



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



September 2019

*Starting our 61st year of continuous
publication*

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019



Sep

- 1 Sep 10.30 Mrs Rachel Kamara
8 Sep 10.30 Rev Susan Male
15 Sep 10.30 Rev Susan Male. Holy Communion
22 Sep 10.30 Mr Phil Male
29 Sep 10.30 Mr Phil Male



THE CELL PHONE V THE BIBLE



What would happen if we treated our Bible as we treat our mobile phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it as though we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to our children as a gift?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

Unlike our mobile, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because of an unpaid bill.

Jesus has already paid the bill. In full

And just think – no dropped calls! God hears them all!

*With acknowledgement to All Saints and St John's Hove Church Magazine
Originally printed in the September 2009 Messenger*

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the October issue is Friday 20 September 2019

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Dear all



Welcome to the beginning of a new Methodist year - my second with you, but even more importantly your sixtieth as a church. This edition of "The Messenger" does in fact mark 60 years of continuous publication. Perhaps you would like to share memories of some favourite articles as part of our anniversary celebrations?

As a church, we will be celebrating those 60 years at a special morning service on December 8th here at Kingsdown. We would like this service to be a real celebration, attended by those who are connected to the church today, including the many groups who meet on our premises, and - and this is where you come in - those who have moved away but who have been associated with our church over the years. Clearly, I don't know who those people are, but you do, and shortly we will have invitations ready for you to invite them.

After the service we will enjoy a "bring and share" lunch. We are still looking for somebody to co-ordinate "who will bring what" to that, so if you are willing to do this, please let me know as soon as possible.

We have many things in store for this next term, as well as the anniversary.

**DON'T FORGET THE CIRCUIT GARDEN PARTY < IN RACHEL'S MANSE
at any time between 2-6 pm on Saturday 7 September**

As a local church, we start this year with a preaching series in our morning worship running for 4 weeks, beginning on September 8th. Phil Male and I will be leading services on the theme of the "Book of Ruth". This is a short Old Testament book, set at harvest time, with only four chapters. We will be reading it to you in the services, but you will gain even more from these services if you read it in advance and come prepared - why not give that a go?

Our church harvest festival will then take place on October 6th, followed on 13th Oct with a visit at 11 am – 1pm to Ealing Liberal synagogue (where Brenda's husband is a member) to get to know the community, and to learn from each other about the way the two religions celebrate the harvest. Please add your name to the list by letting me know, since numbers will need to be limited as this will include lunch. I hope you will support this

attempt to get to know some of our non-Christian neighbours and friends ... particularly as we have the personal link through Brenda and her husband.

On October 19th, in the evening, Kingsdown and Ealing Green are organizing a quiz together at Kingsdown, to raise money for Christian Aid, for the Circuit project – specifically for projects aiding Syrian refugees in Iraq and Lebanon.

More information to follow but start thinking about your teams – from the church and elsewhere and book the evening in your diaries.

I am also hoping to begin a fortnightly Bible Study and fellowship group. I am just surveying your responses to that at the moment. In due course I will give a firm indication of what we will be doing. Some responses so far have asked for

- Bible Study which works through a Book of the Bible a chapter at a time,
- studies on how to apply the messages and challenges of the Bible today,
- reflective sessions on events and issues current in the church, the news and society, and at how we should, and can respond as Christians,
- sessions looking at the nature of and engaging in prayer.....

I know you are all busy, and hence need to know the best morning out of Monday, Thursday and Friday for this venture. Let me know which suits you. On any morning the session would run from 10am for one and a half hours.

Whilst we can use the church to host this, it would be nice if - at least sometimes, it could be hosted in people's houses. If you would welcome this in your house once a year, or more, let me know.

If you would be willing to assist me with the leadership – please also be in touch. You will of course be able to opt in and out of the group as we cover different areas, depending on what kind of study suits you. I do need a core of six people who are interested in attending to begin this project though, so again - please let me know.

I will give you some more specific information about this in October.



I think that's enough for one letter. Please do think and pray about what You can do to make this a memorable year for Kingsdown - happy 60th anniversary year.

With blessings and prayers
Sue



Songs and Prayers at Westminster

Six hundred people, including MPs, peers and Christian leaders, met in Westminster Hall on a Tuesday morning in July to sing worship songs and pray as **Bishop Sarah Mullally** spoke about valuing those who hold opposite opinions. This prayer by **SNP MP David Linden** is worth sharing:

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for the amazing opportunity to gather here this morning to worship and proclaim your great name and give thanks for our salvation, paid for by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And Lord, at this time, we pray for our politics, both here in Westminster and right across these islands.

