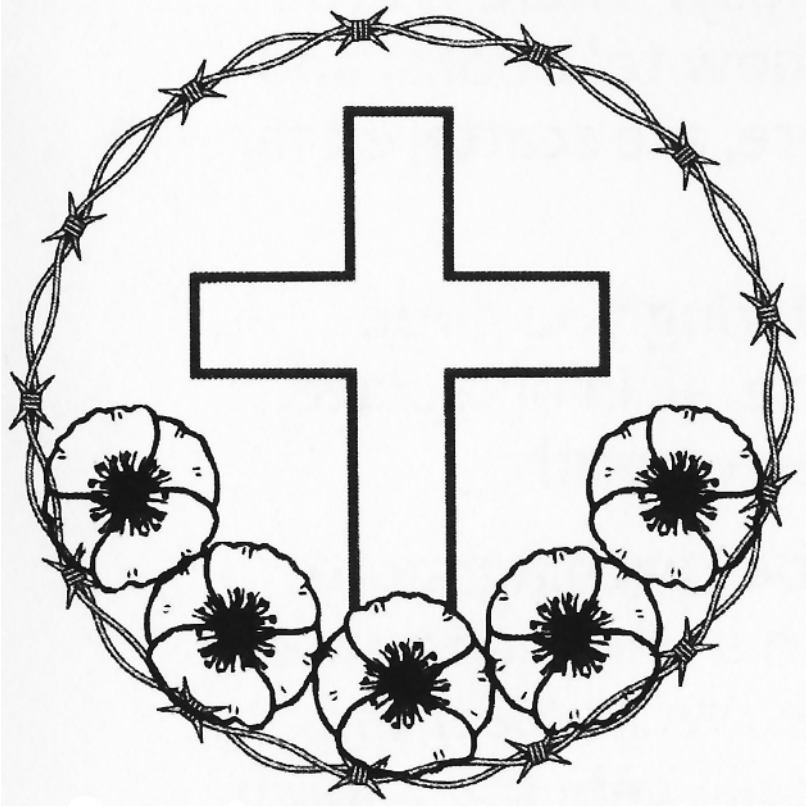




KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



November 2019

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2019



Nov

3 Nov 10.30 Mrs Esther Ackah

10 Nov 10.30 Rev Susan Male, Family/Parade Service

17 Nov 10.30 Rev Susan Male, Holy Communion

24 Nov 10.30 Ms Christina Dinham



8 Dec 10.30 Rev Susan Male, 60th Anniversary/Thanksgiving Service

Prayer for leaders

Lead our leaders, God of wisdom
guide them past the lure of power or self importance
keep their eyes focused on the well being of all people,
give them courage to tell the truth,
empathy to listen
and enduring compassion for the voiceless.
When the paths of our opinions diverge,
the way seems treacherous or our criticism destructive then,
for heaven's sake,
call us all to account, to apology and to compassion
so that together we can be people of hope, truth, kindness
and justice.

President and Vice President of Conference

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER

Copy deadline for the October issue is Friday 22 November 2019

Editors - Pam and Alan Smith

E-mail: magazine@kingsdownmethodist.org.uk





Dear Friends at Kingsdown

October

It has been a very busy month!



Harvest. We followed our preaching series on RUTH with a Harvest Festival Service about the effects of climate change on weather patterns in Ethiopia, which was spoiling harvests, leaving people hungry, and causing them to migrate. We learned how “All We Can” were trying to help the people living in Ethiopian towns to find solutions, by introducing foods that would grow in the changed conditions, thus enabling them to learn how to flourish again in their hometowns. We were also reminded of our own complicity in causing climate change, asked to travel less air miles, eat less meat, and take other measures to decrease our own carbon footprints, and to lobby Government to make the big changes necessary.

Sukkot. On Oct 11 we followed our own Harvest Festival by attending the Jewish one – Sukkot – at Ealing Liberal Synagogue. Twenty-One of us attended. We participated in building a booth (or tabernacle), used at harvest time. It was raining, and some of us were reluctant to go outside, which led to reflection on the homeless in our city who would be pleased to have the coarse shelter of the booth. We also looked at the concept of “Jubilee” which occurred every 50 years in Old Testament times ... a time when land was returned to its original owner, slaves were free and people let off debts ... creating equality and fairness for future generations.

We looked at the ways we tried to help to bring justice to others through our two communities. More significant than any of this though we simply talked with one another .. about faith, and about life, and got to know each other a little. We hope to invite members of the synagogue back to Kingsdown next year .. perhaps for Wesley Day on 24 May.

Christian Aid Quiz. A week later 19 Oct 51 people had a great time at our Christian Aid fundraising Quiz. Somehow, the Pitshanger team seemed to beat Ealing Green and Kingsdown teams, although only by a whisker. We will have to have a re-run next year to put that right! We raised £320 towards the £1300 total which Ealing Green and Kingsdown have agreed to raise between them. We will be holding a Comedy Day at Ealing Green on 15 Feb, and on June 14th (4pm) The Harrow Apollo

Male Choir will be holding a concert for us at Ealing Green. Put that date in your diaries, it is not to be missed!

