



The
United
Reformed
Church



Kingston United
Reformed Church



CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church
June / July 2026



Sunset on the beach in Bel Ombre, Mauritius.
Taken by Catherine while recently on holiday.

www.kingstonurc.org

Charity No. 1131880

This issue edited by Catherine Treweek

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 YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@kingstonunitedreformedchur2940/streams>

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' Gym (except Bank Holidays)

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

12.30 Community Lunch (except Bank Holidays)

Tuesday:

10.00 Prayers on Zoom

Wednesday:

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:

1st Tuesday 19.30 Elders' Meeting

3rd Saturday 10.00 Women's Coffee Morning

2nd Sunday 11.30 Church Meeting

Bi-monthly:

3rd Saturday 14.00 Crafternoons

School Holidays:

Certain 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 June/July 2026:

20th June: Synod Fun day out

18th July: Crafternoon at 2pm in the Mayo Hall

18th July: Women's coffee morning at 10am in the training room

22nd July: Generation Zone at 11am in the Mayo Hall

Please also see the e-mailed Weekly Notices.

Letter from Lesley



Dear All,

If Peter Mandelson (or whoever our current bogie man is) was a member of KURC, would you shake his hand on a Sunday? Would he be welcome in the building?

If you had been his friend, would it be right to continue the friendship?

It is a challenging to love the sinner but hate the sin.

It's difficult in terms of how we are perceived. I was arguing with a friend saying that if someone has gone off the rails what the person needs are friends who will honestly tell them they have behaved badly but still be their friend. It does not help if people do not mingle with honest folk when they have gone astray. If you are someone's friend, you are their friend whatever they do. You do not have to agree with it. You visit them in prison. You can be their pal and think they are wrong. It is your job to call them out but still stay in relationship.

That is how God is with us.
God loves us.

We human beings cause unjust wars. We abuse others. We exploit the earth and yet still our God loves us as though we were the only one to love.

Further it is a foolish childish thing to think that people are either good or bad, in or out, right or wrong. Red hats or blue hats.

No. The truth is that the person who voted Brexit when you voted Remain could well be the person who picked up your medicine when you needed it. The person who voted for Reform could be the person who speaks up for their black neighbour when someone is abusing them.

There is a level of complexity in life that we are loathe to admit.

The sooner we do the more helpful life will be.

What about being curious about why a person does what they do that revolts you? What about talking and more importantly listening.

As Christians we believe fundamentally in 2 things. The reality of the saving work of Jesus. We are all in need of God's grace. All of us.

Secondly, we believe in the reality of sin. The world has brokenness in it. No one is perfect and all of us need God's forgiveness and love.

Today let us know we are not better than them. We are loved like they are. Fallen like they are and welcome like they are.

Thanks be to God

Yours
Lesley

Cathy's Conversation



I recently bought something online. It was a baby swing seat. I placed the order late April. I am not yet a huge fan of online shopping, but this was the quickest way that I could get this specific item. I am also aware that some people almost exclusively shop online and get very quick deliveries. So, I was pleased to find the item, without trying several shops and excited because it would arrive quickly. Hopefully, it would arrive before a family get together in early May.

I used the tracker to find out what was happening. Three weeks later no movement. I looked for a phone number, but it was not available. I knew that the only way that I could find out any information was to use the help centre. I also knew that it would very likely not be a connection to a person. My “bot” conversation started at 8.30 one morning. I was polite and so got polite replies. Firstly, it tells me what I know; “your order is currently unfulfilled and has not yet been dispatched”. I persevere and get a series of replies within one minute, each one adding few more words, but the message was the same. I ask, if could speak with anyone. The reply was no. I explained that I have not received any new information, that it was clear that my purchase could not be found and that there was no interest within the company to search for it. At this point I did not get a reply within a minute as I was now, an hour into the conversation. The “bot” had run out of conversation. Three hours later I did get a reply from Bea; “I have now spoken to our warehouse team, and they have arranged for your order to be dispatched today.”

