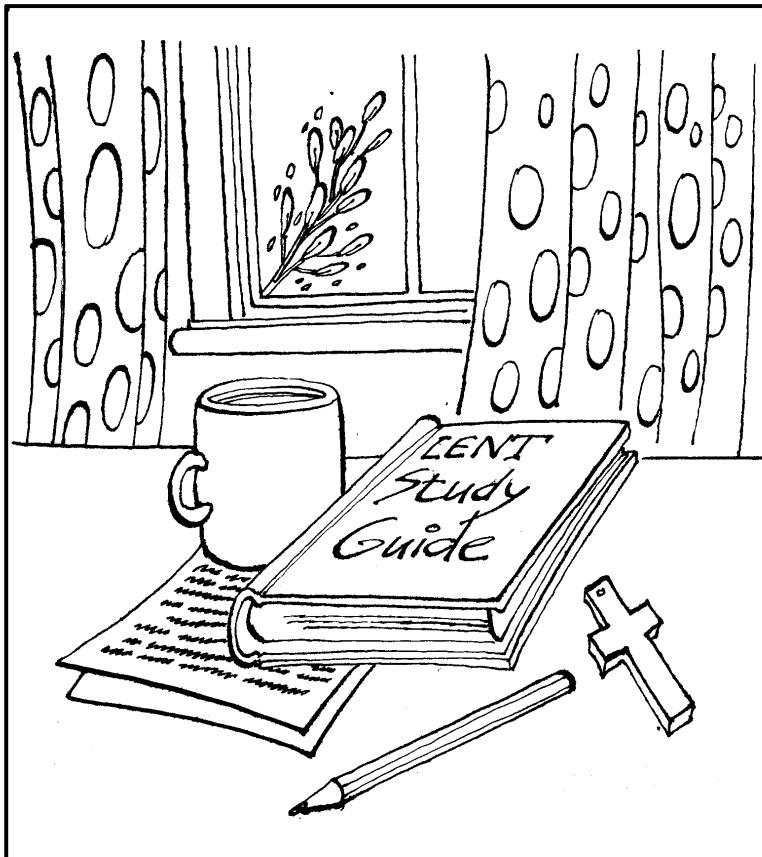




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



February 2013

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY



- | | | |
|--------|-------|--|
| 3 Feb | 10.30 | Rev Peter Catford, Holy Communion |
| | 3.30 | Service at Hanwell House |
| | 6.30 | Rev Chissie |
| 10 Feb | 10.30 | Mrs Charmaine Dinhhan, Family/Parade Service |
| | 6.30 | Mr Akin Phillips |
| 17 Feb | 10.30 | Rev Dr Ronaldo Leao-Neto, World Mission Sunday (p. 16) |
| | 6.00 | Lent Course begins |
| 24 Feb | 10.30 | Rev Peter Catford |
| | 6.00 | Lent Course continues |

Rather belatedly:

*A Very Happy New Year to all
our Readers*

E-mail list

As we have found recently, one way of circulating important news to members and friends is to use the e-mail list that we have. It is also used to circulate the weekly notice-sheet.

If you are not already on the list, but would like to use this means of keeping in touch, please give your e-mail address to Derek Matthews.

The full list is available only to Derek, Kathleen Loveridge and Peter Catford.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the March 2013 issue is Friday 22 February 2013

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

Tel: 020 8840 4803 E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk



Dear Friends

The beginning of 2013 has been a challenging one for us as a family at Kingsdown. We are all feeling a real sense of loss at the death of Ken. We continue to remember Hazel and the family in prayers both private and public in these days of mourning and thanksgiving for Ken; his legacy is a rich one for family, church and the community.

We have also said goodbye to Harold and Lynda as they begin to settle "up north". Again we are grieving the loss of two people who have contributed greatly to the life and witness of the Kingsdown family. We are grateful for all they have done and will also treasure their legacy. We will continue to remember them in our prayers as they move into a phase of life and ministry in what is known as "God's own country".

So it is that we will enter into this period of Lent; here is much clamouring for our time and attention. The needs of people across the world, the seemingly never ending changes within our own nation and community can all confuse and bewilder us. In the coming year we will continue as a church family to seek to discern where God is calling us to serve. Within our family and personal lives we grapple with many things and seek to cope on a day to day basis.

There is a tendency for us as human beings to go into denial at times of challenge, to ignore things that we cannot get our minds around as they are complex and connected. A wise man was once asked "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer came "A piece at a time" (apologies to the many elephant lovers).

Try as we might we cannot save the world; that is God's job and God has already put that in motion through Jesus. Our responsibility is to work on our lives one piece at a time. This is the opportunity that Lent presents us with. It is about fasting but fasting doesn't have to be from food. I offer this poem to encourage you to reflect on, to see what from within this list jumps out at you or, to use religious language, what you are prompted to by the Holy Spirit to address from within your life this Lent.

Then as you fast talk to God about the impact it is having on your living and your relationships with God and others. It may not save the world but with God's help it will begin to change.

