



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



July - August 2017

SERVICES FOR JULY/AUGUST 2017



- | | | |
|--------|---------------|--|
| 2 Jul | 10.30 | Rev Dr Calvin T Samuel
(apologies for wrong information
in last issue of Messenger) |
| 9 Jul | 10.30 | Rev Rachel Bending, Church Anniversary
followed by General Church Meeting |
| 16 Jul | 10.30 | Mrs Keji Phillips |
| 23 Jul | 10.30
6.30 | Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion
CIRCUIT SERVICE at Ealing Green
Farewell Service for Rev Dr Jennifer Smith
and her husband, Rev Dr Keith Riglin. |
| 30 Jul | 10.30 | Mrs Regina Prempeh |
| 6 Aug | 10.30 | Mrs Esther Ackah |
| 13 Aug | 10.30 | Local Arrangement |
| 20 Aug | 10.30 | Rev Rachel Bending, Holy Communion |
| 27 Aug | 10.30 | Local Arrangement |



Annual General Church Meeting

Our annual General Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday 9th July** following the morning service. This is the meeting when we will take stock of the past year, think a bit about the year ahead and hear reports from our various outreach groups such as Tuesday Club, Babies & Toddlers, Night Shelter and Boys Brigade.

We will also appoint/re-appoint our church officers and elect congregational representatives to the Church Council. If you are a member of the Methodist Church and would like to offer yourself for election to the Council, please speak to the Secretary to the Church Council, Gerald Barton.



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer 2017 edition of Messenger! Already, Rachel Bending will be home and back to circuit work, having been working her sabbatical time in the USA and elsewhere. And I will be moving on to my next job, and so come to my last letter as guest minister in Messenger. It has been lovely to visit on this page during these three months, thank you for the hospitality.

I was stationed here in September 2009, married from Ealing Green in April 2010, became minister of Acton Hill in June 2011, Superintendent in September 2011, and on we have rolled. I am an entirely different minister than I was on arrival, and much richer for my time here with you in the Circuit. And each church and you each as individuals have also grown and changed.

Throw your minds back to five or six years ago – what were your immediate concerns, your care and love? Where were you finding comfort, and what shape was your household, your family, and work? Were you here, or elsewhere?

Some of us will have had devastating changes – griefs, disappointment. Some of us will have taken risks professionally, or developed a new great love. Some of us feel much more foolish now, a few (you can admit it!) have deepened their wells of wisdom. In the midst of our individual lives and woven throughout them, there is a graceful amorphous thread which is the life of Kingsdown Church. Porous edges, gentle curves, and graceful rooms in which to rest a while. To renew. To laugh, and eat, and serve, and weep, and be known as a beloved child of God. Who you are has changed this church and everyone in it. It may be in the most subtle kindness, but we are part of each other's present, and future.

I am moving off out of this particular part of the Body of Christ. I won't be disappearing, but I will be pretty much entirely absent for the first year, and then only a supportive encourager from the sidelines. And the life of each of you and the church will continue, and grow and change and guide in all sorts of ways we can't imagine. So atypically, for me, here is some direct advice.

1. Take worship seriously, but not ourselves seriously in it. Worship builds our life.
2. People are always more important than agendas, money, and things. They bear the image of God.
3. Agendas, money, and things are also important, because they order our good intentions for service and correct our focus on self.

They also keep us safe and well in building and community – they are the foundation of hospitality. But they do not bear the image of God.

4. Read the Bible. It belongs to you, especially the Psalms which are our universal prayers.
5. Recommend your church to others and expect to grow. Don't worry about numbers – an anxious church frankly is not an attractive church.
6. Notice grace in yourself, and keep asking 'What does God intend in me?'
7. Notice poverty, injustice. Be angry and get knowledge and do not accept what harms life.
8. Give away our space, and resource, and your time and expertise. Cast your bread on the waters in the fellowship you keep.
9. Behave as if (because it is true) you are living in a time of abundance in church.
10. Love God, and love each other. Consider again and again who Jesus is today and his love for you, and this place.
11. Church is important in a community. Without St Clements and Notting Hill Methodist, the residents of Glenfell tower would have more tragedy than they did, and the community less resilience than it does.
12. Food is important. For the brain, heart, body. Our souls are not separated from any part of us.

What would you add? I want to thank you all for the grace of God you have shown me and Keith in our time here, on good days and bad.