"Give us wisdom, God, to make wise decisions about our nations' futures, and guide us to decisions which are just and fair. Lord, help us to demonstrate a positive Christ-like witness as we seek to navigate the tricky waters of Brexit and with our domestic politics. And for those of us who already know you passionately, Lord, I pray that we would disagree well and do so with grace and brotherly love. And Lord, help us to speak truth in power and make decisions which are not for the convenience of merely today or political expediency but instead, help us to make decisions which improve people's lives and advance your kingdom here on Earth.

"God, I ask that you would use these volatile times to cause people to reflect on where they draw encouragement from. We pray Lord that these too would come to know and love you and recognise the immense sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, **Amen.**"

Family News

Vera Hodges would like to express her thanks and appreciation for the beautiful roses given to her at church on the occasion of her recent birthday, as well as all the cards and good wishes she has received

Ivy Hanson now thinks her mobility is improving but is still subject to bouts of pain and, so far, isn't venturing far from her home. We hope she continues to make progress and will be able to rejoin us in the not too distant future.

Tom Cheriyan is now home, as is **Leela John**. Neither are up to receiving visitors at the moment. **Tom** is recovering but still very weak. (***Sybil Corbin** has communicated by email with Tom and he asked her to thank the Kingsdown family for all its prayers on their behalf.*) **Leela** is only able to manage liquids at present so life still not on a very even keel.

Some of you may know **Val Elgar** who has recently had an operation and has needed to receive recuperative care to aid her recovery before returning home.

Ray Church went into hospital on Monday 19 August for a hip operation which was performed as planned but, at this moment in time, is still in hospital; he will probably need to go on to Clayponds Care Centre to increase his mobility before being allowed home to the care of **Anna** and the rest of his family.

Please continue to hold in your prayers all those you may know who are rather poorly at this time, as well as others in our church family who may not always be able to join us for whatever reasons.



Photo: Margaret Trice

Evelyn Sangster seems to have had a number of visitors from Kingsdown recently. We were delighted to be given this photo taken only last weekend showing her looking relaxed and happy. Reports of the care home's environment are all very complimentary.

60 years
anniversary

A backwards glance.....



On the back page
of Issue 1

Hearty Congratulations!!!

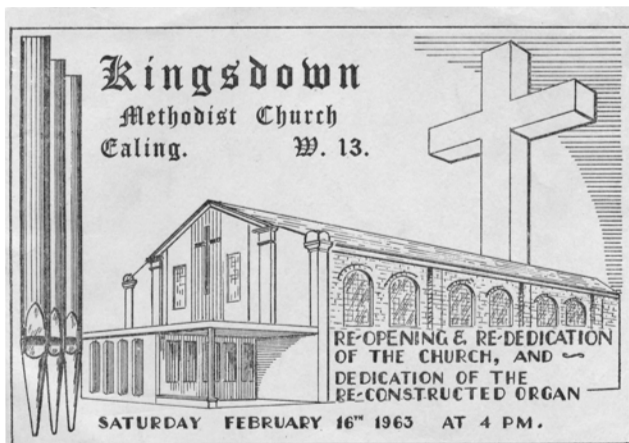
The Northfields J.M.A. have already obtained £101 towards their target of £105. Well Done!

We are pleased to record the engagement of Hazel Beaumont to Ken Pennells and offer them our sincere congratulations and best wishes.

oooooooooooooooo

The Kingsdown Messenger has been a regular part of Church life for over 60 years. It started with quarterly editions in September 1959 when the West Ealing and Northfields Churches were combined to form Kingsdown Methodist Church.

There had been earlier Messenger's published quarterly by the West Ealing Church which date back to the autumn of 1937. A few of these early copies are in the archive. So we could claim that it's 83 years of continuous publication as West Ealing was a founding parent of what is now Kingsdown!!



The original church on the Kingsdown site had a tower which remained till 1963 when the buildings were revamped. In 1975 the Russell Room was added and the vestry and hall kitchen were reconstructed.

In 2008 the latest 'modernisation' was

completed creating Kingsdown as it is today. This picture is of the Mural painted by young and old on the hoarding's hiding building materials in the car park in December 2007.

60 years
anniversary



From Issue No 29 - September - December 1944 reminds us that many of the congregation were at that time serving in the Forces

OUR ABSENT FRIENDS.

Several of our members and many of our children are evacuated. We send them sincere greetings and hope they will soon be back again.

Since our last issue the Invasion of France has begun. Now we hear of the landing in Southern France. Several of our men from the Church are in Normandy. We are in touch with them and we take this opportunity of sending our best wishes to them. We are anxiously awaiting the day of your return and can assure you of our heartfelt relief when it comes. You are doing a grand job of work and we honour you for it and assure you we do our best to ease the burden at this end. But we need your help and shall welcome your fresh outlook upon our problems here.