Peter

From Fasting To Feasting

*Fast from judging others;
Feast on seeing the best in people.*

*Fast from emphasis on differences;
Feast on the unity of life.*

*Fast from despair;
Feast on hope.*

*Fast from thoughts of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.*

*Fast from words that destroy;
Feast on phrases that are encouraging.*

*Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.*

*Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.*

*Fast from being negative;
Feast on being positive.*

*Fast from worry;
Feast on trust.*

*Fast from complaining;
Feast on appreciation.*

*Fast from hostility;
Feast on peacemaking.*

*Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.*

*Fast from constant activity;
Feast on slowing down.*

*Fast from disrespect;
Feast on recognising the sacred in all life.*

*Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion for others.*

Author Unknown

Kingsdown Family News



For those of our readers who have not already heard, sadly Ken Pennells died on Wednesday, 9 January. On a day of thick snow in London, a celebratory service for Ken's life was held at Kingsdown on Friday, 18 January, before a committal service at Mortlake Crematorium. Ken has been a leading light at Kingsdown for so many years and his presence will be a great loss. Condolences and sincere sympathy to Hazel and his family. Please continue to remember them all in your prayers.

"I extend grateful thanks for the many messages of support and condolence I have received from church friends following Ken's passing. It has been a great comfort to me and to the family to know how much Ken was respected and valued among the Kingsdown and Ealing Circuit communities."

Hazel Pennells

Kenneth Pennells 1934-2013

Kenneth Pennells, who has died aged 78 after a short time in hospital, was a cornerstone of life, service and worship at Kingsdown Methodist Church since its opening in the early 1960s.



It was my privilege to give Ken's eulogy at his funeral on Friday 18th January, and I drew attention to the three great loves of his life: his passion for sport, particularly Brentford FC; his deep faith and lifetime of selfless service; and his devotion to his family.

Ken's appreciation of sport ranged across all types of competitive games and activities, but he was particularly fond of football, cricket and tennis, and was delighted when his four grandsons displayed a talent and passion for these sports.

Brentford FC, however, remained his central sporting focus, and he was a loyal supporter from boyhood right up until his last days - even when lying in his hospital bed he insisted on receiving the full-time scores. For the last decade, Ken had been accompanied to every BFC home game by his two

eldest grandsons, and they have many fond memories of their Saturday afternoons with Grandad.

Ken was born and raised a Methodist, first at West Ealing, then moving to Kingsdown after the amalgamation with Northfield Methodist. Ken once told me that he thought he'd held almost every office except preacher within the Methodist Church, and certainly he sat on almost every possible committee over the years. But it was about more than just attending meetings for Ken, who always volunteered for service in every capacity: if there was a practical job to be done, then Ken would do it.

Since his retirement, over 20 years ago, he had served as Lettings Manager and helped to oversee the huge Redevelopment Project. Many Ministers have benefitted from Ken's assistance and experience and there were at least five clergy in attendance for his funeral, as well as over one hundred friends and relatives.

Sunday services, though, were Ken's primary focus, and he attended almost every morning and evening service at Kingsdown, often serving as a steward and always lifting the singing. Kingsdown will be much the poorer for his passing.

Ken's home-life and family, however, remained of greatest importance to him. He met his future wife, Hazel, in Sunday School at West Ealing Methodist and throughout their 52 year marriage they doted on their daughters, Maria and Avril, and took great pleasure in the arrival of Matthew, Daniel, Archie and Oscar, their grandchildren.

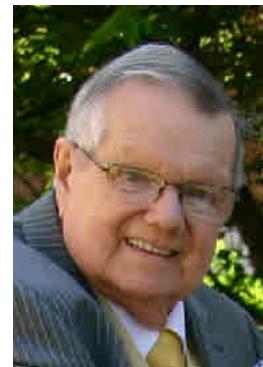
For Ken, family always came first, and he always took a great interest in the activities of his daughters, his sons-in-law and, of course, his beloved grandsons; they, in their turn, loved him unconditionally and delighted in his company, especially at the Sunday dinner table, when the entire family would gather together each week.

Ken's passing marks the end of a chapter at Kingsdown; he was loved and respected, and his contribution to the work and mission of Kingsdown cannot be underestimated. He will be remembered fondly and missed by many: a great man and a fine Christian.

Tony Plews (Ken's son-in-law)

My Tribute To Kingsdown's Ken

On the first Sunday in 2013, Peter Catford started the morning service by telling us that Ken Pennells's condition was very serious and that he was unlikely to make it through the weekend. I knew he had been ill, of course, and that he was in hospital but that announcement completely threw me. Ken was quite literally someone I thought would be around forever and the news hit me hard. I couldn't sing or focus on the service that morning, as all I could think was that I wouldn't meet Ken again, wouldn't be able to talk to him, wouldn't be able to laugh with him. Waves of big fat tears spilled out through the service as his face kept swimming into view.



Later, I tried to work out why I had been so overwhelmed with emotion and I worked out that without even realising it, Ken was incredibly important to me. For me, he was the Father of Kingsdown.

