



KINGSDOWN MESSENGER



December 2019 - January 2020

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2019/ JANUARY 2020



Dec

- 1 Dec 10.30 am Local Arrangement
Worship Leader - Kathleen Loveridge
6.30 pm **CIRCUIT ADVENT CAROL/HEALING SERVICE**
led by Deacon Lemia Nkwelah
- 8 Dec 10.30 am **60th Anniversary/Thanksgiving Service**
Rev Sue Male,
- 15 Dec 10.30 am Mrs Regina Prempeh
6.00 pm **Carol Service**, Rev Sue Male,
- 22 Dec 10.30 am Holy Communion, Rev Sue Male
- 24 Dec 11.15 pm** **CHRISTMAS EVE**, Holy Communion
25 Dec 9.30 am **CHRISTMAS DAY**, Rev Sue Male
- 29 Dec **11.00 am** **CIRCUIT SERVICE, ACTON HILL**
Morning Worship
led by Rev Sue Male and Rev Shirlyn Toppin



Jan 2020

- 5 Jan 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Church Stewards
- 12 Jan 10.30 am **Covenant Service**, Holy Communion.
Rev Sue Male
- 19 Jan 10.30 am Morning Service, Rev Sue Male
4,00 pm **ECUMENICAL UNITED SERVICE**, Rev Sue Male
- 26 Jan 10.30 am Mrs Rekha Cheriyan



Feb

- 2 Feb** 10.30 am Rev Rachel Bending

The KINGSDOWN MESSENGER
Copy deadline for the February issue is Friday 24 January 2020

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Dear Friends,

I love Christmas as a minister. I love the long chain of reading the Christmas story to different groups of children, I love the candles and the Carols - both in church and in town centres. I love sharing Christmas time in church with you, and your families and friends. More than anything else, I love the peace and stillness of the Christmas Eve "midnight" service of Holy Communion to welcome baby Jesus, the "Christ -mass". I will end this letter with times and dates ...

I can also tell Christmas is coming though. Possibly it touches Ministers just a little earlier than others - though not as early as it does teachers. I am just beginning to feel that nagging anxiety of overload. My Spiritual Director encourages me to put just one occasion in my diary each week when I can attend worship because I simply want to, and when I can participate without leading. This is good for me, but today I took them all out of my diary for the weeks leading up to Christmas. Too busy! I can tell Christmas is getting close!

In all the busy-ness I urge you to find a time to pause. We get so het up with the preparation that we forget to ponder who we are preparing for - what event we are waiting for. We forget that Advent is as important as Christmas.

Finding my personal worship space is down to me, and of course I must try to put most of those services I am simply attending back in my diary, but for you ... there are services at your church. Come and relax, and pray, and contemplate Jesus so that you too remember what all the busy-ness is really about.

Easy to say. We say it every year. Why not do it this year?

Here are your opportunities

8 December 10.30 am – Kingsdown's Diamond Anniversary Celebration Service and lunch.

13 Dec 10.00 am-11.30 am at Kingsdown for both churches – Bible Study. Come and tell us how you pray and learn from others who do it differently.

14 Dec 10.00 am-12 noon. Coffee Morning, Nativity Festival, Craft activities for children, chat – all at Kingsdown.

14 Dec 4 pm in the Town Square join CTCE for Carol singing. See you there!

15 Dec 6pm – Carol Service. Come and bring family and friends.

24 Dec 12.45 pm. Join us **at lunchtime at Ealing Green** to sing carols on the church steps, and then at about 1.30 pm for a Christmas Eve celebration of Holy Communion. Join for both, or just one or the other.

24 Dec 11.15 **at Kingsdown** - my favourite - Midnight Holy Communion. There is nothing else like the peace and mystery of this service.

25 Dec 9.30 - family worship. Bring a gift to show us, and I challenge you to persuade us that your gift - however secular - is the one which says most about Jesus. Prizes for those who are convincing.



But before all this ... don't forget to remember what all the fuss is about ... just a moment sitting and reflecting on what we are waiting for can make all the difference.

**Have a good Advent, and then a very Happy
Christmas.
With love and prayers
Sue**



Family News

Greetings and good wishes for Christmas to all at Kingsdown. I still like to keep up with the news especially about the 60th celebrations coming up. Sincere congratulations on this notable anniversary.



Rev David Holland (Minister 1992-97)

Leela John and Tom Cheriyan wish to end the year by sending heartfelt thanks for the love and get well wishes sent from so many members of their Kingsdown family. 2019 has not been the best year in terms of health but after being so ill, we have both made amazing recoveries and are ready for Christmas! For all those who took time out to pray for us and the rest of the family, please know that this love and fellowship literally carried us through a difficult time. Thank you!