Was Bea a real person? I will never know. Was the whole matter resolved without any real human to human contact? I will never know. The person who did deliver the parcel did not even ring the doorbell, so I saw no-one involved in my purchase and delivery.

Why am I sharing this story in church news?

If we own any form of technology, we are impacted by Artificial Intelligence (AI) every day. The debate about its impact is active and wide and I am not skilled enough to reach any conclusion.

I was walking with a member of my family, telling this story. I was proud of my perseverance. I thought I had won, Bot 0: Human 1. I thought about people who may still be awaiting undelivered parcels and not feeling able to enquire because the old systems of letter and phone calls is no longer available. Jokingly, my relative said that I had resisted the temptations of Satan, who was keen to get his way and isolate me.

I am sure that my tiny conversation with a “bot” has added to AI's knowledge base. Will that mean that I will have to work harder next time or will I get a result more quickly? I will never know.

What I do know is that it is harder for young people to get jobs as they start their working lives. Many starter jobs have been lost to AI systems. Satan's plan of isolation marches on.

As I write, many young people are preparing for and taking exams. Exams bring a sort of hope for the future, but the news is telling us that it has truly become harder to get the work start that is needed.

Here at KURC we offer opportunities to spend time with others in a whole variety of ways and with people of a variety of ages. Currently two young people are volunteering with us as a part of their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. There are events over three of the Saturdays in June. Please make use of these opportunities, if not for yourself then for the person, who has had the courage to come to find companionship.

Behind the scenes a lot of work is going on with the building updates. It is true to say that it has not been easy and there is still more to do. Thank you to the people who are representing us in negotiations. You will be made aware of this in detail at the July Church Meeting on 12th July.

With God's help, if we are open to him, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit we will move forward, despite the hiccups along the way. It does feel that we have unfortunately had a nasty bout of hiccups!

Have a great early summer and please pray that young people can move from education to starting paid work with support and encouragement.

Flower rota for mid-June and July 2026

21 st June	Jean Thompson
28 th June	Blank
5 th July	Blank
12 th July	Jenny Milner
19 th July	Blank
26 July	Brenda Parkins



Please contact Janine Goddard if you can fill any of the blanks.

Sally's Stories



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The aim is to spend the time between Ascension Day and Pentecost, praying "Thy Kingdom come" and "Come, Holy Spirit", just as the disciples did when they were waiting for the promised Holy Spirit.

We pray for family, friends, our town, our hospitals, schools, Government.... That they may know the love of Jesus.

One of the things that we did was offer prayer to our parents/carers who come to Jolly Toddler Gym.

We set up a prayer table, with a wooden cross and some LED tealight candles and offered prayer cards to write on and a sparkly prayer box. We called this 'Say One For Me!'

With some encouragement, we received about 6 requests, which Ruth Anderson, Ray Erskine and I prayed for after the session. We want to get more courageous and pray WITH people, if the need arises.

These prayers were then brought to the 10am church service for the congregation to pray. This was a big deal for us as a team because we don't know all the new families very well at the moment or 'where they are on the 'Jesus-ometer', as Lesley would say! We want to bring faith into the room without scaring them off (we have only just begun to grow the group again, after we re-launched in January!).

So, please pray.

JUNE is National Toddler Group Month of Prayer!

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

In a glass cabinet at the back of the sanctuary there is a Book of Remembrance with tributes to loved ones of members and friends of KURC. The glass cover is open. Please feel free to look at the Book, perhaps at the time of the passing of your loved one, or please ask Jean Thompson to find the page for you.

Dear All,

Well, this was the year when it hit the fan.

That's true for the world as a whole. Fuel costs, war, increasing cost of food and accommodation. All of this means that some people can no more think of increasing their giving to any cause however virtuous than fly to the moon. Yet our organisation needs the money to keep up the work we do.

