

# *CHURCH NEWS*

**Kingston United Reformed Church**

**October 2025**



*The Michaelmas Daisy – the classic autumnal flower*

*Credit: Sally Blandford*

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

**Charity No. 1131880**

***This edition edited by Denise Scorer***

***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** 09.00 Mary & Martha's Group

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

#### **Quarterly:**

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

#### **School Holidays:**

**Some 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 October 2025:**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October Day Together**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October British Summer Time Ends. Clocks go back 1 hour**

**Week Commencing 27th October Half Term**

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

# Ministers AGM report September 14<sup>th</sup> 2025



There is an adage which says never miss the opportunity of a crisis. There have been two crises for us. Covid of course when we were made to stay at home and normal life stopped. The shadow of that is long and many are not through it. There is strange behaviour all over the place.

Then we as a community had a crisis when Suk In was suspended. This was part of a scheme to take over the church. It is hard to believe it of the people who did this thing.

We have gained all sorts of things from these crises. Prayers every day on zoom. Worship on a Sunday where those who cannot get out can join us. Plus people from all over the world. We have deeper and better relationships. I completely understand that for some it is too much to believe that certain people behaved as badly as they did. Indeed sometimes I cannot believe it myself. And as the one who was disabled and isolated from support because the one whose job it was to support me was isolating me believe me it was tough indeed. For me personally I now know it was a traumatising time. I have done a bit of homework and you do not recover from trauma by leaving it or by chatting. Therefore the trauma therapy has started.

For us as a people during the time when Suk In was suspended and we were in turmoil some were irritated by it. Some stressed. Some barely noticed and some traumatised. That was then; what about going forward? These things can take a long time to recover from because there is a process of taking into ourselves the experiences and making it part of who we are. There is the challenge to recover trust. They will always be part of the history of KURC. Of course we all wish it had not happened but it did. Good people, that God loves, behaved really badly and we have to deal with the consequences.

The great Richard Rohr speaks of the faith, indeed life journey, being about Order Disorder then Reorder. Order is 'I pray for it = God gives it'. 'I behave well= life is smooth'. Disorder comes when people I love die or there is illness or when disaster happens. Is God real then? What do you do? Some take the easy road of cynicism and ridicule. Some though move to taking the negative, complicated experience in to their faith journey and realise that life is not simple but it is still lovely. They move into a phase of Reorder. A maturer version of the faith. That is our challenge.

The great news is that while all this hideousness was going on God was still at work. New people and new projects have been going on. People who were stressed and anxious have been calming down. Softly in the background people who left are being ministered to. Some are embarrassed that they were taken in. Some have much invested in their lies whatever the long thorough investigative processes of the URC say.

Into the next phase of life, we have three specific target areas. Firstly, the works on the buildings need completed. Roofs, windows and boilers. Secondly, we need to

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

find a new musician and a new Evangelist from Korea. Thirdly we need to allow God's spirit to continue to heal and build us. Not restore for that implies going backwards. We will be building a new thing. We will worship together, in person and on line. We will support each other. In this world of sin where good people do bad things we will know God is with us:

. **'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it'.**

Lesley M Charlton

## Church Secretary's AGM report September 14th 2025



Encountering God, we give you thanks for the many opportunities that we have, to meet with you, and through each other, encounter you, here in your church in Kingston Town. Amen

**We value both the polished and the unpolished encounters.**

The elders meet 10 times a year with a view to exercise oversight of the spiritual life of the church. As we are also a charity the elders are also trustees. Which mean they share ultimate responsibility for governing a charity and directing how it is managed and run. Church meeting is for members to have the opportunity through discussion, to consider responsible decision and care for one another, to strengthen each other's faith and foster the life, work and mission of the church. We meet every second Sunday of the month, sometimes formally and sometimes less formally when we share food. Personally, I give thanks to God for your energy to these processes. It is not always easy to speak to a group. We are not a business organisation but a local church of the United Reformed Church.

### **Pray for churches throughout the world.**

A lot of work goes on to ensure that the Richard Mayo Centre can continue. This enables us to be a 7 day a week church. Our paid staff, Catherine and George, with help steward this building, Monday through to Saturday. We have office space to rent, and it is in demand. Currently we have Man and Boy, Kingston Child Contact Centre and Helmar, care and community services, All Saints and Street Pastors. This year we said goodbye to Mencap, who had used the training room for a few years to offer support to young adults in gaining work experience. They returned to the Mayo Hall for their graduation ceremony. The Kingston Child Contact Centre also uses the premises every other Sunday afternoon.