He is part of my earliest memories of the Church and has always been there. I knew him at first as Maria and Avril's dad and I cottoned on at a very young age that Mrs Pennells, who used to teach me in Sunday School, was his mum and I remembered thinking that they looked very similar!

In later years, I got to know him better and he was a great source of encouragement to me, always grabbing my hand after I had led a service or done a reading or the prayers, and telling me what a good job I had done. Always encouraging me to take a role in the Church and more recently, in the circuit, and to consider becoming a local preacher. I think I have heard God's voice through him, more than anyone else.

He would often grab Tom's hand too, usually along with the words "Ah, I need a strong young man to help me". It wasn't long before he dropped the "young" and more recently, I noticed he had dropped the "strong" too!

Quite a few years ago, Jonathan and I sang "O Holy Night" at one of the Christmas services. Afterwards, Ken came and thanked us for singing one of his favourite carols. Jonathan was thrilled back then and has been ever since, as Ken has constantly supported him both in his Kingsdown musicals and by travelling to Greenwich and Kingston to watch him in his YMT production! In fact, he went to Kingston in spite of being in considerable pain. It always meant a lot to Jonathan and he has decided to dedicate his third musical to Ken.

Jonathan also remembers Ken asking him, when he was a very little boy, what football team he supported. When he told him it was Manchester United, Ken walked away shaking his head. But after many years of gentle persuasion, Ken has won. Jonathan is now a confirmed Brentford supporter! He went along on Tues 15th Jan especially for the one minute silence they had for Ken

And of course, there was BB. Ken was always there. Always cheering on our boys. There were more tears at January's Parade Sunday, as I watched his gorgeous grandsons bringing in the colours. He would have been so proud as he always was whenever he talked to me about all of them and what they were up to. I loved seeing them together and watching that genuine warmth and sense of fun he and Hazel seemed to share with them

Around this time last year, I considered leaving Kingsdown. I stayed away for a good few weeks as I tried to find somewhere else to worship. Eventually, of course, I returned and as he grabbed my hand in his usual manner, he told me that he was glad to see me back as he would never have let me leave. I never told him but that touched me very, very deeply.

I asked Christina what words came to mind when she thought of Ken and she said "warm, smiling and always well turned-out". I thought about that and realised I can't remember ever seeing him in anything but a suit. He was always so smart.

In recent months, I was worried about him as it was clear he wasn't well. On Christmas Day, in his lovely bright waistcoat, I felt compelled to give him a big kiss and a hug. It can't have been a very pleasant experience for him as he ended up getting a faceful of all my hair! But I'm glad I did it, even though I had no idea that was the last time I would see him.

His funeral was such a lovely service and I was overcome with tears again, as he left Kingsdown for the very last time, driven off slowly on a bed of soft snow.

I adored Ken and I'm so glad I have such fond memories of him. I am struck by John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also".

I know Ken will have pride of place up in heaven. And I'm pretty sure too that he's probably already on the property committee there, making sure that everything will always be ready for his family and friends. I feel proud and privileged to have known him. Kingsdown will not be the same without our lovely Ken.

Rekha Cherian

Ken Pennells – In remembrance

I must admit that I didn't know Ken or his family all that well - we just seemed to meet up on occasions that had connections with Church life - sometimes in the Church, sometimes elsewhere. The first time I met Ken, I took to him straight away - we had something in common (and it wasn't Brentford!). It was our sense of humour, and it will be that that I will always remember Ken for.

Ken was a man who I always thought was "with it" and one step ahead of the game. If things were not going quite right, he would still look for the funny side of things and we would once again share our thoughts and have a laugh. Whenever we met, we always gave one another the same look - oh, it's you again!

Ken was always willing to help me out when I was looking for "an assistant" for a magic trick. He knew that I would be wanting to borrow some money from him! Perhaps the best memory was seeing his face when I shredded his £20 note - the trick had apparently one wrong. However, he didn't worry, he was one step ahead and said it was a Kingsdown £20 note anyhow. I think that he was relieved though, when the very same note turned up in my wallet.

Ken was Manse Secretary for the Circuit and looked after lettings at Kingsdown. My barbershop chorus who practice there on a Monday night are very indebted to his hospitality and arrangements. A great guy, a lovely guy and one who will be a great loss. I will greatly miss our jokes, our fun and our laughter.

God bless you, Ken - now in the House of the Lord forever.

Ray Garnett

Reprinted from the HMC News

Other Kingsdown News

Many thanks to all those on our mailing list who have kindly responded to our appeal for financial support in distributing the monthly issues of the Messenger.

Pam and Alan wish to say a big thank you to all of our Kingsdown friends who so kindly sent us Christmas cards. As usual we sent our greetings to you all via a card in the Foyer, and a monetary contribution to MRDF.

Vera Hedges reports that the Poppy Collection in November raised £77.44. She thanks all who contributed to this amount.

New Musical Prodigal

My new musical “Prodigal” is a modern tale following what happens when a young lad leaves home to start his own life.

Performances are at Kingsdown, in the hall, on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th of February at 7:30pm. We are still finalising times for the 3rd show but details will follow very shortly.