For KURC it was also the year when the impact of the harm done to the church by the cell group showed up in the accounts. This is a painful reminder of a challenging time. The good news is that the church is slowly beginning to rebuild. The bad news is that this takes time, and one cannot assume that every new person arrives with pots of cash. Coupled with this is the need to pay for the repair of the roof, which was leaking, for new windows and for new boilers. The boilers are still working (just) but the controls are not. That is why we appear to be wasting money by pumping out heat when a little amount of warmth would do. Currently we cannot do that. The boilers are on or off. We also need to re-do the foyer as it is getting tired.

We are working on the above projects by using most of our reserves and with a large donation. To comply with the law and be safe we need to have reserves.

For those reasons we needed a gift day. It was on the **14th June at the 10.30 service**. We set ourselves the challenging target of **£30,000**.

We have also done a number of things to help us in the short term. We have asked for a pause in our contribution to the Mission and Ministry payments. This is the money that pays for our ministers and the infrastructure of the whole denomination. We have held off giving our annual donation to Oxygen and Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness. Both organisations could do with our regular cash. Clearly, we have to play our part; but just at the moment we need a breather.

We have also been very fortunate to have received monies towards our youth work and our building works. The Southern Synod have been very generous to us. All of that is flim-flam beside the biggest truth. We believe that in this difficult time God is with us.

We are not abandoned nor are we being punished. Tough things happen to good people and all folk have challenges. That is where we are.

Have you given yet? If so, thank you.

If not

Please consider making a gift to the work of KURC.

Please either increase your regular giving or make a one-off gift.

Of course, we know not everyone can. That does not diminish your place in the church. God knows the situation of all of us

Please pray that God will release to us the monies we need.

Best wishes

Lesley

Below are details on how to give:

Firstly -through your bank. Why not set up a standing order? The codes are here.

Kington United Reformed Church Charity

Sort Code: 20-46-73

Account: 60921289

Secondly: use the digital collection plate. Catherine has provided a detailed 'how to' leaflet that is beside the digital plate at the back of the worship space. We also have a card machine in the coffee servery if that is better for you.

Thirdly: you can make a donation through a website called sumup. This has been set up for the gift day. (thanks Stu)

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QAYJF79L>

Fourthly: you can give through the website: [Kingston United Reformed Church](#), blue button, top right "Make a Donation"

Fifthly and sixthly- If you are a person who likes to use cash or cheques, we have 2 envelope schemes – one for weekly use and one for occasional use.

The major advantage of the weekly scheme is that they remind us that the church is still going on whether we were able to be there or not. You put your cash/cheque into the envelope and bring it when you come. That might mean you arrive with a fist full of envelopes – that is fine.

The person to contact for the weekly envelopes scheme is Jin Sook. Email

jinsookkim2020@gmail.com

Whether you pay tax or not, this may be a good system for you if you work in cash.

Gift Aid: if you pay tax in the UK, we can claim it back through the Gift Aid scheme. We need you to sign a form that links the envelope number to you and your ability to reclaim tax.

The person to contact regarding Gift Aid is Denise Scorer

giftaidadministrator@kingstonurc.org

The other envelopes are for one-off gifts. Again, if you pay tax in the UK, it would really help if we could collect it on your donation. Please make sure you tick the Gift Aid section on the one-off envelopes.

For any questions on giving, you can email the Treasurer, Christine Chippendale, on

treasurer@kingstonurc.org

3 final things

- If you worship in the building and want to physically put something into the offertory bag as it goes past, there are cards at the back. They remind the giver that they are giving through their bank. Please help yourself when you arrive on a Sunday.
- Please remember to leave Kingston United Reformed Church a gift in your will.
- Finally, would you like to give a gift to the Church in memory of someone? Or something? An anniversary or birthday? We have ideas for specific things we could suggest, either marked with a plaque or anonymously, whatever is best for you.

Thank you again

Kingston United Reformed Church

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

Christian Aid Week (CAW) 2026

The annual Quiz to raise money for CAW was held at KURC. People came from several different churches to support the evening and to compete against other teams.

Over £700 was raised. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed!



Dancing in Kingston town centre to raise money for CAW 2026



The final amount raised for Christian Aid Week is still to be announced.