Reading back through the old magazines gives you a reflection of church life, whilst more formalised than today was still a family of people with a range of activities. Some family names featured then will still be found in today's reports. All issues reflect the numerous committees that met regularly and of course the Church Council.

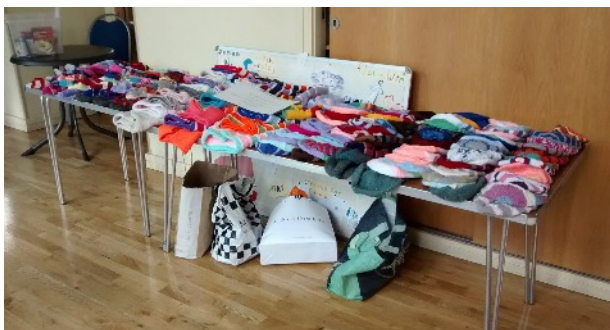
The need for funds for church repairs and flowers are as they are today but it was in the early 1990's that the need for oversea relief started to feature.

60 years
anniversary

The civil unrest in Sierra Leone being a prominent feature at that time. Unfortunately as the years have passed man made unrest has become a frequent news item with the growth of natural disasters affecting many of the poorest people across the world., From the earthquake in Iran in 1990 to the hurricanes and catastrophic floods featured more recently. Sadly today there are more refugees in the world than ever before.

Looking at the old issues shows how Kingsdown members have worked on individual projects to give help at grass roots level - In 1990 Fiona and Colin - young members then - held a sponsored event for The Romanian Orphanage Trust.

Today this type of individual support gets carried on with the Woolly Hats and cardigans knitted by a stalwart band of knitters and sent out to help the work of the COMPASSION SERVICE SOCIETY OF INDIA - a charity working with the poorest of the poor in remote villages of India working to promote justice and dignity for the poor and destitute, regardless of faith.



WHAT IS CHARITY?

It is silence - when your words would hurt.

It is patience - when your neighbour is curt.

It is deafness - when a scandal flows.

It is thoughtfulness - for others' woes.

It is promptness - when duty calls.

It is courage - when misfortune falls.

The Messenger's regularly feature quotations - this one comes from the July 1990 issue.

60 years
anniversary

From page 10 of the October 2002 issue we extracted part of an article....

Junior Church Matters

Hazel Pennells has retired from Junior Church after 50 years service! She has worked tirelessly almost every Sunday during that time and generations of young people have benefited from her inspired and caring leadership.

*How glad we are that Hazel took up a 'retirement' job still working with the children as and when needed!! Well done **Hazel**. (And well done **Anna Church** who is now Junior Church Co-ordinator, as well as all those who assist her in carrying on this important aspect of our church life.)*

From Minister's letter September 2009 - Golden Anniversary

This month Kingsdown celebrates its Golden Jubilee!

There has been a Methodist presence on the corner of Kingsdown Avenue for just over 100 years but in September 1959 Kingsdown was formed by the amalgamation of the Moulin Memorial Church and the West Ealing Church (on the junction of Uxbridge and Bedford Roads).

It is easy to look back at the history of all three churches and to focus on the way that the buildings dramatically developed. That development is of course still continuing with our wonderful new front and the anticipated work by the halls. Though of course the buildings have simply been a reflection of the Church Family and our commitment to be an active part of the local community as well as the World Church. Successive generations have sought to grow in faith and to be a worshipping, witnessing and caring community.

So we celebrate all those whose love and sacrifice and service made possible the church to which we are glad to belong.

And what of the future? That depends on everyone of us - it depends on you, and you can know the strength and direction of God.

Rev Roger Dunlop

60 years
anniversary

In some issues of The Messenger you might find a cartoon - here is one that originally appeared in the July 1990 issue but is still topical.



"Thanks for the marriage counseling, Pastor. We feel much better."



This one comes from the 1991 Summer edition.



Yet another of the money-making wheezes for the Redevelopment Fund I see.....

This one was featured in the June 2010 issue when the last re-development was in progress

60
years
anniversary

Where do the prayers, articles etc come from??

Some of the items are written by members of the Kingsdown church family, (more would be very welcome) some taken from other magazines (with copyright permission) and also from church magazine subscription services.

The Kingsdown Messenger has subscribed to these services for many years and our regular readers will be familiar with prayers by Daphne Kitching or Nigel Beeton both of whose work comes via 'Parish Pump' - a monthly resource full of both text and pictorial material for church editors to use. The basic picture on the cover of this issue came from Parish Pump some



years ago. The small graphic blocks, borders and other general illustrations also come this way.