Thanks to all who helped make these events a success.

November

November promises to be equally busy!

Remembrance. On 10 November we will hold our annual Remembrance day Service with the Boys Brigade,

New Bible Study. On November 15th our new Bible study series will start – being held at Kingsdown for people from Ealing Green Church as well. Here is a reminder of the first three sessions:

Session 1 - 15 November 10-11.30 AM

Why do you come to church? An exploration of what church is for and why we come?

Session 2 - 29 November 10-11.30 AM

What Bible passage is special/important to you and why? A time for sharing our most valued Bible passages

Session 3 - 13 December 10-11.30 AM

What is prayer? An exploration but come prepared to share what helps you to be with God.

Planning for the Spring Term

All our welcome. Bring your friends!

Third Tuesday Lunchtime Worship. Another new initiative has been started at Ealing Green, again for both churches. We have begun a half hour worship service on the THIRD Tuesday of each month at 12.45 pm. This includes a time to light candles for your own personal intercessions. The next one is on Tuesday 19th Nov 12.45 pm Ealing Green.

Christian/Sikh Relations – Creative Conversations Project. This continues 20 Nov, when we will meet at the Gurdwara to decide on the craft project we wish to embark on. This is still open to other women who would like to be involved. We would really welcome you to join the group which aims to become a group of friends from different faiths, doing something creative together to express ourselves as “women of faith”. Please just talk to me if you are interested. You will be joining a group of about 10, of which half are Methodists. This will be a great opportunity for personal, and church growth.

Sale. On Saturday 23 Nov there will be a sale at Ealing Green in aid of Christian Aid. More info will follow.

... and then Christmas. Publicity will follow.

Please get involved ... these are our ways to get to know God (and each other) better.

With Blessings

Sue

Family News

Evelyn Miriam Sangster was born on December 5th 1931 in Brentford to Thames waterman Lionel Harry Sangster and his wife Annie (nee Woodman). Evelyn was the eighth of thirteen children and named after an aunt, Evelyn Cecilia. A younger sister of Evelyn, Adria, died at a year old. Lionel and Annie were married in 1921 at St Faith's Church, Brentford and Evelyn lived all her life in Brentford.



She led a busy life despite being blind in one eye and having cataracts in the other. She had a responsible job in the Gas Board and also looked after her mother till Annie's death in 1979, her father having died in 1957.

Evelyn was a regular attendee at the South Ealing Mission Church until it closed, after which she transferred to Kingsdown.

Although she never married and had children she took a close interest in the lives of her siblings and their families. She lived for some time at Mayo Court, Northcroft Road, but after a series of falls she had to move to a care home, Lynwood Court near Ascot in November 2018. She died there in the early hours of Monday October 21st at the age of 87.

Evelyn's funeral will be at Easthampstead Crematorium, Bracknell at 13.30pm on Tuesday November 5th when donations will be taken for 'Smile', the cleft palate charity. She was an inspiration to us all and will be sadly missed.

Olwen Britton

Our sincere condolences to the **Rev Rachel Bending** and family on the recent death of her father.

Adeline Elvin is now home following her spell in hospital. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Its good to see **Doreen Winston** back with us again (and even managing to get to the recently held quiz with her daughter Susan).

Sybil Corbin has been trying to run before she can walk and has to keep her boot on for a further fortnight, but it doesn't stop her getting to church and keeping her bright smile.

Pam and Alan Smith thank the church family for its kind presentation of a Diamond Anniversary rose to mark their celebration of this rather special occasion; and for all the individual cards and good wishes received which were much appreciated. (Pam has been pleased too with all the get-well cards and kind enquiries following her recent spell in hospital.)



Nativity Sets display

As Christmas is fast approaching, we are requesting the help of volunteers to set up displays of the "Nativity Sets" in the Church on **Saturday 7th December**.



We will be celebrating Kingsdown 60th anniversary and thanksgiving service on the 8th December. Following this children and their teachers from the surrounding schools will visit the church from the 9th December to see the displays and learn about the baby Jesus.



If you could spare sometime during the week to come and support the visits and our minister Rev. Sue Male, there is a list pinned on the notice board where you can put you name in the available slots.

Sybil Corbin

Evening Bible Studies at the Manse from Wednesday 13th November



These Wednesday evening Bible Studies, led by Phil and Sue Male, will continue on 13 November, 11 December, 8 January, 12 February, 11 March and 1 April 2020, looking at Judges, the Psalms, and more.

