

# CHURCH NEWS

## KINGSTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



# AUGUST 2025



*"A Journey through Kingston" photo credit to Teresa James*

[WWW.KINGSTONURC.ORG](http://WWW.KINGSTONURC.ORG)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1131880

EDITED THIS MONTH BY HOSANA LEE

***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

**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 (except Bank Holidays)

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

12.30 Community Lunch (except Bank Holidays)

**Tuesday:**

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

10.30 Knitting & Crocheting (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays monthly)

**Wednesday:**

10.00 Tots' Praise

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

13.30 Lunch-time Service

**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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** 10.00 Mary & Martha's Group  
except August

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** 11.30 Church Meeting

**Quarterly:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** 14.00 Crafternoons

**School Holidays:**

**Wednesdays** 11.00 The Generation Zone

**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 August 2025:**

**6<sup>th</sup> 11.00 Generation Zone**

**16<sup>th</sup> 14.00 Crafternoon**

**27<sup>th</sup> 11.00 Generation Zone**

**Please also see the e-mailed Weekly Notice**

## Letter from Lesley



Dear All,

At the end of a service a member of the church came up to me and said, 'it's very hard to believe in God with all the bad things going on around the world'.

Very true.

However, let's remember we believe in two fundamental truths not one.

The first truth is the saving work of Jesus Christ. God has come and walked the earth. God knows what it is like to physically suffer, be sad, and to die. God uniquely knows what it is like to leave death behind and rise to new life. God has been there. We are not alone.

But

We also believe in the reality of sin. Human beings have a propensity to do wrong things. We know this. People we love have done hideous things. People we love can lie, steal, commit adultery. They can manipulate people. Some people are so fragile they need their ego massaged all the time which means they have to take over churches and take over countries.

One of these truths does not deny the other.

Yes, we know God is good. Yes, we know God loves each of us.... but human beings?! Different story entirely.

Bad things are bound to happen.

The battle of this is to avoid being bitter and cynical. There are good things and beautiful acts of kindness. Even in war zones they happen.

**Lesley**

## Cathy's conversation



It came as a good surprise that there will be an August Church News. Generally, I like surprises. They make me stop and think. Once, a good while ago, my family arranged a surprise birthday party for me. I was overwhelmed when the surprise was revealed, but what a lovely gift.

Occasionally, I have been with the team of people planning a surprise party or gift. It is quite a mischievous thing to do. Some people really struggle with surprises. Alan, my husband, was very clear that he did not ever want a surprise party, even though he was very much a leader in the planning for my surprise! He was on a winner though, as I would have found it very hard not to reveal the surprise before the planned event.

Well, that just shows that we all have different strengths and weaknesses. This, of course, is true for our church and community. There is no place for judgement/criticism when our weaknesses are revealed. Indeed, I think that we might marvel at the courage it takes when people are prepared to make themselves vulnerable as they try something that doesn't necessarily play to their strength.

For those that like them may August have some good surprises for you.  
For those trying something new may August be a time of courage.  
For us all may August bring us closer to the surprising, constant love of God.

***Cathy Seymour***



## Carol's Contribution



Alongside being a presence in the foyer, my role as community minister includes connecting with the wider community. Recently I have attended two community events.

At the end of June, I attended a garden party held by the Bishop of Kingston, The Rt Revd Martin Gainsborough, at his home in Wimbledon. The bishop wants to build links with the community. Representatives included both the mayor of Kingston and his deputy, the arch deacon of Southwark, different faith leaders and others. It was a good opportunity to network, meet new people, catch up with old friends and to put a face to someone I've only ever communicated with by email. And yes, the tea and cake were good too!

At the beginning of July, I attended the Kingston Interfaith forum. We met at the Surrey Islamic Centre in Norbiton. Most of the meeting was given over to the situation in Israel and Palestine. It was not a debate but a safe place for people to express their views on the situation openly and honestly. What struck me most were the experiences of the Muslim mothers who spoke. They feel that they have lost their right to free speech. They see double standards and a western world that supports Israel. Whilst the war in Ukraine is talked about and fundraised for, the same head teacher will not do the same for Gaza. It's as if all Muslims are seen as terrorists – they are not!! Their children are aware of the tensions – one boy will not wear his 'Palestine' cap because it would be wrong. The women were talking as mothers who are seeing so many young lives taken on both sides. The women were buoyed up by the fact that they had been able to express themselves openly and honestly in a safe place and that they had been heard. Does this solve the bigger picture? No, but they left encouraged by the support from that meeting.

For me personally, the most awful thing about the Israel/Gaza situation is that political groups are so determined to win that every man, woman and child that gets caught up in this is seen as collateral damage – humanity is lost. And as far as I can see the state of Israel is carrying out its own holocaust on the people of Gaza.