Thy Kingdom Come 2026 Prayer Walk

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the

Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The aim is to spend the time between Ascension Day and Pentecost, praying “Thy Kingdom come” and “Come, Holy Spirit”, just as the disciples did when they were waiting for the promised Holy Spirit.

We pray for family, friends, our town, our hospitals, schools, Government.... That they may know the love of Jesus.

This year, KURC took part in several ways including a prayer walk on Sunday 25 May 2026. A group of 6 people did the walk (not all did the whole walk – absolutely fine) of 6.5 miles in the heat!! Starting at KURC, where we prayed for ourselves and then stopping at the Guildhall, Fairfield Park/The Albion pub (no drinking!!), Kingston Grammar School, St. Peter’s Norbiton and two viewpoints in Richmond Park.

We prayed for things along the way too and we all felt it was really helpful to stand in front of these places to pray for them.

It was most encouraging to know that some people followed us virtually as we sent photos and prayer pointers on WhatsApp. Also, the Korean youth group drew a map of the route and wrote/drew their prayers (you can see this in church – it’s great.)

Thank you everyone!

Sally Butler
Children, Youth & Families Worker



From Eden Street to the Albert Hall



My grandfather owned one of those ancient wind-up gramophones with a big horn. It played 78rpm shellac records which he (and I) loved playing, despite the infuriatingly crackly sound and the frequent need to get up, turn the disc over, and wind the handle twenty times! One of his favourite records, which later became mine too, was Arthur Sullivan's *'The Lost Chord'* sung by the great contralto Mary Jarred to organ accompaniment.

I recently discovered this recording on YouTube, and to my great surprise noticed that the organist was Bertram Harrison - a name I recognised from my recent research on the history of our church organ. Bertram Harrison (usually known as Jack) was our organist from 1916 to 1926. Perhaps the recording of the Lost Chord had been made in our church?! Well, no as it turns out - it was made in Kingsway Hall - but it seems clear that our organ provided a springboard to a very successful career as a soloist/accompanist, and a modest degree of fame.

Bertram attended the Richmond Road School in the early years of the 20th century where he was remembered by another pupil (later a deacon of our church) for the remarkable quality of his hymn playing at school assemblies. He accompanied recitalists in the Kingston area while still in his early teens and he became our organist around 1916 when more senior musicians had gone to fight in the war.

Apparently, he had a mischievous sense of humour: he would weave themes from *Chu Chin Chow* and other popular musicals of the time into his organ improvisations before each service, which caused a good deal of tut-tutting in the pews. He instigated a series of evening concerts at our church and supervised the rebuilding of the organ. Before long he was offered the position of organist at 'a large London church' (I haven't been able to establish where).

Surviving concert programmes indicate that in the 1930s he was performing as an accompanist all over the country. By the 1940s he was playing the Albert Hall organ at Promenade concerts under Henry Wood and making highly regarded recordings for the Columbia and HMV labels with world-famous singers such as Webster Booth (*The Holy City*: HMV C3196) and Isobel Baillie (*Be Thou with me*: Columbia DX 1133)

It is a pity that we do not have a portrait of Bertram Harrison, but his recordings survive, now accessible to all on the internet.

If you'd like to hear his recording of the Lost Chord just type: Lost Chord Jarred Youtube in your search box.

John Fisher

VISITING THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

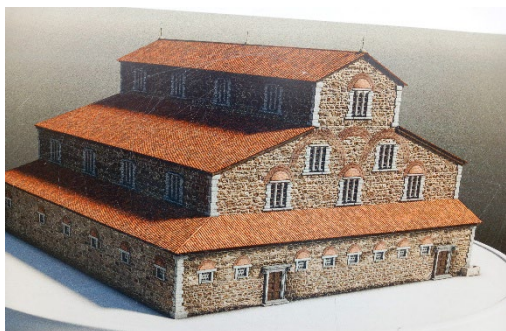


When a friend invited me to go with her on a tour of the seven churches of Revelation in Turkey it was news to me that such a holiday existed. I am so glad I agreed to go. I spent a fascinating week with a group of 10 like-minded people based in Izmir (formerly Smyrna) touring around Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira (where Lydia in the book of Acts came from), Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

We also fitted in a visit to the ancient site of Hierapolis. All these sites have revealed dramatic ruins and some like Ephesus and Laodicea are still being excavated.

