



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# CHURCH NEWS

## June 2024

Kingston United Reformed Church

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



“Seventy thousand more steps  
along the world I go.....”

*Rejoice and Sing no. 549* (amended)

See page 14



***A warm invitation is given to all who read this magazine to come and share in our services and activities, both in the building and on Zoom***

**Our Sunday Services:**

**10.00 – Worship** – also live-streamed (with Communion first Sunday monthly)

**11.30 – All Age Worship** (with Communion on the last Sunday monthly)

**17.00 – Reflective Worship** (with Communion on the third Sunday monthly)

On the **second Sunday** of each month a **combined service at 10.30** replaces the 10.00 and 11.30 services

**14.00 – Messy Church** (monthly, but Sundays vary) e-mail Sally Butler – [youth@kingstonurc.org](mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org)

**Tea and Coffee** are served between the 10.00 and 11.30 services and before the 10.30 service on the second Sunday

During the 10.00, 10.30 and 11.30 services there are **group activities for children** of all ages.

**Weekly:**

**Monday:**

10.00 Jolly Toddlers (during school terms)  
10.00 Prayers on Zoom  
12.30 Community Lunch

**Tuesday:**

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

**Wednesday:**

10.00 Tots' Praise  
10.00 Prayers on Zoom

**Thursday:**

10.00 Prayers on Zoom  
20.00 The Thursday Club on Zoom

**Friday:**

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

**Saturday:**

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

**Monthly:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** 19.30 Elders' Meeting  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** 11.30 Church Meeting  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** 14.00 Crafternoon

**The Sanctuary** is open for private prayer, with access via the Foyer.

**Our Foyer** is normally open every weekday and Saturday from 11.00 until 14.00 for coffee and tea.

**A Problem or Concern?** There is sometimes a listener available in the Foyer; if not, please speak to the coffee server or contact Lesley Charlton.

**Events to look out for in June 2024:**

Sunday 9 June, 2-4pm – Messy Church

**And further ahead.....**

Saturday 13 July – Church barbecue

Sunday 14 July – KURC Gift Day

Saturday 10 August – KURC day at the seaside. This year Worthing.

***Please also see the e-mailed Weekly Notices.***

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

## Letter from Lesley

Dear All,



When Jesus comes out of the tomb you might have thought that would be the start of a whole new great life. It would be party party party for the disciples, leading onto the quick development of the early church. That is not what happened.

There was a time even after the resurrection when the disciples were still unsure. Even at the great commission, when they are to get to all peoples still, 'some of them doubted.' (Matthew 28 v 17). In John's gospel where we get the most resurrection material, there is lots of hanging around with the disciples still being behind locked doors. They know Jesus has been raised, but they have not yet worked out what it all means. They have been through a traumatic event, however happy the ending.

We are in the same place. We have been through a number of traumatic events. As regards covid, it is great that we now have the vaccines, but still people have died and many people's lives have been altered in ways that will never go back. We have also been through the trauma of Suk In being suspended and how that impacts on us. It was a traumatising time while the investigation happened. Yes, it is great that he was cleared to come back to work, but there is still the shadow of this event over our church. We have been lied to, deceived - and learning to trust will take time.

God knows how it is for us.

We might wish it was not like this but it is.

We have been battered.

We are bruised.

But slowly we will heal.

There is always the reality of the cross, even though there is resurrection. Sometimes its shadow is very long.

We will rise...as Jesus did.

Yours  
**Lesley**

## Cathy's Conversation



I have had a busy time recently and so time seems to move quickly. That has made me think about what being busy means. I have my weekly routines, that include joining in daily prayers, housework, collecting grandchildren from school and spending good times with them, watching my favourite tv programmes, reading, walking, and talking. A delightful pattern in retirement says the people who are still doing what I used to do, all those things and the commitment of paid work. And they are not wrong.

But real events happen to interrupt this “bliss”. People have things happen and I want to be with them. So why do I sometimes get frustrated when my routines must accommodate other people's life events? How selfish am I?

If I step away from my understanding of time and its limitations, breathe deeply and allow myself a glimpse of God's time, frustrations fade. Maybe it is time to ask for help from others. I know that some people reading this are feeling busy and maybe under time pressure. Some of you might hope to be busier. Let's find the balance and dwell more easily in God's time.

