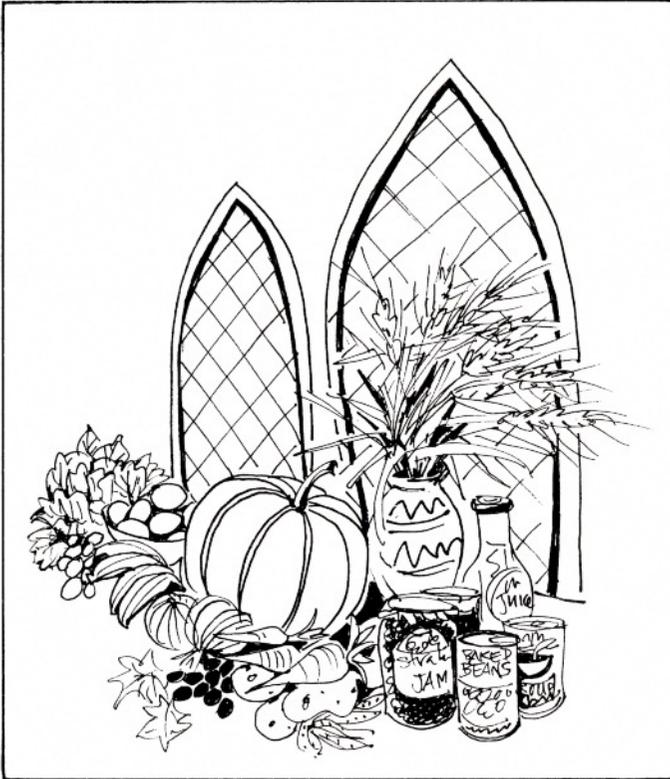




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



"All good gifts around us....."

 *October* 

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER - KINGSDOWN



- 7 Oct 10.30 Mrs Rachel Kamara
3.30 Service at Hanwell House
(please try to join us)
6.30 Miss Vera Marston
- 14 Oct 10.30 Rev Peter Catford, **HARVEST FESTIVAL (see p. 5)**
Family/Parade Service & Holy Communion
(service will include presentation of JMA Awards)
6.30 Rev Peter Catford
- 21 Oct 10.30 Miss Vera Marston
6.30 Rev Peter Catford, Holy Communion & Healing Service
- 28 Oct 10.30 Mr David Street
6.30 Mrs Lynda Blackburn



Please note the Circuit Office will be closed for 'holidays' on -

Thursday 4th October, Tuesday 16th & Thursday 18th October

I then have an operation on my right knee on Friday 26th October. Based on experience with my left knee, the office will be closed the following week (Tues 30th Oct and Thurs 1st Nov) for certain and probably on Tuesday 6th November as well. Depending on how things go, I may be able to return on Thursday 8th November, but we'll see....

Best regards,

Gerald Barton, Circuit Administrator, Ealing Trinity Circuit

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the November 2012 issue is Friday 19 October

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

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



I begin by saying thank you for your warm welcome to Ealing it feels very familiar already. Here as summer has come to an end and the new school year and autumn is upon us and I guess for many the pace of life will speed up, that is if it ever slowed down!

Listening to the news with its catalogue of challenges facing humanity it is all too easy to immerse oneself in more activity. Across the world, and here in this country, there are many challenges to face and so many ways to address them. The question is what to do? What should our priority be when everything seems so important?

As these storms rage around us we are so easily blown this way and that in earnest efforts to assist and encourage. However, when the storm briefly dies down we find we have moved very little and are just more tired than before.

A recent article on the radio attracted my attention - although I cannot tell you exactly what it was about, I was too busy rushing around - the thing that has held in my mind is that one of the contributors was the author of a book entitled "In Praise of Slow".

The author talked about the way children in particular are over stimulated and never allowed to get "bored" and he was suggesting that there was a need to learn to value stillness, even if it led to the initial cry of 'boredom'.

In the 19th century and early 20th churches provided Sunday schools to help teach language and other skills to children who otherwise would not get such an opportunity. This is no longer the case thankfully, however there appears to be a new need around in the 21st century not only for children but all of us.

The poet **William Henry Davies** wrote:

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

I believe this is the challenge facing society to learn to stand and stare, to be still?