I believe that both sides need to put their guns down and do the difficult and seemingly impossible job of real dialogue and work out a way of respectfully living side by side.

***Carol Clack***

## From Sally

This month, please join me in praying this lovely prayer (maybe once a week?) for young people everywhere.

Father, whose Son called children to him,  
we pray for young people everywhere,  
that their childhood may  
be filled with laughter and happiness.  
As they learn so many facts  
and enter into so many new experiences,  
may they learn of your love,  
and how to serve Jesus as Master and Lord.



*Bernard Thorogood*



*Creator: Rawpixel | Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto*

# Pastoral News

O, Heavenly Father,  
give me a heart like the heart of Jesus,  
a heart more ready to serve than be served,  
a heart moved by compassion  
towards the weak and oppressed,  
a heart set upon the coming of your kingdom  
in the world of men and women.

-JOHN BAILLIE

Photo credits to #FaithfulMoms

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

# FLOWER rota for August

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Please speak to Janine  
Goddard or Jean Thompson  
if you would like to take a  
date.

Sunday 3rd August -

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August -

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August -

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August -

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August - Teresa &  
Vaughan James



# Archive of the Month



150 years ago, our church appointed a new minister: Rev. John Pate. He stayed for just seven years but helped to build up the fellowship and stabilise the financial position following a period of serious decline. (The previous minister had been asked to resign!).

One innovation during Pate's ministry was the publication of annual yearbooks or 'manuals'. On the first page he gave members of the church six 'hints' which are surely applicable today and worth noting:

**Be Punctual:** Be in your places before the minister has entered the pulpit, to secure a few moments of silent prayer...slovenly Christianity is a dishonour to God.

**Be Regular:** Not present in the morning and absent in the evening? Take heed lest you miss the special message God sends you. A vacant pew is depressing to the pulpit; but a hearing people makes a preaching minister.

**Be Devotional:** You are not here as mere hearers, much less as spectators. You are here as worshippers. Throw into every part of the service the whole energy of your being...send forth from the depths of your own hearts each petition offered in prayer and personally apply the word that is read and preached. Expect a blessing and desire it...

**Be Social:** Let your heart embrace in its sympathy and affectionate interest all who worship with you; and let the expression of your countenance and whole demeanour reveal it...be courteous to strangers and give them a welcome that will induce them to return.

**Be Liberal:** Bear your own proportion of the Church's burdens. If you have the means, accept not privileges at the expense of others...With self-denying effort assist the Church's missions and give a helping hand to every benevolent enterprise.

**Be Prayerful:** All blessing must be sought in fervent prayer...and maintain in your own homes, as far as practicable, the custom of family worship

**John Fisher**



## CRAFTERNOON AND THE GENERATION ZONE – 2025 DATES

### **Crafternoon quarterly dates:**

Saturdays at 2-4pm:

16 August

15 November

Contact: Carol Clack

[carol.clack@kingstonurc.org](mailto:carol.clack@kingstonurc.org)

### **The Generation Zone School Holiday dates:**

Wednesdays at 11am-1pm:

6 August

27 August

29 October

Contact: Lesley

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

Jean Thompson will be editing September's Church News.  
Articles and photos to Jean please by Friday, 8 August.  
[jeant@btinternet.com](mailto:jeant@btinternet.com)

# Crafternoon Invites You

**KINGSTON  
UNITED  
REFORMED  
CHURCH**



Drink tea, eat cake and craft in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

'Support for today, hope for the future'

**Saturday 16  
August  
2 - 4 PM**

**We look forward to seeing lots of you there.**



### ECO TIP FOR AUGUST

**Private gardens, churchyards and other outdoor spaces can make a significant contribution to nature. We can take action to care for plants, wildlife and soil in the places where we live and around our churches. Caring for the earth was the first instruction God gave to humans. This doesn't mean we all need to be professional gardeners but perhaps try to learn one new thing this month that you can do for a garden space. Read more about nature-friendly gardening at [Friendly Gardening 10 Top Tips](#)**



**'What a pretty garden and look at that thatched roof house...'- photo by Hosana at Richmond Park**



# Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



*Clothing factory workers, Bangladesh. Credit: Pixabay*

## ***Action Prayer with Greta – Bangladesh***

### ***Equipment – clothes.***

*Bangladesh is a country where many clothes are made and are sold in the UK. As you look through your cupboards and drawers, see how many of them are made in Bangladesh. (It should say on the label) and ask God that the clothes we wear will be ethically made. Pray that factory owners will create safe working places and be compelled to pay their workers well.*

### **Prayer**

Dear God, we thank you for our clothes. We pray for the women in Bangladesh that work in poor conditions and for very little pay to make the clothes we wear. We pray that you may hear their cries for better working conditions and pay and bless them.