New Bible Study/Fellowship Group from Friday 15th November



Thank you to all of those who got back to me about preferred days for Fellowship and Bible Study. The day that seems to work best is Friday mornings from 10-11.30am. The First Three Sessions will be introductory, as people in the group get to know one another better. The aim of the group will be to help us to explore Discipleship and our relationships with God – through Bible Study, prayer, and reflection on the world, current affairs, and our part in it all as Christians.

Session 1 -15 November 10-11.30am

Why do you come to church?

An exploration of what church is for and why we come?

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What Bible passage is special/important to you and why?

A time for sharing our most valued Bible passages

Session 3 - 13 December 10-11.30am

What is prayer?

An exploration, but come prepared to share what helps you to be with God.

Planning for the Spring Term

WE WILL HOLD THE FIRST SESSION AT KINGSDOWN CHURCH. I will bring a plan with me on that day so that if people are willing to offer their homes to host sessions we could add that to the plan. It would be enormously helpful to know if you are able to commit to this. I can then let you know the Fridays we will meet for the rest of the Methodist Year.

Ealing Foodbank update



According to a recent communication to volunteers from the Ealing Foodbank over 8,000 people have been fed in the last seven months so, whilst many of the cafes seem to be a little quieter than previous months, especially the summer, the Foodbank has been busier than last year when it fed 5458 in the same period. Southall and Acton continue to be the busiest café distribution points.

In addition to the usual volunteering opportunities at the cafes and warehouse, the Foodbank is also interested in recruiting volunteer drivers to help with collection/delivery; triage volunteers to support the Crisis Navigators from the 'Help through Crisis Scheme' who visit the cafes to provide guidance to clients on appropriate services and benefits that they may be eligible for; volunteers to help with the admin liaising with referral partners (the charitable and social services agencies that refer clients to the Foodbank), and volunteers who can help publicise the Ealing Foodbank on Social Media. For more information on these volunteering opportunities, please contact info@ealing.foodbank.org.uk or tel 020 8840 9428.

At several volunteer gatherings recently the Ealing Foodbank's Vision, Mission and Values were discussed with the greatest support affirmed for the following -

- To provide emergency food
- To sign-post to other services and agencies to help resolve the crisis
- To provide services in an environment of welcome, love and respect
- To help recover dignity and regain independence
- To maintain our Christian values by working in partnership with local churches.



Sue Barton

I take it that the local Supermarket had a rather good offer on tinned peas!!



Visit to West Ealing Liberal Synagogue

On Saturday 12th October a small group of the Kingsdown Church family visited the synagogue and joined with their congregation in decorating the Succah as part of their Sukkot Celebrations.



A 'Succah' is a temporary hut constructed for use during the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot. It is topped with branches and often well decorated with autumnal, harvest or Judaic themes. According to rabbinic tradition, these tent-like structures represent the huts in which the Israelites dwelt during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after escaping from slavery.



Back inside Bill Glassman showed us the The Ark and the Torah (scrolls) kept in the Ark and explained that they contained the text of the Hebrew Bible and are read from during services.

The Ark is named after the wooden chest which held the stone tablets of the Covenant that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.



A vegetarian buffet lunch was served during which



Rabbi Janet Burden showed us some palms and other elements important at Sukkot time.

A very interesting visit and insight into another religion's way of belief in God. Many thanks to Bill Glassman for making the arrangements for this visit..



10th Ealing Boys' Brigade



10th Ealing Boys' Brigade at Kingsdown has made a fine start to the new school year with strong and smart attendance in all four age-groups (Anchors, Juniors, Company, Seniors).



We kicked off September with a well-attended viewing of our Summer Camp Video which proved very popular, especially with the parents who could see what their little angels got up to down in Swanage for a week. The high-school age Boys quickly settled into their routine of military drill, marching band, gymnastics, sport and badge-work. Our final meeting of the half-term also

welcomed a special lesson for this age-group as we gave a seminar in "The Law and Young People" led by 10th Ealing Old-Boy and member of the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr Darren Watts. We have become increasingly concerned about the rise in knife crime and also in the dangers of digital technology, and Darren kindly volunteered to talk to the Boys about these tough topics.

The younger Boys have enjoyed their usual round of games, sports, Bible stories and team-building activities. 10th Ealing has agreed to host the 2020 Battalion Drill Competition for all BB age-groups in March so we've been brushing up on our lads' marching skills too to make sure we put on a good show (and hopefully retain our



hard-won trophies).



We have also taken on a team of volunteers from the Company and Senior Sections to work with the Anchors and Juniors. This is an old 10th Ealing tradition and is a wonderful way of training up the next generation of leaders.

Given the option of two Church Parades between September and Christmas, we elected to forego the Harvest service to ensure the BB was well-represented at Remembrance (November) and the 60th Anniversary (December). We have sent out invitations to all ex-BB members with regard to both of these services and we would encourage all of the church family to do likewise with their old friends.