So before we rush madly into the autumn round of events and business maybe this is the time for us to explore the art of stillness and reflection within our own or by taking time to come together in worship as a community - to be rather than to do.

Peter Catford

Kingsdown Family News

Steve and Liz Palmer would like to thank all the friends at Kingsdown who offered their condolences and support following the death of Steve's mother in July. Her funeral took place at Gillingham Methodist Church on the 7th August.

We send good wishes to **Gerald Barton** for a successful knee operation on Friday, 26 October. Please note Circuit Office closures dates as a result to give Gerald a chance to recover (p2)



Thank you for your encouragement, support and fellowship over the past 9 years.

Thank you too for your generous gift of the John Lewis Vouchers. I am still settling into the Northwood & Ruislip Manor manse so am not sure exactly how I will use them. At present I am leaning towards some furniture for the living room or kitchen/breakfast room that will be of use for many years.

Of course the most precious gift you gave us was yourselves - the way you offered us your love and support for the years we were together. I look back in deep gratitude and will continue to pray for God's blessing on and through you. Thank you.

Our love to you all.

Roger, Greg & Aidan Dunlop

Congratulations and all good wishes to the **Rev Cecil and Barbara Smith** on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in September.

Mr Frank Bedwell has written sending his good wishes to the **Rev Peter Catford** and his wife **Suva** as they start their ministry in the Ealing Circuit; as well as to all our congregation at Kingsdown.



A number of Kingsdown folk attended a Service of Welcome and Commitment for Roger (as well as the Rev Nigel Cowgill) at the Ruislip Methodist Church on 4 September. It is a beautiful church and the service was well attended, the sermon being preached by the Rev Michaela Youngson, now Chair of the London District; also in attendance was the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Hillingdon.

Roger was kind enough to invite a few people from Kingsdown and Pitshanger to view the Ruislip Manor Church manse prior to the service.

Harvest Time at Kingsdown

Our Harvest celebrations are held as usual on the second weekend in October. We hope that you will be part of the occasion, and that you will encourage friends and neighbours to join us.

Our 10.30am worship on 14 October will be a Parade and Family Service, and will include presentations to our young members who have been collecting for JMA. It is also the first occasion of the year when we are urged to support the Kingsdown Charity of the Year.



Edna was shattered after decorating the whole church for Harvest.

As you will know from last month's Messenger our CotY for 2012-2013 is Ealing Street Pastors, and a representative of the organisation (which has its office at Kingsdown) will be present to speak about their work. They are trying to raise funds for a scanner/printer, so we are asked to use the envelopes which will appear in the pews from 7 October to donate a monetary gift. Further details, if you need them, from Olwen.

After the morning service, there will be a Kingsdown Family lunch in the hall which will be an opportunity for us all to meet and talk to Peter, Suva and Rebecca Catford. During our meal we shall share a large celebration cake, and portions of that cake will also be sent to the very small number of elderly and housebound members to whom it is customary to take a gift at harvest time. Please add your name to the list in the foyer if you intend to be present for the lunch, to assist the caterers.

Many people also like to bring flowers, fruit and vegetables to decorate the church for Harvest. Usually we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and, while the display always looks lovely and reminds us of the abundance of good things we receive from God, we often have difficulty knowing how to distribute the gifts of fresh produce appropriately.

So this year we would ask you to think carefully about what would be most suitable and if you wish to give such a gift, perhaps to choose tinned or packet goods in preference to fresh food. Then any surplus can be donated to the homelessness project based at St John's church, which we support in co-operation with other churches in West Ealing. Their soup kitchen opens only at weekends, so gifts to them must be non-perishable.

Contributions for the decorations should be brought to the church on Saturday 13 October by 10 o'clock. Offers of help with the display hat morning should be made as soon as possible to Pam. Thank you.



Olwen Britton (Charity of the Year)
Pam Smith (Harvest Decorations)
Kathleen Loveridge (Harvest Lunch)

(PS. The priority for cash contributions this year means a need to be as inventive as possible with 'decorating' the church. Please look around your gardens with a view to contributing anything appropriate, ie a few remaining rose buds, hydrangea blooms (albeit now in their autumn colours), or does your neighbour have an excess of michaelmas daisies and might be persuaded to part with a few?