Amen



## I-Spy

A little bit about the new Unilever Mural (down St James's Road, opposite KURC) as seen on the cover.

Following an exhibition at Stanley Picker Gallery, Ian Wornast's bold drawing **A Journey Through Kingston** is a permanent mural on the facade of the Unilever Campus as part of Kingston 2025.

The work captures Kingston's distinctive architecture and streetscapes through Ian's bold, graphic style, informed by his journeys around the town... but where is KURC's significant facade?

It reflects Kingston's growing commitment to public art and inclusive creative voices.



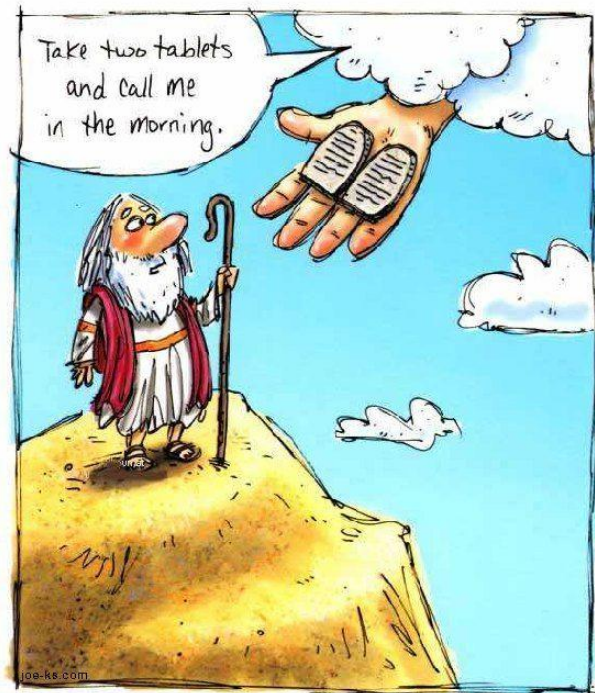
*(image courtesy Stanley Picker Gallery)*

***From Teresa James***

## Church chuckles!



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.



**Visiting his grandparents**, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"



Credits to <https://www.swapmeetdave.com/Humor/Religious.htm> and Pinterest



## Life in Full Bloom: My Journey Through Teaching, Motherhood, and Grace

In the heart of Seoul, also known as ‘Seoul my Soul’, I have been living a full and sometimes wildly unpredictable life for the past 8 years. I work full time as a Year 1 teacher at a British international school and was recently promoted to



Head of Year. I’m also a mum to a little bundle of love and mischief named Leanne, who is currently embracing her toddler years with full force. And then there is my husband, Hyunsoo, who is also juggling work and family responsibilities. Thankfully, he is managing the balance quite well!

It has been a journey with plenty of highs and lows, moments of joy and struggle, and more than a few fun surprises along the way, mostly thanks to Leanne. Through it all, I’ve been led by Christ, who continues to guide me even in the moments when life feels like a full-blown chaos inferno. What also keeps me grounded are the small but meaningful gestures I receive—whether from my colleagues, friends, the Korean



church I attend, teachers at daycare, or my family.



I’ve been touched by the generosity of families at school who have passed on gently used scooters and old baby books for Leanne. Or when one of my closest fellow career-mum friend stayed with me until three in the morning, long after our kids’ bedtime, just so we could talk, vent, cry, laugh, and feel human again. I’ve felt

unconditional love through a simple KakaoTalk message, a video call from mum, or an endless stream of WhatsApp voice notes from friends who genuinely care. These reminders help me hold on to why I am here and why I keep doing what I try my best to do each day.



At our church, Sanseong Church in Banpo-dong, the Youth Minister Kim (wearing the purple shirt in the photo on the right) always prays for us and regularly checks in to make sure we are doing okay. These small acts of care have meant everything to me.



So far, motherhood and career have been the biggest challenges but also the most rewarding gifts. There is a persistent, nagging feeling that I could or should be doing better in both. But through prayer, honest conversations, and quiet reflection, I'm learning to give myself

grace. I remind myself to do the best I can and then let go. Because tomorrow is a new day.

Right now, Leanne and I are enjoying our summer holiday together in London. My parents have stepped in as full-time, fully hands-on grandparents, and watching them



with Leanne has been an absolute delight. Who knew Grandad could build such impressive train tracks at over sixty years old? National

Railways? Eat your heart out! And thanks to my mum's delicious and nutritious, super granny-approved meals, Leanne has passed her ten-kilogram weight goal and is thriving!



This season of life is intense, unpredictable, and at times overwhelming. But it is also full of joy, growth, and deep love. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

Thank you for reading.

***Hosana Lee***

## What have you done about the situation in Gaza?

This is what various members/friends of the church are doing.