Half-a-dozen of our Boys moved away from Ealing over the summer so we now have a handful of vacancies in the Anchors and Juniors. If you know of any Boys who might enjoy having a new adventure every Friday night then please do invite them as soon as possible before the spaces are filled.

We are most grateful for the church family for their unceasing support and prayers.

Tony Plews

C **HURCH FLOWERS** You may have noticed that we now have a beautiful display of artificial flowers at the front of the church which have been much admired.



Previously people have given donations towards the cost of flowers and if you would like to continue supporting the flower fund in this way you are invited to contribute to another artificial display. However, if you would prefer to buy and personally arrange real flowers one week please feel free to do so

Please give any donations towards artificial flowers to Derek Matthews, the Church Treasurer.

Hazel Pennels



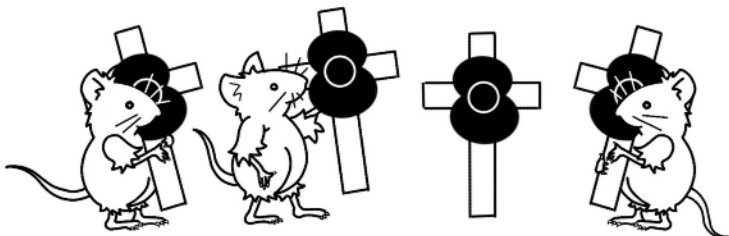
Remembrance Sunday

It was 100 years ago, on 11th November 1919, that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK. King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The two-minute silence was in fact adopted from a South African idea that had spread from Cape Town through the Commonwealth in 1919. The first minute was dedicated to those who died in the war, and the second to those left behind – families affected by bereavement and other effects of the conflict.

The Cenotaph was erected temporarily in Whitehall for a peace parade for Armistice Day in 1920. After a tremendous nationwide response, it became a permanent structure, and in the following years war memorials were created in other British towns and cities.

In 1939, the two-minute silence of Armistice Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11th November, so that it would not conflict with wartime production. This tradition continued after World War II – Remembrance Sunday is still marked with a national service, and by special services in most churches throughout the country and beyond. Americans mark Veterans Day instead.





Schoolgirls in 1918 were warned that they might never be married. So many prospective husbands had been killed in World War 1, that their chances could be slim. It's hard for us to imagine the slaughter. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people, ending only when the Armistice took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

The idea of a 'Two Minute Silence' originated in South Africa. The first minute was to be a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned alive, and the second minute was to remember the fallen. It was taken up by King George V, writing, "it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities."

It had an immediate impact. An observer wrote, "The whole World Stands to Attention. From the Indian jungles to Alaska, on the trains, on the ships at sea, in every part of the globe where a few British were gathered together, the Two-Minute pause was observed."

The Great War was said to be 'the war to end all wars'. But it wasn't. About three per cent of the world population were to die in World War 2. Today's 11th November commemoration, repeated on the nearest Sunday, now incorporates all wars.

The Royal British Legion describes the Act of Remembrance as a deeply personal act available to everyone, acknowledging the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces and their families, across all conflicts.

In keeping the Two Minute Silence, many will long for the day when, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. – Winston Churchill

Harvest Service 6th Oct



CIRCUIT'S CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL



The Circuit has undertaken to raise £5,000 for a project to provide education and support in Iraq and Lebanon; for every £1 we raise Christian Aid will be given another £6 (by Bread for the World) and this will need to be with Christian Aid by 31 December **2020**.

As a combined effort with Ealing Green to organize an event to make a start on fund-raising, Kath Jarrett and Jill Richardson helped organize a combined Quiz Evening (with a fish and chip supper - always popular!). If you were there, you will have seen that it proved a popular crowd-puller and Kingsdown's hall hosted over 50 people on that occasion.

Rev Sue and Phil Male were responsible for the quiz questions and the whole evening was well organized and most enjoyable.

Thanks and 'well done' o all those involved in helping to make this event run so smoothly, raising a creditable total of £320.



BOOK FAIR AND HARVEST COLLECTION

The Book Fair on 14 September in aid of this charity, with Bric a Brac and Cake Stalls, raised £287.50 The pew collections for the Harvest 'Deepen Your Roots' appeal raised £336.00. With some ongoing donations of £103.05 the total raised for All We Can this autumn was **£726.55**.

A very good sum that will help to improve the lives of some of the poorest people in this world. Many thanks to all those who helped to contribute to this sum in any way.

Alan Smith
AWC Co-Orciinator

**Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and
wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.**
William Penn

Extraordinary Gifts from All We Can



Practical gifts that help people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can.

From providing a child in Uganda with a bicycle to get to and from school, to ensuring that a family in Zimbabwe has clean water to drink– you will find gifts to capture the hearts and imaginations of your loved ones and make a world of difference to a family in need this Christmas.

With every Extraordinary Gift, you will receive a card to pass on to your loved one, showing them the kind of difference their gift could make.