*Greenery, especially with berries, livens up non-perishable donations - tea, sugar, tin goods (well within their sell-by date please). But perhaps your talents run to arranging a smaller display on perhaps one of the six shelves - not necessarily using flowers but maybe a suitable picture, vase, pot plant still blooming, fir cones, seashells - anything relevant to Harvest. **Who's up for the challenge? Please join the team with your ideas.** Pam)*

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS



Staff at Fielding Primary School are well into planning for Christmas events, and they have asked our minister if once again they can bring the youngest children to see our display of Christmas Cribs. It appears now to be part of the school tradition, and Peter and I have been glad to agree. We don't yet know the date on which they will come but it will be between 11 and 21 December. Nearer the time I shall be looking for volunteers to be present to welcome the children.

Last year we had our largest collection of cribs ever, but several of them belonged to the Dunlop family, and will not be available to us this year. So once again I am asking friends to donate or lend a Crib. I noticed today that some are already appearing in the shops, but home-made creations are just as acceptable! One innovation of 2012 was the 'Knitivity' created by our members; perhaps someone would like to organise another group display. And if you have children or grandchildren with nothing to do at half-term, why not get encourage them to create a crib, or a picture of the crib scene, that we can add to the display.

This year I am looking not just for crib sets but for representations of the nativity story in any medium - paintings, posters, hangings, books, puzzles, calendars - last year we even had a clock!

Ideas and offers of help will be warmly welcomed!

Kathleen Loveridge

Churches Together in Central Ealing

Church members are invited to visit the West London Islamic Centre and Jamia Masjid in West Ealing for a talk about Islam and about the work of the mosque.

There will be time for questions, a look around the mosque building, and some refreshments.

This is on Saturday 6th October at 3:00pm.

If you would like to come, please let **Elizabeth Daly-Jones** know at edalyjones@btinternet.com or on (020) 8566 6574.



CAPITAL CHORUS CONCERT

SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER 2012

7.30pm

Come along for an evening's entertainment by this great BARBERSHOP style Chorus

Once more Capital Chorus are performing for us as a 'thank you' for the Church's support in the use of this building. What more fitting way can there be than to get tickets and be fully entertained by them whilst also contributing to the cost of the final stages of the redevelopment work.

Come along yourselves and bring friends to what will be a wonderful evening of music and enjoyment.

Tickets, at £10 per person
can be ordered from
Kathleen Loveridge on 020 8579 3941

Or bought from
Harold Blackburn, Janet Smith,
Kathleen Loveridge or Violet Cordon.



The new season of CBSI at Kingsdown commenced on **Thursday September 13th from 3.30 - 5.30 pm** and will run for 18 weeks till February 2013.

We are holding the sessions in the daytime to suit people with school age children who have expressed an interest in attending.

This season we will be studying the Gospel of Mark.

There will be a one-off registration fee of £5 per person plus a £5 fee per month to cover expenses and to make a donation for the work of CBSI.

Further information can be obtained from the Course Leader Rachel Kamara-
tel 020 8840 5576 email rachelkamara@hotmail.com



Many thanks to all those who donated to MRDF during the year.
The amount totalled £203.30 plus some more to come.

Age discrimination ban to come into force on 1 October 2012

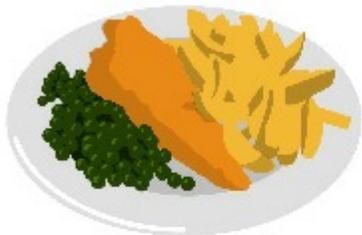
Unjustified age discrimination is already prohibited in the workplace, and the Government have abolished the default retirement age.

On 5 September 2012 the House of Commons approved the Order containing exceptions from the ban on age discrimination in the provision of services, which had been debated the day before in Committee.

The House of Lords had already approved the Exceptions Order last July, so the way is now clear for the ban to come into force on 1 October.

The ban will affect public and private organisations and means that treating people differently because of their age when providing goods, facilities or services will be unlawful unless it is covered by an exception or can be justified.

Submitted by Blossom Jackson



**Fish & Chip
Supper**

+

?????

Quiz

**Saturday 13 October 2012
there will be in the hall at Pitshanger
Methodist a Quiz night with a Fish and
Chips supper at 7.00pm.**

**Tickets £6.00
will be available from David Richards.
If you don't want fish let him know and he
can let you know the alternatives.**

Tel no. 020 8575 8937

Or

email: pmrsjt51@hotmail.co.uk

Now available . . .