Tickets are £8 (£6 concessions) and will be available very soon. For more details, or to make reservations now, call me or any of the Cheriyans on 8579 5778.

All proceeds go, as ever, to the Kingsdown Redevelopment Fund.

Most importantly, this musical is dedicated to Ken Pennells who was always a great source of support and encouragement with all my dramatic activities, both in and out of Kingsdown. This one's for you, Ken !

Jonathan Cherian

Property Matters

As noted in a recent edition of the Messenger, new arrangements have been put in place for reporting property issues. A property matters book has been placed in the Church Foyer, for people to record items that need attention. It is really important that everyone plays their part, not just in noticing tasks that need attention, but in recording them so that the Property Stewards can address them.

Please make a note in the book, accompanied by the date and your name (in case we need more details), as soon as you see something that needs to be put right. Writing an entry is not ‘making a complaint’; it is helping the stewards to manage the building efficiently – and everyone needs to play their part.

Following the death of Ken Pennells, and until more permanent arrangements can be made, enquiries about Lettings should be sent to me (icaselysmith@hotmail.co.uk or 020 840 4152). Any urgent matter related to the property can be referred to me, or to Kathleen Loveridge (Kathleen.loveridge@btinternet.com or 020 8579 3941).

Thanks. **Janet Smith** (on behalf of the Property Committee – Peter, Les, Dave, Derek, Leo, Kath, Kevin and Steve)

Churches Walking Together



Revs Suva & Peter Catford invite you to join a prayer/gentle walk, followed by a soup lunch.

Walk starts at 10am from the manse - 182 Church Road, Hanwell, W7 3BP.

**Friday 1st February and Friday 1st March 2013.
All welcome.**

BOOK FAIR



Books Cakes

**Saturday
9th February**

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:

'Junior Mission for All' & 'Network'

LENT COURSE

A discussion with the Church Stewards about the next steps Kingsdown needs to make to define its mission led to the decision to use the period of Lent, when we often engage in more serious Bible Study. It was felt that we should take this opportunity to consider the call Jesus makes to his followers to grapple with issues of justice and poverty and think practically about how we can respond effectively as an integral part of our mission here in Kingsdown.

What does God ask of us and our church? What does it mean to live out what we discover, both in our local community and globally?

We agreed to use the course *Just People?* This was written by Tearfund and Livability who are working together in a new partnership called **Community Mission**.

The aims and focus of the course can be summed up in one passage: when Micah asks God what is required of him, the answer is:

'He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8)

Each session will include a time of fellowship and worship alongside the study itself. It will cover

- ROOTS – the theology behind Christian concern for justice
- MISSION – more about integral, joined up mission
- COMPASSION – A church that is merciful and compassionate
- POLITICS – A church that works for justice
- ACTION- a day of collective action by participants
- CHURCH- What does all this mean for how we operate as a church?
- COST- The personal challenge to be just people.

The course will run on Sunday evenings, in place of our more familiar Sunday evening worship, from 17 February.

Each week we shall meet from 6pm with tea and cake leading into the session which is aimed to end by 8pm.

We hope you will make time to join in this Lenten exercise as we continue to seek to discern the way God is calling us as a church and as individuals to live out the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Peter Catford

'The Gift of God'

Saturdays 26th January & 2nd February, 2013

On Covenant Sunday we launched an initiative to seek to discern the experiences and gifts that God has placed within the Kingsdown Methodist Church Community.

We gave out a form to help each of us think at the beginning of this New Year the Gifts God has given to us. These forms are to encourage us to take the opportunity that our annual Covenant service provides to pray and respond to the way in which God has given us experiences and talents through our daily lives at work, home and in the community. If you weren't at the service then there are spares in the Foyer.

As we enter a new stage of mission and service in Kingsdown we believe it is important to build on the foundations God has laid and also the Gifts God has graced us with..

As this is both a personal and corporate exercise it was felt that it would help to have two opportunities to meet together and help one another to discern what gifts and dreams God has given us.

To help with this period of reflection we have organised two meals when we will have an opportunity to talk informally and support each other to discern those Gifts of God in our own lives.

The events will run from **11 am to 2. 30 pm** in the Hall and will begin with coffee 10.30-11.00 am. There will be an introduction by Peter who along with Blossom and Sybil will offer support if needed.

This will be followed by an Agape meal which includes Holy Communion and that will be followed by a time of light entertainment.

The Agape meal goes back to the early days of the church and was an important part of early Methodism it is also known as a Love Feast,. It is a time of Christian fellowship around a meal. It recalls the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expresses community, sharing and fellowship enjoyed by the family of Christ

Please add your name on the list on the Notice Board for your chosen date. You are also invited to list the hot or cold savoury and/or dessert dish, you would like to bring and share with others. It would be helpful if Dishes could be left in the Kitchen by 10.00 am.

Peter Catford, Sybil Corbin, Blossom Jackson

A NEW YEAR AND TIME TO BE CONTROVERSIAL.....