£10 could help a family like Asefa's (pictured) in Ethiopia to set up their own honeyselling business. This gift could provide families with training in bee-keeping, helping them to develop a sustainable source of income. What an un-bee-lievable gift!



£15 could provide 15 chickens to kick-start a business, helping vulnerable families in Zimbabwe to build a livelihood that will enable them to pay for healthcare and their children's education.



A refreshing offer of two Precious water gifts for **£15** means you will be making an even bigger splash!

This special offer provides you with two cards to send to your family and friends.



£16 could help two women like Nora (pictured) in Zimbabwe, providing each with a watering can, garden fork and hoe to start growing vegetables. These tools enable families to grow more food for a nutritious diet and an income they can depend on.



Flush poverty away! **£36** could help a vulnerable family in Zimbabwe to build a toilet, helping to protect them from deadly diseases.

Everyone deserves a safe and convenient toilet to protect their families from diseases such as cholera, which prove particularly deadly to those most vulnerable – children and the elderly.



£18 could provide a family like Fikerte's (pictured) in Ethiopia with potato seeds – ensuring healthy harvests to help beat hunger. Climate change is making it harder for families like Fikerte's to grow their own food. All We Can is providing potatoes, a crop which can cope with the changing weather.



£12 could save the lives of vulnerable children, by supplying a family in Ethiopia with a stove.

Traditionally, families cook on open fires inside their homes, meaning that children get sick from inhaling toxic smoke. These safe stoves channel smoke outside, allowing families to cook and eat without the threat of poisonous fumes.



£66 could provide a secondary school child in Uganda with a bicycle, ensuring that they can make the (often very long) journey to and from school quickly, easily and safely.

With less time walking, the children can spend more time on other things like learning – helping them to fulfil their God-given potential.

**You can help by giving an Extraordinary Gift this Christmas
Take a Catalogue from the Church Foyer or go on line to:**

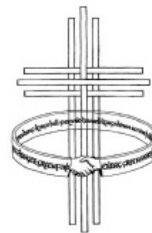
<https://allwecan.org.uk/christmas>

or call 020 7224 4814 and select from the range

Copy of letter recently read out at Morning Service - for your information

THE METHODIST CHURCH - Ealing Trinity Circuit

19th September 2019



Dear Friends,

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that the Rev'd Yemi Jaiyesimi has asked for permission to leave our Circuit in July 2020. This is one year earlier than scheduled and will give him the opportunity to stay in his next post for a more appropriate period of time before he retires. The Circuit Invitations Committee has prayerfully decided to agree to his request. Yemi has been a valued member of the Circuit and there will be opportunities to give thanks for his ministry in July. In the meantime, we look forward to working together with him to further the Kingdom of God in this Circuit. I'm sure you will hold Yemi and his family in your prayers as they go through the stationing process.

This obviously leaves us questions as a Circuit about our future ministry. The leadership team had already begun thinking about what would happen when Yemi and Shirlyn were due to leave in July 2021. We now have to speed up our considerations. It seems unlikely that we would be sent a minister when Yemi leaves as we are incredibly well staffed in comparison to other circuits. In addition to this, we are spending far more than our income at present and so need to reduce our expenditure. As a result of these considerations we have decided not to seek another presbyter at this time.

Over the coming months the staff and Circuit Stewards will discuss the possibilities for next year and make a proposal to the Circuit Meeting as to how we will be structured in future. In doing so we will take into account the needs of all our churches and our work as a Circuit. This is a Kairos moment that gives us a chance to think and pray about where God is calling us, our hopes, dreams and visions. This is something we want to do carefully and prayerfully rather than jumping to quick solutions. Please pray for us as we seek God's will through this process.

Next July will be a time of goodbyes. As well as giving thanks for Yemi's ministry and wishing him well we will also be saying goodbye to Deacon Lemia. After 6 years in the Circuit Lemia feels that she has come to a natural end point and that it is a good time for a new deacon to come and move the

work she has started forward. The Circuit is therefore seeking a new deacon to begin working with us on 1st September 2020. We have an exciting profile of work and are hopeful that we will be sent a deacon who will be a valued part of our team, as Lemia has been. Again, I'm sure you will hold Lemia in your prayers as she goes through the stationing process to discover where she will be next sent.

Friends, as we go forward we do so in faith, knowing that the future, although unknown to us is known by God. We are held in the palm of God's hand. I am convinced that God has great plans for us as we work for Go

With love, prayers and blessings
Rev'd Rachel Bending
Superintendent Minister

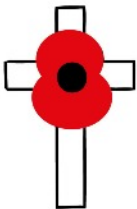
IN FLANDERS FIELDS



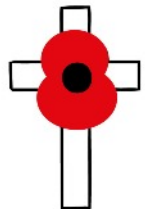
*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*



*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*



*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD,
Canadian Army (1872-1918)

London District Conference 2020

'Woven' Conference

10th - 12th July 2020



We are inherently story-tellers. Sharing stories is how we live, laugh and cry, it's how we connect authentically with community and how we see depth in relationship. "Woven" speaks to that part of us: reminding us that we've been brought by grace into God's great story and woven mercifully into His narrative. It also reminds us of Jesus' call to evangelism and discipleship, thus interweaving our lives with communities around us, so that they too may experience and share God's story. The project wants to see increased confidence and ownership of the beautiful weaving of our stories into God's story in the District; and to see that story shared confidently within and beyond our church walls, until it impacts every story.

