



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



July - August 2014



SERVICES FOR JULY

- 6 Jul 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe
- 13 Jul 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith, Family/Parade & Action for Children
- 20 Jul 10.30 Rev Chrissie Howe, Holy Communion
6.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith, CIRCUIT SERVICE
Service will include a farewell for Rev Chrissie Howe
- 27 Jul 10.30 Mrs Rekha Cheriyam



SERVICES FOR AUGUST

- 3 Aug 10.30 Deacon Richard Goldstraw
- 10 Aug 10.30 Rev Suva Catford, Family/Parade Service
- 17 Aug 10.30 Rev Peter Catford, Holy Communion
- 24 Aug 10.30 Dr Anita Oji
- 31 Aug 10.30 Rev Dr Jennifer Smith



We thank everyone for their contributions to the Messenger over the past year and wish you all a happy and enjoyable summer break; perhaps you may even find time for a 'Prayer Walk' (see p.10)

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the September issue is Friday 22nd August 2014

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Dear Friends,

I write this article with conflicting emotions. Due to the changes within the circuit I have only been your minister for just over a year. This has meant that we have not had many opportunities to share our stories in the way we may have liked. It's my prayer that the future will bring a period of stability for the congregation at Kingsdown Methodist Church, and opportunities for you to prayerfully consider how God is leading you to live out your calling as Christian discipleship, both individually and collectively.

As I write the Methodist Church is preparing for its annual Conference. A time when the Methodist people gather to share stories, meet friends old and new, discuss theology, and determine the future direction of our Church. This year, as a circuit, we also celebrate with Revd Suva Catford as she is ordained as a presbyter in the Methodist Church. We wish her, and her family, God's blessing for this special time and for the future.

Revd. Rachel Bending joins the circuit staff team from September and will have pastoral charge of Kingsdown and both of the King's Hall congregations. I commend her to you. As we look towards the future I'm sure we each have differing, even conflicting, emotions – this is part of the human condition! However, a new chapter begins and the opportunity to embrace the future hopefully and joyfully, with the reminder from John Wesley that 'the best of all, God is with us'.

Every blessing for the summer months, it's my prayer that you will all find time for rest, relaxation and fun!

With love in Christ,

Chrissie



KINGSDOWN FAMILY NEWS

Oh dear - what a glaring omission! So sorry Jonathan.

Though most of you will be aware of Jonathan's accident, the news didn't get reported in last month's edition and we need to make amends. It seems that Jonathan was brave enough, on a walk back to his campus in Nottingham, to intervene when he saw a young lady being harassed by a rather aggressive drunk man. This ended up with Jonathan being on the receiving end of an unlucky punch, resulting in a severely broken jaw. Immediate specialist surgery was required and, to prove modern day miracles still happen, a team happened to be standing by for an operation which was cancelled by the patient involved, and Jonathan was able to be treated almost immediately. Well done, Jonathan, you are a credit to your family. We wish you a very speedy and full recovery.

Peter Loveridge has had a long hard struggle with illness, but he's a fighter and it was so nice to see him back with us in church recently. We wish him a speedy return to increased good health and strength.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, beautiful cake and plant received at the Morning Service on the occasion of my recent 'milestone' birthday. (Pam)

Your continued prayers are asked for Geoff and Christine Clarke as Geoff's health continues to give concern. And to any of our readers who may be suffering trauma of any kind at this time, we send good wishes for a speedy resolution of their problems and God's blessing.

At the end of August Kingsdown will see a change of minister as the Rev Chrissie Howe leaves and we welcome the Rev Rachel Bending, who comes from the Fulham District. Chrissie's farewell will take place at the evening Circuit Service at Kingsdown on 20 July. We wish her well in her new appointment.

Enjoy your summer break



HELP WANTED FOR.....

Northfields Avenue Traders Association Summer Funday

The Northfields Avenue Traders Association Summer Fun Day will be happening on Saturday 12th July from 12 noon.

It would be great to publicise our church and the activities that happen here and provide refreshments to any visitors who come to see Kingsdown Church.



WILL YOU VOLUNTEER?

Contact Sue or Gerald Barton

Babies & Toddlers on a Wednesday afternoon

Does anyone sometimes wonder what to do with themselves on a Wednesday? A committed team would appreciate extra helpers to cover on those occasions when it's not possible for one or more of the team to be available - it could be that you can only manage, say, one Wednesday in a month, but even that helping hand would be appreciated.



Duties are just a watchful eye, as the children are there with a parent or carer. We all get a lot of satisfaction from seeing the youngsters develop and grow in confidence in comfortable surroundings and with the opportunity to play with a few toys they may not have room for in their own homes.

