did someone say that?

Natasha Reid



Summer Sundays by the Thames 3pm-5pm

7th May Coronation Special - The Tony Heiberg

Latin and Jazz Band

14th May Allegra Concert Band

21st May NO WAY BACK

28th May Rock Choir

4th June The New MUG's

11th June Richmond Youth Jazz Band

18th June Soul Rites

25th June Tiffin School Concert Band and Jazz Combo

2nd July Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band

9th July Kingston Music Service Bands

23rd July South London Concert Band

30th July Bilongo

6th August Linden Wind Orchestra

20th August Pielarks

3rd September Herd of Sax

The concerts this year have kindly been funded by the following organisations:















Wisley Gardens in May

Of the many beautiful plants which have been brought to Britain from Korea, China and Japan over the past few centuries, the wisteria and the toona tree are two of the most spectacular. The wisteria arch at Wisley Gardens, now in full flower, comprises two light mauve varieties which are complemented by dark mauve alliums beneath. The young leaves of the toona tree are a unique salmon pink colour.

"To God who makes all lovely things – how happy must our praises be! Each day a new surprise he brings to make us glad his world to see"

John Fisher & Ruth Anderson







IBRA readings for June

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND LOVE IN ACTION

1 Display his glory

Thursday 1 June Proverbs 31:8-9

Friday 2 June Isaiah 1:16-20

Saturday 3 June Amos 5:1-15

2 Maintain constant love for one another

Sunday 4 JuneJohn 19:38-42

Monday 5 June Acts 9:36-41

Tuesday 6 June Acts 10:1-8

Wednesday 7 June Acts 16:12-15, 40

Thursday 8 June Romans 12:6-21

Friday 9 June Luke 6:27-36

Saturday 10 June 1 Peter 4:7-11

BIBLICAL LIBRARY (3)

Apocalyptic

Sunday 11 June Ezekiel 10:1-22

Monday 12 June Daniel 7:1-28

Tuesday 13 June Revelation 13:1-18

Wednesday 14 June Revelation 19:1-21

Thursday 15 June Revelation 20:1-15

Friday 16 June Revelation 4:1-11

Saturday 17 June Revelation 5:1-14

WHO IS MY FAMILY?

Sunday 18 June Mark 3:31-35

Monday 19 June Romans 8:12-17

Tuesday 20 June Galatians 4:1-7

Wednesday 21 June John 19:25b-27

Thursday 22 June 1 John 3:1-14

Friday 23 June Romans 14:10-21

Saturday 24 June Ephesians 3:14-19

READINGS IN AMOS

Sunday 25 June Amos 1:1-2:3

Monday 26 June Amos 2:10-3:12

Tuesday 27 June Amos 4:1-13

Wednesday 28 June Amos 5:18-27

Thursday 29 June Amos 6:8-7:9

Friday 30 June Amos 8:1-14



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

Ministers:

Rev Lesley M Charlton, tel: 020 8399 4423 e-mail: minister@kingstonurc.org

Rev Dr Suk In Lee, tel: 020 8949 2070 e-mail: leesukin@hotmail.com

Church Secretary:

Martyn Verge, mobile: 07801 979009 e-mail: chsec@kingstonurc.org

Treasurer:

Christine Chippendale, mobile: 07738 562457 e-mail: treasurer@kingstonurc.org

Children, Youth & Families Worker:

Sally Butler, mobile: 07807 348326 e-mail: youth@kingstonurc.org

Missionary:

So Young Jung, e-mail: 2005eo@naver.com

Mission Co-ordinator:

Ha Eun Lim, mobile: 07564 023628, e-mail: haeun1010@gmail.com

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@urckingston.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 July/August 2023 edition is Friday, 9 June, Editor: Catherine Treweek; e-mail: kingstonurc@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.