As part of this project you are warmly invited to attend the London District Conference in July of 2020.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Elaine Heath, former Dean of the Divinity School of Duke University and Co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation.

To book places, go to <http://methodistlondon.org.uk/wovenconference>.

'Early bird' rates apply until 29th November. Places cost: adults (age 17+) £50 early bird, £60 normal; children (ages 6 – 16) £25 early bird, £30 normal and under 5's free.

SEEN IN A NORTH YORKSHIRE CHURCH

WELCOME TO
BEWERLEY GRANGE CHAPEL.
WE WELCOME YOU IF YOU GOT LOST IN
TRAFFIC AND WOUND UP HERE BY MISTAKE.
WE WELCOME TOURISTS, SEEKERS,
DOUBTERS AND BLEEDING HEARTS.
WE WELCOME ANYONE NEEDING A BIT OF
PEACE AND QUIET
AND
WE OFFER A SPECIAL WELCOME
TO THOSE WHO COULD USE A PRAYER RIGHT NOW.

6th November - Illtud – patron saint of NGOs?

Not many people have heard of Illtud, but perhaps we should make him the patron saint of all Christian NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) who work in emergency and famine relief.

Illtud did not set out to be an action hero – he was a gentle and learned abbot heading up a monastery in Glamorgan. Illtud spent his days reading the Scriptures and philosophy. Yet the year that famine struck the coast of Brittany, Illtud put down his parchments and became a man of action.

Illtud issued what must have been one of the earliest ‘emergency relief appeals’, and was able to collect a great deal of corn. Illtud loaded this corn onto several small ships, and set off across the perilous Channel in order to save the people of Brittany. Perhaps he had in mind the words of Christ: “I was hungry and you fed me...” (Matthew 25:35)

Certainly, the people of Brittany never forgot Illtud’s kindness towards them: even today some Breton churches and villages bear his name. Many churches in Wales are also dedicated to this compassionate man.



The Berlin Wall fell 30 years ago this month, on 9th November 1989. East Germany reopened its border with West Germany, allowing its citizens to pass freely through the checkpoints. Workers began demolishing the 28-year-old wall the next day.

Earlier that year serious unrest in Eastern Bloc countries such as Poland and Hungary had put pressure on the East German government, which had also been dealing with demands from its own citizens, led by a determined ‘swords into ploughshares’ church movement for peace.

The wall was relatively low but heavily fortified, separating the democratic Western countries and the Communist countries of Eastern Europe throughout the Cold War. East German border guards were authorised to shoot anyone attempting to escape into West Berlin. More than 100 people died in that way, but hundreds more were killed trying to cross at other border points.

German reunification took place formally on 3rd October 1990.

UK has lost its 'Measles-Free' Status with the WHO

It was with some dismay, that I saw in the news last week, that the UK has lost its status as a 'Measle-Free' country with the World Health Organisation (WHO) three years after the virus was eliminated from the country. The UK received this accolade in 2016.

The measles vaccination has been made available to all children since 1968 and the vaccine was later combined with immunisation against mumps and rubella (MMR), introduced in 1988 and given to infants.

Before the 60's, most children throughout the world have had this infectious disease, of which there must have been, an unquantified number, who had complications. These would have included inflammation of the brain, encephalitis, resulting in life long, deleterious effects.

More recently, it has been in the news that those young people in the UK, who suffered complications after having the disease, were never immunised! More startling is the stated fact that, there were more than **230 cases** of **measles** reported in the **UK**, during the first quarter of 2019, which is unusually high and a cause for concern..

Because of the lost Measles-Free status, the UK Government is now pressing for urgent action to improve the uptake of this vaccine by children and young adults if they have not been immunised previously against the disease.

I consider that parents and young adults need to give due regard to the statistics, which reveal, that since measles immunisation was introduced in the UK in 1968, an estimated 20 million cases of measles and 4,500 deaths have been averted. This has been an incredible feat despite some children not receiving the vaccination. Among these are those who have followed the advice of a small lobby, who have been vocal in their opposition to the vaccination programme, for a number of reasons they attest.

My interest and concern stems from being disappointed about the UK loss of 'Measles-Free status'.

This is because of the hard work that was done in the 1960's by the researchers, clinic doctors, and 'foot soldiers'; including practising health visitors, like myself, who were involved in the Medical Research Council (MRC) programme of research at that time.

