



# CHURCH NEWS

## Kingston United Reformed Church



'The happy wanderer' photo from Lesley's walk

## October 2023

[www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org)

Charity No. 1131880

*This edition edited by Holly Christie*

## WORSHIP & EVENTS DIARY – OCTOBER 2023

The following is the anticipated diary for October, 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.

Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 Worship & Communion – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	19.30 Elders 'Meeting
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Harvest Workshop
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HARVEST BIG DAY IN/OUT ' –TURNING GREEN'</b> 10.30 Combined Harvest Worship – also live-streamed 12.30 Big Day In/Out Lunch Afternoon - Big Day In/Out Activities 17.00 Big Day In/Out Closing Worship – probably live-streamed – Check Weekly Notices
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Copy deadline for November's Church News</b> <b>Editor: Bron Robinson E-mail: <a href="mailto:bronhr@gmail.com">bronhr@gmail.com</a></b>
Sunday, 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship & Communion
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 Lunch-time Concert – Organ Recital by Stephen Westrop
Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	14.00 Crafternoon – Wood Art
Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 Worship – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship 17.00 Reflective Worship
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 Tots 'Praise
Sunday, 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>British Summer Time ends – clocks go back one hour</b> 10.00 Worship – also live-streamed 11.30 All Age Worship & Communion 17.00 Reflective Worship

## Lesley's Letter

Dear All,

Thank you.

Who do we need to say that to today? Thank you. We are fortunate to have God to thank. Thank you for the beauty of the earth. Thank you for the water and the planets. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for food in our shops. Thank you for pensions and pay and profits and pocket money and benefits that mean we have money. Yes, some of us have much more than others but we have some and we are grateful.

Thank you for today.

For people to love.

For a reason to get up in the morning.

Thank you for a reason to do things.

Thank you for our lives which have a purpose.

Thank you for your love for us, God.

Thank you for our church community.

Gratitude is a super power. Deliberately taking time to be grateful changes things for us. The next time you feel a bit blue, count your blessings. Give thanks for 10 things or 10 people.

Even better is to write them down.

Gratitude takes our eyes off ourselves and our troubles.

And the scriptures to back this up?

'Give thanks to the Lord for God is good. God's love endures for ever.' 1

*Chronicles 16 v 34*

'Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

For God's steadfast love endures for ever.' *Psalms 106 v 1*

And, of course, we could do worse than learning these.

***Best Wishes and Thank You, Lesley***

## Memo from Martyn

The February edition of Reform contained the first of a series of interviews with people about how they felt welcomed by the church. (It's been an interesting series and worth a read if you get the chance.) In the first article the timing of events was raised as an issue and the person felt victimised as they'd found events were at times they couldn't attend.

It disturbed me a bit as it seemed to be reinforcing what I see as a current trend in which we are all victims and that everything bad that happens to us is someone else's fault.

Of course, we want to be welcoming and to try and arrange events so they don't discriminate against anyone but if we do that we soon get in to difficulty.

We'd have to avoid day times so that we didn't discriminate against those who work; evening meetings would be out as they discriminate against older people who won't come out in the dark and weekends would have to be avoided as that would discriminate against families for whom the weekend is the only time they can be together or for some children the time when they visit the other parent. That means all our activities would have to be on....ahh!!! (I generalise and exaggerate for effect, but you get my point I hope!)

Of course, we need to do all we can to make everyone feel welcome and to arrange events at times and in places people find convenient, and generally I think we do pretty well at that, but isn't the reality that we all have to be prepared to give and take. If something we'd really loved to have been part of is arranged at a time or place such that we can't join, surely it is better for us to be thankful the event is happening and to pray for it rather than complain about it discriminating against us!

**Martyn**



## Flower Rota

1st October - Pat Foster

8th October - Harvest workshop

15th October - Christine Thompson

22nd October - Blank

29th October - Blank

## Sally's Stories

Our last Messy Church went very well and I found it very rewarding. Not because we had lots of children as we did last month but because the group were mainly older children who really engaged with our topic of Caring for God's Planet'.