*Cathy Seymour*

## Pastoral News as of 12 May 2024

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

## **Prayer**

*Healing and Gracious God, who lives in us and all around us, we thank you for the wonderful and beautiful things that are happening in your world and here in our church communities. We thank you for all who pray for us, encourage us and journey with us. Help us to think of other people and situations where your unconditional healing is here for them and us. May we receive the healing peace and blessings that the world cannot give for those we have names and all who are close to us. Amen*

**Ann Macfarlane**

### **Calling all KURC photographers**

Photos of our church buildings are being invited for the 2025 URC Calendar. The calendar, which is again being supported by Edwards Insurance, is titled Impressions of the URC. Church buildings are very special places, and so **we're asking for your photos of them**, and with the skills of the URC graphics team, will turn them into works of art, from simple line drawings to pictures inspired by the works of famous artists – the possibilities are endless. Please send landscape photos for preference, but square and portrait photos are welcome. High quality photos at 300dpi, JPG or PNG file format, including the name and location of the church and the name of the photographer. Please email them to [andy.jackson@urc.org.uk](mailto:andy.jackson@urc.org.uk). If photos are submitted, the photographer is granting the URC permission to use the photographs in print and digitally and to edit them. The calendar will be available on the URC Bookshop from September.

## Flower rota for June

Sunday 2 June	Hyun Ju Kim
Sunday 9 June	Connie Sheow
Sunday 16 June	Ann Macfarlane
Sunday 23 June	Jean Thompson
Sunday 30 June	Still available



Commitment  
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



### Commitment for Life prayer for Christian Aid

God of the oppressed, let justice flow like a river.  
 God of compassion, let dignity be extended to those who suffer.  
 God of the marginalised, let those living with discrimination come to know equality.  
 God of comfort, may every heart know your love and grace.

We pray that your purposes for Christian Aid would be accomplished.  
 May those caught in the grip of poverty and injustice be met with dignity, equality, justice and love.

Strengthen and guide Christian Aid, its partners and sponsoring churches in all their work. Give them wisdom, perseverance for the task at hand, and a heart of compassion for all that they work with. Empower them by your Spirit to bring your hope to this world that you love. *Amen.*

***Jonathan Clarke***

## The wedding of Linda Austin and Graham Cocking

On Saturday 11 May KURC had the pleasure of hosting the the wedding of Linda Austin and Graham Cocking. The church looked at its most festive, decorated with magnificent fresh flower displays arranged by Janine, and was soon filled with the aroma of white roses and lilies.

As well as to friends of families of the bride and groom, invitations had gone to both all our own congregation and also to congregations Graham had served as a methodist minister. The church packed! The organ was played by Peter Bullett, and organ music was a prelude to the grand ceremony which was to follow.

Linda and Graham entered, and all eyes were on our bride, who wore a lacy cream-colored wedding dress, and on the beaming groom with a buttonhole in the lapel of his smart jacket. The ceremony, led by Lesley, had begun. We had Bible readings from Teresa and a friendly and moving address by the Reverend Bryan Coates, who had been a close friend of Graham since they were young men. Lesley led us in prayer, and we sang hymns. Linda and Graham exchanged rings, giving clear voice their marital vows. And then of course, the moment many of us had been waiting for – Lesley pronounced them husband and wife and asked Graham to kiss the bride! The service then drew to a close with the signing of the register and with all the congregation giving hearty voice to “Love Divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down....”.

After the official and happy ceremony, we all proceeded to the Mayo Hall for refreshments (champagne, wine, juice, non-alcoholic drinks and lots of delicious canapés). There was a toast to the newly-weds, people mingled and spoke and laughed, and it was simply a happy atmosphere! Then we had a “cutting of the cake” ceremony. The cake was beautifully made and so delicious!