We offer our other spaces for hire and try to tread the fine line between being available for church activities and making sure that there are income raising opportunities too. Catherine manages to balance our bookings very well.

### **Give thanks for our staff.**

In the meantime, our foyer is open 6 days a week between 10 and 4 and between the hours of 11 to 2 we offer refreshments. There is rarely a day when no one spends time in the foyer.

The refreshment service is run by volunteers. I have not counted the hours of time given, but I can acknowledge this service and be grateful.

But that is not all that happens in the foyer. People meet, people knit, people talk, people laugh, people still, people spend time together. There are books to browse and buy, handmade cards for sale and games and activities to do.

For several years The Kings Storeroom, which is the only Christian Bookshop in Southwest London, has had its base in the foyer. Graham is supportive of the foyer and offers his time and care to visitors.

Each Monday (excluding Bank Holidays) we open the foyer for a two-course meal. The ingredients are sourced from local shops or when we can from Surplus Food organisations supported through Kingston Voluntary Action. We get alerts that surpluses are available and if we can, we will use that to supplement our meals. The meals are sold on a PAY IF YOU CAN basis, and we generally receive all or most of the costs of the ingredients. There is a strong team of volunteers who cook, serve and clear up. We are thankful for the energy that people offer to this weekly activity. It is well attended, and we serve between 25-35 meals. This past financial year there have been two Simply Healthy Cooking course (Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025), funded again via KVA, to cover the costs of food, hire of rooms and replacement of some cooking equipment. The course is appreciated by those who attend. So much so, that we have had two people from the courses helping us on Mondays. One has since returned to college, but Sansa is now a regular on Mondays.

### **Pray for our foyer users**

Sally's work continues during the week with Jolly Toddlers, Tots Praise. She is engaged in collaborative work with All Saints with a monthly Youth café, with Carol for all aged activities of Crafternoons and the Generation Zone during school holidays. This year working with Sheila she set up a women's group, now known as Mary and Martha group. Here, I want to reflect that we now also have a men's group that meet regularly.

Sally and helpers make sure that the Sunday morning services are accessible for younger friends of the church. Occasionally she goes into schools.

She has recently co-led a Parenting For Faith course with St Peter's Norbiton, which was regularly attended by one family carer and occasionally attended by another. This was about how to nurture children spiritually at home. One of the things that was most helpful and has been out into practice is something called Chat and Catch. It is a prayer tool to encourage children to pray and then listen to God and she knows that some of them do this at home now. There are always opportunities to pray in every YPG session.

Sally has been working with the children on building a worship song repertoire; songs that we can sing after the Intro to the Theme, that they know, understand and enjoy.

Most weeks, the children get given a Postcard Home to give to their parents. This details what the theme, the Bible reading, a craft activity to do at home, a reflection question and a prayer. This is to keep parents informed and encourage them to engage with God together with their children.

Sally keeps in touch with lots of people throughout the week. By WhatsApp, text or by meeting up with parents/carers. She has been out for walks or had coffee with them to support them pastorally, and she would like to build on this.

She has plans to run some training sessions with our Toddler group leaders, to encourage thinking on how useful toddler groups can be and enlarge our vision for what might be achieved.

### **Pray for our young children**

Last November we celebrated Carol's ordination. It was a wonderful moment to express our thanks to God for bringing Carol to this place and to see her family and supporters joining us. Since that time, she has quietly grown into her role, and we are already reaping the benefits. Carol heads up the planning for our Christmas Day meal. Once again, we had a successful day serving about 40 meals, offering time together and each person attending leaves with a gift.

### **Pray for Carol**

Now, with this church's support we have another minister in training, another person answering God's call to spread his love. So Young, who has been with us for 6 years, is embarking on her training for ministry having moved to Edinburgh to study. This year she has continued to work with children and families, whose home language is Korean. But there is so much more that she has been doing behind the scenes, some of it on behalf of the Southern Synod.

### **Pray for So Young**

This year Suh Young has continued to be our principal music person. All this whilst studying for a master's degree. Music is a powerful way to encounter God's love and care. During this year Suh Young has sustained the band for the 11.30 service, as well as playing for the 10 o'clock and 5 o'clock service most Sundays. But that is not all that she does. She helps with the tech for live streaming of the 10 o'clock service. She supports the work of the families from Korea, alongside So Young and Suk in. She has also kept up with her academic work! Once her study visa ends, we will need to say goodbye but for now she is here, and we thank God.