Activities included making placemats to celebrate our food, making fridge magnets with an individual promise to protect nature written on, making earth cupcakes, designing a nature spotting sheet and working out where our food comes from using a large world map.

**On the environmental note, please keep Sunday 08 October in your diaries.**

We will be running a 'Turning Green' day as our Big Church Day In/Out. A speaker from the charity aRocha will be speaking at the 10.30 service and having discussions afterwards. We will then have lunch and lots of activities (for all ages) during the afternoon. On the day there will be the opportunity to contribute poems and prayers to the 5pm service. We will be running games, litter picks/nature walks, music making, craft and.. we hope that people will feel able to register with an organisation called Creation Care (free) and start completing an individual lifestyle questionnaire. We hope that lots of you will gain bronze, silver or gold certificates and be inspired to make just one or two changes to your lifestyle at home that will benefit the planet. You can link your result to Kingston URC that has now been registered as a church. As you know, we are already a Bronze award Eco-church but if we engage as individuals at home/school/work, we will have a much greater impact.

Finally, please pray for me. By the time you read this, I will have started on my 'Encounter', my spiritual direction course with London Centre for Spiritual Direction.

**Sally Butler, Children, Youth and Families Worker**

## Thank you from Barbara Fielding



I would like to thank all my friends at Kingston URC for the lovely basket of flowers you gave me for my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This was on August 12<sup>th</sup>, also known as the Glorious 12<sup>th</sup>!! I had a lovely day with lots of family and friends. And I also had many cards, flowers (6 vases worth), chocolates and other lovely gifts.

I'm sorry I'm not able to get to Kingston these days, but I see friends from time to time and speak on the phone. Anyway, here I am with the lovely basket of flowers.

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

## Pastoral News

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

**Prayer:** We come before you, loving God, to lay our fears at your feet. When we are crushed by fears and worries, remind us of your power and your grace. Fill us with your peace as we trust in you, and you alone. We know we cannot beat this on our own but we also know we have you Lord, and you have already paid the ultimate price to carry our burden and for this we thank you. Amen.



### Caption this!

Can you think of a good caption for this photo of Georgi?

Email us with your thoughts on what would make a good caption

## Gordon Brown's message at Greenbelt

On August 25<sup>th</sup> I took myself down to Greenbelt Festival in Kettering for the day. I didn't know what I was going to expect except for music, speeches and lots of fun times.

I'd already found out that the keynote speaker was Gordon Brown, discussing how we can help with poverty.

By the time I got to Pagoda tent for his speech it was packed but managed to get myself a place on the floor for this address. And I was pleased as I did as he held everyone captivated with anecdotes while drumming in his message.

I didn't know about CAPUK.org or Christians Against Poverty before then but I do now. The facts he stated are that Britain is facing one of the worse poverty epidemics.

Churches and charities do what they can but we also need to hold the government to account on poverty.

The general point in his message is to be the Good Samaritan that helps but also the firebrand that speaks the news. And the biggest thing we can give, that's hope.

And he's right, we do need to give hope. He was adamant it shouldn't be about one side vs the other either, but providing hope and support for those in need.

That's also our call of Christians, surely? Which is why I am asking others to join me in standing up, speaking out, supporting and providing hope.

**Beth Birley**



## Organ Recital

Our October lunchtime recital will be on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30pm.**

Stephen Westrop, formerly organist and choirmaster at All Saints, will be playing our new organ. Look out for further details and put the date in your diary now!

## LOCAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

### *None other than our very own Janine*

*The following is an extract from an article in The Cuddingtonian written by Lynn Morgan, local Slimming World Consultant*

Slimming World Woman of the Year 2023 is a competition to find the UK and Ireland's most successful female Slimmers. So, we set about trying to find our own Local Woman of the Year!