**DO TALK TO JILL WARD IF YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE
Tel: 020 8567 6550**



From the Church Council

The most recent Church Council meeting was held on 3rd June.

The meeting confirmed our current church officers for the next connexional year, which begins on 1st September. However, since the General Church Meeting on 18th May, Nerissa Fearon has decided to step down as a church steward. The meeting thanked Nerissa for her service as steward.

Rob Hutchings who has served as our church treasurer for the last 15 years said that he wishes to stand down from the end of this calendar year. Our thanks are due to Rob for all his efforts during his long tenure as treasurer. If you are interested in taking over from him, please speak to Rev Chrissie Howe or, indeed to Rob.

The King's Hall (English) congregation has now formally ceased to be a church in its own right and has become a 'class meeting' linked to Kingsdown. As such, they will be members of Kingsdown. They will, however continue to meet at Hanwell on Sunday mornings at 09.30am. As a class meeting, they will no longer hold funds and their existing accounts are being closed. Whilst

most of their funds will be held by the Circuit in trust for future use in Southall, they have decided that 25% (around £15,000) will be donated to Kingsdown in recognition of our accepting them as part of the Kingsdown family.

The meeting decided that we will organise another 'AwayDay' next year some weeks before Easter. The focus will be how we see our future and our future mission. Like the last AwayDay, the venue will be the Royal Foundation of St Katharine at Limehouse and Wendy Beard will be asked to facilitate the day. The date has since been fixed for Saturday 7th March, so put it in your diaries!

Northfield Avenue Traders Association is holding a 'Funday' on Saturday 12th July from midday and Kingsdown will be taking part.

The meeting decided to open up the frontage of the church and to offer teas, coffees and light refreshments. Janet Smith, Kath Jarrett and Juliet Edwards will be organising these along with Violet Cordon – if you'd like to offer to help, please do! In addition, we will be producing a simple leaflet outlining what goes on at Kingsdown and will be inviting our user groups to have information available on the day.

The Boys Brigade will put up a display about what they do in the foyer.

You will have seen the plastic crate in the foyer for the donations to the Ealing Foodbank. Sue Barton will act as our contact with the Foodbank as she is volunteering both in the café at St Mellitus and in the store at Hanwell Community Centre. She will make sure that we have the latest details of the items the Foodbank require each month.

One of the suggestions from the AwayDay in April was that we should hold a celebration to mark the completion of the redevelopment project. The meeting decided that this should be combined with our Harvest Festival on 12th October. It was also decided that we should have a 'faith' (ie 'bring and share') supper the evening before on Saturday 11th October.

Our annual 'In Loving Memory' service when we have the chance to remember our departed loved ones, will be held on Sunday 2nd November during the afternoon at 3.00pm.

Finally, the Circuit Welcome Service for the new ministers joining our Circuit in September – Rev Rachel Bending who have pastoral charge of Kingsdown, the King's Hall class meeting and the King's Hall (Urdu-speaking) congregation, and Deacon Lemia Nkwelah who will work primarily in Southall, will be on Sunday 7th September at 2.00pm at Holy Trinity, Southall.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be held on Thursday 16th October.

Gerald Barton

Brentham Ladies' Choir - A SUMMER CONCERT

The Brentham Ladies' Choir under the direction of Margaret Elvin present a concert of light music for you to enjoy on a Summer afternoon.

2pm. Pitshanger Methodist Church Hall, Pitshanger Lane, W5 1Q

*Tickets at the door £3 for refreshments and programme
Enquiries: 8567 9158*

SORRY, BUT THE KNITTING NEEDLES GOT CROSSED HERE.!



JUNE THOMPSON DOES NOT NEED ANY BALLS OF WOOL FOR WOOLLY HATS FOR THE SRI LANKA HOME FOR DESTITUTE GIRLS. BUT THESE ARE NEEDED FOR A MISSION IN INDIA.

THE CONTACT HERE IS EVELYN AND THE KNITTERS INCLUDE JILL WARD, HAZEL, PAM AND JULIET (apologies to anyone who has been missed from this list).

HOWEVER IN PLACE OF WOOLLY HATS THE GIRLS FROM THE HOME (AGED 6-17) LOVE HAIR ACCESSORIES! JEWELLERY SUCH AS BRACELETS AND NECKLACES AND PENS AND PENCILS ARE ALSO VERY USEFUL.

IF ANYONE FEELS KIND ENOUGH TO DONATE ANY OF THESE ITEMS PLEASE CAN YOU GIVE THESE TO JUNE BY SUNDAY 15 JULY.