Sending love and Christmas wishes to all at Kingsdown.

Leela & Tom

Evelyn Sangster's funeral was on November 5th at Easthampstead Crematorium, Bracknell. Kingsdown was represented by Anna Church, Violet Cordon, Janet Smith, Olwen Britton, and Val from the Afternoon Club. The congregation donated £120 to Evelyn's chosen charity, Smile Train UK, which provides surgery to Indian children with cleft lips/and or palates. Donations in memory of Evelyn may be made to Smile Train UK, c/o Lodge Brothers, 7, Guildford Road, The Square, Lightwater, GU18 5SS

Christmas greetings from Barton-on-Sea

*Although we are far away
our wishes are sincere
as we wish you all
a very happy & Holy Christmas
time. And may good health be with
you althrough the coming year*

*God Bless you all
from Jill & Roy (Ward)*

From Rekha John Cheriyan

60 years
anniversary

I had been looking forward to Kingsdown's Diamond Anniversary for most of this year and then I found that I would be working away in Canada which would mean I would

miss it.



I'm so upset not to be with you all at such a special time and so I'm sending lots of love and prayers for many more years together.

It's such a special time for me, as Kingsdown has been part of my **WHOLE** life:

- christened by Rev George Howarth,
- inspired by Rev Eric Maynard (who I actually thought WAS Father God when I was tiny !!)
- confirmed by Rev Dennis Dobell
- encouraged to become part of the Church and take on steward duties by Rev David Holland
- married by Rev Jack Roberts,
- father's funeral service beautifully led by Rev Cecil Smith
- encouraged to be a local preacher by Rev Roger Dunlop (our great family friend who will help lead Christina's wedding),
- tutored and then welcomed into the circuit as a local preacher by Rev Rachel Bending
- and now excited about Kingsdown's future with the very special Rev Sue Male.

In addition, I have fond memories of early Sunday School with Mrs Pennells, then on to the Juniors with Mr Beaumont who also led us in Junior Choir, complete with lilac smocks (if I remember correctly!) and then on to the Shell Group which I loved and where friendships were formed (and still maintained) with the likes of my lovely Kirsty Smith, Wendy Corden, David Lane, Andrew Yates and many others. And then I became part of the Church, starting off as an Aisle steward, moving on to Church Steward, then a Worship Leader and now, with the encouragement of all of you, a Local Preacher.

I can't express how much I love being part of Kingsdown and I see all of you there as my family.

Some of you knew me as a little girl, and many more welcomed Tom in as part of the family and then watched our Christina and Jonathan grow up, and pretty much all of you have been there for me during this last year when both Tom and Mum were so poorly. I know I only got through those darkest of days because your prayers literally carried me through.

So BE assured that, although I'll be across the pond on the 8th, I will be treasuring such special memories and praying for all of you and for our great church, Kingsdown.

God bless you all,
Rekha x

From Rev Roger Dunlop

In December 2002 I received a surprise phone call in York asking me to consider becoming superintendent of Ealing Trinity a year earlier than I had expected to change circuit. I was given a full week to decide! I phoned a friend in London, though all he could tell me was that Kingsdown had a dreadfully dilapidated front!



Throughout all my time at Kingsdown the focus and much energy from the church was on the redevelopment. What you now have is a major achievement that vastly improved the premises.

Greg and Aidan looked forward to the move to Kingsdown having discovered it was an indoor football pitch, oh and with a church attached! And of course once we had arrived at Kingsdown they had a wonderful time in particular through the Boys' Brigade with its excellent leaders and with highlights including the Summer Camp, annual display evening, and parades.

Apart from Sunday worship, looking back I particularly remember the concerts, pantos, the Nativity Festivals and the Good Friday processions.. Though of course the most significant thing was each person sharing together in the caring church family. So I look back in gratitude on my nine years with you and I pray for God's blessing on your next decade, knowing that we serve a God, 'who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' (Ephesians 3:20).

**With love in Christ,
Roger Dunlop**

Pam and Alan Smith thank everyone for their contributions and support in producing and distributing *The Kingsdown Messenger* over the past year, and send good wishes to all their readers for every blessing at Christmas. They will not be sending out individual cards, but instead making a donation to **All We Can**.



Nativity Sets display – help required on Saturday 7th Dec & week commencing 9th Dec



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's 60th anniversary and thanksgiving service on the 8th December. 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 your name in the available slots.