We've all got different talents and lots to offer the Church. Even more so now that we have a new Minister who is keen to lead us in new directions and show us just what potential we have to share with our community.

Until now, there have been the faithful few who have had to do pretty much everything but who know exactly how the Church runs. And then there have been others who have helped from the sidelines from time to time, when they can.

2013 and beyond will hopefully see Kingsdown grow in a way that we haven't seen in a long time, with opportunities for people to get involved in different ways. We'll all be called in some capacity and many of us will answer, keen to share the skills that God has blessed us with.

That enthusiasm needs to be encouraged. When we invite members of our Church family to take on a role, large or small, we need to remember that they don't all necessarily know the ins and outs of how the Church works as a whole.

I have been part of the Church for four decades and in that time, I have been a Steward and I currently serve on the Church Council but even so I admit, probably to my shame, that I don't actually really know who does what. I have a vague idea of course, but I find that because I fit my Church duties around my busy, day-to-day life they are often not my priority and I will often do just what is required or what I can manage, without taking as much interest in the wider picture as others with more time to spare may do, or expect. I don't know as much as perhaps I should, or as people expect me to. So, it may be frustrating to senior members of the Church when I ask for advice to carry out a role that I have been given, as it might be assumed that I should know more. But the simple fact is, I don't.

So, if I don't know as much as I should, it is highly likely that there are other members of the Church - old and new - who don't either.

This is an appeal which might not make me particularly popular but I do feel I have to speak out.

If we are to ask more people to get involved, we need to support them, not berate them if jobs are not done to satisfaction. And that's both to their face and behind their back. Because, I know from experience, that every time I am snapped at or hear what has been said about me, I withdraw, say no to helping again and/or lose interest in doing any more than the bare minimum ...and so the cycle starts again.

If the Church is to grow, we need to be willing to encourage, and offer advice, no matter how obvious the questions may seem. In that way, people don't have to be nervous about asking for help, become proficient at what they take on, and thus be willing to do more.

Kingsdown feels like an exciting place to be just now. We can either build on that and move forward or just choose to carry on as we are. If we choose to move forward, then we MUST be more supportive, so that we enjoy working with each other.

Rekha Cherian

**KINGSDOWN CLUB
PROGRAMME
FOR
FEBRUARY to APRIL 2013**

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH .ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND . WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER OF KINGSDOWN AVENUE / NORTHFIELD AVENUE FROM 2.00 TO 4.00 P.M. TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT.

PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS [TEL NO. 0208 567 4205 FOR DETAILS

5th FEBRUARY THE BRENTHAM LADIES CHOIR

19th FEBRUARY A TALK by the REV. PETER CATFORD

5th MARCH DAVE ENTERTAINS

**19th MARCH MUSIC and a TALK
by REBECCA CATFORD**

**2nd APRIL MUSIC-GO-ROUND
with ALAN SMITH**

16th APRIL A.G.M. and BINGO

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS 7th MAY

World Mission Sunday - 17th February 2013

World Mission Sunday is Sunday 17th February 2013. This years' Service will be conducted by the Rev Dr Ronaldo Leao-Neto, Superintendent of Harlesden Methodist Church and Assistant Secretary of the World Methodist Committee.

Rev Leao-Neto is originally from Brazil, therefore his appropriateness and knowledge of world mission can only enhance our understanding of circumstances and what impact the church have on the communities at present and beyond in Brazil.

Following the service, there will be the yearly family meal as well as a short question and answer session to further explore any points on Brazil.

There is also a basket provided for a collection, this is your choice to put whatever you can afford, any monies collected will go to Rev Leao-Neto's charity.

Please sign your name/s to the list placed on the notice board in the foyer from Sunday 3rd & 10th February. Having the list gives me some indication of the number of people to cater for.

**Sybil Corbin
World Mission Secretary**



Pitshanger Centenary

On March 9th & 10th Pitshanger Methodist Church is celebrating its Centenary. The church will be open for a flower festival - "A Thank You in Flowers."



We would like to invite you to the weekend, including a "Songs of Praise" service in the evening, March 10th.

We would also be grateful to receive offers of help to welcome people over the weekend. If you can help please let Rev Suva Catford know (tel 020 8567 7550 or email suva.catford@methodist.org.uk).

God bless

Peter Catford

Pitshanger Centenary Celebrations

March 9th & 10th 2013

We shall be celebrating our centenary this year and this will take the form of a "THANK YOU IN FLOWERS" Flower Festival over two days, Saturday, 9th March and Sunday, 10th March 2013.

The Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing, Councillor Mohammad Aslam will open the Festival at 1 pm on Saturday, 9th March and besides the floral displays we shall have on view historical items and examples of present day activities in the church.

In the evening there will be a concert by the Brentham Ladies Choir, the Margaret Dance Academy and Kollidoscope (Puppets for Jesus). There will be no charge but donations welcomed.

On Sunday, 10th March, Mothering Sunday, one of our former Ministers, Rev. Gerald Gardiner will conduct morning worship at 10.30 am and in the evening we shall have "Songs of Praise", including a hymn for each decade of the church's existence, with our Circuit Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jennifer Smith and Rev. Suva Catford, our present Minister.