MANY THANKS

June Thompson

16 August - Church Cleaning Day

Can you spare an hour or so helping to bring a sparkle back to the Church and Foyer.

Bring your rubber gloves - all else will be provided - tea and biccies will be available.



More details from Janet Smith

**We are judged by our actions,
rather than our intentions.**



Emergency food for local people in crisis

Ealing Foodbank donations

Many thanks to those who have already begun to donate items for the Ealing Foodbank in the plastic crate in the foyer each Sunday. We have two plastic crates and when both are full Gerald and I will take them to the Foodbank warehouse at Hanwell Community Centre.

I'm helping as a volunteer at the warehouse a couple of times each month so will be able to keep you posted as to the items most in need by the Foodbank. At present the warehouse is very well stocked with tins of baked beans, soup, vegetables and fruit and packets of pasta, cereal, tea and biscuits so please don't supply these.

On the other hand it very much needs **instant coffee, instant mashed potato, long-life fruit juice and milk, steamed puddings, custard, shampoo and deodorant (male and female)** so donations of these would be welcome.

Please try to make sure that "best before dates" are well ahead. I'll provide updates in The Messenger and the weekly notices on what is required as and when this changes.

If you have any queries about the suitability of items for the Foodbank, please do get in touch with me, Sue Barton, email sue.garland6039@btinternet.com or tel 020 8840 7704.

Sue Barton

For more details of the Ealing Foodbank visit
<http://ealing.foodbank.org.uk>

A smile is a very inexpensive way to improve your appearance.

PRAYER WALK

Things to look for Be inspired to pray

Prayer Walking falls under a category of prayer called Intercession. Intercession is praying on behalf of others; bringing their needs before the Lord as if they were your own. When you are walking, you can pray either out loud or to yourself.

Anyone of any age can pray walk, you can do it on your own or with a group of friends. You may chose to go for a walk and you pray as you go, you may be walking to work, to church, to school or to the shops, If you are on the bus, you can pray about the places you pass on the bus. You can even pray as you walk around your own house. Don't forget to use your five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch as you walk.

What to pray for, -

You might see a "for sole' notice or "to let", pray for those who are moving, maybe they want to move house, or maybe they don't want to go. Pray that they will find the right place for them to be happy, pray for good neighbours and better still pray for the not so good neighbours.

Look out for the untidy areas, the garden full of weeds, maybe the people are too old, too elderly and don't care enough to care for the garden. Pray for them, for spiritual, physical and mental health.

If you see a bus stop, a bus or cars, pray for those who have to travel long distances ask God for safe drivers, ask his blessing on those whose days are long traveling back and to.

You might hear children at play at a school or nursery. Pray for the teachers, the pupils, the lunch staff, ask God to help them to work together and to enjoy the work they take part in.

Smell the new mown grass, feel the warm sunshine on your face. Thank God for the parks, the countryside or the seaside places where we can play games, walk, swim, climb or just sit and watch.

As you go past the shops, think of all the good things we have In our lives, a roof over our heads, food to eat, the luxuries that we treat ourselves to. Then pray for those who can't afford even the basics in life such as food, warmth and shelter. Ask God to look after the poor of the world and ask for Insight as to how you can help. Pray for the people you walk past, those on their own, the couples, the families, the friends. Pray for those people you know, your loved ones, family, friends, Thank God that they are In your life and ask for help for those who particularly need It. If your walk takes you past the same old places, day in day out, try using your Imagination.

A bridge becomes a bridge between despair and hope, poverty and excess, hate and love.

A speed bump in the road can help you to think of those who are having a difficult time. Those for whom life is an uphill struggle, money worries, health problems, or awkward relationships.

A speed camera can remind us that God Is watching over us, he sees everything we do and He is with us everywhere we go.

A roundabout has exits In different directions, There are those who hear about Jesus and try to follow him but when life isn't a straight road, they take the wrong exit, they follow the wrong path, often the easy path. It's not easy to keep on the straight and narrow but with God's help with can be strong.

A petrol station reminds us that we need refueling, not just physically with food but spiritually as well. The Bible Is the petrol pump through which we gain knowledge of God and His ways. The more we read and listen with open hearts, the more we will follow In God's footsteps.

Don't forget to pray for yourself before your walk, pray that your walk will be a light to someone who may have lost their way and that your prayers will be heard by God. The Important thing to remember when you take a prayer walk is to stay safe.