A favourite with one of the Editors are the Mice ...-

...who work away behind the scenes helping to produce each issue!!

The Editors are members of ACE (*Association of Church Editors*) who publish, each month, items The Messenger can use. Straplines - those brief white on black text blocks at the bottom of some pages are an ACE speciality.

The Methodist Church, both nationally and the London District, regularly publish various items of news, events and other items that help to keep the local Church Family up to date. More recently we have added OWL to our resources which gives us up to date information about how best to protect ourselves from criminal activity including Cyber crime and Scams.

.These regular sources provide a hunting ground for material to fill that 'empty' space.

Remember there will always be a space for that article, prayer or poem you have been going to write but keep putting off!!

Change happens when we all work together

BB 50th Summer Camp Report

Fifty years on from our very first summer camp on the Isle of Wight, 10th Ealing BB headed for the south coast to enjoy a week of fun and sun in Swanage. We took 28 Boys (our highest number ever) and 12 staff (our lowest number ever) and a week's worth of well-worked-out plans ready to experience the highlight of the BB year. Our diary reads as follows:



Saturday

We arrive early afternoon and spend a couple of hours unloading lorries, pitching tents and unpacking suitcases. We're so far ahead of schedule we decide to set off on a hike down to Dancing Ledge and get our feet wet as we play among the rocks down by the cove. Upon our return, dinner is served and it is very welcome indeed. After sunset, as always, we spend the last hours of the day, playing, singing, dancing and worshipping in the marquee.

Sunday

It's a beautiful day. The Boys are given a lesson in tent inspection (the competition runs from Monday-Friday) and then we head off to Swanage town to enjoy our annual football tournament, followed by some time on the beach and a front row seat for the glorious Swanage Carnival Parade (although we all thought our band was even better than those who took part!).

Monday

Another sunny day! We spend the morning playing volleyball and practising air-rifle shooting, After lunch, the younger Boys go to the river in Wareham for canoeing, and the Seniors visit a water adventure



park which involved much bouncing and splashing. The entire company was soaked to the skin and loved every minute.

Tuesday

This was the day we'd been preparing for. Fifty miles per hour winds hit at 4am but we were well taken care of by the Canvas Team who had secured the site and had been patrolling since dawn. Our safest plan was to remove the Boys from the storm and, while the Canvas Team remained onsite, we took everyone else to the local sports centre and swimming pool. There was plenty of hockey and football while the



rain poured down outside. The Seniors were treated to an hour in town while the younger Boys were taken back to camp as the storm began to pass.

Wednesday

For many Boys, Wednesday was the highlight of the week. We all packed up after breakfast and headed for Splashdown, the biggest and best water slide park on the south coast. This was followed by a visit to Poole (time for a milkshake and a bit of shopping) and then home for a BBQ and a spot of cricket on the village green. Very civilised!

Thursday

The sun came out again just in time for a day of energetic fun. We had our own huge bouncy assault course erected on site and this was matched by Sally's Water Slide which went all the way down the hill and was covered in washing-up liquid to ensure a speedy journey to the bottom. Water balloon fights sealed the day!

Friday

We paid a final visit to nearby Wareham in the morning, and the afternoon was filled with our final Camp Olympics as the Boys competed for the Sports Team Trophy. We also had a very welcome visit from our dear old friends, Bob, Julie and Kevin Wiles! As the sun set, we all gathered in the marquee for our last night celebration. When Last Post sounded and the CO gave his final talk, there were a few damp eyes as we all gave thanks for such a memorable and happy week together.



A big thank you to all who have supported us in our camping venture, through prayer, money, food and kind words. On Friday 13th September we'll be having a Camp Video Show in the church from 9 until 10 and all are very welcome to come along. Bring your own popcorn!

Tony Plews



Always pray to have eyes that see the best, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith.

Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfield Avenue, W13

BOOK FAIR



Books

Cakes

Bric-a-Brac

Saturday

14th September

10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Proceeds to:

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Methodist
relief and
development



Methodist
relief and
development

ALL WE CAN (MRDF) BOOK FAIR SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Its annual Book Fair at Kingsdown will be as advertised above and, as usual, support for this event will be much appreciated. Are you able to help by possibly manning a stall for a while, perhaps baking a cake for the cake stall (always a popular attraction), or even donating any suitable items such as unwanted gifts? Or why not just come along for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with friends?

We are grateful to Ruby Warne for her sterling work in organising so many elements of the Book Fairs and hope you will feel able to contribute in some way to support this particular one in aid of a very worthy charity.