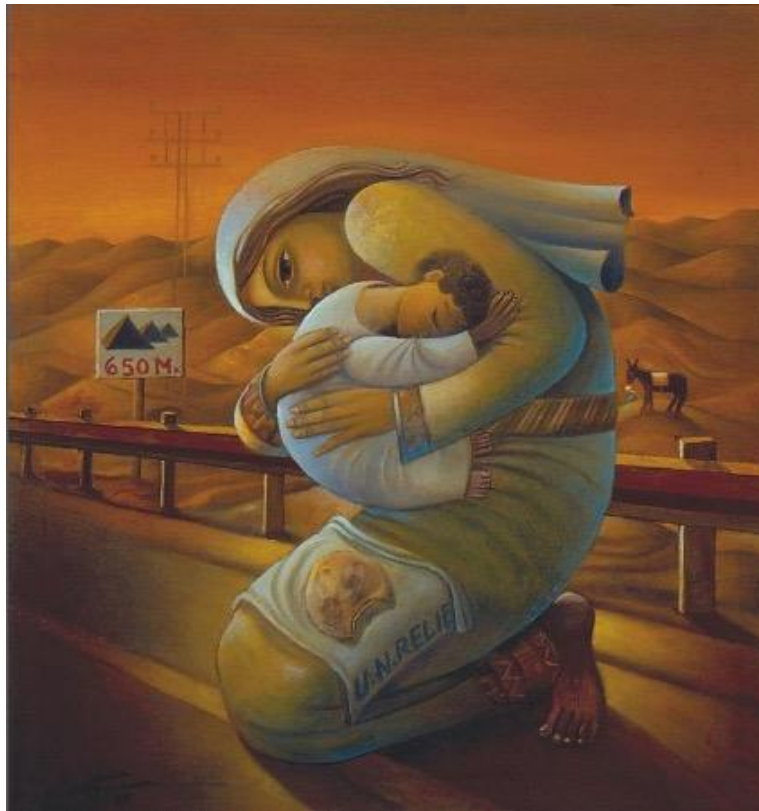
What a happy occasion it was and we all wish Linda and Graham health, happiness and love in their future together.

**Natasha Reid**

*Linda and Graham would like to give their sincere thanks to everyone for participating and sharing in their special day. They felt it was a very joyous and happy occasion. And thanks from them too for all the good wishes and cards which made such a difference*



## The flight into Egypt



*reproduced by kind permission of Sliman Mansour*

Sliman Mansour is an artist in Palestine. His style, which has come to symbolise Palestinian national identity, has inspired generations of Palestinian and international artists. Using symbols derived from Palestinian life, culture, history, and tradition, Mansour illustrates Palestinians' resolve and connection with their land. Mansour's art deftly reflects the hopes and realities of a people living under occupation for the better part of a century.

The Holy Family, facing danger and death, found sanctuary in Egypt. Today Palestinians face relentless military action. Safety is tantalisingly close, yet impossible to reach. The Palestinian mother and child try, in vain, to get to Egypt; in this picture we also see the plight of the displaced, bombed and starved Palestinians. The woman and child are fed by the UN, now condemned.

In today's world Jesus is to be found in many places, but not least with the millions of Palestinian refugees seeking to find shelter and safety – as once his parents found refuge in Egypt.

***URC Daily Devotion***  
*(abridged)*

*Sliman Mansour is co-author of the book "Both Sides of Peace: Israeli and Palestinian Political Poster Art".*





## Eco-tip for June

### Join #30DaysWild

One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June. Find some wild ideas at [wildlifetrusts.org/30-dayswild](https://wildlifetrusts.org/30-dayswild).

*This is taken from A Rocha's calendar of monthly eco tips which you can download at*

<https://arocha.org.uk/easy-eco-tips-2024-calendar/>

### A surprise visit and a piece of church history



It was a lovely surprise to see Stephen and Gillian Hammond-Evans in church recently. They were married in KURC 51 years ago and now live in Leicester. We were even more surprised to discover that it was Stephen who in 1977 made the large wooden offertory plate which we still use today. The plate is still in remarkably good condition, with hardly a scratch visible.

## Kingston Child Contact Centre

*A few editions back, Church News launched a new series about some of the key partner organisations that KURC supports and works together with. This month it is the turn of Kingston's Child Contact Centre, with which Stuart Chandler remains in close touch on KURC's behalf. Charmaine Lee brings us up to date in the article below.*

Kingston Child Contact Centre is in the heart of the town. We provide a neutral space for separated families to spend time together.

