

# **CHURCH NEWS**





www.kingstonurc.org

## November 2025



Harvest celebration and day being together (more photos inside)

www.kingstonurc.org

**Charity No. 1131880** 

This edition edited by Bron Robinson

## 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.

	<u> </u>
Weekly: Monday: 10.00 Jolly Toddlers (except Bank Holidays) 10.00 Prayers on Zoom 12.30 Community Lunch (except Bank Holidays) Tuesday:	<b>Thursday:</b> 10.00 Prayers on Zoom 20.00 The Thursday Club on Zoom
	Friday: 10.00 Prayers on Zoom
	Saturday: 10.00 Prayers on Zoom
10.00 Prayers on Zoom 10.30 Knitting & Crocheting (1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly)	Monthly:  1st Tuesday 19.30 Elders' Meeting  3rd Saturday 09.00 Women's
Wednesday: 10.00 Tots' Praise 10.00 Prayers on Zoom 13.30 Lunch-time Service	Breakfast 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 end October and November 2025:**

**Generation Zone – Wednesday 29th October, 11 – 1pm (during half term)** 

Crafternoon – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2 – 4pm

Organ Recital – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm – come to hear our organist play (more details later in this Church News)

Please also see the e-mailed Weekly Notices.





Dear All

Two different concepts have caught my attention recently. One to do with pottery (or is it?) and one to do with people in relationship.

Both though are about repair and moving forward. The question is – what do you do with the bits of you that are broken?

The Japanese have a form of art called kintsugi. This is repairing broken pottery. Not with the hideous glue and lack of artistry for which my father was famous.

And maybe you have memories of this sort of repair too. But this is using powdered gold and glue with delicacy and creativity. The pieces are fitted together. Any cracks and previous damage are highlighted in gold. The breaks are not hidden they are accentuated. An ordinary pot is turned into something extra ordinary and very beautiful.

The idea behind it is that nothing is ever finished. And that nothing is ever totally broken.

Can we take our brokenness and turn it into something that is more appealing than where we started?

My brokenness can make me more beautiful and better than had I never been damaged.

Secondly the African concept of ubuntu. This has no English language translation. Phrases like 'I am because we are' capture something of it. Life is all about relationship and connectedness. We do not survive and thrive in isolation. For me to thrive you also must thrive. People need each other. In that one can clearly hear the gospel.

Jesus takes our sadness and turns us into something more beautiful than we would have been without it. He does not wipe away the pain of the past but paints it in gold. We are richer because of it.

Jesus does not leave us alone. We are intertwined with others. We are church. We carry each other's burdens. It is not merely about me coming to know Jesus and everything and everyone else does not matter. No, we travel together. That means we all have a part to play. To help make each other beautiful

Yours **Lesley** 

## **Church Secretary's Chat**



I never cease to be amazed at the talents of the people I meet in our church. I am writing this whilst listening to the music of The Fourth Choir and listening to the voice of one of our members. At the being together, I had a great conversation about opera.

Not many people are into opera and it was good to share my basic knowledge with someone who has enjoyed opera for a long time during the 'spending time together' Sunday.

Then there are the cake bakers, gardeners, artists, crafters. You know who you are.

Then there are the tech wizards who can build websites, produce information visually, understand how sound equipment works.

Thank you for sharing your talents with us. Using your God given gifts in support of our church is really appreciated.

**Cathy Seymour** 

## **Christmas memories**

In the next issue of Church News (December/January) we would like to publish your reminiscences of Christmases gone by. Can you recall a particularly unusual/memorable one? Basking on a tropical beach perhaps? Trapped in a snowdrift? Forgetting to put the turkey in the oven?

Do send your contribution (maximum of 100 words) to the editor, Ruth Anderson <a href="mailto:ruth.anderson999@gmail.com">ruth.anderson999@gmail.com</a> by the copy deadline of Friday November 14. Pictures also very welcome!

## Pastoral News as at 20th October 2025

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

#### Prayer

Healing God, we pray for release from burdens. Give us peace of mind and love in our hearts with the ability to share your gifts. Your generosity surpasses all understanding. Grant peace to families and bless young people during the school, college and university terms. Amen

## Flowers for November 2025



2 November Ann Macfarlane

9 November Ron and Liz Cook

16 November Robin Pilbream and David Anderson

23 November Madge Cole

30 November Maggie and John Arnold

Janine Goddard

## KURC Harvest Celebration and Day Together, 12 October 2025

Thanks to all those who made soup, taught us dances, brought in costumes, planned a treasure hunt, made us tea and coffee, sang in a choir and accompanied all our singing, photocopied materials, came with delicious food to share, got us thinking about sharing the faith, provided craft materials and games.