### **Pray for (Suh) Young**

A few years ago, much time and energy were put into making sure that we have good musical instruments to support our worship. Since that time, we have increased our encountering opportunities through music.



We had a total of 7 lunchtime recitals between Sept 24 and Aug 25. Average attendance at the lunchtime recitals is 40 - 50 people, most of them non-KURC people.

The primary aim of the recitals is to use our resources (the building, the piano and from time to time the organ) to bring joy, through music, to members of the local community. The performers, who give their services for free, really appreciate us giving them this platform and speak highly of the space and our instruments.

Whilst the recitals weren't set up with the aim of generating money, they do make a net contribution to church funds, through voluntary donations of around £1,300 + a little gift aid from the 7 recitals in the year, with the only costs being the photocopying of flyers and programmes.

A little anecdote from the music group - who had to cancel a recital recently. After explaining the reason to one of their regulars they said 'oh that's such a pity...I'm almost blind now and music is my only pleasure in life. I look forward to these recitals so much'

I would like to add that many in the foyer enjoy the U3A Orchestra practices on Wednesdays, too.

### **Pray for music as tool to bring God's love to those around us.**

We are a church that meets beyond this building. We sometimes meet in a restaurant, particularly at Christmas, on a trip to the seaside, on walks and as friends.

Occasionally, we have collections for charities. Christian Aid is a big focus, particularly in May in which Christian Aid Week happens. House to house deliveries have continued as well as the flash dance in the middle of Clarence Street and a quiz night. It is a time to focus on the many people who need our support. People, who live in places where the cost of a cup of coffee here can be used to have a big impact on individuals lives that last much longer than any caffeine rush that we might enjoy.

Over the Christmas season for many years, we have supported Welcare by donating gifts for the children and parents that use this service. This year, through the encouragement of one of our members we also collected Easter Eggs to be distributed.

### **Pray to give thanks for the work of charities.**

I am confident that I have forgotten some things that you, members and friends, have done to help others encounter God's love through this church. Amazing.

**How do we do it?**

Well, mostly behind the scenes.

We take care of the building, so that we can use it well, we take care of our finances, so that we can use it well, too. We take care of our staff endeavouring to keep up to date with employment law. We take care of our online presence so that we can share who we are and what we do. This church year saw the opening of our new website, and the consolidation of our live streaming, through zoom and YouTube.

After a lot of preparation, we are moving through a much-needed uplift on the structure of the building. A new roof and new windows will soon be in place. These things cost an eye watering amount, and it is great that church members have seen the value and agreed to use some of our reserves towards the final cost, which has also been supported by Southern Synod.

There is more to come as we need to replace the 50 years old boilers that are now so obsolete that there are no more spare parts available. At the same time, we need to replace the controls so that we can be energy efficient and keep the ever-increasing costs of services at bay. How are we going to fund this? We not only need your support and the support of Southern Synod but also through external grant support.

These matters are in God's hands and need your prayers.

Many people are playing their part in getting these things done. There are many emails and conversations. Thank you all.

I do want to mention our diligence with safeguarding. I believe that it is God's will that people will live in harmony. Sadly, this is not always so. We are but human and therefore prone to sin. We have processes in place that comply with the law. We have a safeguarding policy that you are annually asked to support. We have two members as safeguarding officers. DBS checks are made as needed. By its nature this work can be confidential, and we thank our officers for the work that they quietly get on with.

**Pray for us to continue to put the care of others close to our hearts**

And now I turn to worship. The activity fundamental to our Christian life. Through the energy of our ministers, our youth worker and lay preachers we can sustain a variety of opportunities to share in worship and fellowship and not only on Sundays. We can join to pray each day on zoom and there is the Wednesday lunchtime service. We are blessed. Thank you to each and every one of you for keeping this church God focussed. I have spent some time describing and celebrating our encounters of the love of God, but without worship we could be any group of kind people considering those less fortunate than ourselves.

And finally, our thanks go to our ministers Lesley and Suk In. They help us all to keep our trusting God at the forefront of our lives, giving us the opportunity to encounter God for ourselves and for others.