We offer three different services: supported contact which means we are in the presence of the family contact. The second type of contact is 'supervise' where the family are in a private space (upstairs) with a volunteer typing their interactions, capturing their conversations, manner of care etc., in a written report. And finally, we offer a handover service, where the children are safely taken to the other parents (waiting in a safe zone), so there no direct contact with the other parent or their family members. We have been operating for over 10 years and have seen countless families passed through our centre, some just for one or two sessions, whilst others have extended over a couple of years.

From these experiences, we have learnt how to manage families going through significant challenges with kindness, care and compassion.

Families come to us through relationships breakdowns, separation, divorce, addictions, domestic violence/abuse and fear. Some situations may be via a Court Order, Social Services, independent and mutual agreement that we refer as a 'self-referral.'

We actively listen to families, both sides (without judgements) when they are invited for a pre-meeting. They share their story and why they need us to spend time with their children sometimes it can be grandparent who are no longer welcomed in the family home. We try to meet everyone's needs with the facilities available and we have a good record of success from the positive feedback.

We vigorously campaigned and fund raised monies for our first supervised contact room, opened last year with a commissioned illustrator who created a piece of artwork about who us and who we serve. It richly represents our equality that is diverse and inclusive.

We envisaged a space that was homely friendly and comfortable, which was an amazing achievement for us that had taken over five years in the thinking processes of how are we going to achieve this with success and

so far we have welcomed several families in that space, who have appreciated the aesthetics of the room aiding their contact.

During our 10 years, we've also found that running a virtual office was the best way forward as most volunteers give their time freely with a paid administrator.

Having a virtual office means that we can respond to families in need quickly, efficiently when they need an immediate answer, help from us or future enquiry.

Also, the benefits of having a virtual office means that we can liaise with third-party such as social workers, the police, family, advocates, and solicitors without delay which we have learnt from our families, bring some great relief and reduces their anxieties of being separated from their children.

There is such a strong need for a service, and we are finding more families coming to us who need an opportunity to reconnect with their families and to demonstrate their engagement and outwardly expression of trust that has often broken down in these situations. Working for the child contact centre is a wonderful experience, very humbling because there are times of silence through being in the presence of families and observing without judgement, it is a life discipline.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers, and if you feel this could be you and have a few hours to spare every 3 to 4 weeks, the commitment is relatively low for the great return to families who need and rely upon our service.

We give special thanks to all the volunteers and associates of the Kingston Child Contact Centre who have donated their time money and unwavering support for the work that we do.

**Reminder:**

Copy for the next (July/August) edition of  
*Church News* should reach Catherine Treweek by  
**Friday 7 June.**

## Joan Reid Ross Kelly

29 April 1932 – 216 March 2024



Born in Greenock in the west of Scotland, it was in Canada that Joan met Gavan when they were both working for the Canadian broadcasting company. They married, but she was a Protestant and he a Roman Catholic, and that is how things stayed. They lived in Australia for 10 years but then returned to the UK where Gavan worked for LBC which was then taking off. They travelled extensively to their old stamping grounds as well as within Europe. But they loved Cornwall in particular and bought a house there which they visited frequently, especially in retirement. They also continued in their love of ballroom dancing which had brought them together in the first place. Joan was a keen gardener and won the small Gardens in Bloom Competition several times. While she was still mobile she was a regular at KURC's evening service.

She and Gavan were a deeply devoted couple, and at the time of his death a short time before Gavan's, they had been together for 64 years. She will be much missed by her neighbours, with whom she was close, and by her fellow KURC dancers.

## The 10 most dangerous places to be a Christian – and how you can pray

*Church News concludes its series of reports from the Christian Charity, Open Doors with the final two countries covered, Iran and Afghanistan. The reports suggest how we can pray for Christians in these countries who face imprisonment and even death because of their faith.*

[In Iran, pressure has remained extreme in virtually all areas of life.](#) There had been some hopeful court rulings in the first half of the 2024 World Watch List reporting period with Christians being released and sentences reduced, but then followed a major wave of arrests in July 2023. Converts from Islam to Christianity face difficulties from the government, society and their families.

*Praise God for the steadfast witness of the church leaders who have faced prison sentences, merely for running, or even just attending house churches.*

[Afghanistan remains in the top 10.](#) While pressure was at an extreme level in all spheres of life, reports of faith-related acts of violence against Christians were few. The Taliban seemed to be more interested in arresting and interrogating (suspected) Christians in order to identify networks rather than in direct punishment.