*“Pray”*

### A Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza

Heavenly Father, we pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We pray especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. Strengthen and support the work of all relief organisations.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord hear us as we pray in the power of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Sundown's fading light shows the destruction in the Sha'af neighborhood of Gaza City after the summer war between Israel and Hamas. Photo credit to The Washington Post.



### Learning more

(I know this was last month's news, but this is still relevant to teach us what people have been doing)

From All Saints; Monday 28th July 2025 7:30PM Join us for this public talk on Palestine from the Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos Dean of Salisbury.

Between January and April 2024 Nick spent three months' sabbatical leave volunteering in occupied East Jerusalem with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, which he describes as 'an overwhelming experience'. He monitored human rights, visited holy sites, worshipped in different churches, spoke with many people and many organizations, lived through the Muslim observance of Ramadan, and celebrated Holy Week and Easter in the city where Jesus died and rose again – all against the merciless backdrop of the war in Gaza.

- What is daily life under occupation really like?
- What are the implications for human rights and international law?
- What can be done to promote a just peace in Israel–Palestine?



Palestinian brothers Achmed and Hussama Kafana, ages 5 and 7, use the top of an umbrella as a prayer mat in the ruins of the Omar Abed El Aziz Mosque in Beit

Hanoun during Friday prayers. The mosque was damaged during the war. Photo credit to The Washington Post.

“With regards to Gaza. We watch with a horror the news ‘Al Jazeera’ and I follow it on internet and sign a various anti-Israeli petition. I responded to some appeal to help Gaza children. With a great shame I admit that I am not doing more to help to stop this monstrosity.

Every day there are humans who are dying in the large numbers and starve to death, simply exterminated... and we are only watching...”

“I am simply praying a few times a day, especially from TV News.”



Photo credit to: [Al menos 70 muertos en ataque israelí a campo de refugiados de Al Maghazi en Gaza](#)

1. Praying for peace
2. Support Amos Trust working in Israel
3. Post on my Facebook page
4. Visit and add like to Facebook posts like Rabbis for Human Rights; Don Binder; Palestine Solidarity Campaign;
5. Sign petitions – the most recent one is asking Kingston Council to stop funding Israeli companies. Do people know Kingston



council invests 60 million pounds in companies connected to Israel's oppression of Palestinians?

6. Write to local MP

7. Keep informed via news outlets (keeping open mind on their sources of information)

8. Finally wearing melon shaped earrings and badge, the symbol of Palestine. (I don't expect a lot of people will follow this one)

9. I went to the most recent demonstration outside the Houses of Parliament and posted photos on my Facebook page

10. I believe Israel's government reaction to the October 24 attacks are disproportionate. I also believe Israel has no interest whatsoever in a two-state solution.

11. I distinguish between the government and people of Israel. Two thirds of Israelis want the war to end. The President and his supporters do not.



A woman mourns during a funeral for Palestinians killed by Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, October 26. Photo credit to REUTERS/Mohammed Salem.

“I have donated money; at the beginning I went on one of the processions in Kingston. I try to put the Palestinian side without being confrontational, I pass on information that may provide information or dialogue. I recognize the trauma in Jewish experience but eventually I think it needs to be gently called out. When I can I try to speak to Jewish people – in the beginning I think they were overwhelmed (there are only 16 million of them in the whole world so there is a good chance that every one of them knows someone who has been affected.) Now I think many British Jews are appalled but loyalty makes them feel they can’t speak out. I am told (I have no way of verifying it) that liberal Israelis are saying they have done all they can the international community needs to apply pressure e.g. by sanctions. And walking into my kitchen I remembered – buy Palestinian goods and boycott Israeli.”

“Make sure I am getting news from a range of news outlets.”

“Sign petitions– particularly the one about letting in baby milk.”



Palestinians carry a casualty following Israeli strikes on houses in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, October 17. Photo credits to REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa.

What can you do? Maybe something unique like John Miller Campbell and write hymns:

*Palestinian Song – Gethsemane*

Watch, oh watch, Jesus kneeling,  
crouched in darkness quite alone,  
for us praying, crying grieving;  
wracked with pain we've wrought for him.  
No human eye could watch him tearless,  
not one heart keep free from anguish  
as Jesus hurts to make us whole;  
see, alone, for us, he prays.

Hear, oh hear, Jesus praying;  
crying to God with grief and  
tears,  
"Take this cup of sorrow from  
me!";  
bitter cup we filled for him.  
No human eye could watch him  
tearless,  
not one heart keep free from anguish  
as Jesus fights where all have failed;  
hear, alone, for us, he prays.