The first three chapters of the book of Revelation came alive. The words of Jesus to Saint John were addressed to seven churches in seven cities which were all on a trading route. These cities would

have been prosperous, bustling, important and diverse centres. Ephesus for example was then a large port before the waters silted up. Saint Paul spent over two years here, arguing, debating with people from different cultures.



Interestingly there were hardly any church buildings to see. Churches were only built in the 4th century after Emperor Constantine became a Christian and persecution stopped. Until then Christians met in people's homes or in rooms above a shop. In Laodicea we did see the site of one of the first ever church buildings.

In the photo you can see how unique it looks.

The tour was led by an Anglican minister Rev James Buxton who runs a small church in Izmir and Sonat a local professional Turkish tourist guide. James led morning and evening prayer and explained the scriptures at each venue.

When St John wrote those seven letters he expected them all to be read out at each church gathering. There's a similar pattern of affirmation, complaint, correction and consequences. We learnt about the symbolism and how it related to the history and geography of each area.

Turkey is officially a Muslim country where 99% of the population identify as Muslims. We visited a mosque and also worshipped at Rev Buxton's church and visited the Roman Catholic cathedral which remembers the life of Saint Polycarp who was the first Bishop of Smyrna and in 155 AD an early Christian martyr at the age of 86.



One day we joined an interdenominational outdoor evening service amidst the ruins of Ephesus where Greek Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic worshippers came together.

In our down time we enjoyed eating at various restaurants sampling home cooking including a Michelin star cook who charged customers by the weight of the plate of food they chose. We also enjoyed a soak in a very hot thermal pool (36 degrees) in Pamukkale . Our reflections each day illustrated how there have always been flaws within the Christian church but how God is still committed to their well-being and growth. If you'd like to know more I'd be happy to share more with you.

Sue Shaw

KURC Men's Lunch

Friends of Kingston United Reformed Church are invited to meet at O'Neill's pub for lunch at **12.30 on Wednesday 15th July.**

After that the next lunch date is Tuesday 15th September. It is a casual, social get together and open to everyone, with or without a connection to the church.

Please come along to chat and possibly make new friends.

If you would like more information please contact Alistair Borthwick – email alistair.borthwick@talktalk.net phone 07930 762853.

Abide with me

Have you ever wondered why on earth the Victorian hymn 'Abide with me' - normally associated with funerals - is sung just before the FA Cup Final? It's a tradition that goes back one hundred years to 1927 – the year when Cardiff City played Arsenal. Well, here's the answer:

- It was introduced into the pre-match community singing by the Secretary of the Football Association to replace *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, probably with the aim of calming the atmosphere before the National Anthem.
- The effect of 90,000 fans (half of whom were from Cardiff) singing this solemn hymn was, according to several press reports, quite emotionally overwhelming.
- King George V and Queen Mary, who attended the match, both vigorously supported the change (it was their favourite hymn) and no one felt inclined to disagree.

PS: Amazingly, it is possible to listen to a recording of the 1927 Cup Final performance of 'Abide with Me' on YouTube: it was issued as a 78rpm disc by Columbia.

John Fisher



Hello,
Hope you don't mind me asking but I'm asking everyone! No pressure at all. You can donate online or cash.

Just a quick email to let you know that I've decided to fundraise for Kingston Hospital Charity and I'd really appreciate your support.

You can donate to my JustGiving page by clicking here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sally-butler-thanks?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=EM

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Kingston Hospital Charity, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

Thank you,
Sally

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising>

National Emergency Briefing

What was said to MPs in the National Emergency Briefing?

Look out for more details.