This church and this circuit has shaped who I am and will be the rest of my time, and certainly the rest of my active ministry – God willing, another 23/4 years at least. Who you are as a church is good, and gracious. Thank you ever so much.

With every blessing, **Jen**

We thank Jen for taking time out from her very busy life to contribute to our Messenger for the last three issues, during Rachel's absence, and hope all our readers will have taken her messages to heart and been enriched by them. (Editors)

Family News

I am very grateful for all the cards, messages and visits from Kingsdown friends following my recent accident and time in hospital. I am feeling almost like myself again, and hope soon to be returning to all my usual activities. Unfortunately that is not going to include my planned travels along the Silk Road in Uzbekistan - at least, not this year.

Many of you will know that I have twice been kept safe from more significant consequences - first escaping from a spectacular fall without breaking my neck, then coming close to the need for an amputation as the leg infection upset my diabetic stability. I thank God daily for all his goodness to me this year as throughout my life.

Kathleen Loveridge

Ivy Hanson wishes to thank everyone for their messages, cards, flowers and kind wishes of condolence following the death of her daughter.

We were asked to include **Lucky Blackwood** in our prayers at last Sunday's Morning Service as she has been unable to attend church recently due to painful knee problems.

Blossom Jackson has written a tribute to her brother following his recent death in Sweden, which you can find on page 14.

We welcome the return this month of our Minister, Rev Rachel Bending, and hope that her sabbatical has provided her with time and space for spiritual and physical refreshment.

Her time with Kingsdown is however limited as she will be taking up her new appointment as Superintendent of the Circuit in September, and as the next issue of the Messenger will be that of September, we wish her well in all her future duties and no doubt we shall continue to see her from time to time, as and when the schedule of service allows.



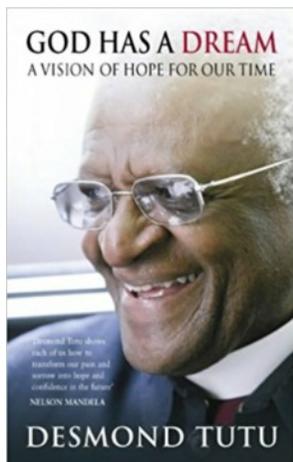
Kingsdown Faith Exploration Discussion Group

We have enjoyed some interesting and informative sessions but as numbers have dwindled with the approach of summer we have decided to suspend meeting for the present. We will decide when and how to reconvene after consultation with those who have been attending and with Rachel after her return from sabbatical.



Summer Service Series

As in recent years, the Circuit is developing a Summer Service series. The series will provide services for a 6-week period running from 23rd July to 27th August and is based upon Desmond Tutu's book, **"God has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Times"**.



Desmond Tutu was the first black Archbishop of Capetown and rose to world-wide fame during the 1980's for the heroism and grace he showed as an opponent of apartheid. In this book, Tutu shares the spiritual message that guided him

TAKE TIME TO BE KIND

*Kindness is a virtue
Given by the Lord.
It pays dividends in happiness
And joy is its reward.
For, if you practise kindness
In all you say and do,
The Lord will wrap His kindness
Around your heart and you.
And wrapped within His kindness
You are sheltered and secure
And under his direction
Your way is safe and sure.*

Contributed by **Emily Campbell**

Welcome Service for New London District Chair – Sunday 20th August

The Welcome Service for Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle as he assumes his new role as one of our three District Chairs will be on Sunday 20th August 2017 at 5.30pm at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, SW1H 9NH. Refreshments are available from 4.30pm. Jongikaya is currently a Minister in the Forest Circuit. Within his new role he will have particular pastoral oversight for the churches and Circuits of South London, as well as sharing in the wider work of the District.

For catering purposes, the London District has asked for an indication of the number of people who will attend the service. If you would like to attend please let the Ealing Trinity Circuit Office know by Thursday 10th August.

Associate Pastor (Ealing Green & Kingsdown)

The Circuit has commenced advertising for an Associate Pastor for Ealing Green and Kingsdown to cover the 2017-18 connexional year while a new permanent presbyter is sought for the churches. The closing date for applications is 3rd July with a view to holding interviews on 18th/19th July.

The following article was originally printed in the February 2003 issue of The Messenger. John Cordon was an active member at Kingsdown whom many will remember.

A Meeting with Muslims Worrying and Challenging Times?