Sybil Corbin

Bible Study

The monthly Wednesday evening Bible studies at the Manse led by Phil and Sue Male will continue on 11th Dec, 8th Jan, 12th Feb, 11th Mar and 1st April while the new Bible Study/Fellowship Group at Kingsdown on Fridays 10-11.30 am will continue on 29th Nov and 13th Dec.



Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter at Kingsdown – Sunday nights 1st to 22nd December

Many thanks for the kind offers of help already received for the four occasions when we will be hosting the night shelter at Kingsdown. If there is anyone else who can help with the laundry it would be very much appreciated.

Sue Barton



MHA Ealing Live at Home Scheme Christmas Party Friday 13th December



The MHA Ealing Live at Home Christmas Party is on Friday 13th December 2019 from 1:00 -3:30pm at Greenford Baptist Church, Beechwood Avenue, Greenford UB6 9UA. Tickets are £5.00 per adult and £1.50 per child.

Come along for an afternoon of festive food, fun and friendship. People of all ages are welcome so gather your family, friends and neighbours or simply come along on your own and tuck into a delicious lunch together! The scrumptious food will be donated by The Felix Project and proceeds will go towards Ealing Live at Home to help older people live later life.

To reserve your space please contact Trudi or Cheryl on 020 8813 0519 or email ealing.liveathome@mha.org.uk

**God doesn't just call people who are qualified;
He calls people who are willing and then
qualifies them**

Boys' Brigade Newsletter



10th Ealing BB has enjoyed a crackerjack start to the new half-term. Ironically, overall numbers are down slightly to 65 (due to Boys moving away) but attendance regularity is up! I'll leave it to the mathematicians among you to figure that one out.



Our big event for November was, of course, the 100th Remembrance Sunday. As always seems to happen, it turned out to be a glorious and crisp autumnal morning and almost twenty of our lads were in attendance including the cream of our trophy-winning band. We paraded before and after the service and we were in fine form (as too was BB friend, father and grandfather Ray Church who followed us around on his electric scooter and was never out of step!).

Within the service itself, current Boy, Nathan Powlson, and much-loved previous Captain, David Lewis, spoke the ceremonial words just before 11am. Nathan's brother Tom took the Gospel text and read most convincingly. For the all-important bugle calls, David and Mark brought in our new crop of buglers for their first ever Remembrance performance. Bravo to Maxwell Calvert, Lucas Calvert, Suchanan Tadi, Oliver Williams and Jacob May -- and many within the congregation told me how impressive they sounded, especially with Kingsdown's atmospheric acoustics.



All in all, it was a lovely morning beautifully led by our Chaplain, Revd Sue Male, who had also taken the trouble to visit BB on the previous Friday to talk with every Boy about the deeper meanings of the service.

Our regular meetings continue to be places of great fun and team-building.



Younger Boys play a wide variety of games and our Anchor Boys in particular are bonding into a wonderful unit. The big news among the older Boys is that the Band and Drill papers have landed for next year's competition and we're now ready to start some serious hard work in the weeks ahead as we seek to match or even beat our previous sterling efforts.

We were most amused to note that the official BB London website has chosen our Band as its "Poster Boys" even though we missed out on the top spot by one-third of a mark. Methinks the webmaster was present last year and recognised that "we was robbed"!!

If you know of any Boy or young man who might enjoy coming along to BB each Friday then please do send him along. We would be delighted to have him.

The BB has been working with the editors of the Messenger to ensure that Kingsdown's Diamond Anniversary is properly marked at the special service on 8 December.



60 years
anniversary

If you would like to have your Kingsdown wedding or christening (or any important church event) featured then please share your pictures with Pam Smith, Alan Smith or Tony Plews and we will ensure your family is represented.

We look forward to seeing you all again on 8 December!
With sincere thanks for your prayers and support.

Tony Plews
Captain

**What other people think of me is becoming less and less important, but what they think of Jesus because of me is critical.
(Sir Cliff Richard)**

Climate Change



Around the world, vulnerable communities are experiencing the effects of climate change.

Gradually shifting weather patterns, rising sea levels and more extreme weather events are all clear and devastating evidence of a rapidly changing climate. Often, the world's poorest communities are those impacted most by a changing and increasingly unpredictable climate.



Belyu's story

In her 45 years, Belyu has seen dramatic change in the small village of Cherkos in Ethiopia, where she lives. In her youth, Belyu remembers two rainy seasons – one from February to June, known locally as the belg season, and a second in the latter half of the year, known as meher.