Exercise bike, nearly new, little used, one careful and very lazy owner!
Available to first applicant prepared to donate £30 to MRDF and to collect
from 66 Balfour Road W13 9TW.

Phone Kathleen Loveridge 020 8579 3941 or

e-mail kathleen.loveridge@btinternet.com

These lines were read out at the Evening service at Greenford on 22nd July - we print them here for you to ponder on and think about in a quiet moment.

Reading

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

*We are, quite naturally,
impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.*

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

*We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown,
something new.*

*And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability
- and that it may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you.*

*Your ideas mature gradually - let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and
circumstances acting on your own good will) will make you tomorrow.*

*Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you
will be.*

*Give our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

1. In the September Messenger, page 11, para. 2, you will read House-to-house collecting £144.92. This should read £1,442.92* - "and this was achieved with just 17 collectors" (quite a difference). I should like to say a very sincere thank you to the 16 collectors (I'm the other) who go out House-to-house collecting during Christian Aid Week. I know it isn't easy - the first few calls can be difficult. But then we remember why we are asking for donations, and realise how worthwhile it is. I have said, on numerous occasions, that this is the only time we go out to local people, from Kingsdown, using the word - CHRISTIAN - a Challenge?

The total of £3,666.54 is correct. Hopefully, as a result of the Richmond Park sponsored Walk, we shall again exceed £4,000.00.

*(*What Ruby has been kind enough not to point out is that the incorrect House-to-house total was entirely due to your co-editor's failure to read what she had written correctly! - Sorry Ruby!)*

2. **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 2012**

I have just been informed by Rubita, at Christian Aid, that the total so far for CA Week 2012 is £10.6m. The final total will not be known for some time but at this stage is an advance on last year.

3. **The Annual Supporters' Evening** will be held at Christian Aid HQ, Inter-Church House, near Waterloo Station, on **Thursday, 31 January**; two sessions again in 2013 - 2-4.30 pm or 6-8.30 pm. I'm sure we shall attend the afternoon session as last year. This is a great opportunity to find out 2013's CA Week materials, to meet other volunteers from London and the South East, and to hear about a very important year for campaigning. Everyone is welcome to attend, please let me know nearer the time - **BUT PLEASE BOOK THE DATE - NOW.**

4. **TELL - PRAY - GIVE - WALK**

As a church, we do not contribute to the CA Harvest Appeal as this is the time for Charity of the Year.

This year Christian Aid will focus on the landless people of India. CA Partner Ekta Parishad believes that permanent access to land is vital and could lift as

much as 40 per cent of India's population - 400 million people - out of poverty.

On 2 October 2011, representatives of CA's partner Ekta Parishad began a 13 month-long journey across India, joining the voices of communities across the country in their urgent call for land reform. The climax in October will see 100,000 landless people, many barefoot, march for a month from Gwalior to Delhi, in one of the biggest non-violent campaigns the world has ever witnessed. Jumma and Kamala Anivasi plan to march again in October in solidarity with others, like Khima Ram, whose struggle for land rights continues.

CA HARVEST PRAYER

A handful of grain
Sustaining a mass protest
A dollop of honey
Identity and a right to land
A splash of milk
Dignity of a community
Abundant God
Where we have sown in tears
May we reap together in joy. **Amen**

Ruby Warne

* * * * *

BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Please don't forget items needed for the box - stamps - specs - mobile phones and ink jets - and socks.

If you can contribute bath towel(s), please let me know, and I will pick them up (see page 18 in the September Messenger).

Ruby Warne

Traidcraft Christmas Catalogues



Catalogues are circulating amongst those who have purchased Traidcraft products in the past.

If you have not seen the wide range of cards, gifts, food and household items available, please ask **Ruby Warne** for a catalogue



Latin America



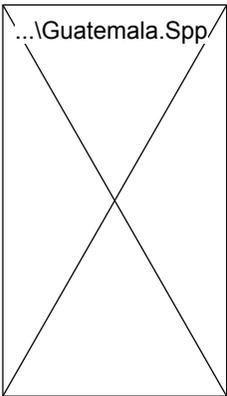
MRDF has a small programme in Latin America. This continent has seen much development in recent years, but the rich-poor divide continues to widen, with indigenous communities often unable to start the journey out of poverty. This situation is compounded by a changing climate that affects their primary source of income: their land.