On 11 th January (**2003**) a contingent from Ealing Trinity Circuit attended an event at Central Hall, Westminster, organised by the London Districts Region. The purpose of the day was *“to explore Islam in conversation with Muslims and provide an opportunity to examine ways of relating between faiths in the local community”*.

In the short time available we were able to learn about some of the basic elements of Islam, explaining much of what we had previously observed but not understood. We could imagine that had we been born into an Islamic world we would have found ourselves living by principles in many ways similar to those propounded by Jesus who, we learned, is held in the highest esteem as a prophet. Muslims do not believe in the Biblical account and purpose of Jesus' death but do believe he will come again and have in fact kept a space for him beside the tomb of Mohammed.

In general Islam is a faith which is very demanding of its followers through compulsory codes and laws. We were told that most Muslims do not find these irksome but rather, understanding their purpose, find them a source of comfort and strength. Women, it is said, usually welcome their dress codes and deeply resent barriers which are put in their way. However, just as within Christianity there is tremendous diversity within Islam. One of the speakers, a leading cleric, said that many Muslims are regarded as "confused" and others "just wrong" in their interpretation of Islam.

In discussion issues were raised which deeply concerned many of us. We did not need to be reminded that we live in worrying times. The historic conflict between Muslims and Christians has become increasingly polarised since the events of 11th September (**2001**). Many Muslims see Christianity as representative of all that is western, capitalistic, European and American whose values they see as decadent and anti-Islam. Similarly the non-Islamic world sees activities of a minority of Islamic "fundamentalists" as representative of Islam in general and which threatens the peace of the world. We each, privately, may say "but I don't take that view" - but not out loud and not to each other.

In the Borough of Ealing we have, by and large, learned to live alongside each other peaceably as neighbours and workmates. When those of different faiths have some negative feelings about each other they are inclined to keep quiet for fear of upsetting this equilibrium or, even worse, being labelled as arrogant or racist. But now we find that there are many newcomers seeking asylum or refugee status and the media is encouraging us to regard them all as potential terrorists, creating fear in all communities of what might flow from an act of terrorism or war in Iraq.

Our meeting in January taught us that we can speak to each other without fear and should be doing so more often. What is it about our respective faiths which makes it harder for us to compromise and to adjust to the needs of a rapidly changing world? The real threat to us all is from those who know they are right with such overwhelming certainty that they feel justified in overruling the right of anyone else to be different.

Could representatives of both faiths sometimes stand together and dissociate themselves from some of those things which are happening around us? From where could such an initiative spring? How about the Ealing Trinity Circuit?

John Cordon

Also from the February 2003 issue - this meditation found some years ago by Rev Cyril Smith in another church magazine:

THIS IS MY CHURCH

It is composed of people like me - we make it what it is.

It will be friendly - if I am.

Its pews will be filled - if I help to fill them.

It will do a great work - if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes - if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its fellowship - if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, a Church with a noble spirit - if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these. Therefore, with the help of God, I dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my Church to be.

The recent events in 2017 have shown that the challenges still exist and that the need for greater understanding between people of all faiths has still to be achieved. What can Kingsdown do to meet these challenges??

Grenfell Tower

The recent fire at Grenfell Tower was horrific. Our District Chairs made an immediate response as events came to light on the following Wednesday, and have since been liaising closely with Notting Hill Methodist Church to help support the many families and individuals the fire has affected.



The District is currently coordinating a financial collection to assist the Grenfell Tower residents and to support emergency services.

The District would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful donations that have been made over the last week that have currently raised over £14k for the residents of Grenfell, and to support the amazing firefighters.

Donations from supporting Churches are being gratefully accepted through the Stewards.

Kingsdown Property Committee



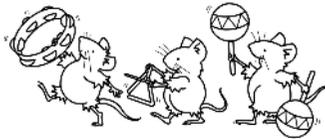
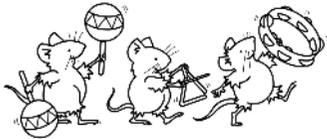
The Church's Property Committee would very much welcome new members. The Committee usually meets four times a year on a Wednesday evening and is responsible for matters relating to the repair and maintenance of the church buildings and facilities. Committee members may also help with regular monitoring and minor works. For further information please speak to Janet Smith, Property Steward.