Feel, oh feel, Jesus' sorrow,  
Telling God, "Your will be done!";  
Feel the cost of his obedience,  
Self surrendered for our sake.  
No human eye could watch him tearless,  
not one heart keep free from anguish  
as Jesus gives his all for us,  
then alone prepares to die



## Palestinian Song – Wa Habibi

What an outrage! What injustice!  
that for us you bear this cross.  
All my dreams lie crushed damp; broken;  
my sad heart hangs with you there.

My beloved, my beloved,  
where has all this left you now?  
You who drained our cup of suff'ring,  
so that we could find new life.

Olive trees must join the weeping,  
grieving for our dying Lord,  
and Jerusalem must mourn Him;  
Hills and mountains share the pain.

Not one song, nor any singer  
can console me in my loss.  
Yet all those who follow Jesus  
share the pain of my crushed heart.

Ev'rything that I might offer  
could not start to pay my debt.  
Endless thanks each day I'm living  
could not ever be enough.

*John Miller Campbell*

Photo credit: <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unrwa-press-release-25sep24/>



A Palestinian woman reacts at the site of an Israeli strike on a residential building in Gaza City, October 25. Photo credit to REUTERS/Yasser Qudih.

“Give money to the Disaster Emergency Committee.”

“Give money to Christian Aid.”

“I boycott Coca Cola as part of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) launched a major new campaign: [Don't Buy Apartheid](#). The campaign highlights how both Israeli agricultural companies and Coca-Cola work to uphold and enable Israel's system of oppression against Palestinians.”

“...and pray some more...”

“We pray for all leaders in Israel and Palestine that a just and lasting peace will be found. In the midst of our grief and sorrow we trust in your unfailing love for all people, and for your Land, and ask that your wisdom would prevail, for we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who brings the world eternal peace.”



Palestinians evacuate the area following an Israeli airstrike on the Soussi mosque in Gaza City on October 9, 2023. Images of suffering, violence and death in Gaza and Israel have flooded the news since Oct. 7. *MAHMUD HAMS/AFP via Getty Images*

*Lesley M Charlton Kingston URC July 2025*



# AUGUST

Saturday 23 - Sunday  
24 August - **Royal  
Borough of Kingston  
Street Art**

**Venue:** Kingston  
Town Centre

**Type:** Exhibition

**Tickets:** Free Entry



## Talking to our new friends, Jooyun Yoo (Belle) & Hyosung Shin (Edgar)!

As we warmly welcome Jooyun and Hyosung as friends and members of Kingston United Reformed Church, I thought it would be a lovely opportunity for us to get to know the wonderful couple using this month's Church News. When I first met Jooyun and Hyosung during my visit last Christmas, I was amazed and inspired by their outstanding creativity in the Arts, compassion and care towards others, the grit they possessed in their work life and ambitions, but moreover their devotion to Christ as young Christians just trying to make it in the big, wide world! Currently, they are expecting the birth of their first baby, a precious baby boy, in December 2025 and I cannot be more excited for them!



Our conversating is recorded below in both English and Korean. Enjoy!

### **1. How long have you been living in the UK since you got married? Are you both settling back into the UK now as a married couple?**

We got married in Korea in September 2023 and came to the UK in December 2024. It's now been about seven months since we arrived in the UK. Jooyun had been living in the UK consistently since 2016 because of her family, and Hyosung came to the UK at the end of 2017 on a working holiday visa and stayed for two years. In 2019, when Hyosung moved to Edinburgh, we got to know each other. Since we are the same age, we became close — and that connection continued all the way to now. It feels like it was fate: how we met, how our relationship lasted, and how we got married and came back to the UK together!

Back then, we were each living our own separate lives, but now we are building a life together with our families in the UK, and it feels quite different. Of course, there was no need to "adjust" to life here — we were already so used to living in the UK, and since we have family here, we're getting along without much difficulty.

Jooyun originally liked the UK and says she feels more at ease here than in Korea, haha. Living in New Malden, she doesn't even particularly miss Korea. Hyosung still misses Korea a bit, but he's also enjoying life here with his wife and family.



And now that we have a new family, we are looking forward to life in the UK even more!

## 결혼하고 영국에 온지 얼마나 됐지? 부부로 돌아온 영국에 잘 적응하고 있어?



결혼은 한국에서 2023년 9월에 했고, 영국에는 2024년 12월에 왔어. 이제 영국에 온 지 7개월이 되어 가네. 주연이는 가족들 때문에 2016년부터 꾸준히 영국에서 지냈었고, 효성이는 2017년 말에 워킹 홀리데이로 영국에 와서 2년 동안 있었지. 2019년에