Not to mention those parents, who gave their consent during the trials.

All of which provided the evidence to produce an effective vaccine. The result of this coordinated approach led to the UK-wide introduction of the immunisation programme against the disease, in 1968.

If I remember rightly, during the clinical trials, parents who gave their consent to clinic doctors and health visitors were carefully prepared by clinic doctors and health visitors, who furnished them with relevant information and answered their questions, beforehand. Thus, those children, who had any medical contraindications, were excluded. The infants were grouped: - one group was the control and were not given any vaccination, whilst another group, was given an attenuated dose {where the virus effects were lessened but not eliminated). All groups in the study, were followed up, over a number of months during the trials.

During the trials, safeguards were put in place, such as storage of the vaccine in a fridge at the correct advised temperature, and taking careful note of the expiry date for every batch of the vaccine, before the vaccine was administered. Most importantly, parents of children taking part in the study had open

access to health visitors should they have any matters of concern.

The results were then recorded on Special Forms and sent back to the MRC for analysis. The positive results, led to the decision, to offer immunization against measles since 1968 and the safety protocols noted above were to be implemented.

Whilst writing about this, I would like to share a piece of the advice that I used to give to my health visitor students, in my subsequent role as Lecturer:- to advise parents, to keep in a safe place, their child's Health Record, including their immunisation programme, which, could be given to their children, when they left home!. This is an important document that could make it easier for medical staff to properly treat their patients.

So, you can imagine, how disappointed I am, as a retired health visitor who played an active role in bringing the measles vaccination into being, about this news! I hope that Parents, will consider having their children immunised, if they have not done so before and that the UK can return to its' Herd Immunity' status, ere long!

Blossom Jackson

I will be putting a copy of the immunisation program on the Notice Board for anyone interested.

Refugees The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented **70.8 million** people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2018.

Among them are nearly 30 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also millions of stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

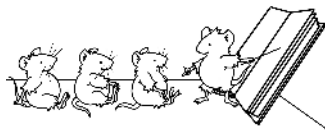
from an UNHCR report

Potholes now deeper

If you hate potholes, here is a statistic that will give you grim satisfaction: the combined depth of potholes in England is now 15 times that of the lowest point in the Grand Canyon. Plus, a new pothole is reported every 43 seconds.

In all, nearly 700,000 potholes were reported on the highways over the past year. That is a 13 per cent increase on the previous year, according to data obtained by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). As most local authorities define a pothole as any dip in the road surface that is 40mm deep or more, that means that the combined depth of the past year's potholes would reach 28km. This is 15 times deeper than the Grand Canyon, and three times the height of Mount Everest.

No wonder that last year more than £1.9million was paid as compensation to motorists whose vehicles had been damaged by a pothole.



The Powers that Be - from Romans 13:1 (KJV). "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."



We owls, we work at night
And sleep throughout the day,
Our sleep is only light
Because of others' ways!

Our hearing is acute
We hear a mouse's rustle
What really does not suit
Is all this rush and bustle.

The cars that roar and beep
The neighbour's motor mower
We poor old owls can't sleep
It sounds like Krakatoa!

You'll often hear us call
In our characteristic way,
We don't sound glad at all
Especially at midday!

We know your lives are fraught
With all those roars and growls,
But kindly spare a thought
For us poor sleepless owls!

By Nigel Beeton

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones.

"What are you doing?" he asked her.

"I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



3rd

Winter Craft Market

Saturday 23rd November 2019

10:00am - 3:00pm

Hanwell Methodist Church

Church Road, Hanwell, London W7 1DJ

Over 25
stalls

Wide range
of quality crafts

Shop early
for Christmas

Gifts for everybody

- ❖ Hats, bags, scarves
 - ❖ Jewellery
 - ❖ Baby accessories
 - ❖ Candles, homeware
 - ❖ Local honey
 - ❖ Paintings and prints
 - ❖ Decorative wood, glass, ceramics
- ... and much more

admission **FREE**

For more information please
contact Gill on (020) 8567 4018

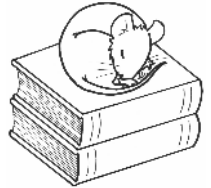
*Cakes, refreshments
and light lunches
also available*

For more information about Hanwell Methodist Church
please visit www.hanwellmethodistchurch.org

It was so fantastic.....

It was so fantastic what I dreamt last night.
I saw people from medicine and science, politicians and
social and welfare workers,
countless men and women who said they were working for
our betterment,
who were for the poor, the deprived, the refugee, the outcast,
come together with a light in their eye
and strong strides of purpose in their walk;
they held their hands high in sheer joy,
they exulted in seeing so many of their kind for people,
they unashamedly wept for joy;
they believed Your kingdom has come.

