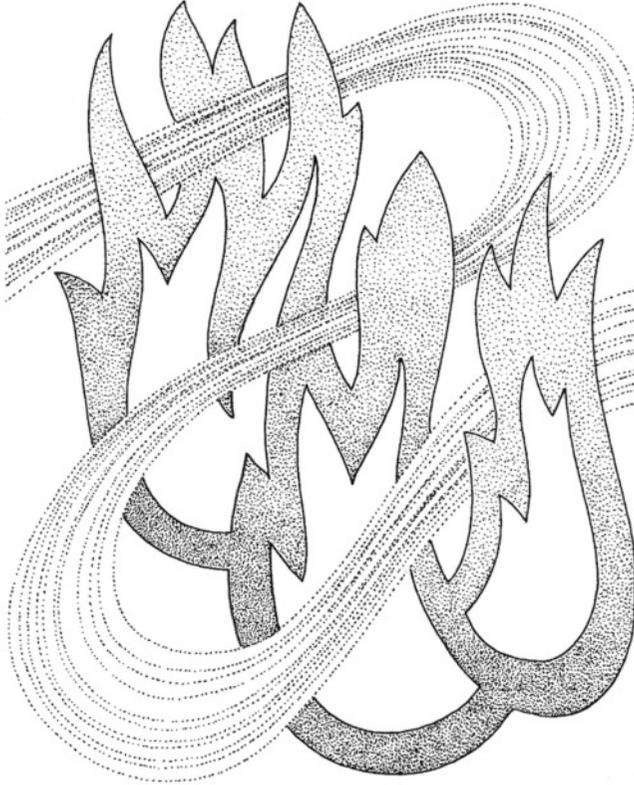




The MESSENGER

for the Kingsdown and Pitshanger Church families



May 2012

'We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.' (1 John 4.16)

SERVICES FOR MAY - KINGSDOWN



- 6 May 10.30 Dr Anita Oji, Christian Aid
3.30 Service at Hanwell House
(please try to join us)
6.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion
- 13 May 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Family/Parade Service
(Followed by Safeguarding Session for those involved)
6.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith
- 20 May 10.30 Mrs Regina Prempeh
6.30 Rev Kip Bennett
- 27 May 10.30 PENTECOST - Rev Michaela Youngson, Holy Communion
6.30 "Songs of Praise", Mr Ken Pennells



SERVICES FOR MAY - PITSHANGER



- 6 May 10.30 Rev Roger Dunlop, Holy Communion
Network Service with Blossom Jackson
- 13 May 10.30 Mr David Street
- 20 May 10.30 Uniformed Organisations
Family & Parade Service
- 27 May 10.30 PENTECOST - Mrs Keji Phillips



The MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the June 2012 issue is Friday 25 May

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



Love & God

There's a parable about an old man who used to meditate each day by the Ganges River in India:

One morning he saw a scorpion floating on the water. When the scorpion drifted near the old man he reached to rescue it but was stung by the scorpion.

A bit later he tried again and was stung again, the bite swelling his hand painfully and giving him much pain. Another man passing by saw what was happening and yelled at the mediator, "Hey, stupid old man, what's wrong with you? Only a fool would risk his life for sake of an ugly, evil creature. Don't you know you could kill yourself trying to save that ungrateful scorpion?"

The old man calmly replied, "My friend, just because it is in the scorpion's nature to sting, does not change my nature to save."

It is in God's nature to save - because it is in God's nature to love. God seeks the lost, heals the wounded, forgives the offender, and gives hope to those who are in despair. It is what God does.

Let us recognise more deeply the amazing acceptance and love of God for us - for me, for you. Every Sunday gives us an opportunity to invite others to hear the message of God's love. Each May we also have an opportunity to express that love through the work of Christian Aid - raising awareness as well as money for the world's poor whom God loves, and who shows some of His love through us.

Love. It is what God does.

Roger Dunlop



Hosanna!

Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King!
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

By Jeanette Threlfall (1821 - 1880)

Kingsdown Family News

You are asked to remember in your prayers **Barbara Smith** who is very poorly and currently in Northwick Park Hospital, and also for her husband **Rev Cecil Smith**.

It is good to see **Kathleen Jarrett** now walking around quite happily after her recent knee operation; and also **Ken Pennells** and **Janet Smith** now recovered and back with us.

Linda Lawrey I would like to thank all the kind people who have sent cards, flowers, messages of support etc on the sad death of Lin, Easter Sunday (April 8th). The funeral is planned for Thursday April 26th at Efford Crematorium, Plymouth, and we are having a service of thanksgiving at Kingsdown, date tba. Thank you all very much.

Olwen Britton

Funerals

The funerals have taken place of **Iris Walpole** on 12 April, and of **Ethline Reid** on 12 April 2012. Condolences to family and friends of the deceased.

EASTER OFFERING

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Easter Offering, a total of £109.62 being received.

Jill Richardson

Pitshanger Family News

Many friends attended the service of thanksgiving for **Winnie Lake**, conducted by the Rev Roger Dunlop on 30 May. The service was preceded by a buffet lunch and it was obvious that her life had touched that of many people, especially from other churches where she had spoken at women's meetings in the past. Our thanks to her family for requesting that donations in **Winnie's** memory should come to Pitshanger Church.

Sadly, we have to record the death of another ex-member, **Mr. George White** (96) on 30 March, three months after his wife **Betty**. **Betty** and **George** moved to **Hazlemere, Bucks**, to be nearer their son and daughter in August 2009. The funeral was on **St. George's Day** at the **Chiltern Woodland Burial Park, Beaconsfield**, where **Betty's** funeral also took place, and the couple share a plot.

Good wishes to **Bob Hunter**, who finally had not one but two operations in April and is doing well, and to **Bob Newman**, **Ann Owen** and **Veronica Heley**. **Fred Morgan** is happily back with us after a hospital stay.



It's been another busy time for 10th Ealing Company at Kingsdown Methodist Church, and we're making full use of our new and improved facilities.

We'll be holding our Annual Display on Friday 25 May beginning at 7:30pm. If you're planning to attend then please come early! If each Boy brings just two family members then our audience will be over 100 strong.

After the Display, we will enter the camping season: we'll be taking 23 Junior Boys to the Battalion Weekend Camp in Sunbury as usual. There'll be lots of sports, fun and games, but not much sleeping, I'm afraid.

The grand finale of the year will be our Company Summer Camp in New Milton during the first week of the Olympics: can you guess what the theme for camp might be?

With just three months to go before the end of the session, I must say that this has been a wonderfully exciting year for us at BB. So many of the Boys have been growing in their personal leadership qualities and it is a joy to witness their bonding and teamwork.

Mark, David and I would like to say a big Thank You to Roger and our many dedicated supporters within the church family: your love, prayers and kind words are hugely appreciated.

See you at the Display!

Tony Plews
Company Captain

Sportsmanlike

During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

Torch:

A case for holding dead batteries.

SONGS OF PRAISE



On Sunday evening, 27th May, we are holding a Songs of Praise. If you would like to choose a hymn please let me know your choice of hymn and whether or not you would like to talk about your choice.

Please could you let me know by the latest 20th May.

Ken Pennells



SUMMER FAYRE



As we were unable to hold a Christmas Fayre due to the redevelopment of the premises it has been decided to hold a Summer Fayre on Saturday 23rd June.

If you are prepared to help in any way please let me know.

Ken Pennells



POSTAL MESSENGERS



Many thanks to those people who already make a contribution to the cost of receiving Messengers by post. As the cost of stamps is increasing considerably in the near future it would be helpful if all those receiving Messengers by post could make a donation towards the cost of the stamps.