Reproduced, with thanks, from Greenford and Northolt - News and Views

HISTORY OF GREENFORD METHODIST CHURCH

(As reported in a paper written in 1996 by Eddie Maloney)

Just over 70 years' ago, the Methodist Church was established in Greenford. At that time Greenford was still a small community escaping the development which had encroached along the main railways and roads out of London. In 1925 a small band of members of Hanwell Methodist Church began conducting worship and establishing a Sunday School in premises belonging to a residents' Association in Queen's Avenue. The developers had arrived in time and within five years large housing estates, shopping parades and arterial roads had largely obliterated the rural landscape.

In 1926 the Church authorities purchased the present site. It comprised three and a half acres and cost £1,247. A large part of the original plot was subsequently sold off in 1928, a wooden building was bought and erected and services begun in Methodist premises for the first time. (this building was subsequently demolished in the 90's).

The new residents had moved to this outer London area and found work in the many new factories that had been built in the vicinity. J Lyons & Co and Rockware Glass in Greenford; Hoover's in Perivale; AEC in Southall, and along the Great West Road many factories including Gillette and Firestone Tyres all provided steady employment which enabled people to buy their own houses.

There were very few car owners and the Methodist Church, centrally situated was growing fast. Many of the newcomers had come from areas of high unemployment such as South Wales and the North of England, and had many Methodist connections. The Church became a social as well as a spiritual centre and as well as good and regular Sunday congregations, youth work, midweek fellowships and ladies' afternoon meetings, all flourished.

In 1932 the first brick-built Church was opened. It consisted of the main Church area (seen, even then, to become a Church hall at a later stage), a large classroom, vestry, kitchen and toilets. The wooden building was

used extensively for youth activities and was in use every Sunday to help house the large Sunday School.

A larger Church was planned to seat 500 people, and in 1939 plans had been prepared, but the outbreak of war prevented them from being pursued.

The Church suffered damage during the war. Bombs fell alongside the building, damaging the foundations and exterior walls. It was declared unsafe and so services were once again held in the wooden building.

In 1949 building restrictions were severe, but by making use of some of the roof timbers from the damaged Church, permission was obtained to rebuild. A smaller, more austere building was erected – it is the present Church hall.

The post-war years showed sustained growth and all aspects of Church life thrived. A large Sunday School, a senior choir, involvement with Donald Soper's Order of Christian Witness were some manifestations of the strength of the Church.

The present Church was opened in 1957 and in 1964 an additional room was built to help house the Sunday School which had 150 young people on its books.

The work has continued and social changes have affected the way the Church attempted to fulfil its mission, the car was now in reach of most of the worshippers, and there was no longer the large body of children expected week by week, morning worship had become the principal Sunday service. The congregation reflected the multi-ethnic nature of the population.

Fortunately, in spite of the many changes, there has always been and to this day a band of very loyal and dedicated people who have always been prepared to accept responsibility as part of their Christian commitment.

Janet Smith

Overcoming conflict

Burundi is currently one of the poorest countries in the world. With more than 80% of the population living on less than £1 a day, life for an average Burundian is one of daily struggle.

In 1993, tensions between ethnic groups, the Hutus and the Tutsis, came to a head in a conflict that lasted for 12 years, leaving an estimated 300,000 people dead. The conflict saw communities fleeing for safety, leaving behind their homes, livelihoods, and often loved ones. Some found refuge in other countries while others went to camps in Burundi. Today people are faced with the tough task of rebuilding their lives, often with very little.

Isidonie's story

Life was not easy. It was hard to feed the children and give them what they needed in life. When I came back I found that my house was destroyed.



Isidonie Ntakarutimana (pictured), 49, lost her husband, home and a secure existence when Burundi's civil conflict erupted. Fleeing for their lives, she and her two young boys found refuge in Ruvubu camp in Burundi, where she stayed until 1998.

When she felt it was safe to leave, she returned to her village to find a shadow of the life she had known before – her belongings were gone, her home was destroyed and her land was unfruitful due to years of neglect.

Supporting refugees

All We Can's partner SOEDC (Ecumenical Solidarity for Education and Development) was started by Project Co-ordinator Martine Kankindi in 2005, with an aim of supporting those returning to their villages, especially women.

Martine says, "Most of the women were widows with little or nothing left. SOEDC took responsibility for supporting those who had returned from refugee camps. We wanted to give them hope in life again and the ability to feed themselves and their families".

SOEDC has done this by providing communities with training in modern farming techniques, giving them the means to develop natural fertiliser to revitalise the soil and grow new and varied crops. Isidonie explains, "They helped me by giving me seeds and also fertiliser. Now we have enough to eat."