(‘ALL WE CAN’ is the Methodist Church’s own charity and Sunday 15 September is the designated date for its annual collection; envelopes will be in the church pews on 8, 15 & 22 September and it is hoped that you will also be able to make a donation in this way.)

DO HOPE TO SEE YOU

Pam & Alan Smith

*Expecting Him, my door was open wide:
Then I looked round
If any lack of service might be found,
And saw Him at my side:
How entered, by what secret stair,
I know not, knowing only He was there.*

By TE Brown (1830 -97)

Circuit 21st Anniversary Garden Party – Saturday 7th September

Ealing Trinity Circuit was formed in September 1998 and is 21 years old this year. You are all invited to celebrate our Circuit's anniversary at a Garden Party at Rev Rachel Bending's manse on Saturday 7th September from 2.00 – 6.00pm.



It would be helpful if you could let Rachel know if you intend to come, although you'll still be welcome if you just turn up on the day. Also if you have any special access or dietary needs, please contact Rachel or the Circuit Office beforehand.

Acton Hill Gospel Chorale Concert Saturday 14th September



Acton Hill's Gospel Chorale invites you to a charity fundraising concert in aid of Meadow House Hospice on Saturday 14th September at 6.45pm (doors open 6.15pm).

Admission, including light refreshments is £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for children under 12. Tickets will be available at the door.

Greenford International Evening Saturday 5th October

Greenford is organising an International Evening on Saturday 5th October from 6.00pm – 9.00pm in support of the Christian Aid Iraq and Lebanon Project. Entrance will be £5.00 per person. All are invited to attend!



There are many nationalities and cultures among in the Circuit and if anyone would like to contribute an item for the entertainment - a song, dance, sketch or poem etc. please contact Win Thompson at

win.thompson69@btinternet.com
or by calling 020 8570 2531.

**KINGSDOWN CLUB
PROGRAMME
FOR
SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER**

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH-MONTH ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND . WE MEET IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH FROM 2.00 TO 4.00PM

TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WHO SHOULD NEED IT. PLEASE CONTACT EILEEN TOBIAS [TEL. 0208 567 4205] FOR DETAILS.

**SEPTEMBER 3rd
A BINGO and QUIZ AFTERNOON**

**SEPTEMBER 17th
DAVE ENTERTAINS US**

**OCTOBER 1st
GRAHAM JENKINS ENTERTAINS US**

**OCTOBER 15th
a BINGO AFTERNOON**

**NOVEMBER 5th
a talk by JANET SMITH**

**NOVEMBER 19th
THE CAROLINERS SING FOR US**

**DECEMBER 3rd
A CHRISTMAS PICK and MIX with ALAN SMITH**

**DECEMBER 17th
THE XMAS TEA PARTY - DAVE ENTERTAINS US**

THE NEW PROGRAMME BEGINS JANUARY 7th 2020



Christian Aid - Richmond riverside sponsored walk – Saturday 28th September

The annual Richmond Riverside sponsored walk will be held on Saturday 28th September and I hope you have noticed the poster in the church foyer? Over 40 million people are internally displaced around the world. By walking and raising funds you will help transform the lives of communities where Christian Aid works.

Full details of the walk are now available. It starts from St Matthias Church with 9.30am Registration followed by prayers, after which the walk itself starts at 10.30am and ends at 3pm. Justice, from the London CA Team will be in charge, and everyone must register.

Three friends have agreed to be sponsored and I will be joining the walkers! Some of you may prefer to go along, enjoy the walk and company and then make a donation to Christian Aid. By the way, you have a choice for the walk – either 8 miles or 3 miles!

If you would like to join in, please contact me by **14 September 2019**.

Ruby Warne

THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER



Very many thanks for all the specs which have been put in the Box recently.

Please don't forget - stamps - mobile phones, - ink jets are also needed.

Socks are still required, but there is a difficulty over delivery, so no more at present please.

Ruby Warne

**A politician thinks of the next election, but a
statesman thinks of the next generation**

Making the most of your time

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?



Firstly, see time is a gift from God. Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Secondly, commit your time to God. Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.

Thirdly, set aside time for God, others and ourselves. How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said, 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.

'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.'
(Martin Luther).

Rev Paul Hardingham

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's love; and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's love.