Today, the change in climate means that the short, sharp rains of the belg season no longer make an appearance in the central Ethiopian Highlands where Cherkos is situated. Only the meher season remains – but this season is longer, and the rains are too heavy for the soil in Cherkos to absorb. When the meher season arrives, the ground is quickly over-saturated and crops struggle to grow well. In a community where life is defined by the rhythms of the land, this change presents a deadly challenge.

“When I was in childhood, there was a surplus of crops,” she said. “But now, I live in poverty.” Like many others in Cherkos, Belyu remembers a time when providing for the family was not the struggle that it is today. Nowadays, she estimates that families like hers are only able to produce a third of what they could just thirty years ago.

The impact of this dramatic decrease in production means that there is a ‘food gap’ – a few months in every year where Belyu struggles to produce enough to feed herself and the four children she looks after. Where just one generation ago there was enough for all, now there is real scarcity.



Catalogues in the Church Foyer



CHRISTIAN AID NEWS

Our final figure for 2019 - £3,439.45 - a wonderful result.

A very sincere 'Thank You' to everyone at Kingsdown who helped in any way - by donating to our Church collection; contributing in so many ways to our Annual Fair; taking part in House-to-House collecting, Flag Day, and by giving in a Christian Aid Box. Finally my thanks to the four friends who took part in the sponsored walks - Circle the City, and the Richmond Riverside Walk. Contributions from the walks brought our total to over £3,000!

You will see a poster of Tenneh (Sierra Leone, and building of Health Centres) in the Church Foyer.

CHRISTIAN AID 2020

Thursday, 6 February - Christian Aid Supporters Day.

We shall begin on 9 May - Annual Fair

Christian Aid Sunday - 10 May

Christian Aid Week 10 May - 17 May House-to-House collection

Christian Aid Flag Day, London Area - 16 May

Circle the City - 17 May

PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES

Ruby Warne

THE CHRISTIAN AID BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER

STAMPS - for the LEPROSY MISSION

SPECS for VISION AID OVERSEAS

MOBILE PHONES and INK JETS for CHRISTIAN AID

Christmas is coming so please don't forget our box!

Ruby Warne

THANKFUL
FOR THE WONDERFUL SCRIPTURES OF GOD

TRUTH - and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

HEAVEN - but as it is written "What no eye has seen nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him"

1 Corinthians 2:9

ARMOUR OF GOD - Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the Devil.

Ephesians 6:11

NEIGHBOUR - Let each of us please his neighbour for his good to build him up.

Romans 15:2

KINDNESS- Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgives you.

Ephesians 4:32

FORGIVENESS - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 1:19

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE - For Christ also died for sins once for all the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

LOVE - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Wishing Kingsdown Church Family, and the Circuit, a Merry Christmas and abundance in the New Year 2020. With God's blessings.

Love from LITA REQUINTON STOLL

For to us a child is born

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)



Approaching Christmas, we are very aware of the political and economic uncertainties that face us.

The prophet Isaiah also lived in such uncertain times, as the Assyrians had just conquered the northern kingdom of Israel (734-732 BC). This fulfilled Isaiah's warnings to the people, who had turned their back on God and His ways. However, Isaiah is able to bring a word of hope, promising a Messiah who would come like a great light: 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light' (Isaiah 9:2). These words are fulfilled in the birth of Jesus 700 years later and describe the person of Jesus:

Wonderful Counsellor: He will give us the wisdom we need, especially when we have difficult decisions to make at work or home, or in dealing with our finances or future direction.

Mighty God: He will provide the help and strength to face a difficult diagnosis, family crisis or relationships breakdown, as we trust His plan and purpose for our lives.

Everlasting Father: He cares for us as a father cares for His children, so that we can come to Him when we feel alone or we are really struggling, knowing that He hears and will answer our prayers.

Prince of Peace: He has secured peace by His cross and resurrection, and so we can find in Him true acceptance, forgiveness and peace for our lives, relationships and future.

Christmas is the time to celebrate a God who is faithful to all His promises, 'the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this' (7)

Parish Pump - The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the promises made about Jesus.

'It's gonna be a lonely Christmas'.

The pressure to have fun with friends and family is real over the Christmas period. In fact, over nine million people in the UK say they're always or often lonely. (Red Cross).

When Mary became pregnant with Jesus, she probably felt very alone. Her situation would be seen as scandalous, as few believed that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit! Yet, God was with her: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call His name Immanuel' (which means, 'God with us'). (Matthew 1:23).

The true meaning of Christmas is that Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be with us. The separation we may feel from others is nothing compared to the distance that God has already gone for us.