Also on the Sunday you are invited to a sandwich lunch - please can you let Margaret Hunter know by 31st January latest if you are able to join us, in writing to 15 Lynwood Road, Ealing, London W5 1JQ.

A lunch donation plate will be available on the day and all contributions will be much appreciated. Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) will be on offer throughout the Festival.

We very much hope you will be able to join us at some point in the weekend and look forward to seeing you.

ANNUAL SUPPORTERS AFTERNOON/EVENING
THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2- 4.30 or 6 to 8.30 pm

A great opportunity to find out more about 2013 Christian Aid Week materials and you will have the opportunity to meet volunteers from churches in the London area. If you wish to attend please let me know and I will let you know about travelling arrangements to Waterloo.

Numerous events are planned around the London area before Christian Aid Week and the nearest to us is at Pinner Methodist Church. However, on THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY at 6pm TRAIDCRAFT presents 'More than just a Sermon'. TRAIDCRAFT has invited three prominent church leaders to set out their views on justice in the world economy. The first sermon will be held at Wesley's Chapel in the City Road, when the Minister, the Rev Lord Leslie Griffiths will preach the sermon.

CHRISTIAN AID POST for outgoing ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Most Rev Dr Rowan Williams is to become Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Christian Aid, and succeeds Dame Anne Owens. Dr. Williams said "I had hoped very much to be able to continue some regular involvement in support and advocacy in the area of international justice and development, and this will allow such an involvement to flourish." Christian Aid Director Loretta Minghella said "Archbishop Rowan brings a passionate interest in tackling the symptoms and causes of poverty, a profound theological understand and deep experience of addressing issues of environmental, economic and social justice with Church and political leaders across the world. This is wonderful news for Christian Aid.

Ruby Warne

Middle Age



Middle age is when you lean over to pick something up off the floor, and you ask yourself if there is anything else you need to do while you are down there.

BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Very many thanks for all the items in the Box. I have never passed on so many stamps! A massive plastic bag has been taken to St Thomas's for ladies of the church to 'trim' before being passed to the Leprosy Mission. Please keep it up!

I have also received mobile phones (Christian Aid) and specs (Joy Hynes).

Bath towels and socks have been sent to the West London Mission Day Centre (Hinde Street Methodist Church). You will find a leaflet on the notice board in the Church Foyer about the Day Centre and the wonderful work that is done there.

ALL these items are needed urgently and thank you for your support.

Ruby Warne

THANK YOU Aunties and Uncles

Many thanks to those generous Kingsdown members (past and present) who so kindly donated various gifts, clothes and sums of money for a Home for Destitute Girls I support in Sri Lanka.

These enabled 33 children to each have a Christmas gift bag, with combs, handkerchiefs, pens, sweets, bracelets and hair accessories with extra left over for several new children who were expected.

The money also enabled me to take 5 children unable to go to any relative for Christmas to have a 'day out' at a 'Leisure Park' (with fairground rides) and allowed me to buy ice cream, biscuits and cakes, stationery, some school bags, books, DVDs, and leave a donation towards the upkeep of the Home. I was also able to donate some pens to poor children living in a 'Tsunami Village' (although education is free, the children have to provide their own uniform, pens, books etc)

Thanks again.

'He'll say you gave it unto them and so twas given for me'

June Thompson





Financial Review

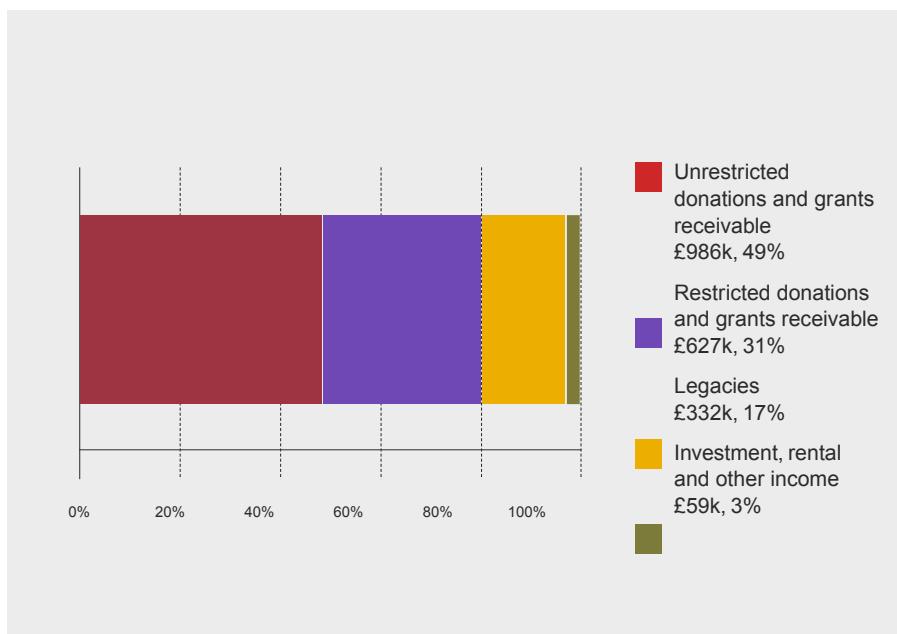
86p in every pound we spent went towards helping the world's most vulnerable people.