Planting for the future in El Salvador



Deforestation and erratic weather conditions have severely damaged the livelihoods of El Salvador's small-scale farmers. MRDF's partner organisation is working with communities displaced by the civil war helping to introduce sustainable agriculture techniques. These replace the modern methods that require a lot of chemicals and give little thought to conservation. Farmers now have security for the present, reaping healthy harvests, and are protecting their soil for the future.

Farming at school in Guatemala



For Mayan communities in Guatemala, scarcity of land means that people are turning to cultivating steeply sloping land to try and escape poverty. Modern intensive farming methods, such as the planting of monocultures, are unsuitable for these areas. MRDF's partner is promoting a holistic approach that includes increasing crop diversity. School pupils in the Suchitoto area have been provided with a range of different vegetables and medicinal plants, and are learning to grow and care for them. In the past, formal education didn't provide such practical skills, but now these children will be better equipped for a productive farming future.



Demba and Tonko



In the village of Tama, (pronounced: Ta-ma) the 2010 drought also caused farmers to struggle. Demba (on the right) explains: 'What we planted at first was okay but what we planted second was rotten. A second failed harvest meant I did not get the money I was expecting. This creates many problems. If the harvest is not complete you will face a lack of food.'

MRDF's partner AMAPEF listened to the problems that the farmers were experiencing. It responded by setting up a demonstration plot testing new agricultural techniques, so farmers could see for themselves whether the new practices would work or not. Demba's friend Tonko says: 'At the end of the demonstration time we saw that the demonstration field had produced many more crops than the field where we used our old techniques! It was a wonderful thing for us to see! 'Simple techniques such as spacing crops correctly, and using walls to help prevent soil being washed away in the rainy season, are making a big difference.

Tonko has also learnt the benefit of using manure on his field. He says: 'The change is actually an easy one –simply using natural manure on the field has made a big increase in our crops. Where we had one full bag of maize that would now be two or even three full bags. The techniques have made a difference, so how can we ignore that?'

The farmers who received training from AMAPEF have been encouraged to pass on their knowledge to others in their village. Tonko adds: 'Those who did not take part in the training... they missed out! I took them to my field to show them what I was doing and the change it had made and then I instructed them on how they could change what they were doing too. This was such good advice you have to pass it on.'

Please look out for the MRDF Christmas Catalogue of Extraordinary Gifts which will be available within the next couple of weeks.

'In sweet music is such art': Hours in the valley of tears

One of the most popular modern hymns is 'Make me a channel of your peace.' It is based on a prayer attributed to one of the most popular saints, Francis. The Little Man of Assisi has inspired the faith and lives of many through his simplicity and love of creation. But the picture of St Francis talking to the birds and charming animals is only part of his story. His conversion to the Gospel message inspired him to renounce all possessions and to embrace poverty.

That example encouraged others to follow at a time where there was a deep concern about the wealth and authority of the church in Western Europe. Small groups of committed Christians came together to live out the precepts of Jesus' teaching, which they felt the institutional church had neglected. At first they were viewed with suspicion and were thought to be heretics – the hippies, the dropouts of the 13th century. And St Francis and his brothers were among them.

This aspect of St Francis inspired Zeffirelli's film of 1972, 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon.' It was released when flower power and communes were in the air. Zeffirelli's film is shot through with scenes of fields and hills and sunsets. We see Francis and Clare walking through the corn in the noonday sun, seemingly without a care in the world. But there is more to the film than just these images.

Yes, St Francis was like a dropout in medieval Italy. Yet there was a rigour and a faith at the heart of his love of the infant Jesus and his passion for the cross of Christ. They arose out of a profound realisation that God had earthed himself in this world and revealed himself in Jesus, who like St Francis, talked of the birds in the air and the lilies of the field as he praised God's providential care for creation.

The film is one of contrasts to convey this message: warring knights and peace loving monks, sumptuous churches and simple chapels, a wealthy and powerful ecclesiastical élite and the humble ordinariness of peasant life. They are captured in the music of Donovan, who provided the score for the film: martial processions and elaborate liturgical music contrast with the round of singing in San Damiano and the title song, 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon.'