Guard my heart

Deliver me, O God, from all idolatrous love of any creature. Preserve me from all such blind affection. Be thou a guard to all my desires. And be Thou my security, that I may never open my heart to anything but out of love to Thee. Amen

By John Wesley (1703 – 1791)



KINGSDOWN REDEVELOPMENT NEWS

	Income for Year September 2011 to August 2012				Expenditure	
	January	February	March	April		
Balance c/f	£265,381					
Rent	£775	£500	£500	£500	Arena Door	£154
Donation	£278		£175	£30	Structural Engineer	£600
Sunday Teas	£50	£50	£50	£50	Locks	£121
Birthday	£50				Repairs to Office	£196
Interest	£101	£54			Telephone	£198
Coffee Morning	£75			£57	Plumbing	£57
Musical	£1,535				Locks	£500
					Office	£196
					Kitchen Materials etc	£1,220
					Plumbing	£980
					Pryers	£233,283
					Corner Angles	£104
					Kitchen Electrics	£6,840
					Brampton Glass	£1,469
					Waterflow	£4,770
					Court Catering	£15,857
					Pure Design	£2,500
					Electric Survey	£1,120
					Pure Design	£2,500
					Fire Shutter	£1,808
Total	£2,864	£604	£725	£637		
Bank	£49,428	£50,032	£50,757	£51,394		£274,474
Collected so far	£251,626	£252,230	£252,955	£253,592		
Grant City-Bridge	£50,000					

You got to have the recipe

A teenage girl was complaining to her grandmother how everything was going wrong for her: she hated school, she was fighting with her sister, her mum was driving her crazy, and a friend at school had let her down.

Meanwhile, her granny was baking a cake. She asked her granddaughter if she would like a snack, which of course she did. "Here, have some cooking oil." "Yeuch" says the girl, horrified. "How about a couple raw eggs?" "Grannie, that is disgusting!" "Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Grannie, they're horrible!"

To which her grandmother replied: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, and allowed to change in the oven, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!" She continued, "God works the same way in our lives. Problems can bring you blessings of growth in your life. But you need to let him change you on the inside."



Methodist Women in Britain

Women's Network- Ealing Circuit



Easter Offering Service - 10th June

Ealing Green Methodist & United Reform Church - 6.30 pm

This Annual Circuit Service will be held at Ealing Green and is entitled 'Entertaining Angels: Transforming Encounters in Mission'.

This Easter Offering dedicated service is planned by representatives of Methodist Women in Britain, and before this year by Women's Network.

The offering is part of the Methodist church contribution to World Mission and harks back to 1883, when women in Manchester first collected £32 (A large sum in that era!) from 'Christmas pennies' at a lunch-time gathering on Christmas Day for Missionary work overseas.

The Address this year, will be given by- Rev. Jennifer Smith

Stop the Traffik Concert - Kingsdown Church

Saturday 14th July- 7.30-10.30 pm

The cause for which the London District Women's Networks is raising funds is 'Stop the Traffic' . As in the previous year, when the funds raised for the 'Fight against Gun and Knife Crimes' was divided between two Charities, sums raised will be given to charities that are fighting this evil trade.

Trafficking is: -

'To be deceived or taken against your will and forced to work in places like the sex industry, factories, sweat shops, private houses, restaurants or on the streets.

Source: Stop the Traffick - 'People should not be bought or sold'.

At this concert, MWIB will also say 'Good Bye' to Rev. Roger Dunlop, who has been very supportive of Women's Network at Kingsdown and the Circuit over the past 6 years.

Further details about the concert will be given nearer the date; no tickets will be sold but a collection will be taken at the concert for 'Stop the Traffik.'

Blossom Jackson

Medal 2012

I attended The Medal 2012 Conference at Heighly, though not as an Ealing Circuit Delegate and, as Jill Richardson states, I too found it to be stimulating, thought provoking and rewarding.

Medal 2012 purports to be 'A District program devised by lay people for lay people. The purpose is to find and nurture new leaders who are motivated by their calling as disciples; foster their passion for helping others to grow, and encourage those who are committed to team work' - *Source: Medal 2012*

It was encouraging to see the contributions made by enthusiastic young people, at the conference.