Big thanks to you all.

### 2 things:

- If you have any comments/improvements/ideas please let Lesley know
- Secondly, the big sing at the end of the day was fun. Should we do that more regularly at the 17.00? Views to Lesley please.

These were the chosen hymns at the big sing this time:

How great thou art 117
Morning has broken 45
Dear master in whose life I see 493
The right hand of God 91
10,000 reasons
Brother sister let me serve you 474
I lift my eyes to the quiet hill 64
Way maker
Great is thy faithfulness 96
The day thou gavest Lord is ended 584

Many thanks to Hyo-sung and Natasha for taking photos on the day.







Choir



Learning Korean phrases



Dancing





Korean costumes



Preparing the wonderful Harvest display

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

#### DAPHNE GWENDOLINE WALTERS - 21.4.34. – 20.8.25.

## Lesley's address at Daphne's Funeral on 19. 9.25.



Daphne and Dave joined our church in 1972. There was a season in the family's lives when they were here more than at home – Amateur Dramatics, the Church Musicals, Brigades. Daphne Walters has been a faithful Christian through the years. She has been a doing sort of person, acting on what she believed to be right. Yet she was a person who prayed and believed in the power of prayer.

She was the sort of person that one member of the church said, "You cannot think of Daphne Walters without a smile". I don't know about you but, when I die, if they say that about me, I will rest in peace.

Of course, Daphne, like all of us, does not earn her place in heaven. She, like us, is dependent on the nature and mercy of God. The good news is that God and Daphne share many traits about welcoming and loving .....probably not so much about sherry and dressing up – hey, Jesus drank wine!

For Daphne there was no idea of love as something that was confined to your narrow nuclear family, as it might be for some. For Daphne there was no thought that life was to be lived with solemnity and worthiness. Life was to be enjoyed, shared. Friends. Neighbours, which does not mean the two people on either side of you. No, anyone she came in contact with, keeping on working with her teaching. You use your skills, whatever they are, for as long as you can, with as many people as you can.

She was a widow very young, on her own with three children. Equally, she has been ill for a long time, though most of the time you would not have known that in a casual encounter. She was always ready to laugh.

But the last phase was not easy. Yet she faced it with joy. And now she rests. This is not the place to be debating life beyond this life. We are all dependent on the mercy of God who is love. There are certainties of her impact on us, of her joy in our memories and how that will shape us. And to take into our futures the challenge to make the world a better, more loving place, because we have known her. And in so doing, we will be following Jesus.



## Rt. Hon. Edward Davey MP's visit to KURC Community Lunch

On Monday 29 September Kingston's MP, Sir Ed Davey, paid a visit to KURC to see how we go about preparing and serving the weekly community lunch.

Ed spent an hour looking round the kitchen, met the cooks, helped to serve the food (vegetable curry and rice followed by fruit crumble and custard), chatted to diners in the foyer ...and even washed up! He told us it had been a most enjoyable and enlightening time.

Here are some photos and a thank you letter.











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

## Roof and window works – progress update

Maguires are progressing with the roof works. It has been a difficult journey for this project. We anticipate that the roof activity will be completed by 10 November. The window works will be starting soon. Here are a couple of photos showing the progress being made.





Linda Austin

## Young's Organ Recital

Just a reminder that Young, our organist, will be giving an organ recital in our church on Thursday 27 November at **1pm**. (NB *not* the usual recital time of 12.30pm).

Young will be playing a selection of short works by Bach, followed by the 'Suite Gothique' by Leon Boellmann, who was a contemporary of Widor. This ends with an exciting toccata which is easily a match for Widor's.

The recital is free with a retiring collection, and refreshments will be served.

## Lesley and Suk In's visit to Korea

In September, Lesley and Suk In travelled to Korea to attend General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) and the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK), taking greetings and gifts from the congregation at KURC.

They also took the opportunity to catch up with Korean friends who are / have been a part of KURC and were very grateful for the kind hospitality and lovely food!

Below are just a few photos – more are available on the Kingston URC Facebook page.









## **Kingston Environment Forum**

I think we all care about the environment and certainly we should all try to 'do our bit' to reduce our contribution to climate change.