## Church Appointments for 2025/6

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Archives</b>	John Fisher
<b>Bible Study Group</b>	Ken Bartlett- Stuart Chandler
<b>Catering and Social Group Chair</b>	Ray Erskine
<b>Children, Youth &amp; Family support group Chair</b>	Rosette Oming-Bali
<b>Church Handbook</b>	Catherine Treweek/church secretary
<b>Church News Editorial Group Chair</b>	Vaughan James (until January 2026
<b>Website and online presence</b>	PoaHan Chen
<b>Community Ministry Group</b>	Carol Clack/ Julian Le Fustec
<b>Crafternoons and Generation Zone</b>	Carol Clack/Sally Butler
<b>Daily Prayers via zoom – Monday</b>	Sue Shaw
<b>Daily Prayers via zoom – Tuesday</b>	Cathy Seymour
<b>Daily Prayers via zoom – Wednesday</b>	Julian Le Fustec
<b>Daily Prayers via zoom – Thursday</b>	Janine Goddard
<b>Daily Prayers via zoom – Friday</b>	Ann Macfarlane
<b>Daily Prayers via zoom – Saturday</b>	Janine Goddard
<b>Daily Prayer Email/WhatsApp</b>	Teresa James
<b>Data Protection Officer</b>	Catherine Treweek
<b>First Aiders (Monday – Saturday)</b>	Catherine Treweek/ George Todorov
<b>First Aiders - (Sunday)</b>	Carol Clack/Ray Charlton/Sally Butler
<b>Flower Arranging Rota</b>	Janine Goddard
<b>Foyer Coffee Service</b>	Carol Clack
<b>Gift Aid Administrator</b>	Denise Scorer
<b>Health and Safety Officer (Mon – Sat)</b>	Catherine Treweek
<b>Health and Safety Officer (Sun)</b>	Duty Elder
<b>Information Boards (internal)</b>	John Fisher
<b>Lay Preachers</b>	Maddie Anlezark Christine Thompson Ann MacFarlane Sue Shaw Julian Le Fustec Teresa James
<b>Management Group Chair</b>	Janine Goddard
<b>Mary and Martha Group</b>	Sally Buter
<b>Men's meeting</b>	Alistair Borthwick
<b>Ministers</b>	Rev Lesley Charton Dr Rev Suk In Lee Rev Carol Clack
<b>Monday Community Lunches</b>	Ray Charlton
<b>Musician</b>	SuhYoung Lee
<b>Music Support Group</b>	Ruth Anderson
<b>Pastoral Group Chair</b>	Ann MacFarlane
<b>Racial Justice Advocate</b>	Sharon Henriquez-Vernon
<b>Reform Magazine (Distribution)</b>	June Martin
<b>Safeguarding Cordinators</b>	Sharon Henriquez Vernon/ He Jung Kim
<b>Simply Healthy Eating (with KVA)</b>	Ray Charlton

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

<b>Social Media Facebook</b>	Natasha Reid
<b>Instagram</b>	Ting Chen
<b>Sound System and Live streaming Lead</b>	Janine Goddard
<b>Sunday Team and coffee</b>	Camillo Fernandez/Eun Hye
<b>Thursday evening club</b>	Janine Goddard

### Church Staff and Consultants

<b>Church Treasurer</b>	Christine Chippendale
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Cathy Seymour
<b>Synod Representative</b>	Christine Thompson
<b>Accountant/ Bookkeeper</b>	Lisa Hunt
<b>Accounts Independent Examiner</b>	Collards
<b>Children Youth and Family Worker</b>	Sally Butler
<b>PC support</b>	URGIZ
<b>Premises Assistant</b>	George Todorov
<b>Centre Manager</b>	Catherine Treweek

### Delegates/Representatives on external organisations

<b>Churches Together in Kingston</b>	Teresa James
<b>Kingston Centre for Independent Living</b>	Ann Macfarlane
<b>Kingston Christian Aid Group</b>	Ray Charlton
<b>Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness</b>	Cathy Seymour
<b>Kingston Healthwatch</b>	Ann MacFarlane
<b>Lay Preaching Coordinator for URC Southwest London Area</b>	Christine Thompson
<b>Local Ecumenical Partnership</b>	Rev Lesley Charlton
<b>Oxygen</b>	Teresa James

Thank you to everyone mentioned for your commitment.

### Cathy Seymour Church Secretary

*Thank you Cathy for such a thorough and thoughtful annual report. And for all your work and commitment to KURC- Ed*



See page 13 for more information

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

## Sally's Stories



What do the children do before they go out into the hall for their session?