*Pray for the remaining Christians in the country, who must keep their faith hidden. Pray also for those who have been forced to flee the country.*

# Crafternoons 2024

May 18<sup>th</sup> **Knit and Stitch**

June 15<sup>th</sup> **Cancelled**

July 20<sup>th</sup> **Camera Capers**

August 17<sup>th</sup> **Jewellery Making**

September 21<sup>st</sup> **Spring is around the corner!**

October 19<sup>th</sup> **Crafty Toilet Twinning!!**

November 16<sup>th</sup> **A recycled Christmas**

December 21<sup>st</sup> **Body Art**

**Saturdays 2-4pm**

**Kingston United Reformed Church**

**£3per person or £5 per family**

**Tea, cake and conversation included**

**For more details speak to Carol Clack or Sally Butler**

## Christian Aid Week pictorial round-up



Eyes down for a full house in the Mayo Hall as KURC and other local church teams compete in this year's Christian Aid quiz. The evening raised £600 for the charity.

Lesley and her spade take a break from URC's Ministers summer school to clock up further steps towards the 70,000 she and other local clergy each committed to walking during Christian Aid week.



Christian Aid's Super-Saturday with singers and macarena specialists providing a feast for ears and eyes in central Kingston as a grand finale to the week.

## Report on building projects

We continue to consider upgrades to the church building and its services. At the church meeting in November, we agreed to spend up to £50k from our reserves to upgrade our premises. Since then we have added heat pump units to heat and cool the Centre Hall. This was urgently needed as the spaces were very cold in the winter months and we were losing bookings. The situation now is a lot happier. Synod has contributed 50% of the funding.

We have recently been out to tender to replace the existing, energy inefficient single glazed windows in the office areas. The tenders came back within budget. We are currently deciding how best to move this forward.

We have plans to upgrade the flat roof insulation and that tender is due back very shortly.

Additionally, we have prepared schemes to update the building's heating, ventilation and hot and cold water systems to accord with current design. This work is in the process of going out to tender.

We do need to spend a lot of money to upgrade our premises. Synod has agreed to give us a 50% grant for the fees and also 50% for the window work. In many ways, the mechanical and electrical upgrades are more urgent but we will need to assess how best to move forward once we have actual contractor costs.

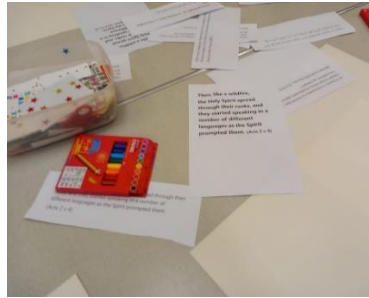
We will continue to keep you apprised of progress. Thank you for your on-going support.

***Linda Austin***

On behalf of the Management Group

**How to write "I changed a lightbulb" on your resume:**

**"Single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of a new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and no safety incidents."**