Working together

Isidonie is also a member of a village association which SODEC helped to set up. Associations enable people to benefit from working together, such as by renting bigger plots of land to cultivate, and from micro-loans where through collective support they can make bigger investments.

When I asked Isidonie about her hopes were for the future she replied, "I hope I keep progressing and that I never go back to poverty. The children are studying well at school and this gives me hope for the future".

Seeing potential

When we think about global poverty, it is easy to see a large and complex web of issues, which can obscure the personal stories of the individuals that lie behind the statistics. In Burundi, the people I met further convinced me that poverty is not only personal for communities and individuals, but so are the solutions. Improvements in communities, such as these, is only possible because All We Can's partners are able to see potential where others may see hopelessness.

Claire Welch - All We Can



Kingsdown's Charity of the Year 2013/14

There is a box in the Church Foyer for any further items that you would like to donate before the end of this appeal. So please continue to look out for items.

For further information or if you require bulky items collected, please contact us on 0208 567 2668

Steve and Liz Palmer

Forgive

*Almighty God, most merciful
You know our thoughts and deeds
Our sins have been most plentiful
Forgive, we plead!*

*Our hearts are far from You, O Lord
You should be first, not last
Our neighbours have not known accord
Forgive our past!*

*Help us amend what we've become
Direct what we shall be
With justice, mercy, peace we come
Humbly with Thee!*

By Nigel Beeton

**We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.**

HYMN: The story behind ... JUST AS I AM

The hymn 'Just As I Am' must be one of the most famous in the world. It has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over, just for starters! Yet it was not written by a professional who was 'aiming' at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. Did she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: "Come just as you are." The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and he would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bids't me come to Thee
O lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, tho tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes - to come to Jesus Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come 'just as I am.'

Time for a smile

A young minister and his wife had just moved into their new manse when they saw a neighbour hanging out the washing. "Those things don't look clean to me," said the minister's wife, "she clearly isn't using the right soap powder."



The same thing happened the following week.

A few days later, she said, "Oh look, there she is again, but the washing looks lovely. I wonder who helped her." "I did," said the minister with a wry smile, "I cleaned our windows."

(Now find your Bible and read Matthew 7, verses 3,4 and 5.)

A porof redaer's dearm

Aoccdrni to a rseerach at Cmabrgide Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can stil raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Pettry amzanig eh?

**We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.**

4th August – Time for Lights Out!

Every householder in Britain is being asked to turn out their lights at 11pm on 4th August, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The nationwide event is based on the famous comment attributed to Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, on the eve of the conflict in 1914. He said: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." He made the remark the day before war was declared, as he gazed across St James's Park from his window at the Foreign Office at the gas lamps being lit.



The switch-off is being called Lights Out, and is backed by the Government as "one of the most dramatic UK-wide events ever organised." Throughout the UK, everyone is being invited to "turn off their lights and to replace them with one single light, to remember a day that changed the world forever."

The 'Lights Out' will take place at the same time as a candlelit vigil of prayers, readings and music held in Westminster Abbey. There candles will be extinguished one by one until a single flame is snuffed out at 11pm

Youth

*Youth is the cost that young men must pay,
When old men make wars, is there no other way?*

*They say youth is wasted on the young, but I say,
It's time we stopped fighting there must be a way.*

*Youth is our future, a thing to protect,
So shout out this message to those we elect.*

*That War is too costly for the youth of today,
Let's stop War forever, there must be a way.*

by Chris Makinson

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

Part 7 of 12 : THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME the WW1 battle that changed history



On 1st July, 98 years ago, two vast troops into the THE GREAT WAR armies went to battle in the Somme battle in the vain 1914 - 1918 area, in north-eastern France. A hope of what they week of heavy shelling preceded the called a 'breakthrough', nothing Allies' attack. It is recorded that much happened beyond the 1,738,000 shells fell on the rich constant slaughter. fields either side of the Somme river during those seven days - though goodness knows who counted them.

With the deafening roar of the big guns in their ears, the allied soldiers emerged from their trenches to be met with the inevitable hail of bullets from the German machine guns. By the end of the first day's fighting over 60,000 British soldiers were casualties and no less than 19,240 had been killed. The most devastating battle of modern times - and possibly of human history - was under way.

The Battle of the Somme, as it was called, was the first to see tanks and aircraft employed on a large scale. It was fought along a 25 mile front. The battle involved vast numbers of men - British and soldiers from no less than eight countries of the Empire, French and German - and more than a million of them were eventually killed or injured. As the generals poured more and more

The battle went on through August, September and October and only ended, on November 18th, when the utter futility of the whole exercise seemed to dawn on both sides. As they counted the casualties - 420,000 British, 200,000 French, nearly half a million Germans - they could also calculate the net gain of all that bloodshed. The Allies had pushed the Germans back all of six miles. It was later worked out that for every mile taken 88,000 men lost their lives.