효성이가 에딘버러로 이사 오게 되면서 서로 알게 되었고, 동갑이어서 친해졌는데 그게 여기까지 이어졌네. 운명이었던 것 같아. 만나게 된 것도, 관계가 유지된 것도, 그리고 결혼하고 다시 영국에 온 것도! 그 때는 각자 따로 인생을 살았다면, 이제는 영국에서 가족들과 함께 이뤄 나가는 삶이라 많이 다른 것 같아. 물론 적응은 할 필요가 없었어! 영국생활이 워낙 익숙했고 가족들도 있기 때문에 별 다른 불편함 없이 잘 지내고 있는 것 같아. 주연이는 영국이 원래 좋았고 한국보다 여기가 더 마음이 편하대 ㅎ. 뉴몰든에 살다보니까 딱히 한국이 그리워도 않아. 효성이는 아직 조금 한국을 그리워하는 것 같긴 하지만 이 곳에서도 아내와 가족들과 함께 지내는 걸 즐기고 있어. 이제 새로운 가족도 생겼으니 더더욱 영국 삶을 기대하겠지?

## 2. What were you doing in South Korea before moving to the UK and what are you doing now in the UK?

Jooyun majored in Korean traditional dance and used to teach both high school and university students. She also worked as a choreographer for films and television dramas, mainly coaching actors. She often appeared in the productions herself, performing dances on screen. Naturally, she also held her own performances from time to time. These days, she performs occasionally when

invited, but compared to how active she was in Korea, you could say she's mostly taking it easy. As a hobby, she also worked as an underwater model.

When it comes to dance skills, there are many, and all of them are important. In Korean dance, there is a concept called jeong-jung-dong, which means "movement within stillness." This highlights how vital the process and breath are to the art form. The expression of curves is also very deliberate and meaningful, making it an incredibly captivating form of art.

Hyosung studied journalism and broadcasting, with the dream of becoming a film director. He has been deeply involved in writing, filming, editing, and various creative roles. He also worked for about four years as a staff member on commercial film sets. However, with a strong desire to make his own films, he continues to focus on writing. In addition to that, he enjoys planning events and is quite good at it. He hopes to put those talents to use here in the UK.

A great example of this was the Lunar New Year celebration held last February at New Malden URC. At that time, we had just arrived in the UK and knew very little, but the two of us worked closely together and prepared diligently. In the end, the event was a success.

Looking ahead, we want to organize both small and large events to introduce Korean culture to the UK. We also hope to create something new by blending Korean and British cultural elements. In particular, we want to share the beauty of Korean dance more widely, as well as promote the elegance of hanbok.

### **한국에서 무엇을 했고, 영국에서는 지금 뭐하고 지내?**

주연이는 한국무용을 전공했고 고등학생, 대학생들을 가르치는 일도 했었어. 그리고 영화, 드라마에서 안무를 해왔어. 주로 배우들을 가르쳤고, 작품 속에서 직접 춤을 추면서 등장한 적도 많아. 물론 종종 본인의 공연도 했었어. 지금은 공연을 부탁 받으면 무대에 오르곤 하지만 한국에 비하면 집에서 쉰다고 봐야지. 취미로는 수중모델 (underwater model) 로도 활동을 했었어.

무용스킬이라.. 너무 많고 다 중요하지만, '정중동' 즉 멈춰 있는 중에 움직인다고 표현할 만큼 한국무용은 과정과 호흡이 중요하고 곡선의 의미가 뚜렷한 예술이야. 엄청 매력이 있지.

효성이는 신문방송학을 전공하고 영화감독이 꿈이어서 열심히 글도 쓰고 촬영도 하고 편집도 하고 다방면으로 일을 했어. 상업영화 현장에서 4년 정도 스태프로 일도 했었는데, 자신의 영화를 만들고 싶은 의지가 있어서 계속



글을 쓰고 싶어 해. 그 외에도 행사 기획이나 이런 부분들도 좋아하고 잘하는 편이야. 영국에서도 그런 재주를 살려서 뭔가 일을 하려고 해. 저번 2월에 New Malden URC에서 했던 설날 행사가 좋은 예야. 그 때는 온지 얼마 안 돼서 아무것도 모른 채로 시작했지만 결국 우리 둘이 머리를 잘 맞

대고 열심히 준비해서 설날 이벤트가 잘 끝났어. 앞으로 우리는 영국에서 이런 크고 작은 이벤트를 열어서 한국 문화를 영국에 알리고, 또한 영국과 한국의 문화를 융합해서 새로운 문화를 만들어내는 일을 하고 싶어. 한국무용도 널리 알리고 싶고. 한복의 아름다움도 알리면서.

### 3. What are your thoughts about our church? Please share the good and the bad!

The people at church are all so kind, and every time I go, my heart feels warm. We only just became members, but everyone already treats us like family and always makes us feel welcome — we're really grateful for that. It feels a little different from churches in Korea, which is refreshing in its own way. I feel a different kind of belonging here.