Welcome Service and Installation of Superintendent

Sunday **3rd September at 6.30pm at Acton Hill** will see the Welcome Service for Deacon Ramona Samuel. In addition we will also celebrate the installation of Rev Rachel Bending as our new Superintendent Minister, and the installation of Rev Shirlyn Toppin as minister for Acton Hill Church.

Farewell Events for Rev. Dr Jennifer Smith

Jen Smith cordially invites us all to an 'Open House' at her manse on Saturday 15th July between 14:00 and 16:00. Jen's manse is at 19 Queen Anne's Gardens, Ealing W5 5QD. Although Queen Anne's Gardens is in a CPZ, parking is not restricted on Saturdays.



Barbecue at Acton Hill 21st July 5.0 pm till late



ALL WELCOME
JEN'S BBQ
ACTON HILL
CHURCH
START AT 5PM TIL
LATE
21ST July

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Are you aware that our beloved Rev Dr Jen Smith is moving to a new post. We at Acton Hill Church are hosting a BBQ. All churches are welcome. We are hoping to see you all to show our thanks to Jen for all her hard work in the circuit. . The BBQ starts at 5PM to late.

There is a list in the Kingsdown-Church Foyer of the donations that will be needed for the BBQ. Feel free to contribute. BBQ, coals, food and drinks are all welcome.

For more information please feel welcome to contact either -

**Trudy or Annette on annettecalero@hotmail.com. Or
Annette or Trudy on 07460864259.**

We are working in partnership with talented local organisations to provide better opportunities for women and girls from marginalised groups in the rural areas of Western Nepal, a remote region under-served by other NGOs. Together we are doing **all we can** to ensure women and girls have a better quality of life and become leaders in their communities. We are also responding in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes through some of these local organisations as well as trusted international emergency response partners.

Nepal is one of the most beautiful countries in the world, but it is also one of the poorest. For many Nepalese women and girls, marginalisation, oppression, and even violence is a daily reality, but through the vision and determination of **All We Can's** talented local partner Kopila Nepal, things are changing for the better.



Education can play a vital role in addressing poverty. In Nepal, one of the poorest countries in Asia, schooling is free for all children up to the age of 14, but the literacy rates tell a different story – being 63% for men and just 35% for women. Since 2003, **All We Can** has been backing the work of a local organisation, Kopila Nepal, which aims to systematically address the barriers that children face in gaining an education. Their focus is on

rural communities where inequality is most acute and few other organisations are operating.

Kopila began by raising awareness about children's rights in remote villages. They also lobbied local authorities to improve access to schools and the quality of education available. When it became clear that some parents were reluctant to participate because they were reliant on their children's labour on their subsistence farms, Kopila started alternative income-generation initiatives, and funded school uniforms and equipment for children from poorer families.

Over time, Kopila began to have a significant impact. However, it found that progress was being held back by entrenched attitudes, particularly towards girls. According to Bina Silwal, "We realised that for working children in the remote villages, education alone cannot change their life. Children were



hearing one thing in the school and in the training we offered, but when they were back with the family, it was a different story. We found that women were very affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, and that girl children were treated very badly in the school and in the community."

So with support from **All We Can**, Kopila started a programme to work with women suffering from domestic abuse and mental illness, and formed groups where women can now share support, develop their confidence, and secure justice.

Tackling deep-rooted disadvantage and poverty takes time, dedication, local knowledge and sustained investment. **All We Can** has worked alongside Kopila at every stage of its development, providing funding, advice and training. "**All We Can** always supported us," said Bina Silwal. "We are very close partners. They are our supportive hand and always encourage us. Because of **All We Can's** trust in us, and a lot of hard work, we have been able to make many changes in the lives of people in the villages."

Walter Baugh

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, telephone calls and cards, sent to me on learning about the death of my Brother Walter in Sweden, for which I am most grateful and thank you all for your kind understanding. My brother came to England from Jamaica in 1958 and his specialist subject at Chiswick and Cambridge Polytechnics and Sweden, was Economics.