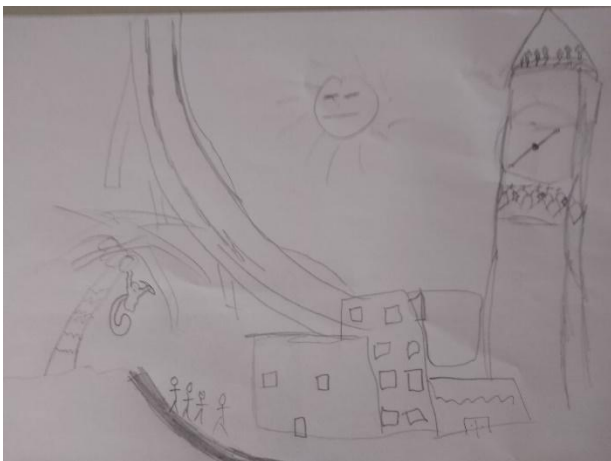
Well, the very small children will play with toys, colour in a picture, draw/scribble...

But the older ones are preparing something on the theme for the day.

Here, I asked them to use their imagination to think about Jesus on holiday!

Where might He travel? How? Alone or with friends? To a hot country or a cold one? Would He be busy on holiday or take a rest?...

Qi Nuo and Jack did these pictures.



Of course, in one of them, to get from the mountain to the safari trip, Jesus got there by walking on water!

We talked about that fact that Jesus was divine but human – he liked to have fun, rest, meet new people etc... so should we!

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

## Pastoral News

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

*Lay your hand upon this world and free it from all that is harmful and blights your great creation. We pray that you will free us and heal us in body, mind and spirit. Take from us irrational fears, anxieties and fearful thoughts. Keep those who mourn in the comfort of your presence and give us your refreshing rest and peace. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen*

**October Flowers**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Dat Foster</b>
-------------------------------	-------------------

<b>12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Wil Bryan</b>
--------------------------------	------------------

<b>19<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Derek and Valerie Winsor</b>
--------------------------------	---------------------------------

<b>26<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Madge Cole</b>
--------------------------------	-------------------

## Getting Together Day 12th October 2025 starting at 10am



The purpose of this day is for us to celebrate the gift of the Harvest, get to know others better, do things together, have fun, and maybe learn something new.

### **Schedule:**

- **10:00** - Tea and coffee served
- **10:30 - 11:30** - Harvest Festival service (Zoom)
- **11:30 - 12:00** - Language lesson (Zoom)
- **12:00 - 13:00** - Bring and share lunch
- **13:00 - 14:00** - Treasure hunt (organized by Vaughan James) or cross painting
- **14:00 - 15:00** - Front line ministries with Maddie (Zoom)
- **15:00 - 15:30** - Tea break (Zoom)
- **15:30 - 17:00** - Dancing, soup making, or chatting
- **17:00** - Singing together

All day, there will be the option of talking in the foyer or painting some crosses for the welcome bags in the foyer.



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

## Some More Dates for your Diary

### News from Kingston Older Peoples Forum (KOPF)

KOPF was forced to close at the start of the pandemic and was re-established some months after it was over.

Laurie South, from Staywell, is the current Chair. Laurie is wanting to outreach to more older people and offers a warm welcome to you on:

**Monday 10th November at the United Reformed Church's Richard Mayo Centre.**

Talks and Discussion on current and community issues.

Please do come along. Membership is free.

**Ann Macfarlane**

### AUTUMN LUNCHTIME RECITALS

Due to the building work, we have decided to take a break until the end of November, by which time we hope that noise levels will have subsided.

However, on **Thursday November 27 at 12.30pm** our very own organist, Suh Young, will give a much anticipated organ recital. Anyone who has heard her recent postludes will know we are in for a real treat.

Then on **Thursday December 18 at 12.30pm** Soraya Verjee will give a piano recital featuring works by Debussy and Liszt. We will publish more details in due course. Do book the dates in your diary.