That was what I said in the April/May edition. A group of concerned citizens decided that the public was entitled to know what MPs were told. They prepared a shorter, less technical version of it as a film for general distribution, showing and discussion. It has really taken off, the map of the UK showing where there have been or will be events is covered in pins.

What is happening in Kingston?

Events at the KU's Stanley Picker Gallery:

Join us on **12 June 2026** to take part in '[Standing for the River](#)', a community performance taking place on the Hogsmill riverbank. It contributes evidence towards an application to DEFRA to designate part of the Hogsmill River as a bathing site. This is part of the artist duo FRAUD's Stanley Picker Fellowship exhibition [A Simultaneous Agreement](#). A new body of work that uses sculpture, performance and spatial research to examine the material and political entanglements of the UK's water crisis. **Book your tickets [here](#).**

Stanley Picker Gallery in collaboration with Kingston Council are hosting a screening of [The Peoples Emergency Briefing](#), which will be followed by a roundtable discussion with artists, ecologists and activists on actions to support care for our local river on **Saturday 20 June, 3:00 - 5:30pm**. This is part of the [consultation](#) for the application to DEFRA and the [London Climate Action Week 2026](#). **Book Tickets via [eventbrite](#).**

There will be a second screening of [The Peoples Emergency Briefing](#) on the 22nd of June from 2:00 to 4:30 PM.

There may be other events in the future but get in first.

Linked to that there is a petition: Chris Packham says: The UK faces growing risks from climate and nature breakdown - from extreme weather to economic disruption and national security threats. Yet the public has never been given a clear national briefing on the scale of these risks. Government should hold an emergency briefing from leading experts. So if you are concerned about your and your family's future sign the petition.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687>

If 100,000 sign the petition then Parliament has to hold a debate.

Further information is on the web-site <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

Book Recommendations

I love to read Christian books! I've read many over the years. Some have been life changing. So here are a few to consider; some of them quite old; some more recent. The list is by no means exhaustive and is in no particular order of preference.

Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas

This is a book that helped me be more accepting of how other Christians worship and pray and learn about God. He outlines 9 spiritual temperaments and discusses the strengths and pitfalls of each. He illustrates with Bible characters who embody each temperament and encourages with practical ideas, to celebrate our unique walk with God and learn from others.

Listening To God by Joyce Huggett

Apart from the Bible, this is the first Christian book I ever read! Joyce was an evangelical who went on to experience so much from other traditions, especially the contemplative tradition. She taught me that God speaks as well as listens and I learned many ways in which he speaks to us (not an exhaustive list but helpful nevertheless). Semi-autobiographical in nature, we see her joys and frustrations as she learns to spend time with God in a very busy life.

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

An absolute 'classic'! Nine disciplines to nurture our life and grow spiritually. Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study, Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service, Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration!

Having a spiritual director, taking retreats and learning the difference between meditating on and studying the Bible were a few takeaways for me.

I am still learning! Foster is from the Quaker tradition but very ecumenical, drawing on the wisdom, past and present, of other streams within the Christian faith. I recommend also, the Renovare mailing list which has links to so many interesting articles and podcasts.

www.renovare.org for encouragement in our spiritual formation.

Battlefield of the Mind & accompanying practical book - **Power Thoughts** by Joyce Meyer

Lesley introduced me to the many books written by Joyce Meyer! These two were best sellers and talk about how our thoughts influence our speech, actions, moods, mental health... Power Thoughts is written to be read again and again and the thoughts are (to me it seems) a form of Bible-based Cognitive Behaviour Therapy! We are encouraged to meditate on, memorise and apply the thoughts that correspond to the 'lies' our mind tells us e.g. 'I am worried about money' becomes 'God meets all my needs abundantly'. This may take years but eventually, God's truth sticks and positivity follows (real positivity not fake positivity!)

Change Your Words, Change Your Life by Joyce Meyer

A real challenge to think about the words we use. So often, we fall prey to complaining, gossip, backbiting... and use negative words which do not lift us up. This is not about being unrealistic and thinking everything is fantastic but framing how we express things in a fruitful way. Meyer gives examples of how to overcome the sins of our tongue!