Walter Baugh

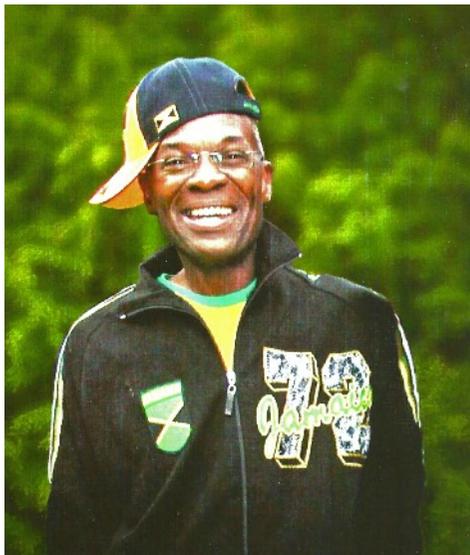
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He worked at Volvo throughout his remaining work life in Sweden and after retirement was a member of the Municipal Council in Lerum.

He loved his family and friends, intensely and leaves behind his wife, Britt, three daughters and four grandchildren. He never forgot his Jamaican roots and was a key member of the Jamaican Swedish society. He loved life, travelled a lot, sailing, music, Moose hunting and was one of Sweden's famous Friskis & Sveltis (aerobic exercise) team! Most importantly, he had the ability to lift people up and had an infectious smile.

Although I shall miss him intensely. I thank God that he has been a brother that I have been proud of during his stay here on Earth.

The picture is of my brother, taken at one of the Swedish Jamaican celebrations and the image from the front of his Funeral service, is that of the Humming Bird- Jamaica's National Bird. The words on his memorial Card captures the essence of what my siblings and I believe, about a remarkable human being and brother!



Blossom Jackson



ham or pies, not hot-dogs), sweet biscuits, UHT milk (whole milk only – usually the cartons are blue) and hair shampoo (not shower gel). The reason for this list being so specific is because these are the particular items of which the Foodbank currently has only a low stock.

Many thanks for all the donations recently received. Should you wish to donate items this month for the Ealing Foodbank the current requirements are long-life sponge puddings, vegetarian chilli and curry (tins), tinned meat (stewing steak,

Donations can be put in the plastic crate in the church foyer on Sunday mornings or in the collecting bins at several supermarkets in the Ealing area.

Quiet Day at St Cuthbert's – Saturday 8th July



St Cuthbert's in North Wembley is having a Quiet Day on Saturday 8th July from 10.00am to 4.00pm. The day will be led by Penny Pedley, Anglican Lay Reader who is well-known to our churches at Greenford and Northolt as she is a member of the Greenford Healing Team.

Refreshments will be provided, but not lunch. St Cuthbert's is at 214 Carlton Avenue West, Wembley, HA0 3QY. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Burke at eburke5455@gmail.com

Job Vacancy at London District

The London District has a vacancy for a part-time Finance and Admin Officer at their offices at Central Hall, Westminster. The hours will be 28 per week and the pay £16.00 per hour. The deadline for applications is 13th July with interviews to be held on 20th July. For more information contact Sam Redding, Senior Admin Officer on 020 7654 3850 or e-mail administration@methodistlondon.org.uk

You can also find details of the job and how to apply on the Circuit website – go to <http://www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/vacancies/>.

Flight path

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One irritated tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

Christ Yesterday, Today, and Forever

*Christ yesterday, today, forever;
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
He the Alpha and Omega;
Source of life and life's reward.*

*Life He heals and life sustaining
He embraces all in love:
Lifts the world to highest heaven,
Works in death His love to prove.*

*Christ has Risen, Christ is with us,
With us now in time and place:
Blessing each and every moment
With His peace and plenteous grace*

By Sam Doubtfire

The Fight against Glaucoma



A pioneering treatment trial in Tanzania could, if successful, significantly improve the treatment of glaucoma across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness worldwide. It leads to damage to the optic nerve and permanent blindness. Early diagnosis and treatment is vital to save a person's sight.

CBM eye specialist Dr Heiko Philippin is based at CBM partner hospital Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Northern Tanzania, which sees 2,000 patients with glaucoma each year.

Dr Philippin is trialling a treatment called Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT). SLT has been in use in the UK for several years, but this is the first time it is being trialled in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently, eye drops are the main treatment used to treat Glaucoma in Tanzania, but this requires frequent return visits to hospital. For many patients who live in rural locations, travelling to hospital is difficult and they are not able to return for the continued sight-saving treatment. It is hoped that a single SLT treatment will last at least 2-3 years, providing a much more effective approach to treating the condition in rural Africa.