We are again extremely grateful to our supporters and institutional funders, whose generosity meant our total income reached **£2.003m** (2010/11: £2.555m). A fall in the number of major humanitarian disasters during the year meant donations for humanitarian aid projects decreased by £467,000, but if these figures are excluded, remaining income decreased by only 4% compared to the previous year.

Total expenditure fell by 3% to **£2.38m** (2010/11: £2.462m). Spending on long-term development activities increased by £233,000 (18%), while expenditure on humanitarian activities decreased by 53% compared to 2010/11.

Where the money came from

Our total incoming resources were £2.003m

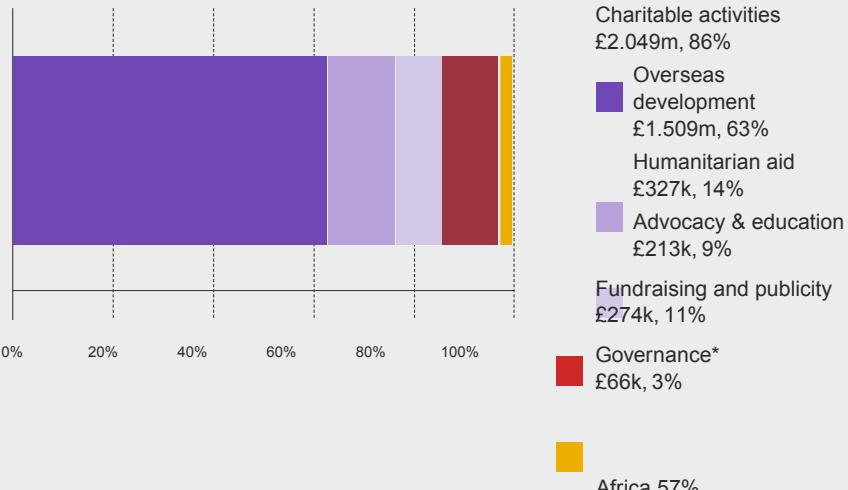


*Governance costs relate to the general running of MRDF as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable trustee meetings and compiling statutory accounts. Included within this category are any costs associated with the strategic

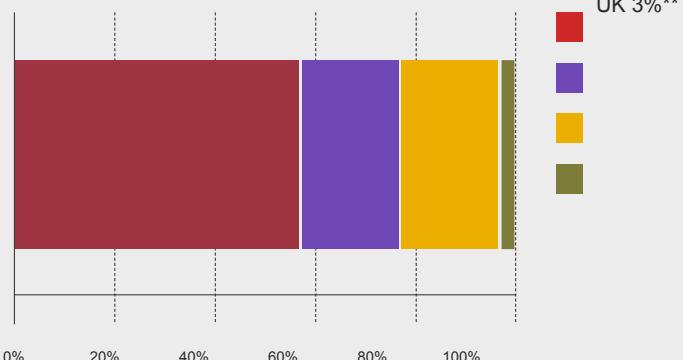
most vulnerable people.

How the money was spent

In total we spent £2.389m



Direct grants by region





London District Network, Sector A
**Spring Craft Day
2013**

*Saturday 16th March 2013
9:45am – 4:30pm*

***Christ Church
Redford Way
Uxbridge
UB8 1SZ***

Network craft days

- *encourage you to learn a new skill,*
- *enable you to discover hidden talents,*
- *equip you to share together creatively.*

This is a day for anyone in the church to participate and have fun.

£5 per half day session

*Please bring your own lunch.
Tea and coffee will be provided.*

Pre Booking Essential

Workshop Choices

*Teabag/Iris Folding - Decoupage - Sock Puppets - Craft Miscellany -
Quilling - Candle Decorating - Fantasy Film - Fimo Jewellery - Flower
Arrangements.*

More details on how to Book from Jill Richardson 020 8567 0634

More Than Gold 2014

Blossom Jackson reminds us that if you would like to be part of one of the programme teams for 'More Than Gold 2014' You can get more information from:

info@morethangold2014.org.uk.

or <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/515>

Or talk with Blossom Jackson.



Apologies from the Editors - on pages 23 -25 of the last edition we published

REPORT: Legacy Conversation Event – Woodlands Methodist Church Glasgow: 1-2 Nov. 2012

but omitted to include that the report was submitted by Blossom Jackson.

Methodist Conference 2013

The 2013 annual Methodist Conference will be held at Westminster Central Hall from 4th – 11th July. The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and is attended by clergy and lay people from all parts of the country.



The Conference will be supported by a team of volunteers and if you'd like to be one of them please make initial contact with Nwabisa Ewing at the London District Office. Nwabisa can be contacted on 020 7654 3850 or by e-mail via nwabisa@methodistlondon.org.uk.