There were amazing acts of valour and heroism in the course of the battle. No fewer than 51 Victoria Crosses - the highest award for gallantry in battle - were won by British combatants. At home, the press tended to focus on such heroic deeds rather than on the carnage on the battle-field, but the truth eventually emerged. To misquote Winston Churchill, 'Never in all the field of human conflict was so much

owed by so many to so many'. Every town, every village, every family would bear the scars of suffering for years to come.

Lessons were learned, of course - most obviously the futility of trench warfare. Battle and war would never be the same again. Face to face, inch by inch, cold steel to cold steel, appetite was not quite satisfied yet.

Part 8 of 12 : THE WAR POETS

We have seen how the songs of the music halls mirrored - and even shaped - the public mood about the war. At the same time some of the finest young British poets were serving at the front, writing poetry that they never expected to be published, storing it in diaries or in letters home.

Among them were probably the greatest of the war poets, Wilfred Owen, and the most widely known to generations of poetry lovers, Rupert Brooke. Laurence Binyon was not a soldier but an Oxford academic, who in the early months of the War wrote a poem which contains surely the best known lines of any poem in English:

***They grow not old, as we that
are left grow old;***

***Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.***

knee deep in mud men fought and died. All across northern France the millions of graves still bear their silent testimony to the dedication and courage of young men who had their lives snatched from them in battle. Mars, the god of war, had his greatest moment, though his appetite was not quite satisfied yet.

***At the going down of the sun
and in the morning***

We will remember them.

Brooke's 'The Soldier' - 'If I should die think only this of me' - is a beautifully crafted and deeply moving sonnet, suggesting that had he lived he would have held a high place among English lyric poets. But today it is the anger, frustration and utter despair of his fellow poets in the trenches which has made their work memorable. Owen's 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', or his even angrier 'Dulci et decorum est' - a bitter rejection of the notion that it is 'sweet and honourable to die for your country' - powerfully capture the horror of war. Many of them, including Brooke, Owen and Rosenberg, were killed in action, Owen in the last few days of the War.

For the most part it was probably a decade after its end before their

truthful but deeply disturbing work among them - Muriel Stuart's began to be fully recognised and 'Forgotten Dead, I salute you' - and honoured. It's not surprising that in the aftermath of war, with virtually every family in the country bereaved, the preference was to remember acts of valour and the hard-won victory rather than the slaughter and suffering that it entailed.

The hymn 'O Valiant Hearts' was enormously popular at that time: 'In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land/ commits her children to thy gracious hand'.

This year many people are turning again to the Great War poets - several new collections have been published. There are a few women

powerful poetry by men like Siegfried Sassoon ('Everyone Sang'), Isaac Rosenberg ('Returning, we heard the larks') and A.E. Housman ('Here dead we lie').

It may be that only now, a century later, can we see the strange paradox that the most brutal of wars could also produce wonderful acts of valour and self-sacrifice, and the muddy trenches of battle some of the finest poetry of modern times.



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

From the mouths (or pencils) of children.....

The total is when you add up all the numbers and a remainder is an animal that pulls santa on his sly.

I would like to be an accountant but have to know a lot about moths.

The closest town to France is Dover. You can get to France on a train or you can go n a fairy.

If it less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.

With thanks to janet Smith

Fighting corruption in Africa

A pan-African leadership initiative in Ghana has issued a resounding call to fight corruption among governments and multi-national corporations. Leaders at the African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) – including a representative of the President of Ghana – signed a declaration calling on the G20 to ‘take a stand against greed, secret deals and the abuse of public influence’.

The declaration targets bribery and tax evasion in both multi-national companies and government officials. It claims corruption costs developing countries around \$850bn in 2010 alone, and proclaims corruption to be ‘an act of injustice against the poor’. The anti-corruption initiative, which is part of the Exposed campaign, calls on the G20 to make multi-nationals more transparent in their financial affairs. The declaration was signed by a representative of the President of Ghana – the Chief Justice and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament – an unprecedented level of state support for the ABLI forum, which is now in its fourth year.

All three state leaders were presented with copies of the Bible. Conference Moderator, British peer Lord Paul Boateng, said, “At no other ABLI have we had this degree of support from the legislature, executive and judiciary. The three arms of the state have come together at this time to join the call for a Bible-based transformation, and for that we truly need to give thanks.”

from Ace Forum



The views expressed in articles in The Messenger are not necessarily those of Kingsdown Methodist Church or the Editors.