Representing Kingston URC, I am a member of the Kingston Environment Forum. This is a community-driven group focused on promoting environmental sustainability in Kingston upon Thames. The group also acts as a 'critical friend' to Kingston Council (RBK) and provides feedback and collaboration in the delivery of RBK's Climate Action Strategy. The meetings are usually held virtually but on 26 September we had a face to face meeting at the Guildhall organised by Terezie Wickenden, one of the RBK Climate Action team.

Sarah Ireland, CEO of RBK was there as were various RBK officers. It was an opportunity to hear from them and each of the groups represented at the Forum and the great work they are doing. It is about information exchange, awareness and encouragement leading to action.

Kingston Methodist Church, All Saints and St. Andrew with St. Mark (Surbiton) and St. Peter's Norbiton are also members and it was interesting to talk to Kingston Methodist Church about their recent tender for solar panels.

Other organisations represented were:

**Transition Town Kingston** - A community group helping to raise awareness of the climate crisis and encourage the transition to a sustainable low-carbon future. I am also part of this group.

**Kingston Hive** - Climate Emergency Centre - a collective of local volunteers taking over a vacant space in the town centre and transforming it into a vibrant hub to benefit people and planet.

**Save The World Club** - Promote positive environmental action and self empowerment. Using their circular economy warehouse "The Circulatory" to circulate quality goods donated to them, distribute surplus food and engaging the local community with community art projects.

**Friends of the Earth** - campaigning for change in our community to make a difference to the environment.

**SunrayRecycle** - aims to reduce landfill & earn pennies to support our community, Sunray Community by recycling plastics via TerraCycle & other campaigns, they also encourage repurposing & reusing and supporting community events with waste management.

**Kingston Environment Centre** - works with local individuals and environmental organisations to secure a sustainable future for Kingston upon Thames.

**Habitats and Heritage** - taking care of our local landscape, wildlife, ecosystems and heritage. We want to see our natural environments thrive, whilst protecting and enhancing south and west London's historic environment.

**Kingston Cycling Campaign** - the local Kingston Borough group of the London Cycling Campaign, promoting cycling in the borough and speaking up for everyone on bikes – children and adults.

Full Cycle - cycling events and training, recycling and repair

**Kingston Association for the Blind** – promoting the interests of people with sight loss in Kingston upon Thames

Stanley Picker Gallery / Dorich House - community work though art and ecology

**New Era / Angels of the Hood** - a Community Interest Company (CIC) dedicated to making our local communities a better place to live and thrive. We are driven by a strong commitment to tackle the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis, social isolation and food waste.

**Kingston Race and Equalities Council** - works towards elimination of racial discrimination and associated inequalities, to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups, and to address the Human Rights and needs of all communities.

**Seething Wells Action Group** – campaigning to restore and protect the biodiversity and heritage of Seething Wells Filter Beds

## **Community Brain**

## **Kingston University**

## **Kingston Hospital**

There is a lot of information on the RBK website. It's all too easy to say 'we don't know what's going on' but we do need to make an effort to find it.

https://www.kingston.gov.uk/climate-and-sustainability/help-tackle-climate-change/get-involved

I am happy to answer any questions.

Linda Austin

## Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness - fund-raising walk



Recently I joined a team of people on a fund-raising walk for Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness. We were given something to think about for each of the five miles as we waked and I would like to share this with you.

#### Mile 1 - Eviction

While you may have a picture of homelessness in your head, we have seen first-hand the devastating effects of Section 21 ("no fault") evictions in the current economic climate, on an ever-widening demographic of people.

Rising rental costs, a frozen Local Housing Allowance and the opportunity to evict tenants almost without reason mean that the loss of Assured Shorthold Tenancies are one of the leading causes of homelessness.

#### Mile 2 - Services

Food banks, medical services, the job centre, public showers, council offices, dropin centres ad regular support groups, the experience of homelessness is one of a nomadic existence.

In Kingston alone, that could mean walking from the Everyday Church to Kingston Hospital, the Guildhall, Christ Church in New Malden, Queen Mary Hall and St Luke's Church on any given day, that's over 8 miles, just to cover the basics.

## Mile 3 - Adversity

Rough sleeping in a tent is one of the ways a person experiencing homelessness can protect themselves from the elements and create a base to leave and return to. In the cases where the tent owner is out for the day, it is easy for people to declare the tent abandoned and remove it, steal the contents and even destroy everything.