Janine is one of my group's winners. She joined in July 2018. She walked on crutches and clearly struggled with mobility. She was 'brave' and stepped into Slimming World for the very first time! In her first week Janine lost an incredible 5 lbs. The first couple of weeks in the group got Janine off to a cracking start. However, ill health meant she had a pre-planned surgery booked but Janine got straight back into the group as soon as she was physically able. Janine soon became an active member of the group, offering hints and tips. Food optimising became her new best friend: making naturally filling and relatively low-calorie choices. A year to the day Janine started her weight loss journey, she had lost an incredible 3st 11.5lbs and within 17 weeks she had achieved an incredible loss of 10% of her starting weight.

Janine became part of a community of like-minded people, who are on the same journey and together offer advice, strategies, recipes, and most of all have fun doing so! Weight loss is a challenge – so being part of a group 52 weeks a year is vital for members' success. Lynn explains: "Janine is a true inspiration. She supports me by volunteering and helps to make the group run each week. Her weight loss is life-changing and she has maintained this now for well over a year!"



*On the left is Councillor Spickett who presented Janine with the award and on the right, Lynn Morgan, Janine's Slimming World Consultant.  
The skirt is size 32 that Janine used to wear!*

## Trip to Bognor

Some of our church members and friends went by Epsom bus to Bognor Regis. The Weather Broadcast was unpredictable on the day and some people did not come. But those who did, really enjoyed their day out on the beach shore of Bognor!

When we arrived there, we were met by heavy rain, but this did not discourage us: Some of us sheltered in a big pub where we had hot drinks and watched a little bit of football on a big tv screen. Some were brave enough to go for a swim! Unfortunately, after a short swim in the sea, they were stopped by a warden, telling them that a sewage pipe has burst near the town and swimming at present is not allowed!

Never mind, nearly all of us managed to pile into the famous fish-and-chips restaurant where we enjoyed the humongous portions of REAL FISH-AND-CHIPS!

Then the bright sun came out and everyone dispersed in their own ways: some went for a walk, others headed for sea attractions and others simply sat near the shore, breathed the sea air and ate ice creams....

It was a really lovely day and a big thank you to all who were involved in organising it!"

**Natasha Reid**



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## Archive of the month

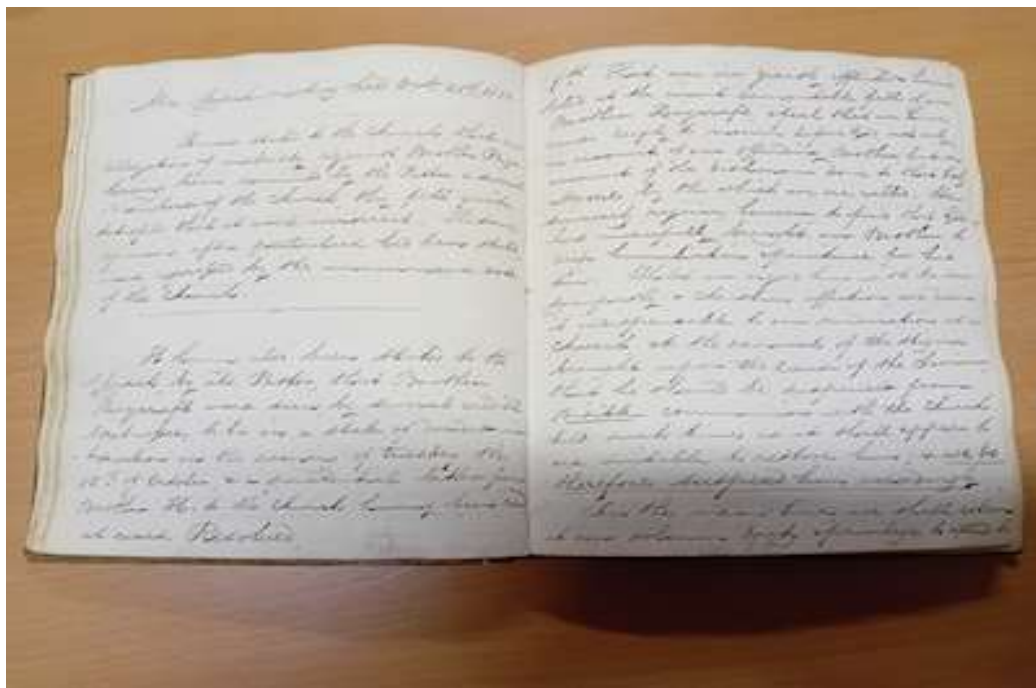
Our church meeting minutes from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century show that the minister and members were concerned that there should be no doubt in the minds of the local community about the moral standards of the church.