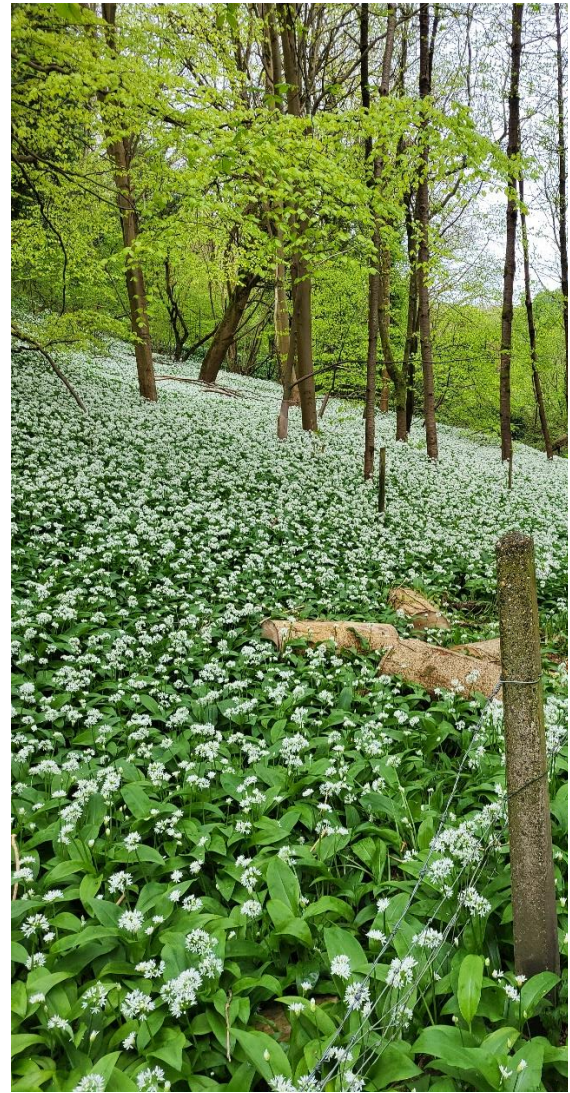


## May's Messy Church explores Pentecost





## Wild garlic



2024 seems to be a very good year for wild garlic. Garlic is only mentioned once in the Bible. Do you know in which book?

Answers to John Fisher, please.

### SUCCESS

*To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.*

*—Ralph Waldo Emerson*



## readings for June

### **BRINGING GOOD NEWS**

Saturday 1 June 2 John 1:1-6

### **GOSPEL OF MARK**

- *Who is this miracle worker?*

Sunday 2 June Mark 7:1-23

Monday 3 June Mark 7:24-30

Tuesday 4 June Mark 7:31-37

Wednesday 5 June Mark 8:1-13

Thursday 6 June Mark 8:14-21

Friday 7 June Mark 8:22-26

Saturday 8 June Mark 8:27-30

- *Getting the message*

Sunday 9 June Mark 8:31-38

Monday 10 June Mark 9:1-13

Tuesday 11 June Mark 9:14-29

Wednesday 12 June Mark 9:33-37

Thursday 13 June Mark 9:38-51

Friday 14 June Mark 10:1-12

Saturday 15 June Mark 10:13-16

### **READINGS IN 1 CHRONICLES**

Sunday 16 June 1 Chronicles 1:1-27

Monday 17 June 1 Chronicles 2:1-17

Tuesday 18 June 1 Chronicles 4:1-10

Wednesday 19 June 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

Thursday 20 June 1 Chronicles 13:1-14

Friday 21 June 1 Chronicles 15:11-29

Saturday 22 June 1 Chronicles 18:9-17

### **CHANGING SEASONS: 1 CHRONICLES 19-29**

Sunday 23 June 1 Chronicles 19:1-15

Monday 24 June 1 Chronicles 21:1-13

Tuesday 25 June 1 Chronicles 22:1-10

Wednesday 26 June 1 Chronicles 25:1-8

Thursday 27 June 1 Chronicles 28:8-20

Friday 28 June 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

Saturday 29 June 1 Chronicles 29:21-25

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

- *Rights and responsibilities*

Sunday 30 June Deuteronomy 30:11-20



## 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](mailto:minister@kingstonurc.org)

Rev Dr Suk In Lee, tel: 020 8949 2070 e-mail: [leesukin@hotmail.com](mailto:leesukin@hotmail.com)

### Church Secretary:

Cathy Seymour, mobile: 07775 615126 e-mail: [chsec@kingstonurc.org](mailto:chsec@kingstonurc.org)

### Treasurer:

Christine Chippendale, mobile: 07738 562457 e-mail: [treasurer@kingstonurc.org](mailto:treasurer@kingstonurc.org)

### Children, Youth & Families Worker:

Sally Butler, mobile: 07807 348326 e-mail: [youth@kingstonurc.org](mailto:youth@kingstonurc.org)

### Missionary:

[So Young Jung](mailto:SoYoungJung@naver.com), mobile: 07786 032770 e-mail: [2005eo@naver.com](mailto:2005eo@naver.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@urckington.org.uk](mailto:premises@urckington.org.uk)

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

### Premises Assistant:

Georgi Todorov, Landline as above.

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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 July/August is Friday, 7 June 2024**

**Editor: Catherine Treweek, e-mail):** [premises@urckington.org.uk](mailto:premises@urckington.org.uk)

### 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 X.

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

And, as a finale.....

## **March Sunset seen from Queens Promenade, Kingston**



*(photographed by John Fisher)*

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
The darkness falls at Thy behest;  
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.