Within the last month, a service user we have been supporting returned to find their tent and its contents burnt, they lost their passport and a laptop computer they were going to sue for a college course that had just started.

#### Mile 4 – Addiction

For most substance users who end up rough sleeping, it's not a "high" they're looking for, it's a reduction of the lows. Trauma, isolation and despair are common causes, and consequences, of homelessness coupled with substance use.

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

A holistic approach to creating lasting recovery involves treating the addiction at the same time as working to heal the pain that drives it, with stable housing and psychological security providing an essential foundation.

#### Mile 5 - KCAH

Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH) works to tackle the complex roots of homelessness through an integrated, person-centred approach, not just by offering immediate shelter. We believe our strength lies in offering holistic support across 3 areas, eviction, addiction and accommodation.

From the Housing Crisis Intervention Team (Housing advice) to The Bridge (substance use) and into the Access Project (supported accommodation), the people of KCAH work tirelessly to allow every person experiencing homelessness to be seen, have their experience validated and move forwards.

To learn more try this link: <a href="https://kcah.org.uk">https://kcah.org.uk</a>

**Cathy Seymour** 

## Praying about debt, prosperity, and peace

By Sue Richardson, Just Money Movement



Life-giving God, we are held by you between gift and obligation. We thank you for your abundant gifts in our lives. These we do not deserve and cannot repay except by loving others as you have taught us.

We live in your world, however, between loan and debt.

Our lending to others seeks a material return which is not always faithful to the needs of our borrowers and heedless of their security as we seek our profit. The bond of mutual obligation becomes the chain of indebtedness.

Teach us to live in interdependence, building links of peace and prosperity for all through the breaking of the fetters of debt.

Help us to see that the most valuable return on our giving is a world of mutual enrichment, that we can know our own security most fully when peace is enjoyed by the most vulnerable among us. Amen.



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

## **KURC Day Trip to Worthing – August 2025**

A full coach of KURC members and friends had a great day out in Worthing on Saturday 30th August. Old and young enjoyed a day of playing / sitting on the beach, swimming in the sea, visiting the shops, eating fish and chips and (of course!) sampling the ice creams. A little "taster" in the photos below.





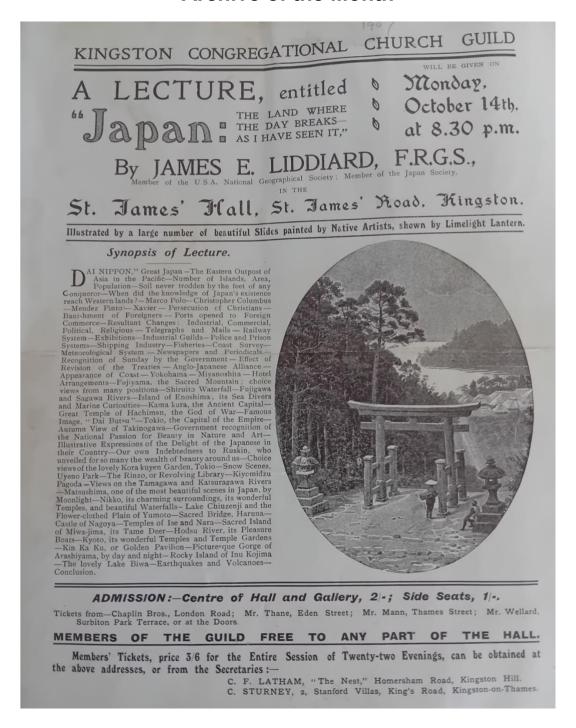






To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see final page

#### **Archive of the Month**



This poster, advertising a 'limelight lantern lecture' on Japan, dates from 1907. Our church didn't have a large hall at that time, so when the need arose we hired a hall in St James's Road (on the site of the new Unilever offices). This had formerly been a Methodist church. The hall was still there in the 1960s when it was being used as a furniture warehouse.

It is interesting to note that in 1907 Japan was beginning to assert strong influence over Korea: it had already made Korea a protectorate, and formally colonized Korea in 1910.

John Fisher

#### **Material Treasures**

A recent visit to Kew Gardens showed a new exhibition entitled 'Material Treasures.' It showed garments made from plants, flowers and trees. Space permits just snippets of information that gives ways in which we can support environmental change.





'One in three people throw clothes away if they have a slight stain. Wearing the garment for nine months can cut its environmental impact by 30%. '

If every Londoner repaired just 5% of their clothes instead of throwing them away, and bought 12 second-hand items instead of new ones, the city's carbon footprint could drop by up to 30%.