The task for Circuits in 2013 is stated as 'the period of Development and Training work with Churches and circuits on Lay Leadership'.

2012 Olympics - More than Gold

By now everyone will have had the opportunity to be aware of the Olympic Torch's Journey through the Borough.

Perhaps it would be a good idea for participating churches to publish their calendar of events during the Olympics, so that others may have the option of supporting these endeavours.

We are still looking for hosts for Athletes Families and interested individuals can check out the 'morethangold' web site for this service.

We also know that a Prayer Baton and Praise Bus will precede the Torch cavalcade and, as soon as more details are available, I will let people know

Blossom Jackson
Circuit Champion

Idol

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only Thee.

By William Cowper 1731 - 1800

**KINGSDOWN CLUB PROGRAMME
FOR
MAY to JULY 2012**

Meetings are held on the first and third tuesdays of each month and all are welcome to attend. They are held in Kingsdown Methodist Hall(Corner Kingsdown / Northfield Avenue) from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m

Transport is available for anyone needing it. Please contact Eileen Tobias (Tel. No . 0208 567 4205)

**MAY 1st A talk by FRANCES HUGHES
'From COLEHOLE to PALACE'**

**MAY 15th "AN ENTERTAINMENT "
with GLADYS and BETTY**

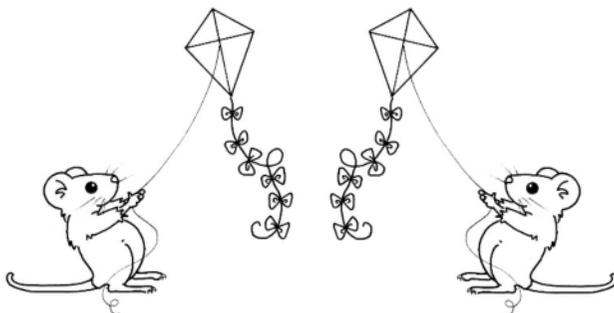
**JUNE 5th A BINGO AFTERNOON
with a QUIZ**

**JUNE 19th THE REMINISCENCE ROAD SHOW
"YESTERDAYS CHILDREN AT WAR"**

JULY 3rd THE CAROLINERS ENTERTAIN

**JULY 17th THE SUMMER TEA PARTY
DAVE ENTERTAINS**

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS 4th SEPTEMBER 2012



Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR



Books

Cakes

Plants

Raffle

Gifts

Bric-a-Brac

Traidcraft

Saturday 12th May

10.00am to 12.30pm

Admission 40 pence

Proceeds to:





WE BELIEVE IN LIFE BEFORE DEATH

1. DFID FUNDING

Some very exciting news was announced last week. The UK Department for International Development (DIFD) has agreed to match the first £5 million of money raised by supporters, pound for pound this Christian Aid Week! (During Christian Aid Week, supporters usually raise between £12 and £15 million.

The FIRST £5 million donated the Christian Aid Week will be matched by the Government pound for pound, so that we can help more people in communities like Gnap in Sierra Leone (where the Christian Aid partner is the Methodist Church) to work their way out of poverty. The other six countries receiving this additional funding are Burma, DRC, Ghana, South Africa, Sudan and Zambia.

Christian Aid Director, Loretta Minghella, told the Methodist Recorder (19 April), "We are delighted DFID has awarded Christian Aid Week UK Aid Match funding. It is a major boost to our fundraising efforts in an increasingly difficult economic climate." I have a leaflet, which explains how Christian Aid has achieved this funding, and this is available to ALL Christian Aid House-to-House collectors. (Please let me know if you would like a copy.)

2. CHRISTIAN AID - LIVE BELOW THE LINE

In preparation for Christian Aid Week 2012, we are invited to JOIN THE CHALLENGE TO LIVE FOR 5 days on £5 - to cover ALL FOOD AND DRINK during those 5 days. Dates suggested 7 to 11 May, prior to Christian Aid Week - 14 to 19 May. All monies raised for the Poverty Fund. I know a number of you saw the "eye catching" poster in the Church Foyer!