Maybe because of that, I feel like I'm walking more closely with God in a warmer, more personal way. People have even told me I've become softer and more easygoing compared to how I was in Korea. It feels like I've gained a sense of peace and calm.

The only thing I feel a bit sad about is that there aren't many young people at church. I really hope our generation and the next can play a more active role in leading the church forward. I guess that means we'll have to try even harder.



## 우리 교회 다니면서 느낀 점? 좋거나 나쁘거나!

교회 사람들이 다 너무 좋은 분들이라 항상 교회 갈 때마다 마음이 따뜻해져. 이제 막 멤버십이 되었는데도 정말 가족같이 생각하고 항상 환영해줘서 고맙고. 한국의 교회들과는 조금 다른 느낌이어서 그것도 새롭고! 한국에서와는 다른 소속감을 느끼고 있어. 그리고 그 속에서 더 따뜻한 하나님과 동행하는 기분이라서 그런지 한국에서의 모습보다 더 둥글둥글해졌다는 얘기도 들었어. 여유가 생기고 편안함을 받았달까. 근데 젊은 사람들이 많이 없어서 아쉬워! 우리 세대와 다음 세대들이 교회를 좀 더 active 하게 이끌어 갔으면 하는데, 우리가 좀 더 노력해야겠지?

### 4. What made you decide to become members of our church? And what are your hopes or changes you wish to see?

Originally, my mother was already attending this church, so it felt natural for us to come here as well. Neither of us wanted to go to a Korean church. It felt uncomfortable to be too closely tied to just Korean people, we wanted to use English more, and since we live in the UK, our goal was to attend a local church. But since my mother was attending this church, we didn't hesitate and naturally came here too.

Although there are language challenges, we want to keep trying to communicate better. We really love our church, the ministers are great, and the congregation is wonderful. That said, as I mentioned before, we hope more young people will join so that the church can become more active. We want to live our faith with passion.

It would be great if there was a praise team or band. Or at least a choir!



### 4. 우리 교회 교인이 되기로 한 계기가 무엇이 었는지 그리고 바라는 점이나 변화가 있었으면 하는 점?

원래 어머니가 우리 교회에 다니고 계셨기 때문에 우리도 자연스럽게 다니게 된 것 같아. 우리 둘 다 한인교회는 가고 싶지 않았어. 너무 한인들과 역이는 것도 좀 불편하고, 영어도 많이 쓰고 싶었고, 무엇보다 우리는 영국에 살기 때문에 로컬교회에 다니자는 게 목표였거든. 근데 어머니가 마침 우리 교회를 다니고 있어서 우리도 마다하지 않고 당연히 여기로 온 것 같아. 언어의 어려움은 있지만 노력해서 더 소통하고 싶어. 우리 교회 너무 좋고 목사님도 좋고 교인들도 너무 좋아. 다만 위에 얘기한 것처럼 좀 더 젊은 세대가 많아져서 좀 더 active 한 교회가 되었으면 해! 열정적으로 신앙 생활을 하고 싶어. 찬양팀(밴드)가 생겼으면 좋겠어. 아니면 찬양대라도!

#### 5. Lastly, what are your plans for this summer? Vacation or Stay-cation?



It is a bit sudden, but we decided to take a family trip to Prague. Since it's our first family overseas trip after getting married (leaving the UK), we're really excited and looking forward to it! Please pray that it will be a trip full of happy memories that will keep us joyful for the whole year.

In mid-August, some friends who live in Paris are coming to visit London. So, we plan to explore all the nooks and corners of London together and enjoy eating delicious food.

If there is anywhere you would like to visit, Hyosung suggests Cardiff and Edinburgh because they are like his hometowns, so we'd love to go on a nostalgic trip there one day. Also, we really love the beach! We want to splash around in the sea, but we are not sure if that will be possible this summer, haha.

#### 마지막으로~이번 여름 계획은~? Vacation or Stay-cation?

갑작스럽지만 가족여행으로 프라하를 다녀 오기로 했어. 결혼하고 첫 가족 해외여행(영국을 벗어나는) 이라 설레고 기대가 돼! 1년을 즐겁게 살 수 있을 만큼 행복한 기억으로 가득한 여행이 되길 기도해줘. 그리고 8월 중순에는 파리에 있는 친구들이 런던에 놀러오기로 했어. 그래서 같이 런던 구석구

석을 구경하고 맛있는 것도 먹고 할 것 같아. 놀러가고 싶은 곳이 있다면 효성이가 고향처럼 여기는 카디프랑 에딘버러 추억여행 같은거 하고 싶지. 그리고 우리는 바닷가를 엄청 좋아해! 바다에 풍덩 빠져서 놀고 싶은데 이번 여름에는 가능할 지 모르겠네 ㅎㅎ

Thank you very much to Jooyun and Hyosung for their time towards my little chat 😊.