Methodist
relief and
development

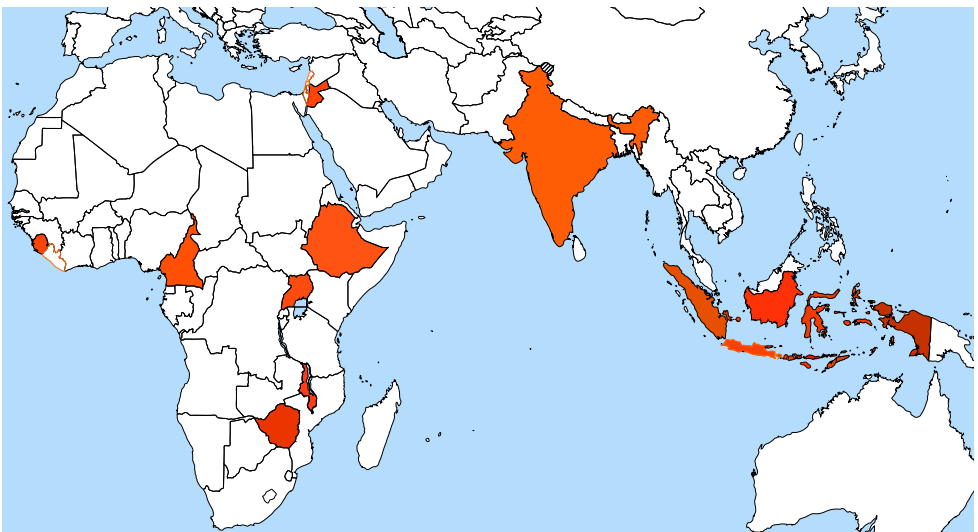
Where we work What we do

All We Can helps find solutions to poverty by engaging with local people and organisations in some of the world's poorest communities to end the suffering caused by inequality and injustice.

We support and strengthen local organisations, churches and emerging initiatives that share our vision and values – to implement effective and sustainable solutions for people living in some of the world's poorest and least served communities

We respond to humanitarian crises with emergency support caused by natural disasters, conflict and political instability and help communities to be better prepared for disasters.

Partnership in action



Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malawi, Sierra Leone,
Uganda, Zimbabwe

We engage in advocacy and education, both in Britain and internationally, to tackle some of the systemic causes of poverty. All We Can is engaged in global education to inform, challenge and motivate people to take a stance against poverty and injustice.

Advocacy

We aim to increase understanding of the causes of poverty and build people's confidence and effectiveness in bringing about change.

Our advocacy work is driven by the needs and expressed aspirations of the communities we work with around the world. We seek to help the local organisations we support to influence policy around key issues that directly affect the quality of life of some of the world's most vulnerable people. This reflects our approach to development: Working with local people to find local solutions.

Education

We believe that it is essential to resource whole communities, smaller groups and individuals to do all they can to make a tangible difference in our world. The way we live our lives affects and is effected by the lives of our global neighbours in poorer communities. Together, we can help every personal fulfil their potential.

Sustainable Development

We are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals and to helping people in the UK understand the challenge they present for every country and community to create a more sustainable world.

We are a partner of End Poverty 2030 – a movement uniting the Church to end poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change.

Look at the **All We Can** website to see more details, video's of projects and ways of supporting their work. www.allwecan.org.uk



There will be envelopes in the pews on Sept 8th, 15th and 22nd for the annual collection for All We Can.

Sunrise and Sunset

There are two very special moments each day - sunrise and sunset. Let us focus on these for a moment. Take the sun's rising; having extinguished the stars, ever so slowly and gently, it eases itself over the rim of the world. Up, up it comes from the great beyond, scattering light and radiating heat to the earth. We are amazed at how large it appears. It is at its largest when it sits on the horizon, joining heaven and earth. It seems to pose there fleetingly before it starts to climb the sky and get on with the business of the day.

And take the sun's setting. Down, down it goes. Its rate of departure can be measured by the fading light and waning heat. As it retreats, it appears to grow in size once more and is again at its largest when it meets the horizon. As at its coming, so at its going, it seems to pose briefly on the edge of the world. Then, re-lighting the stars, it slips slowly and silently away into the great beyond from whence it came.

Just as sunrise and sunset are very special moments in the day, so birth and death are very special moments in the life of a human being. At these moments, we realise that a person is absolutely unique. At birth, something comes into being that never was before. At death, something passes away that will never be on earth again.

People seem larger to us at these two moments, when we get a glimpse of their true worth and their gifts. There is something sacred about birth and death. Heaven and earth are joined together. Each person is a mystery; each person is a gift from God.

A meditation by Deacon Angie Allport

Toothy grin



Whilst working for an organisation that delivers lunches to the elderly, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs.

One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

Methodist Conference 2019

A new set of principles outlining the qualities of good relationships has been commended by the Methodist Conference for prayerful discussion and response across the Church over the next year.