Data Protection - Kingsdown Methodist Church maintains 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.

FOSSIL FUELS and the future

"Corporate leaders should not wait to act until market signals are right and national investment policies are in place. Be the first mover. Use smart due diligence. Rethink what fiduciary responsibility means in this changing world."

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, Davos 2014

Methodist Church - Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment 2014

FOSSIL FUELS and the future

We must establish a way of supporting church structures at all levels in making reductions in greenhouse gas emissions proportionate to the overall reductions necessary by 2050 of at least 80% from 1990 levels, with the urgent and immediate interim steps this requires. ... Church policy in many areas, including the investment of church funds, will need to be reviewed in the light of this commitment.

Hope in God's Future – statement of the 2011 Methodist Conference

The future demand for fossil fuels

The Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) has been actively engaged in the growing debate around investment in companies involved in the extraction and use of fossil fuels. 1.3 billion people, or 18% of the world's population, do not currently have access to electricity.

Global demand for energy is expected to increase as developing countries become more prosperous. Consequently there is likely to be a continued need for fossil fuels to generate energy over the coming decades. To avert catastrophic climate change, however, the amount of power generated by fossil fuels must substantially reduce. The scientific analysis suggests that we need nothing less than an energy revolution.

According to the International Energy Agency, two-thirds of proven fossil fuel reserves must remain unburned if we are to avoid global warming in excess of two degrees, the point at which climate change is likely to become catastrophic. Power generation companies have a huge role to play as they

assess whether future capacity will be powered by fossil fuels, nuclear reaction or renewable sources. Investment in unabated coal-fired power stations would entail emissions at a level inconsistent with meeting the UK's 2050 emissions reduction target. This is reflected in the Electricity Generation Policy recommended by JACEI and adopted by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB).

Will fossil fuel extraction companies remain profitable at the expense of the planet? Or will they have to write off a large part of the value of their reserves, leaving so-called 'stranded assets' if fossil fuels remain unburned to mitigate climate change? From an investment perspective the reality is that, while these 'stranded assets' could lose value, this is likely to be many years away. In addition, other industries using fossil fuels to make products, such as the petrochemical industry, will continue to rely on them for the foreseeable future.

Should we divest from fossil fuels?

There is a growing call in some quarters to divest from fossil fuel extraction companies on ethical grounds. What are we to make of this call? The CFB divests from a company when dialogue with it proves impossible or when the nature of a business is opposed to Methodist Church teaching. Our approach thus far with fossil fuel companies has been one of active and critical engagement.

Disinvestment from companies involved in the extraction and burning of fossil fuels would close the door to further engagement. Disinvestment also has implications for the fiduciary duty of the CFB by narrowing the options open to achieve superior returns on investment, though such a duty would not ultimately override ethical concerns.

The Chair of JACEI would welcome hearing the views of Methodist Church members and beneficiaries of Methodist pension and investment funds on these questions.

Reducing the carbon footprint of our investments

JACEI supports moves by the CFB to construct investment portfolios that have a below average energy intensity. One way this is measured is by commissioning independent carbon footprint analysis. Although this is not a hard science, the results are promising and show the carbon intensity of the portfolio to be 12.3% lower in terms of tonnes of CO₂e per unit of

market capitalisation than the FTSE All Share Index in 2013. This has fallen 17% per unit over the past 4 years. The CFB seeks for this trend to continue through the prioritisation of good environmental performance as a factor in investment decisions.

The CFB is also working to persuade all companies that are heavy users of fossil fuels to reduce their carbon footprints (see next page). In addition, climate change issues have been integrated into CFB voting practices. In future it will oppose the re-election of the Chair or members of appropriate board committees if a high-carbon footprint company is failing to improve its emissions performance.

For a fuller coverage of this and other issues go to:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/public-issues/ethical-investment>

The Extra Mile

The Social Responsibility Commission of the London District has funded a short film titled The Extra Mile which explores the Weslian tradition of doing good for others.

The film has been designed specifically to help inspire a passion for caring for others and remind Methodists of the vital role social justice has had in forming our identity. The Extra Mile challenges us to find new ways of reaching out in love to those in need, both as individuals and together with a church.

Filmed and produced by Applecart, a Methodist film production company, it takes a light-hearted look at John Wesley's life and how people use his example today to change the society around them.

Alongside the film, a Study Guide has been produced by Dr Paul Kybird. To be used in conjunction with the film, the study guide suggests Bible Studies, ideas for use in worship and asks thought-provoking questions to help groups get the most out of the film.