It was so fantastic what I dreamt last night,
that all these peoples and others came together,
it was one total celebration,
it was a new commitment toward people being
formed,
a new era would now become possible.



Jesus, that was my dream;
I know I must learn to celebrate,
I must seek ways of celebrating Your great truths in music,
film, word, sound, dress, colour, shape, size.
May I continually seek Your will to do just that.

Tony Jasper



One evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother listened to her small son while he said his prayers and she then tucked him into bed. She was about to turn off the light when there was some loud thunder and, with a tremor in his voice, he said, "Mummy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The Mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "He's a big sissy."

Speed of



A well-known professor visited a college to talk about space and he finished his talk with a rather long explanation on the speed of light. The teacher was keen to show the professor how bright the students were, so he asked if anyone would like to ask a question about his talk. There was silence for half a minute until one boy, who was known to be much slower and less bright than the rest of the group, raised his hand. The teacher tried to ignore the boy, fearful that he would say something which was completely off the point. However, no other hands were raised, so the teacher asked the boy to go ahead with his question. He said, "Mr Professor, what's the speed of dark?" The professor was stumped and congratulated the boy on such a clever question.

If you want to explore more about the speed of dark look at <https://science.howstuffworks.com/dictionary/astronomy-terms/speed-of-darkness.htm>

SCAM WARNING

Scammers target members of the public with Amazon Prime scam

Action Fraud has received hundreds of reports of a scam where victims receive an automated phone call claiming they've been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription. The phone call informs people their personal details have been fraudulently used to subscribe to Amazon Prime, however, they can cancel the transaction by pressing 1. When victims do this, they are automatically connected to criminals posing as Amazon custom service representatives who remotely access their computer and steal their personal and financial details.

Never install any software as a result of a cold call. Unsolicited requests for remote access to our computer should always raise a red flag.

Always question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information. It's easy to feel embarrassed when faced with unexpected or complex conversations. But it's okay to stop the discussion if you do not feel in control of it.



Can YOU change a light bulb??



When it comes to DIY, some of us need more help than you might think. Last year Google was asked how to change a light bulb more than 30,000 times.

Other DIY jobs that drove people to Google were how to fix a dripping tap (422,000 times), and how to bleed a radiator (322,000 times). Safestyle, the home improvement company that carried out the research, said the Google is the 'go to' for millions of us who are baffled by DIY tasks.

NOV 1959 - M1 Opened

The first stretch of the M1 motorway opened 60 years ago this month, on 1st November 1959. The first motorway service station opened at the same time – Watford Gap, a rather successful attempt to confuse motorists, as it is not near the town of Watford, but close to an obscure Northamptonshire village of the same name.

Technically not the first piece of motorway in Britain – that was the Preston bypass, later part of the M6, which was built the previous year – the M1 was Britain's first full-length motorway, running from what is now Junction 5 (near the town of Watford) to the current Junction 18 (Crick).

The advent of motorways meant the end for town-to-town or church-to-church navigation over long distances, with an emphasis on ease of travel. Engineers who designed the road estimated that about 20,000 cars would use it each day, but the real figure today is closer to 140,000.



The M1 is now 193 miles long, from Staples Corner in London to Hook Moor, Leeds. It was completed 20 years ago, in 1999.

At first there were no speed limits, central reservations or lighting on motorways, but a temporary limit of 70mph was introduced in 1965, and this was soon made permanent.

Wonder and Worship

"I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea".

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to "pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation". His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White's book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there's even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone – from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation – could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree – especially in winter when it's easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, "Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them" (NIV).

**(White's book can be downloaded free at
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>)*

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2019

- Mon 8.00 pm **Guides** (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 5 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** - a talk by Janet Smith
- Wed 6 1-3 pm **Babies & Toddlers** (term time only)
- Fri 8 **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 9 10.30 am **Coffee Morning & Chat** in the Foyer - all welcome
- Wed 13 8.00 pm Phil Male's **Bible Study Group** at the Manse
- Fri 15 10.11.30 am Rev Susan Male's **Bible Study/Fellowship Gp** at Kingsdown
- Tue 19 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** -The Caroliners sing for us
- Sat 23 10.00 am-3.00 pm **Hanwell Methodist Church Winter Craft Market** with wide range of quality crafts
- Thu 28 19.30 Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at Kingsdown
- Fri 29 10.11.30 am Rev Susan Male's **Bible Study/Fellowship Gp**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec

- Sat 7 10.00 am Setting up of Nativities
- Wed 11 8.00 pm Phil Male's **Bible Study Group** at the Manse
- Fri 29 10.11.30 am Rev Susan Male's **Bible Study/Fellowship Gp**

Jan/Feb/Mar

- Tue 21 Jan 8.00 pm - Property Committee
- Mon 24 Feb 7.30 pm - Mission & Outreach Committee
- Tue 24 Mar 8.00 pm - Finance Committee