The report, “God in Love Unites Us”, makes a number of proposals, including:

- principles or qualities of good relating
- an understanding of cohabitation
- to allow same-sex couples to marry in Methodist churches
- providing resources and liturgies to celebrate civil partnerships
- prayers for when marriages end in divorce

The debate, which took place on Monday 1 July and Wednesday 3 July 2019 at the annual Methodist Conference held this year in Birmingham, passed a series of provisional resolutions on the proposals set out in the Report. After District Synods have had the opportunity to consider the proposals, final resolutions will be voted on at the Conference in 2020.

The **Revd Dr Barbara Glasson**, President of the Conference who presided over the debates, said:

“The debate was full of grace and prayerful thought. There were many personal, often painful, stories shared and representatives listened with great care and attention.

“My prayer is that this spirit of generosity and love shown today will be reflected as the proposals are discussed across the Church.”

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God’s love; and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God’s love.

The Turning – 21st September

The Turning' is a movement that is galvanizing Churches across the UK to take the good news of Jesus to the streets of our towns and cities. The Turning Mission to London will be launched on 21st September at Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6BS with keynote speakers **Pastor Bill Johnson (Bethel Church, Redding, California)** and **Pastor Yinka Oyekan (The Gate Church, Reading, UK)**.

Registration starts at 9.15am and the event will begin at 10.00am and finish at 8.30pm with breaks for lunch and dinner. There will be an opportunity for an hours' outreach on the streets around Westminster to share the Gospel and see people respond.

The cost for the day is £30 (lunch and dinner not provided). You can sign up for tickets on **Eventbrite**.

You can find out more about The Turning by going to
<http://theturning.eu/london/>



Fire Safety in the Home



Are you concerned about fire safety in your home? Did you know that the London Fire Brigade will fit smoke alarms for you free of charge? Fitting smoke alarms is a good way of helping you to keep safe in the event of a fire in your home – sadly there have been horrific cases of people dying in their homes in Ealing often within the older community.

If you, or someone you know would like to take up the offer, please contact Jessica Pittam by e-mail at

WAMailbox-.faith@met.police.uk or call her on 07884 114 941.

Or Visit <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/>



The Messenger is now a Watch Member on the OWL mailing list. From time to time we will print on our pages useful information, such as the item below, that has come from OWL. It is hoped that this information will help you and your families to be a little more secure.

Theft from Motor Vehicle

Dear Watch Member,

We have received numerous reports about thefts from motor vehicles from across all of Ealing.

This crime is opportunistic! It can be controlled and it can even be avoided by adopting two very simple steps.

These steps will protect your vehicle and your property.

1/ Before leaving your car, ensure that all doors and windows have been closed and properly locked. Then do a manual check, don't simply rely on pressing the car fob.

2/ Do not leave anything in the car or in the car boot. No change, no spectacles, not even an empty shopping bag on display.

Even if you think it is "safe" to hide something in the boot, it is not. When electronic devices have been left in car boots, the car was broken into simply because the criminals used the wifi on their smartphone to detect the signal coming from the item apparently "hidden" in the boot.

Some members of the public have asked whether those criminals have special devices to open the car doors. Cloning technology devices, used to steal vehicles, are extremely expensive and most certainly out of the reach of the typical opportunistic criminal who is roaming the streets looking in cars by chance and often is an addict after a fix.

One person has been spotted trying car door handles in various parts of South Ealing and most recently discovered by the owners, inside their car having left the car door open for only 1-2 minutes.

Don't leave the car open if unattended.

Reporting this type of crime is very important. You can easily do so online on the Met Police website or on twitter by direct messaging @MetCC.

Finally, please don't hesitate to report any suspicious activities or individuals immediately to 999.

C of E and Methodists inch closer to communion with each other

The C of E-General Synod has recently given its backing to further steps towards bringing the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain into communion with each other.

Members voted in favour of starting work on drafting a series of texts including a formal declaration of a new relationship of communion between the two churches.

The texts would include inaugural services to mark this new relationship and practical guidelines on how ministers from each church could serve in the other.

The **Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth**, called the Methodist Church "our close historical cousin and covenant partner".

The **Revd Joyce Jones**, from the **Diocese of Leeds**, said: "Our unity is vital for our mission. If people see our two churches separately then they won't see Christ easily. If they see us loving one another and working together to serve Christ, they are more likely to be drawn to faith."



Little Emily was at her first wedding and gaped at the entire ceremony. When it was over, she asked her mother, "Why did the lady change her mind?" Her mother asked, "What do you mean?" Emily said, "Well, she went down the aisle with one man and came back with a different one."