Perhaps you could visit the exhibition soon and enjoy it as much as I have done.

\*\*Ann Macfarlane\*\*



# A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tip for November 2025

## Measure your carbon footprint

Take an audit of your individual or household carbon footprint and repeat each year to see if you can reduce it! There are lots of ways to do this, from switching energy suppliers to changes in your diet.

Some great tools to use are available, for example the carbon calculators provided by Climate Stewards at <u>climatestewards.org/carboncalculators</u>, and Creation Care <u>creationcare.org.uk</u>, offers a specific resource for households giving ideas and helping you track your progress.

As you look at different areas of your life, offer each area or action to God as an offering.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: <a href="mailto:arocha.org.uk/wild-christian"><u>arocha.org.uk/wild-christian</u></a>

## **Smiles**

Breaking news: Historians believe they have uncovered a cache of pencils that once belonged to William Shakespeare. A spokesperson said "They are so badly chewed on the ends, we can't tell if they are 2B or not 2B".

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying".

A teacher had just given her class a lesson on magnets. Now came the question session and she asked a little boy "My name starts with an M and I pick things up. What am I?". The boy replied instantly "A mother".

With thanks to Linda Austin for finding these @



## International Bible Reading Association - www.ibraglobal.org

## **Bible Readings for November 2025**

Saturday 1 November (All Saints' Day) Jude1:20-25

**SEARCHING FOR SHALOM (1)** 

Sunday 2 November Exodus 2:23-25
Monday 3 November 1 Timothy 6:6-10
Tuesday 4 November Mark 5:24b-34
Wednesday 5 November Proverbs 3:13-24
Thursday 6 November Psalm 23:1-6
Friday 7 November Zechariah 9:9-10
Saturday 8 November Romans 8:5-11

**SEARCHING FOR SHALOM (2)** 

Sunday 9 November Matthew 6:25-34
Monday 10 November Isaiah 32:14-20
Tuesday 11 November Acts 16:22-34

Wednesday 12 November 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Thursday 13 November Romans 5:1-5
Friday 14 November John 14:15-21
Saturday 15 November John 14:1-3

**GOLD** 

1 The value of gold

Sunday 16 November Genesis 2:10-14
Monday 17 November Genesis 24:15-27
Tuesday 18 November Deuteronomy 17:14-17

Wednesday 19 November 1 Kings 10:1-13
Thursday 20 November 1 Chronicles 29:1-9
Friday 21 November 2 Chronicles 3:1-8
Saturday 22 November Job 28:12-19

2 Better than gold

Sunday 23 November Proverbs 8:1-21
Monday 24 November Psalm 19:7-14
Tuesday 25 November Psalm 119:127-136

Wednesday 26 November Job 23:1-10
Thursday 27 November Malachi 3:1-12
Friday 28 November 1 Peter 1:3-9

Saturday 29 November Revelation 21:15-21

THE CHARACTER OF GOD: the God who comes

1 The hope of Israel

Sunday 30 November (Advent Sunday) Luke 1:26-38

## **Kingston United Reformed Church – Information**

#### Ministers:

Rev Lesley M Charlton, tel: 020 8399 4423 e-mail: <a href="minister@kingstonurc.org">minister@kingstonurc.org</a> Rev Dr Suk In Lee, tel: 020 8949 2070 e-mail: <a href="minister@kingstonurc.org">sukin.lee@kingstonurc.org</a> Rev Carol Clack, tel: 07495 746131 e-mail: <a href="minister@kingstonurc.org">carol.clack@kingstonurc.org</a>

#### **Church Secretary:**

Cathy Seymour, mobile: 07775 615126 e-mail: <a href="mailto:chsec@kingstonurc.org">chsec@kingstonurc.org</a>

#### Treasurer:

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

#### Children, Youth & Families Worker:

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

#### **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): <a href="mailto:premises@urckingston.org.uk">premises@urckingston.org.uk</a>

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

#### **Premises Assistant:**

Georgi Todorov, Landline as above.

#### **How to contribute to Church News:**

Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome.

Copy for **Church News** must reach the editor by the second Friday of the month.

The next copy deadline (November/December edition) is Friday, 14 November 2025

Editor: Ruth Anderson – ruth.anderson999@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 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: <a href="https://www.kingstonurc.org">www.kingstonurc.org</a>. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.