3. PLEASE DON'T FORGET

- 6 May Christian Aid Service with Dr. Anita Oji
- 12 May Annual Book Fair with stalls. (Please see poster in this edition of the Messenger.)
- 13-19 May The Week
- 19 May Flag Day
- 20 May Circle the City (please see Anna).

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTORS

With more collectors we shall be able to complete more roads! If you've never participated in House-to-House collecting, why not give it a try? It isn't easy, but don't be discouraged, perhaps by those who have given up? Remember this is a CHALLENGE and the ONLY TIME we go out to the public using the word CHRISTIAN.



YOUR help is needed in many ways during Christian Aid Week.

FLAG DAY - 19 MAY

Collectors are also required for FLAG DAY 19 May. JUST ONE HOUR in Northfield Avenue and West Ealing. You do not rattle your tin (tin rattling is 'out'), you just stand and smile at the passers by, and hope for the best!

Please do help in any way you can.

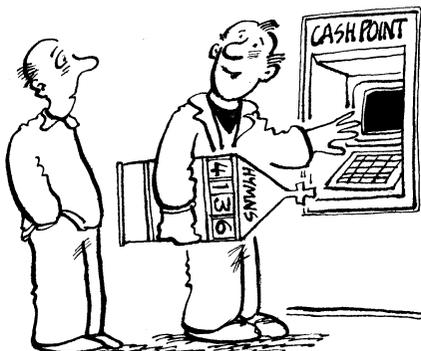
Rub y Warne

THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Very many thanks for the specs, postage stamps, ink jets and a very large bag of socks which I found in the Church Foyer. All the items have been passed on/delivered.

Please CONTINUE!

Ruby Warne



© www.parrishpump.co.uk

...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!



FOOD CRISIS in WEST AFRICA

**Mali
Niger
Sahel
Burkino Faso**

At least 15 million people are at risk of serious food shortages in the Sahel region of Africa, according to the United Nations. Poor harvests, high grain prices and chronic poverty have left many communities in countries in West Africa, such as Niger, Mali and Burkino Faso, in need of urgent aid.

The situation has been exacerbated by a military coup in Mali and local migration. At least 200,000 Malians have fled to Niger and Burkina Faso, which were already under pressure. The uprising in Libya has also forced thousands of migrants to return home.

The closure of some of Nigeria's borders – to stop extremist group Boko Haram from gaining influence in the country – has hampered the transportation of imports of food and livestock to countries such as Niger.

John Ging of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has said: 'It's a matter of life or death for millions who are on the brink.'

Last June, MRDF launched an Africa food crisis appeal which helped to provide emergency relief to thousands of people affected by food shortages in the Horn of Africa. Donations helped to support communities that have experienced consecutive droughts by restocking herds and providing drought-resistant crops.

Funds were also allocated to a food crisis fund for Mali. This enabled our local partners to provide food relief and also invest in seeds banks, water pumps and training in vegetable growing. These measures will provide some communities with a degree of resilience in the current situation. This project is the focus for MRDF's Harvest Appeal 2012.

With your support, our partners will continue to respond to the food crises in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

DONATE NOW

<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/news/news-1/post/70-food-crisis-in-west-africa>

or call

To donate by telephone using a credit or debit card, call 020 7224 4814



“The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker.” Helen Keller

iota is a multimedia course for small groups. Over eight sessions, it will introduce you and your group to some of the big issues in international development, and the things that Christianity has to say about them. It champions the truth that no one is too small to make a difference, and will equip you to take action at a time when globalisation defines our neighbourhood as bigger than ever before.

It will help you discover your global connections and explore the many faces of poverty. What causes it, and what does the Bible have to say about it? How are poor communities affected by debt, unfair international trade systems, and the changing climate? Are poverty and injustice inevitable, or can we do something about them? Should we? If so, what?