In 1804, a member called Jane Berryman was accused of 'going to Peckham Fair with worldly companions, drinking too much and afterwards speaking with pleasure of the vain amusements exhibited there'. When her impropriety had been confirmed by one of the deacons, the minister told her she would be excluded from communion unless she attended the next church meeting to express repentance. However, she declined and said she had moved to London.

In 1817 Joseph Cannon, one of the deacons, was requested to attend church meeting to answer several serious charges: namely intoxication, theft of £5, want of punctuality in paying debts and a 'general bad report throughout the town'. He too refused to attend the meeting and did not reply to a letter containing the charges, whereupon the church decided he was guilty on all counts and excommunicated him.

In 1822 John Page was suspended for 'misconduct' though later readmitted.

In 1833 'Brother Haycraft', a member for 25 years and a pillar of the church, was reported to have been seen 'in a state of decided intoxication'. Haycraft sent a 'penitential letter' to the minister and congregation who 'rejoiced that God has brought our brother to deep humiliation for his sin'. Haycraft was suspended for a few months but then restored to full fellowship by a unanimous vote.



**LUNCHTIME RECITAL**  
**Kingston United Reformed Church**  
Eden Street KT1 1HZ  
**Thursday 21 September 2023**  
12.30pm

**Mary Mundy** (cello)  
**Catherine Leonard** (piano)



**Beethoven: Cello Sonata no. 3 in A op. 69**  
**Schubert: Piano Sonata in B flat D 960**

**Admission free**



## **READINGS FOR OCTOBER**

### **BIBLICAL LIBRARY**

#### **Narrative**

Sunday 1 October Acts 1:1-11  
Monday 2 October Acts 10:9-47  
Tuesday 3 October Acts 11:1-30  
Wednesday 4 October Acts 13:13-52  
Thursday 5 October Acts 15:1-29  
Friday 6 October Galatians 2:1-14  
Saturday 7 October 2 Peter 3:1-16

#### **ALL ONE IN CHRIST**

Sunday 8 October Genesis 1:26-28  
Monday 9 October Psalm 139:13-16  
Tuesday 10 October John 4:1-14  
Wednesday 11 October Acts 17:24-28  
Thursday 12 October 1 Corinthians 9:19-23  
Friday 13 October Galatians 3:26-29  
Saturday 14 October Revelation 7:9-12

#### **APPROACHING LEVITICUS**

Sunday 15 October Luke 2:21-35, 39  
Monday 16 October Leviticus 4:1-35  
Tuesday 17 October Leviticus 9:1-24  
Wednesday 18 October Leviticus 13:1-45  
Thursday 19 October Leviticus 16:1-34  
Friday 20 October Leviticus 25:1-17  
Saturday 21 October Leviticus 27:1-34

#### **READINGS IN ESTHER**

Sunday 22 October Esther 1:1-22  
Monday 23 October Esther 2:1-23  
Tuesday 24 October Esther 3:1-15  
Wednesday 25 October Esther 4:1-17  
Thursday 26 October Esther 5:1-6:14  
Friday 27 October Esther 7:1-8:17  
Saturday 28 October Esther 9:1-10:3

#### **HEALTHY HUMILITY**

##### **1 Walk humbly with God**

Sunday 29 October Luke 1:26-38  
Monday 30 October Psalm 131  
Tuesday 31 October Psalm 146

10:30 @ St Matthias Church

# Richmond Riverside Walk 2023: Fighting To Save Our Planet

Saturday 23 September 2023



Scan with your phone



The Richmond Riverside Walk is a community event initiative designed to support our mission of addressing climate change in the Greater London.