This exciting trial is funded by an Innovation Fund grant as part of the Seeing is Believing programme, a collaboration between Standard Chartered and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

Glaucoma affects 60 million people worldwide, ten per cent of whom become blind. The chief executive of CBM UK, Kirsty Smith, said: 'Although it is early days, it's particularly exciting that this test could.... be developed for use in low-income countries. "

Gone but not...

People go on holiday to forget things. Then they open their bags, and find that they did.

2nd July - St. John Francis Regis – patron saint for relief workers

Do you ever admire relief workers? Those hardy folk regularly appear on our TV screens, actively seeking out the disease-ridden, starving, destitute people of the world, instead of avoiding them, as most of us try and do.

John Francis Regis (1597 – 1640) could be a patron saint of relief workers. It all began back in the early 1600's when he was ordained a Jesuit priest in Toulouse, a town raging with plague. Instead of fleeing for his life, John Regis decided to stay and minister to the plague victims.

Somehow he survived, and was then sent by his bishop to do mission work in Pamiers and Montpellier. For years John taught and preached Christ's love, and also put it into action: he collected food for the hungry, clothing for the poor, visited prisoners, and even set up some homes for desperate ex-prostitutes.

In mid-September of 1640 John had a premonition of his approaching death. He took a three-day retreat in order to calmly prepare himself for it – and then he went back to work. Over Christmas, while helping the poor, he caught a chill. By 31st December he was dying of pneumonia, but at peace: he had been granted a vision of heaven, and could not wait to get there. His was a life well lived – he was “a good and faithful servant”.

The robots are coming

Dr Peter S Heslam of the University of Cambridge and London Institute for Contemporary Christianity - considers the approach of Artificial Intelligence.

The worldwide artificial intelligence (AI) revolution is on its way. Once the preserve of science fiction, its impact is likely to be so radical and pervasive that it amounts to a new industrial revolution.

Whereas earlier industrial revolutions have been based on mechanisation in textiles, steam power, electricity, steel, and consumer products, the key shift in the AI revolution is towards mechanised autonomy.

As robots become increasingly independent in making decisions, philosophical and ethical issues are surfacing amongst ever widening circles of technologists. To what extent, for instance, can robots become conscious moral agents operating an ethical code?

For people of faith, these questions can appear inappropriate. Human beings may be made in the image of God but no human creation can exercise consciousness, morality and conscience. Just as they cannot be virtuous, they also cannot sin and therefore have no need for redemption.

But serious theological engagement with such issues is yet to get underway. It remains to be seen how useful this engagement will be to public debate and whether it can be sufficiently nuanced and technologically literate to avoid extremes and misconceptions. The way theology tends to engage with contemporary capitalism suggests this will not be easy.

Yet whatever status theology is able to attribute to robots (whether they are called cyborgs, artefacts, androids or transhumans), it is the dignity of the human person within its natural environment that will need to remain central.

To the extent that AI compromises that dignity is the extent to which people of faith should join the likes of Bill Gates, Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking in being wary of AI.

It will be important, however, to avoid knee-jerk reactions. It is true, for instance, that the AI revolution will – like all preceding industrial revolutions – bring job losses as existing knowledge and skills are made obsolete. But it will also create jobs, not least in the troubled manufacturing industry, and will help safeguard humans from the dull and repetitive jobs that are a chief cause of unhappiness and stress in the workplace. In helping humans to be more creative and productive, AI will increase human fulfilment.

The challenge for AI producers and consumers is to design and use machines that have greater autonomy for a purpose: to do things better than humans can do, in the service of human and environmental flourishing.

The Google Hydra



Hello! Gordon's pizza?

- **No sir it's Google Pizza.**
- So it's a wrong number?
- **No sir, Google bought it.**
- OK. Take my order please ..
- **Well sir, you want the usual?**
- The usual? Do you know me?
- **According to caller ID, the last 12 times, you ordered pizza with cheese, sausage, thick crust**
- OK! That's it
- **May I now recommend ricotta, arugula with sun dried tomato?**
- No, I hate vegetables
- **But your cholesterol is 7.4**
- How do you know?
- **Through the subscriber's guide. We have your blood tests for the last 7 years**
- Okay, but I don't want this pizza, I already take medicine
- **You haven't taken the medicine regularly, 4 months ago, you only purchased 30 tablets at Drugs Online**
- I bought more from another pharmacy
- **It's not showing on your credit card**
- I paid in cash
- **But you did not withdraw that much cash according to your bank statement**
- I have another source of cash
- **This is not showing on your last Tax form unless you got it from undeclared income source**
- I'm off to an Island without the internet.
Google, Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp.
- **I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport; it expired 5 weeks ago.."**

Submitted by Janet Smith

The tide is flowing

(Report by Premier Christian Media)

Christianity across Central and Eastern Europe continues to grow and flourish a quarter of a century after the fall of the Soviet Union and atheistic Communist regimes, a Pew Research Center survey has said.