Further details will become available in February.

Charity of the Year

I am pleased to report that £411.27p was raised from the Christmas collections for the Ealing Street Pastors Initiative. Together with £189.95p raised at Harvest this makes a combined total of £601.22p. Many thanks for all your support.



Olwen Britton



www.trusselltrust.org

Feeding local people in crisis

EALING FOODBANK

Today families near you will be struggling to feed their children. They are the UK's hidden hungry. 13 million people are living below the poverty line in the UK; foodbanks provide emergency food to people in crisis.

The Trussell Trust equips churches to launch foodbanks in their local area. Almost 300 foodbanks are already launched.

Our vision is to see a foodbank in every community, so no one needs to go hungry.



WILL YOU HELP MAKE THIS VISION A REALITY IN EALING?

Come and find out more from Christine Bamigbola, London Foodbank Development Officer, on either of these dates:

Wed 30th January 2013 @

10:30 am - 12noon

St. Paul's Church, Ridley Avenue,
Northfields, Ealing, London, W13 9XW.

Sat 16th February 2013 @

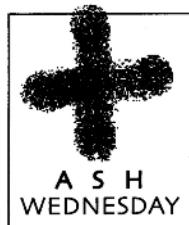
10:30 am - 12noon

Life Building Centre, Unit 2,
6 Portal Way, Acton, London, W3 6RU.

For more information please contact: Christine Bamigbola
christine.bamigbola@trusselltrust.org.uk or 07788 257 435



Ash Wednesday - 15th February a good time to admit you are sorry



Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



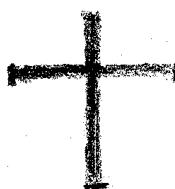


ASH WEDNESDAY

13th February

The date of Ash Wednesday changes each year according to the date of Easter. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest possible date is 10 March. So this year it is quite early.

It is called Ash Wednesday because of the church service where palm crosses kept from last year are burnt and their ashes mixed with water to make a paste. This paste is used to make the sign of the cross on peoples' foreheads.



For Christians these ashes are a symbol of being sorry for things that they have done which make God sad. It is

also a reminder that we are all mortal.

The mark of the ashes on the forehead shows as a sign of our commitment to Jesus Christ and God. And it reminds us that we are saved through Christ's death and resurrection.

FIRE & ASHES



All of these Bible questions have answers to do with fire or ashes... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Who saw a burning bush in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
2. According to Isaiah chapter 58, what should you wear with ashes when you fast?
3. In the second letter of Peter, what cities does he say were turned to ashes?
4. How did an angel cook a cake for Elijah? (I Kings, chapter 19)
5. In what year did the seraph touch Isaiah on the mouth with a live coal? (Isaiah, chapter 6)
6. Where was Peter when he heard the cock crow? (Luke, chapter 22)



Which English King invented the fireplace?

Alfred the Great.



- 1.Moses
- 2.sackcloth
- 3.Sodom and Gomorrah
- 4.he baked it on hot stones
- 5.in the year that King Uzziah died
- 6.While sitting by a fire in the courtyard of the house of the High Priest.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

FEBRUARY

- Fri 1 Churches Walking Together - Meet at 10am at 182 Church Road (the manse) gentle prayer walk, followed by a soup lunch. All invited.
- Sat 2 'The Gift of God' - Agape Meal 10.30 am (see p.13 for details)
- Mon 4 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 5 2 pm Kingsdown Club -The Brentham Ladies Choir
- Wed 6 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
- Fri 8 10 am Coffee Morning in Foyer - Everyone welcome
BOYS BRIGADE 6.30-7.30 pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm Junior Section, 7.30-10.00 pm Company Section (most Fridays throughout month)
- Sat 9 10.00 - 12.30 Annual Book Fair - Books - cakes. Proceeds to Junior Mission for All and Network (MWIB)
- Tue 12 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group

Fri 15) 7.30 pm 'The Prodigal' - A musical production by Jonathan

Sat 16) Cherian dedicated to Ken Pennells. Tickets £8 (£6 concessions)
To make reservations call any of the Cherians on 8579 5778.

Sun 17 World Church Sunday

Tue 19 2 pm Kingsdown Club - A Talk by the Rev Peter Catford

Advance Dates

MARCH

- Fri 1 Churches Walking Together - Meet at 10am at 182 Church Road (the manse) gentle prayer walk, followed by a soup lunch. All invited.
- Sun 3 Methodist Women in Britain (Network)
- Sat 9 Book Fair for Charity of the Year - Ealing Street Pastors
Pitshanger Church Centenary Celebrations (see pp. 16 & 17)
- Sun 10 Pitshanger Church Centenary Celebfrations
- Sat 16 Spring Craft Day - London District Network see p 22

Easter

Thur 28 Maundy Thursday at 8.00pm (see Notices for Details)

Fri 29 Good Friday at 2.30pm

Sun 31 8.00am Easter morning Service followed by breakfast

Christian Aid Sunday 5 May 2013