Through a combination of short films, discussion, Bible study, activities and prayer, *iota* will enable people to explore these vital questions and consider how each of us can make our *iota* of difference.

iota has now been published!

For your Leader's Booklet, DVD and Pocket Maps,
contact Alan Smith (020 8840 4803)
who will arrange to get the course material for you.



Looking up

Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from worldly cares and foolish desires, from vain hopes and causeless fears, and so dispose our hearts that death itself may not be dreadful to us. May our hearts be so firmly established in grace that nothing may affright us or shake our constancy. Amen.

By John Wesley (1703 – 1791)



Tackling Food Poverty: A FREE LUNCH IN ACTON ON SATURDAYS

Acton Hill Church Centre in Woodlands Avenue, nearly opposite the Police Station, is the place to get a free meal on a Saturday. Homeless people and others suffering from food poverty will be provided with a cooked vegetarian lunch between 1 and 2.45 p.m. every Saturday from 14th April to the 5th May, with the possibility of extension.

This is the product of a partnership between Acton Hill Church (Methodist/URC) and the charity FoodCycle (registration number 1134423). Donald Burling, a leading member of Acton Hill Church, says: "This scheme complements the very good service provided by Acton Homeless Concern at Emmaus House and the Damien Centre, neither of which is open on Saturday.

We believe that as Christians it is our duty to provide for the practical as well as the spiritual needs of people around us. We are thankful that the partnership with FoodCycle has made this possible."

Ivy, Hub Leader of FoodCycle Acton says: "The mission of FoodCycle is to tackle food waste and food poverty by reclaiming edible surplus food, cooking them into nutritious meals and redirecting this to people suffering from food poverty in the local community. After several months of searching for an appropriate location, the FoodCycle Acton team felt passionately that the Acton community would benefit greatly from such a service. That definitely includes the satisfaction that volunteers will get; it's a great way to learn new skills, meet new people and give back to the community.

We are excited to be working with Acton Hill Church, whose aims converged with ours in wanting to serve people in Acton."

Stressing the fact that "anyone can help!", interested volunteers can find out more at www.foodcycle.org.uk or by emailing acton@foodcycle.org.uk.



Food speculation

The issue



Every day banks, hedge funds and pension funds are making huge profits from betting on grain and rice prices in unregulated financial markets, causing the price of food around the world to rocket. This reckless speculation is pushing up the price of basic commodities making poor families go hungry and forcing millions into deeper poverty.

This problem started when futures contracts (contracts that guarantee that farmers are able to sell their crops at a certain price) began to be bought and sold by bankers to make a profit. Over the past 20 years, the rules that govern this kind of betting on food prices have gradually been eroded. New and more complicated financial products have been created to allow more ways of speculating on food.

The end result is large profit for financial institutions and drastic price swings in staple foods that have a devastating effect on the world's poorest people.

MRDF is working with the World Development Movement (WDM) to demand that the UK government back European Commission proposals to regulate speculation on food prices.

We are calling on the UK Treasury to support proposals for:

All futures contracts to be cleared through regulated exchanges. Most contracts are currently done in private, which means it is impossible to know what is being traded.

Strict limits to be set on the amount that bankers can bet on food prices.

Add YOUR name to the campaign on

<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/campaigns/trade>

or

<http://www.wdm.org.uk/take-action>

Data Protection

Kingsdown and Pitshanger Methodist Churches maintain a database of basic information relating to members and the community roll. Keep the Minister informed of any changes to your personal details. The database is maintained in accordance with the guidelines of The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ to whom any formal requests for access to the data must be addressed.

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17 May Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.



Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

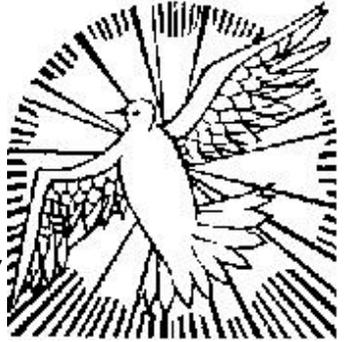
The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder, then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Article taken from 'Parish Pump'

27 May Pentecost/Whit Sunday – the birthday of the Church

Pentecost took place on the well established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.



A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but he knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need his help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Looking for a job this summer?

The next time your application for a job is rejected fill this letter out and send it back.

Dear [Interviewer's Name]:

Thank you for your letter of [Date of Interview]. After careful consideration I regret to inform you that I am unable to accept your refusal to offer me employment with your firm. This year I have had been particularly fortunate in receiving an unusually large number of rejection letters. With such a varied and promising field of candidates it is impossible for me to accept all refusals.

Despite [Firm's Name]'s outstanding qualifications and previous experience in rejecting applicants, I find that your rejection does not meet with my needs at this time. Therefore, I will initiate employment with your firm immediately following graduation. I look forward to seeing you then. Best of luck in rejecting future candidates.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



What did I do with the car?

Several days ago as I left a meeting at our church, I suddenly realised I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought – I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.

With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call: "Darling," I began (I always call her 'darling' at moments like this). "Darling, I have left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a little gasp. "You did not have the car. I dropped you off. Remember?"

My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick – I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

That was not smart. My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here. They think I've stolen your car..."



St MATTHIAS

May 14th

There is no mention of a Matthias among the lists of followers of Jesus in the Gospels but we assume that he was part of the larger group, outside the 12 disciples, during Jesus' ministry.

According to chapter one of Acts, after Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, the disciples sought to replace him. They nominated two men; Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias to replace Judas out of a group of about 120. The disciples prayed, and then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. Acts, chapter 1, verses 23-26.

And that is all we really know about Matthias. That he was chosen.

But we do know that he was one of the witnesses of Jesus' ministry. He was one of the great cloud of witnesses that includes us today, to the power of God in changing lives.

CHANGE OVER

Can you rearrange these letters to make the names of people mentioned in the Bible? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. AC BOJ
2. NANA
3. MAT HAR
4. NI SOME US
5. HAT BATI
6. KOZAD
7. SHAM IT AT
8. LIRE BAG



**What do you call
a bee born in
May?**

A maybe.



**What is green
and fluffy?**

A sea-sick poodle.

**What do you call a person
who can't weave?**

Unbeweavable.



Answers: 1. Jacob 2. Anna 3. Martha
4. Onesimus 5. Tabitha 6. Zadok
7. Matthias 8. Gabriel

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

MAY

- Mon 8 pm Guides (*and most Mondays throughout the month*)
- Tue 1 2 pm Kingsdown Club - a Talk by Frances Hughes 'From Colehold to Palace'
- Wed 2 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (*term time only*)
- Fri 4 10.15 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 (*and most Fridays throughout month*)
- Sat 5 10.00 to 12.00 Coffee & Conversation in Church Foyer
- Tue 8 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 12 10.00 am - 12.30 pm CHRISTIAN AID Annual Book Fair
Admission 40p. Books, Cakes, Plants, Raffle, Gifts, Bric-a-Brac, Traidcraft
- Tue 15 2 pm Kingsdown Club - "An Entertainment" with Gladys and Betty

EVENTS AT PITSHANGER

MAY

- Wed 2 8 pm Wednesday Fellowship - Majorie McClean on Lace Making
Prayer Group meets in the Vestry, 11.45 to 12.15, every Thursday. Please join us if you can. First Thursday in the month the Group has lunch together in Pitshanger Lane and anyone is welcome to join us for the meeting or lunch, or both - next lunch date 3 May.



**Could YOU live
'Below the Line'
for five days?.**

A challenge from MRDF

<http://www.mrdf.org.uk/get-involved/live-below-the-line>

A challenge from Christian Aid

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/fundraise/live-below-the-line/index.aspx>