Download from:

<http://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/node/2808>

31st July - St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone - Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history - and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!





"We've had a tip-off that the sermon
is going to over-run again."

**Today I woke up with some aches and pains, and
the first thing I did was to thank God that I'd woken up.**



St THOMAS

Thomas was one of the 12 disciples and one thing we know about his family is he had a twin because he was called 'Didymus' which means a twin.

Thomas was ready to die with Jesus (John 11:16) but it is as 'Doubting Thomas' that most people remember him. Thomas wasn't afraid to ask the questions that the other disciples were thinking.

Thomas wasn't with the other disciples when they first saw the risen Christ. He refused to believe that Jesus had returned from the dead 'unless I see... and touch... I will not believe', but when he saw and touched Jesus he exclaimed 'My Lord and my God'. You can read this in St John's Gospel, chapter 20.

Without Thomas' doubts perhaps we wouldn't be as sure about our faith today. We need someone to ask the questions that we are too afraid to ask for fear of seeming silly or foolish.



T-TIME PUZZLE?

All the answers to this Bible puzzle begin with the letter T – can you find them all? The first one is too easy.

1. The disciple called Didymus.
2. The own names after a Roman Emperor (John, chapter 6).
3. Roman to whom Luke addressed his Gospel.
4. Where St Paul was born (Acts, chapter 9).
5. Paul's companion on the journey to Jerusalem (Galatians, chapter 2).
6. She came from Joppa and was also known as Dorcas (Acts, chapter 8).
7. Deborah sat underneath one (Judges, chapter 4).



**Are there any tiles that won't stick on the wall?
Reptiles.**

Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars and he'll believe you.
Tell him a bench has wet paint and he has to touch it.

Answers: 1.Thomas 2.Tiberius
3.Theophilus 4.Tarsus 5.Titus 6
Tabitha. 7.Tree

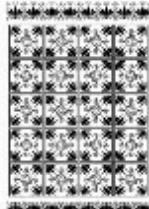


NOPODY'S PERBECT

None of us are perfect, we all make mistakes. But Jesus came to tell us that God is always ready to forgive and pardon our mistakes. God forgives, but we often make the mistake of holding on to what went wrong – and when we do this we are doubting God.

There is a tradition that people who make patchwork quilts and those who weave Persian carpets both share: every piece they make has a mistake in it. The idea behind this is that only God is perfect and if the quilt or rug was perfect then its maker would be trying to be equal with God, and that would be a sin. Sometimes you have to look very closely to see the mistake in the pattern.

Like the quilter and the weaver, we should blend our mistakes into the pattern of our lives, not ignoring them but using them to remind us of God's love and forgiveness.



SEW, SEW

The answers to all of the following are types of fabric or cloth. Can you say which fabric is...

1. One of the Channel Islands?
2. What felt is made out of?
3. Named after a town in France and used to make strong trousers?
4. Made from flax?
5. A jockey's racing colours?
6. A single stocking?
7. A fabric woven in little blocks?
8. The coat of an animal?
9. What an artist paints on?
10. Woven in a Scottish pattern?



What kind of clothes are you going to make with all these tea bags?



Baggy tea shirts.

I bought a carpet in mint condition today.

As good as new, do you mean?
No, it has a hole in the middle.



Answers: 1.Jersey 2.wool 3.denim
4.linen 5.silk 6.nylon 7.gingham 8.fur
fabric 9.canvas 10.tartan

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

JULY

- Tue 1 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club -Piano Playtime with Bob Cunnington
- Wed 2 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (**Term time only**)
7.00 pm Youth Group
- 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 (most Fridays throughout month)
- Sat 5 10.00 to 12.30 Book Fair for United Anglo-Caribbean Society books, cakes, bric-a-brac, plants, gifts.
- Mon 7 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 8 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 12 12 noon Northfields Traders Association Summer Funday
see p. 5
- Tue 15 2 pm Kingsdown Club - Summer Tea Party -
Dave entertains us

Future Events

- 16 Aug Cleaning of Church - details on p.8
- 2 Sep 2 pm Kingsdown Club resumes
- 7 Sep 2 pm Circuit Welcome Service for new Ministers
Holy Trinity, Southall



Kingsdown Awayday 2015

Follow up Awayday event next year will be on Saturday 7th March at the same venue, St Katharine's at Limehouse, East London.

Wendy Beard will again be our facilitator.

Book your place (no charge - coach transport, tea, coffee and lunch included) now with Sue or Gerald Barton.

Sue Barton