Join the fun, making the Climate justice with Events and benefits along the scenic River Thames and Park Guisey. Enjoying the beauty of the river in the heart of London and the city's skyline.

Scan the QR code to book.

You can register as a walk team: <https://www.eventim.co.uk/tickets/140141/richmond-riverside-walk-2023>

**christian aid**

Christian Aid is a registered charity. The charity number is 1040170. The charity is a member of the Christian Aid network. The charity is a member of the Christian Aid network. The charity is a member of the Christian Aid network.

- **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**
- 10:30am at St Matthias Church, Church Road, Richmond, TW10 6LL.
- Arrive in good time to register and have a cup of tea/coffee.

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

## Yay! Things go wrong.

My father-in-law recently died, so we travelled up to Shropshire for his funeral. Ken was a Baptist minister and the funeral rightly reflected his faith and commitment to the Gospel. After the service his church had offered to organise a wake. We all gathered in the church hall where the congregation had lovingly prepared sandwiches, home-baked cakes and other 'finger food' to honour their Pastor who had ministered to them right up to his death. And in large, shiny letters on the serviettes, the word 'Yay!'

I'm sure anyone who's ever been involved in churches, community halls etc. will immediately recognise the situation; when planning everything someone will have said 'we've got plenty of serviettes left in the cupboard', not thinking that they were left from a birthday, christening or some other celebration party.

Fortunately, no one was offended. Funeral gatherings can be tense and stressful; not just the grief, but all that goes with gatherings of family and friends who may only see each other at such occasions. Seeing the humour in a simple mistake like those inappropriate serviettes helps to break the tension. A little laughter relaxes people and gets conversation going. Plus it adds to the memories and story to tell of the occasion. My wife even kept one of the serviettes as a memento!

In increasingly tense and stressful times it is helpful to be open to the humour in things. Accepting that mistakes are just that, mistakes, instead of looking for someone to blame or criticise. Some years ago I heard a mission specialist say that one of the marks of growing churches are that they are able to laugh when things go wrong. Irrespective of their particular tradition or style, instead of being uptight about getting everything perfect and precise, thriving churches recognise that things can and do go wrong, and are able to laugh together at the mistakes they make. The more relaxed environment encourages more people to 'have a go' at things, knowing that they will be encouraged and supported, rather than criticised if something isn't quite as expected.

Churches shouldn't be places that add to the stress and tension of life – there's enough of that already. I have been fortunate that most of the churches I have been involved in have been more relaxed in this way, at least to some extent, and St Bartholomew's is no exception. For the most part we laugh instead of tut, smile encouragingly instead of scowl and encourage each other to 'have a go'. And we have plenty of opportunity to say 'yay!', for the right reasons:).

***Re-printed from St Bartholomew's Church Magazine, Sydenham, SE26***

## 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:

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### Mission Co-ordinator:

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

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### 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 next copy deadline for November is Friday, 13 October 2023**

**Editor: Bron Robinson e-mail: [bronhr@gmail.com](mailto: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.

We also now have a digital collection plate (card reader) at the back of the church

**Kingston United Reformed Church** is a member of the **Local Ecumenical Project** in Kingston Town Centre with its partner, **All Saints Parish Church** in the Market Place.

*The town centre ministers meet regularly.*

*We are a part of **Churches Together in Kingston**.*

*Kingston URC is also affiliated with the **Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)** and the **Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK)***

**You can also keep in touch with worship and activities at our church through our website: [www.kingstonurc.org](http://www.kingstonurc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.**

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