If you'd like to find out more about their life and creative pursuits, please visit:

[EOLBEAT](#)



**Hosana Lee**



# National Emergency Alert test to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The UK Government will send a test Emergency Alert to mobile phones across the UK at around 15:00 on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**If you would like more information, please click on the [link](#).**

Mobile phones in the UK will be sent a test Emergency Alert at around 15:00 on Sunday 7th September 2025, as part of plans to strengthen the country's preparedness.

The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. It allows vital information and advice to be sent to people rapidly in an emergency.

During the test, mobile phones will vibrate and make a loud siren sound for roughly ten seconds, even if they are set to silent. A message will also appear on phone screens, making it clear the alert is only a test. There are approximately 87 million mobile phones in the UK.



Believing in young people

Each year the Oxygen Annual General Meeting is primarily an opportunity to celebrate and applaud the achievements of young people, many of which for various reasons, aren't appreciated, are not 'believed in'. Oxygen shows young people that they are loved.

25 years ago Oxygen was founded by local churches. Over the years the needs of young people have changed over the years... but some projects like 'What's the Point' sadly continue, others have started in response to current needs.

Oxygen receives about 100 referrals a year, from social services and schools: young people in crisis, who are struggling with school, many with special educational needs, some sadly assessed as being at risk, a danger to themselves.

Oxygen is a Christian charity and following its principle of inclusivity, works with people of all faiths. Via 9 different projects Oxygen offers opportunities for young people to socialise: to chat, to learn new skills during after-school clubs. Oxygen meets young people 'where they are' helping them to overcome the challenges they face.

Oxygen's shop in New Malden runs with the help of volunteers and although not its original purpose; to raise funds, the shop is providing an opportunity to reach out to the community, it is used for mentoring and young people volunteer in it as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Included in the Oxygen projects is Street Pastors.... who *care listen and help* people in Kingston town centre on weekends night and more recently with afternoon patrols, responding to community needs as expressed by police, Kingston council.

Do find out more (Oxygen [Church Update June 25](#))

Do visit the Oxygen Charity shop in New Malden

Do DONATE (money or your unwanted goods)

And of course, do PRAY for Oxygen (and Street Pastors) staff and volunteers and for the young people.

Submitted by Teresa James, KURC's Oxygen representative.



Read ■ Reflect ■ Grow

### **List of August Bible readings 2025**

#### **PROFESSIONS OF FAITH**

##### **1 Recognising Jesus (cont. from July)**

Friday 1 August      John 1:29-34  
Saturday 2 August      Philippians 2:5-11

##### **2 Jesus is Lord**

Sunday 3 August      Romans 10:6-17  
Monday 4 August      2 Corinthians 4:1-6  
Tuesday 5 August      1 Timothy 6:11-16  
Wednesday 6 August      Matthew 14:32-36  
Thursday 7 August      John 17:20-26  
Friday 8 August      2 Corinthians 4:10-14  
Saturday 9 August      1 John 5:1-13

#### **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE (4)**

##### **1 Our priorities**

Sunday 10 August      Luke 14:25-35  
Monday 11 August      Luke 15:1-10  
Tuesday 12 August      Luke 15:11-32  
Wednesday 13 August      Luke 16:1-18  
Thursday 14 August      Luke 16:19-31  
Friday 15 August      Luke 17:1-19  
Saturday 16 August      Luke 17:20-37

##### **2 Seek out God's good gifts**

Sunday 17 August      Luke 18:1-17  
Monday 18 August      Luke 18:18-43  
Tuesday 19 August      Luke 19:1-27  
Wednesday 20 August      Luke 19:28-48  
Thursday 21 August      Luke 20:1-26  
Friday 22 August      Luke 20:27 - 21:4  
Saturday 23 August      Luke 21:5-38

#### **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Sunday 24 August      1 Thessalonians 5:12-18  
Monday 25 August      Psalm 24:1-3  
Tuesday 26 August      Philippians 2:1-4  
Wednesday 27 August      Deuteronomy 31:1-8  
Thursday 28 August      Psalm 18:1-19  
Friday 29 August      Ephesians 3:7-21  
Saturday 30 August      Acts 15:30-35

#### **WITHOUT A NAME (unnamed people)**

Sunday 31 August      2 Kings 4:8-17



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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 September is Friday, 8 August 2025**

**Editor: Jean Thompson – [jeant@btinternet.com](mailto:jeant@btinternet.com)**

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS to KURC can be made in a number of ways:**

Complete one of the forms at the back of the church to set up standing order payments.

Make regular cash gifts at the Sunday services. By using the offertory envelopes, you allow the church to reclaim Gift Aid.

You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-73, account number 60921289 and quote Kingston United Reformed Church Charity.

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