The high point of the film comes when St Francis and his brothers have an audience with Pope Innocent III. It is a moving encounter of the bejewelled pope and the simply attired monk. As Innocent III kisses the saint's feet, he says, 'We are encrusted with riches and power: you in your poverty put us to

shame.' The Gloria of the liturgy gives way to the title track; the sumptuous cathedral with bishops and cardinals to the saint alone in the hillside.

We celebrate St Francis this month on 4 October. Perhaps we might watch this film on DVD and find that, allowing for its 1970s ethos, we can hear once again in the drama and the music the message of St Francis - Il Poverello of Assisi who calls us like the larks in the air to live in simplicity and humility and so meet God in the ordinary gifts of his creation: the sun and the moon, the birds and the animals, men, women and children, and the wonder of a babe born in a manger.

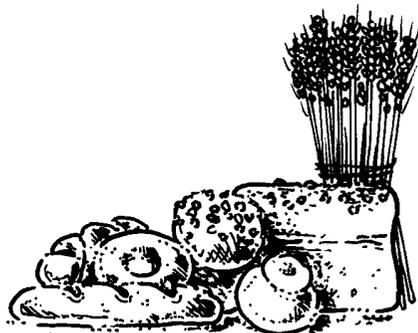
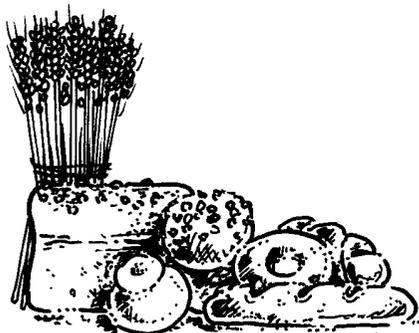
KEEP PRAYING TO A GOD THAT ANSWERS

Have you noticed how our faithful God has responded to our prayers? For example -

The weather pattern changed as soon as the Games started and finished
There was a safe and secure Games with a wonderful family friendly feel
The transport system coped - does that go down as a cast iron miracle?
People responded as churches ran programmes of outreach, service and hospitality.

'More than Gold'

Urged on by **Blossom Jackson**, a number of people at Kingdown responded to the call for help, some by meeting and greeting overseas visitors during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Well done to all who got involved in any way and contributed towards such a successful event.



Why God created children

To those of you who have children in your lives...

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve...we have forbidden fruit!!!!!"

"No way!"

"Do NOT eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?" said Adam.

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, beginning to wonder why he hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw his children having an apple break and he was cross! "Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Adam.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

No newspaper

I was visiting my son and daughter-in-law last night and asked if I could borrow a newspaper. "This is the 21st century, dad," he said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPhone."

I can tell you, that fly never knew what hit it!

PARAPROSDOKIANS...

(Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Could you invent one? Please send your entry to the magazine editor and we will give a prize for the best!

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.

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.

Methodist Church App

Get the App for...

Android

iPhone (note - this is a new app rather than an update: users of the original iPhone app will need to delete it and install the new one)

Other phones and devices (Web app)

A brand new app from the Methodist Church in Britain is now available on all mobile devices. The app offers users a daily Bible study, as well as all the latest news, audio and video from the Church.

Features include:

Daily Bible studies, featuring a different author each week

The latest news stories from the Methodist Church in Britain

Topical podcasts from Methodist Web Radio

Resources for Christian discipleship

Blogs from the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, Methodist Youth President and World Church Relationships team

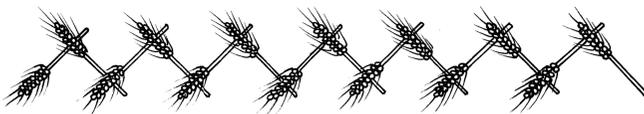
View videos through the Church's YouTube channel

Interact on Facebook and Twitter

Information about the latest campaigns and the Church's involvement in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games



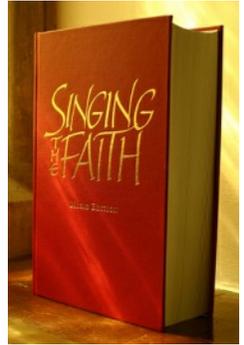
"With the rise of the smartphone, we're more connected than ever before, and that's something to celebrate," said David Webster, the Church's Internet Communications Coordinator. "We want people to be able to make use of our resources across a wide range of platforms. Our goal is to support Methodists and other Christians as we make our way as disciples of Jesus in the modern world."