The survey found that, in spite of the deliberate suppression of religious worship and the promotion of atheism by Communist regimes, there were large majorities across much of the region that say they believe in God, and identify with a Christian tradition, whether it be Orthodox or Roman Catholic.



The survey stated that "in many Central and Eastern European countries, religion and national identity are closely entwined. This is true in former Communist states, such as the Russian Federation and Poland, where majorities say that being Orthodox or Catholic is important to being 'truly Russian' or 'truly Polish'." It added that despite the high percentage of people identifying with Christianity across the region, not many are highly observant, however, with a median of only 10 percent of Orthodox Christians attending church on a weekly basis.

Nonetheless, the comeback of religion in a region once dominated by atheist regimes is striking — particularly in some historically Orthodox countries, where levels of religious affiliation have risen substantially. As an example, the study showed that in 1991, 37 percent of Russians and 39 percent of Ukrainians identified as Orthodox, respectively. However, in 2015, that percentage almost doubled in both cases to 71 percent of Russians and 78 percent of Ukrainians.

Though Christianity has bloomed following the fall of the Soviet Union, nowadays it is Christians in Communist China who are heavily targeted by the atheistic regime.

The power of the Church is not a parade of flawless people, but of a flawless Christ who embraces our flaws



St. IGNATIUS of LOYOLA: 31st July

The youngest of 13 children, Ignatius Loyola was born in Spain. When a young soldier he was badly wounded by a cannon ball that shattered his leg. As he recovered he asked for a best selling book of the day, a romance, to read to take his mind off the pain but ended up reading about Jesus and the lives of the saints. His life changed as he resolved to continue being a soldier, but now as a soldier for Christ.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and 6 others offered themselves to the service of the Catholic Church. They became the Society of Jesus and Ignatius was elected to serve as their first general. When other Jesuits were sent on various missions by the pope, Ignatius stayed in Rome founding homes for orphans and colleges all, in the words of the Jesuit motto, 'ad majorem Dei gloriam' - for the greater glory of God.



BIBLE BOOKS

Can you unscramble these letters to find books in the Bible?

1. ashjou
2. imythot
3. hurt
4. kuel
5. brosprev
6. tonslaminate
7. chaimal
8. theres
9. chainstroin
10. himereaaj



What kind of man was Boaz before he married?
Ruthless.

Which Bible character had no parents?
Joshua, son of Nun.

Answers: 1.Joshua 2.Timothy 3.Ruth
4.Luke 5.Proverbs 6.Lamentations
7.Malachi 8.Esther 9.Corinthians
10.Jeremiah

COMING EVENTS

JULY

- Sat 1 Jul 10 am -12.30 pm **BOOK FAIR** with stalls: books, bric-a-brac, cakes, gifts in aid of Action for Children
- Sun 2 4 pm Iris Axon Concert, Acton - Passepartout Piano Duo (Admission £6, £5 conc, £2 children)
- Mon 3 8.00 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 4 2.00 pm Kingsdown Club - Bingo and Quiz Afternoon
- Wed 5 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers (weekly - term time only)
- Thu 6 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CBSI UK Bible Studies in the Foyer
- Fri 7 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 (term time only - last meeting before summer break)
- Sat 8 10.15 am-12 noon Coffee & Chat - everyone welcome
- Sun 9 Annual Church General Meeting
- Tue 11 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 15 Next Traders Day in Northfield Avenue
- Tue 18 2.00 pm Tuesday Club - The Summer Tea Party: Dave entertains. (New programme begins 5 September 2017)
- Sun 23 6.30pm at Ealing Green – Farewell service for Rev Dr Jennifer Smith and her husband, Rev Dr Keith Riglin.
- Thu 27 8 pm Church Council Meeting

Future Dates for your Diary

- Sun 20 Aug Welcome Service for New London District Chair, see p 7.
- Sun 3 Sep Welcome and Installation Service at Acton Hill , see p10.

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

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