Absolute Surrender by Andrew Murray

To be honest, any book by Murray, is a challenging read and profoundly exciting. I am not sure that I am capable of all that he expresses but he makes me long for it. Only God's Spirit can make me that obedient to Christ and my heart that pure. But I want it and need people like Murray to spur me on. First published in 1895. We need it more than ever.

L is For Lifestyle by Ruth Valerio

This book is all about being an eco-Christian! An A – Z of issues that modern day Christians must face if we are to take caring for our planet seriously. Lots of practical ideas to work on to help us live more ethically and sustainably. Slowly but surely, I made a lot of changes (big and small) having read this book.

Making Life Work by Bill Hybels

This is a book that delves into the Book of Proverbs to teach us how to put God's wisdom into action. It covers topics such as: Speak Truth, Choose Friends Wisely, Manage Anger, Cultivate Compassion.

LAST BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST... THE BIBLE?!

Seriously, if you have not read the whole Bible (and I don't suggest trying to read it from Genesis to Revelation in order!), I recommend a Life Application Bible. It has lots of notes to help us apply the Bible to our everyday lives and maps, charts, theme finder etc. to help us see the whole sweep of God's story. There is so much goodness in it and the way that the Old Testament points to the person and work of Jesus in the New was simply an eye-opener for me.

Have fun reading!

Sally Butler



Over 30 ministers and church leaders gathered for this year's

Southern Synod Spring School.

Led by the Revd Fiona Bennett, they addressed the theme of "Binding Anxieties".

Participants "explored ways to discover nourishment" and how to live and serve with hope in an anxious world.



JUNE 2026

Take part in citizen science or a local nature event. Citizen science is a way for ordinary people to get involved in scientific research or data collection. There are many projects to choose from and it's easy to make a contribution. Invite others to get involved with you too. Here are some projects that you could help with:

Search your local beach with a shore survey: wildlifetrusts.org/shoresearch

Spend ten minutes counting pollinators: ukpoms.org.uk

Join in with Churches Count on Nature (6-14 June): arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/churches-count-on-nature/

Do a Bee Walk: beewalk.org.uk

Join Great Big Green Week (6-14 June): greatbiggreenweek.com

JULY 2026

It's Plastic Free July and this year we're thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process at plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry/ and more about this year's campaign at plasticfreejuly.org.

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

Time for a giggle....

Adam and Eve had the first computer: An Apple with very limited memory.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on Water". The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus".

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it!



Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

A prayer for Transcarpathia

By Geoffrey Clarke, URC

God, in whom we find our peace, we pray for all whose lives and localities are impacted by war.

In particular we pray:

- for those displaced by the war in Ukraine;
- for families and friendships where the young have fled for safety and the elderly remain;
- for the impact of the declining population that remains.

Giving thanks for our partnership in Christ with our sisters and brothers in the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia and the Reformed Church in Hungary, we pray for those offering social care through the Diaconal Coordination Centre, that through their work hope will continue to be tangible in the lives who need it most:

- for the baking and distribution of loaves of bread;
- for the farm, that it may continue to be a source of provision;
- for the elderly care home.

Through the sharing of food and clothing may those displaced by war find refreshment and a new sense of belonging.

Bless, we pray, the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, that through the small seeds of hope planted in faith, transformation may bloom in the region: that war may be eclipsed by the abiding peace of Christ, in whose name we pray,

Amen.

A very happy birthday to KEN BARTLETT who recently celebrated his 90th Birthday!



Have you admired the sanctuary flower stand? ... and wondered who made it?

Peter and Jean Ashdown were faithful members of KURC for many years. Peter spent much of his working life with wood, making architect models, formula1 cars...

His knowledge and skill besides wood included leading walks in and around London ... a few of us from KURC went to visit Peter and Jean in Oxford where they have been living for 3 years.