Happy Birthday, Singing the Faith!

One year ago, Singing the Faith was published: a collection of 840 hymns and songs, that would take an estimated forty hours to sing from beginning to end.

The collection was published by Hymns Ancient and Modern on behalf of the Methodist Church, after seven years of deliberation, theological scrutiny, musical collaboration and editing. To date, nearly 98,000 copies have been sold across all the published editions.



Peter Brophy, who was Editor-in-Chief of Singing the Faith, said: "Having completed the editorial tasks for 'Singing the Faith' it was first of all a delight to handle the published book - all those scraps of paper, urgent emails and even more urgent phone calls now transformed into a hymnbook - a physical testament to the dedicated volunteers who worked for a Biblical seven years to bring it to fruition.

The Singing the Faith Plus website offers a wide range of free resources to help people get the most out of the collection, with lectionary suggestions and creative ideas for using hymns, for singing or in other ways. The site is also fast becoming a popular platform for new hymns and an encouragement to emerging writers.

"This beautifully presented hymn book is transforming worship through the sheer diversity of the hymns and songs contained within its pages," said the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, President of the Methodist Conference. "Singing the Faith is the one hymn and song book you have to have."

The Revd Barbara Bircumshaw, Chair of the Music Resources Group which was responsible for producing the collection, said: "I am thrilled by the success of Singing the Faith. It's great that it is being widely used by congregations around the Connexion - more than I ever dreamed possible. And it's very humbling to have played a part in bringing Singing the Faith to birth! I pray that it will be a valuable tool for worship and witness, for glorifying God and sharing the Gospel in the twenty first century."





GUARDIAN ANGELS

2nd October is the feast day or celebration of guardian angels. A guardian angel is an angel who protects and guides a person. Angels are mentioned in 34 books of the Bible: they protect people from danger and are a bridge between God and the world.

Acts (chapter 12) tells how Peter was put into prison by King Herod, but the night before his trial an angel appeared to him, and told him to leave. Peter's chains fell off, the prison doors opened of their own accord, and the angel led him out.

Even little children have a guardian angel: Jesus said "See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew, chapter 18).



Guardian angels cannot change what we do but they will lead us, if we wish it, to the Kingdom of Heaven.

WHICH ANGEL?

Write the first letter of the answer to each of these questions in the boxes below. Then rearrange the letters to make the name of an angel who delivered a special message....

1. The first man
2. A book of the Old Testament is named after this queen
3. A giant killed by David
4. He was Ruth's second husband
5. Son of Abraham, father of Jacob and Esau
6. A doctor who wrote the third Gospel and Acts
7. Another book of the Old Testament named after a woman.

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**How do you help a donkey?
Give assistance.**

**Where's spaghetti junction?
Just pasta Birmingham.**



**How do pigs make coffee?
With a coffee porkulator.**

1.Adam 2.Esther 3.Goliath 4.Boaz
5.Isaac 6.Luke 7.Ruth
Rearranged the letters give you Gabriel.

EVENTS AT KINGSDOWN

OCTOBER

- Mon 1 8 pm Guides (most Mondays throughout the month)
- Tue 2 2 pm Kingsdown Club - The Sunshine Keep Fit Club with the Salvation Army
- Wed 3 1-3 pm Babies & Toddlers Group (term time only)
- Fri 5 10.00 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 6 10.00 am Coffee & Chat in the Foyer - Each week unless Book Fair. Everyone welcome
- Tue 9 Liz & Steve Palmer's Home Group
- Sat 13 7 pm Fish & Chip Supper & Quiz at Pitshanger Church - (see p. 8)
- Tue 16 2 pm Kingdown Club - Illustrated Talk on Brazil by Miss Pickering
- Sat 20 7.30 pm Capital Chorus in Concert at Kingsdown Tickets £10 (see p.10)

NOVEMBER

- Sat 3 10-12.30 Book Fair with stalls - proceeds for Methodist Homes



Advance Dates for 2013!

World Church Sunday 17 Feb 2013

Methodist Women in Britain (Network) 3 March 2013

Christian Aid Sunday 5 May 2013