*The Music Committee*

*The next Crafternoon / Generation Zone will be on 15 November, from 2 – 4 pm*

Contact: Carol Clack [carol.clack@kingstonurc.org](mailto:carol.clack@kingstonurc.org) for more information

## KINGSTON CHILD CONTACT CENTRE



As many of you know, Kingston Child Contact Centre (KCCC) has been using our premises on Sunday afternoons fortnightly since 2012. As the KCCC Church Representative, I recently attended their online AGM, chaired by Stu Chandler (Trustee), and am pleased to record the following points in brief from Charmaine Lee, the Centre Manager:

- During the past year (Aug.24-Aug.25) the Centre has successfully conducted 24 sessions supporting 15 families and 21 children, including supervised contact sessions for which there is a rise in demand. The Centre also facilitated visits involving grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, other siblings and close family friends.
- 12 volunteers, including 1 volunteer from Kingston University (work placement), have contributed approx. 55 hours to cover contact sessions, plus a further 4 hours for training sessions. All volunteers have completed Safeguarding Modules and other training which has included Trauma Informed Practices, Place2Be Mental Health Training (foundation level) amongst others.
- The Centre received a Ministry of Justice grant of £2,500 and The London Community Grant of £5,000.
- The website is currently being redesigned and updated to attract more families, other service users and volunteers.
- The Centre is very grateful to KURC, the ministers, staff and community for their continued support and prayers for their work. And for the use of the hall and facilities, for which they make a donation and pay rent for the use of Room 12 for supervised contact.

***Jean Thompson***



## The Wonders of Gift Aid

When you give to the church and you are a UK taxpayer, we encourage you to complete a Gift Aid form. The general message is that the UK Government will add another 25% to your donation. In other words the church as a charity can claim back the tax you have already paid on your income.

But where does Gift Aid come from? Why is it so important.

The roots of Gift Aid come from an organisation called Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). CAF was formed in the 1920s in order to facilitate Deeds of Covenant, which were a way of giving to charities at the time. Fast forward to the 1980s and CAF was able to influence the government to implement Gift Aid in the Finance Act of 1990. The Chancellor at the time, John Major, said on Gift Aids 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: "As Chancellor of the Exchequer I felt it was only right that the act of giving was maximised by introducing the Gift Aid scheme, which is now worth over one billion pounds to charities."

At first Gift Aid only applied to larger donations but in 2000 Chancellor Gordon Brown expanded the scheme to cover all donations, as long as the donor had been a taxpayer.

The importance of the scheme cannot be overstated in terms of income for charities. The UK scheme raised £10 million in its first year. This year it is expected to raise £1.2 billion and represents about 6% of income for charities. And it's raised over £60 billion since the start of the scheme - "the equivalent of 120 Red Nose Days or 368 Children in Need Appeals".



For KURC Gift Aid represents several thousand pounds per year so is an important source of income. It's important that we claim back every penny. So if you've not done so already and you are a UK taxpayer, sign up for the scheme, whichever way you may donate to the church. Ask an Elder the Treasurer or me for a Gift Aid form.

Christine Chippendale, our Treasurer, also asks that if you buy anything for the church, please liaise with the Church Secretary or Treasurer first so that the church can lead on the purchase and collect the donation. This means we may also be able to claim Gift Aid.

Denise Scorer

Useful websites for more information - <https://fundraising.co.uk/>, <https://www.cafonline.org/> or [Gift](#)

*giftaid it*

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

## From the KURC Archives

**BUNYAN, HAMPTON WICK & UNION STREET BAPTIST**  
 (YELLOW) (LIGHT GREEN) (DARK GREEN)  
**KINGSTON AND SURBITON CONGREGATIONAL,**  
 (LIGHT BLUE) (DARK BLUE AND WHITE)  
**UNITED SUNDAY SCHOOLS**

**Excursion to Worthing**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1911.**

**Kingston Congregational School's Programme.**

**6.0 a.m.** All Scholars must assemble at Schoolroom for Roll Call.  
 Walk to Kingston Station with Teachers, who will  
 have Railway Tickets.

**6.30 a.m.** Special Train leaves Kingston Station.

**8.50 a.m.** Arrive at Worthing.

**2.45 p.m.** Children's Tea at Bedford Hall, Bedford Road.

**4.45 p.m.** Teachers' and Adult Visitors' Tea at same place.

**6.0 p.m. sharp.** Assemble on Sea Front.

**6.35 p.m.** Train leaves Worthing.

**9.5 p.m.** Arrive Kingston.

**SPECIAL NOTICES TO SCHOLARS.**

Be sure to bring your Ticket with you.

Your Badge will be pinned on on arrival at Schoolroom. Your Section Number is printed on your Badge, and you must march with the Teacher who is leading your section both going and returning.

On arrival at Worthing you must form up on the platform in the order of your section and march to the Sea Front. Bedford Hall, where your Tea is to be served, will be shown to you on the way.