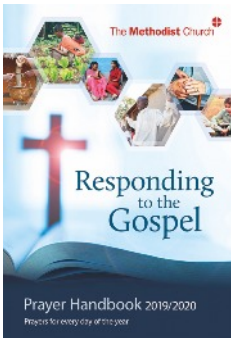


MHA Lecture

Everyone is invited to the inaugural Walter Hall Lecture given by the Rt Hon. Lord David Willetts on 23 October at 6.30pm at Central Methodist Hall, London.

The lecture will focus on the needs of older people and intergenerational responsibility.

Visit MHA's [website](#) or RSVP to chaplaincypa@mha.org.uk.



Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/2020:

Responding to the Gospel

Available August 2019 order your copies [now](#) £3.95

www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

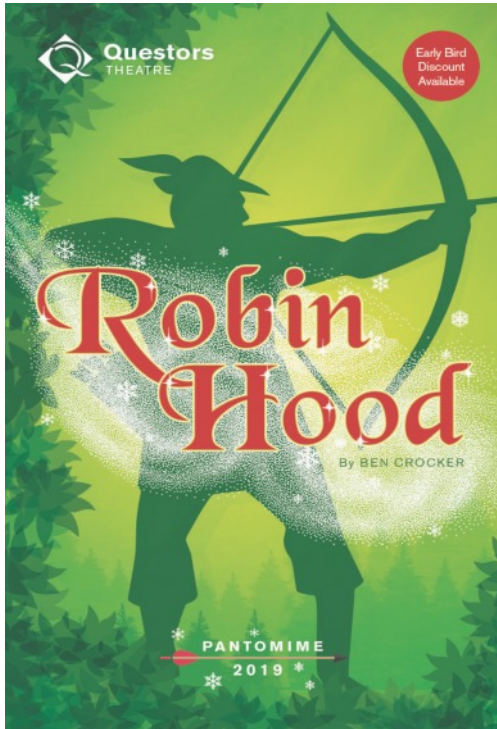
Presence

*Expecting Him, my door was open wide:
Then I looked round
If any lack of service might be found,
And saw Him at my side:
How entered, by what secret stair,
I know not, knowing only He was there.*

By TE Brown (1830 -97)

A politician thinks of the next election, but a statesman thinks of the next generation.

**13 to 31 December 2019 -
The Questors Present
Robin Hood by Ben Crocker**



The legend you know. The tale you don't.

Under the Great Oak in the heart of Sherwood Forest lies, Robin Hood, the finest archer in the land. Aided by sidekicks Friar Tuck and Little Joan, the notorious – yet charming – outlaw plots to steal from the rich to give to the poor!

When the man in green meets warm-hearted dame Maid Marion who is on the run from the Sheriff of Nottingham, can they escape his devious and cunning scheme to claim a fortune? Or will the wicked villain, beastly and cruel, capture them both in the One-doored Tower of Doom?

Join us this Christmas for a magical adventure in our fun, laugh-out-loud traditional family panto. Sing along and boo and hiss at the horrible sheriff – if you're brave enough!

Tickets to our panto are popular and sell out fast, so book early.

Early Bird tickets

From now until the end of September, discounted tickets for performances on Friday 13th to Thursday 19th December are £6 per child and £12 per adult .

**Box Office 020-8567 5184
BOOK ONLINE - www.Questors.org.uk**

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

- Mon 8.00 pm **Guides** (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 3 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** - A Bingo and Quiz Afternoon
- Wed 1-3 pm **Babies & Toddlers** (last this term - restarts 11 Sep)
- Thu 2.00 - 4.00 pm **CBSI UK Bible Studies** in Foyer (weekly)
- Fri **BOYS BRIGADE** 6.30-7.30pm Anchor Boys, 6.30-8.00 pm Junior Section, 7.30-10.00 pm Company Section. (Every week during term time)

Sat/Sun 7/8 Ealing Trinity Circuit: 21st Birthday Celebrations

- Sat 7 2.00 - 6.00 pm - Garden Party at 91 Elers Road W13 9QE
- Sun 8 4.00 pm - Circuit Confirmation Service at Acton Hill
- Sat 14 10.00 am-12.30 pm **BOOK FAIR** with various stalls, in aid of **ALL WE CAN** (see pp. 16 & 17)
- Tue 17 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** - Dave entertains us
- Tue 17 8.00 pm - **Finance Committee**
- Wed 18 7.30 pm - **Mission & Outreach Committee**
- Tue 24 7.30 pm - **Church Council**
- Sun 28 **Christian Aid Richmond riverside sponsored walk**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2019

- Tue 1 8 pm - **Property Committee**
- Sat 5 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Greenford International Evening
(See p.18 for details)

NOVEMBER

- Sat 2 Book Fair in aid of Methodist Homes - cakes and bric a brac