Read ■ Reflect ■ Grow

List of Bible readings 2026

The International Bible Reading Association (IBRA) has been serving the world church since 1882 with the vision of providing the necessary means for the worldwide Christian church to help Christians read the Bible regularly. IBRA readers make a commitment to reading each day the appointed Bible passage and to pray for each other. The Bible should be read carefully and with prayer that the Holy Spirit will help the reader to understand.

Monday 15 June	Isaiah 11:1-10
Tuesday 16 June	Isaiah 11:11-16
Wednesday 17 June	Isaiah 17:1-9
Thursday 18 June	Isaiah 18:1-7
Friday 19 June	Isaiah 19:17-25
Saturday 20 June	Isaiah 22:1-13

CHARACTER OF PROPHETS

Sunday 21 June	Jonah 4:1-11
Monday 22 June	Jeremiah 32:6-15
Tuesday 23 June	Jeremiah 38:1-13
Wednesday 24 June	Ezekiel 8:1-16
Thursday 25 June	Ezekiel 12:1-7
Friday 26 June	Hosea 3:1-5
Saturday 27 June	Zechariah 11:4-17

PARABLES (Old & New Testament)

Sunday 28 June	2 Samuel 12:1-10
Monday 29 June	Luke 16:1-13
Tuesday 30 June	Luke 10:25-37
Wednesday 1 July	Luke 15:1-10
Thursday 2 July	Luke 12:35-48
Friday 3 July	Luke 18:1-8
Saturday 4 July	John 10:1-21

READINGS IN ROMANS (2)

1 Dead to sin, alive through Christ

Sunday 5 July	Romans 4:13-25
Monday 6 July	Romans 5:1-11
Tuesday 7 July	Romans 5:12-21
Wednesday 8 July	Romans 6:1-14
Thursday 9 July	Romans 6:15-23
Friday 10 July	Romans 7:1-13
Saturday 11 July	Romans 7:14-25

2 Fruits of God's Spirit

Sunday 12 July	Romans 8:1-17
Monday 13 July	Romans 8:18-30
Tuesday 14 July	Romans 8:31-39
Wednesday 15 July	Romans 9:1-18
Thursday 16 July	Romans 9:19-33
Friday 17 July	Romans 10:1-13
Saturday 18 July	Romans 10:14-21

MENTAL HEALTH AND FAITH

Sunday 19 July	Psalms 42:1-11
Monday 20 July	Ecclesiastes 1:2-18
Tuesday 21 July	Job 3:1-24
Wednesday 22 July	Luke 8:1-3
Thursday 23 July	Mark 5:1-20
Friday 24 July	1 Samuel 16:14-23
Saturday 25 July	Jonah 2:1-6

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW (4)**1 The authority of Jesus**

Sunday 26 July	Matthew 13:53-58
Monday 27 July	Matthew 14:1-12
Tuesday 28 July	Matthew 14:13-21
Wednesday 29 July	Matthew 14:22-36
Thursday 30 July	Matthew 15:1-20
Friday 31 July	Matthew 15:21-39
Saturday 1 August	Matthew 16:1-20

2 Understanding what is important

Sunday 2 August	Matthew 17:1-13
Monday 3 August	Matthew 17:14-23
Tuesday 4 August	Matthew 17:24-27
Wednesday 5 August	Matthew 18:1-14
Thursday 6 August	Matthew 18:15-35
Friday 7 August	Matthew 19:1-12
Saturday 8 August	Matthew 19:13-30

SEASONS OF LIFE**1 Nurture**

Sunday 9 August	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Monday 10 August	Hosea 11:1-11
Tuesday 11 August	1 Samuel 3:1-21
Wednesday 12 August	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Thursday 13 August	Daniel 1:1-27
Friday 14 August	1 Samuel 1:9-20
Saturday 15 August	Exodus 18:9-27

2 Maturity

Sunday 16 August	1 Timothy 4:7b-16
Monday 17 August	Ephesians 4:11-16

Kingston United Reformed Church – Information

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churchnews@kingstonurc.org

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. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.