If in trouble go at once to Bedford Hall, where someone will be in attendance all day. If you lose your way ask for Bedford Hall.

**CLOAK ROOMS and LAVATORIES** will be open all day at **Bedford Hall**, where Bags, Coats, &c., may be left, and Teachers (Ladies and Gentlemen) will be in attendance to give help in cases of illness or accident.

Don't Bathe directly after a meal.

Don't go Boating without a Boatman or Teacher.

Parents and others are notified that great efforts are made to ensure the safety and comfort of the children, but the Teachers and Officers of the various Schools will not be responsible for mishaps to any child or person taking part in the Excursion.

For any other information required apply to the S.S. Secretary,  
**Ernest G. Bradford, 'Shenley,' 110, Ellerton Rd., Su**

RAILWAY FARE AND TEA: ADULTS, 4/6; CHILDREN UNDER 12, 2/6.

Tickets may be obtained from Mr. G. Bridger, 4, Thames Street; Messrs. Chaplin Brothers, Post Office, 130, London Road; and from Mr. Walte.

## Archive of the Month

The recent church outing to Worthing prompts us to publish this poster from our archives dated June 1911. In case you can't read every word, it advertises an ecumenical Sunday School excursion to Worthing by specially chartered train from Kingston Station. If you thought getting to the church at 9am for the coach was a bit of a struggle, then imagine having to be at the station at **6am** for a roll call!

The cost of the trip was 4 shillings and 6 pence (that's about 22p) for adults and children over 12. No doubt the two and a half hour journey by steam train would have been as big a thrill as the prospect of ice creams on the beach.

**John Fisher**

### **Smiles – from a variety of Church Notices (not KURC)**

Remember in prayer those who are sick of our community.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again' to obvious pleasure to the congregation.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon title will be 'What is hell?'. Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Next weekend's 'Fasting and Prayer' conference will include all meals.

Sunday morning sermon 'Jesus walks on water'. Sunday evening sermon 'Searching for Jesus?'.

**Many thanks to Linda Austin**



Read ■ Reflect ■ Grow

## READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2025

### NEW SETTINGS, NEW CHALLENGES

#### 1. A travelling, wandering race

Wednesday 1 October	1 Samuel 8:10-22
Thursday 2 October	Micah 6:1-8
Friday 3 October	Jeremiah 29:1-14
Saturday 4 October	Haggai 1:1-11

#### 2 A changing Church?

Sunday 5 October	Acts 5:33-39
Monday 6 October	Acts 4:32-37
Tuesday 7 October	Galatians 2:1-14
Wednesday 8 October	Acts 15:22-29
Thursday 9 October	Romans 14:18-23
Friday 10 October	Philemon
Saturday 11 October	Galatians 3:23-28

### SAMARIA AND THE SAMARITANS

Sunday 12 October	2 Kings 17:24-34
Monday 13 October	2 Chronicles 30:1-12
Tuesday 14 October	Ezra 4:1-3
Wednesday 15 October	Matthew 10:1-6
Thursday 16 October	John 4:1-10
Friday 17 October	John 4:19-42
Saturday 18 October	Acts 8:14-17

### PERSISTENCE

Sunday 19 October	Genesis 18:16-33
Monday 20 October	Genesis 26:12-33
Tuesday 21 October	Matthew 15:21-28
Wednesday 22 October	Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22
Thursday 23 October	2 Corinthians 11:24-33, Philippians 3:13a-14
Friday 24 October	Hebrews 12:1-13
Saturday 25 October	Isaiah 41:10-14

### LETTERS TO TITUS AND JUDE

Sunday 26 October	Titus 1:1-16
Monday 27 October	Titus 2:1-15
Tuesday 28 October	Titus 3:1-15
Wednesday 29 October	Jude 1:1-4
Thursday 30 October	Jude 1:5-11
Friday 31 October	Jude 1:12-19

## Kingston United Reformed Church – Information

### 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: [sukin.lee@kingstonurc.org](mailto:sukin.lee@kingstonurc.org)

Rev Carol Clack, tel: 07495 746131 e-mail: [carol.clack@kingstonurc.org](mailto:carol.clack@kingstonurc.org)

### 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)

### 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](mailto:premises@urckingston.org.uk)

e-mail (PA to Minister): [kingstonurc@gmail.com](mailto: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 next copy deadline for November is Friday, 10 October 2025**

**Editor: Bron Robinson – [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 Instagram.**