Here are 5 tips for helping those who are lonely:

Take time to talk

Take time to talk to an older person this Christmas, at the supermarket, pub or on a walk. Just saying hello can make a big difference to someone who's lonely.

Give someone a call

Take the time to speak to friends and family that you won't be with this Christmas. A short phone call can have a big impact.

Give a neighbour a card

Ring the doorbell and give your neighbour a Christmas card. Start a conversation and make a connection.

Having a party?

Hosting a Christmas party or meal? If you know somebody who might be alone, invite them to join you!

Pray for Others

If you hear of someone who's on their own, pray for them. Pray that God would show you how to respond!

'The most important thing I can tell you is that we are never alone when we know Christ.' **(Billy Graham).**

The UK's favourite hymns



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

No doubt many people were surprised to discover that Jerusalem has been voted the UK's favourite hymn in a survey held by BBC's Songs of Praise.

Members of the public chose from the 100 hymns that have featured most on the show over the past five years. How Great Thou Art and In Christ Alone came in second and third. Songs of Praise host Aled Jones made the announcement in a Songs of Praise special which was filmed at De Montfort Hall in Leicester.

Jerusalem did not feature among the top 10 the last time the public voted in 2013, presumably because it isn't sung regularly in services of worship.

The Top 10 hymns for 2019 were:

Jerusalem

How Great Thou Art

In Christ Alone

Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind

Abide With Me

I Vow To Thee My Country

Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer/Jehovah

Amazing Grace

Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord

I, the Lord Of Sea And Sky

Parish Pump



Action for Children (NCH) - 150 years old



Moved by the plight of children living on the streets in London, Methodist minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson founded his first 'Children's Home', a renovated stable in Church Street, at London's Waterloo, in 1869. The first two boys to go to the Church Street home were Fred and George Grey.

By 1908 the charity had grown to become the National Children's Home and Orphanage (NCH). Today, NCH is known as Action for Children, and this July they marked 150 years of helping vulnerable children and young people. To commemorate the occasion, the charity launched a nationwide search for the descendants of some of the UK's first children in care. Action for Children released historic images from their archives, inviting members of the public to see if they could help to identify family members.

In its 150th year, the charity is launching a campaign asking the public to 'Choose Childhood' and help urge the Government to commit to an action plan to give every child a safe and happy childhood.

**Join the campaign at
www.actionforchildren.org.uk/choosechildhood**



Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances. While attending a Marriage Weekend, a couple listened to the instructor declare, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He then addressed the men, "Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?" The husband leaned over, touched his wife's hand gently, and whispered, "Self-raising, isn't it darling?" And thus began his life of celibacy.

*Who saw the man and pregnant girl
Pressing through the crowded street
Struggling through the human swirl
On tired legs and aching feet?
Who knew?*

*Who heard her cries, in labour's pain
Deep within a battered shed?
Who cared for their impoverished shame
Who thought about her grassy bed?
Who knew?*

*Who, listening to an infant's cries
Hearing a birth, they thought it strange?
Expressed an int'rest, or surprise?
Who recognised that awesome change?
Who knew?*

*Who saw the shepherds rush along
Through sleeping streets at dead of night?
Who heard the angels' glorious song?
Or saw the star that shone so bright?
Who knew?*

*Who, fighting through the Christmas throngs
Or, settling down to watch TV
Eats Christmas food, sings Christmas songs
Who can the coming Saviour see?
Who knows?*



A Christmas Prayer

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

60
years
anniversary

anon

Originally printed in the December 2009 edition



*Sometimes, upon a Christmas day
I wonder if there's any way
That Christmas might be quite a treat
For those who have a few more feet!*

*I really love my Christmas socks
That fill, each year, my Christmas box
O Santa, festive stocking filler,
I wish I were a caterpillar!*

By Nigel Beeton

Pioneering eco-church opened

A virtually carbon neutral church hall has opened in Baildon, Bradford, West Yorkshire. Named The Fold, the new building at Baildon Methodist Church is believed to be the first of its kind built to standards similar to those of a Passivhaus on church premises in Britain.



Read more

<https://baildonmethodists.org/the-year-of-green-bricks-2019/>



Heritage News

Our bi-annual newsletter is published in September and March. We aim to give a flavour in each edition of the wide variety of ways in which Methodism's heritage is being conserved and used for mission.

Expect articles from across the Connexion, from our key heritage sites, archives, website editors, and members of the Heritage Committee, local churches and the Wesley Historical Society. We have introduced readers to exhibitions, trails and educational programmes, publications and conferences.

Heritage News is a FREE publication, available in print or by email (in colour or as a printer-friendly black & white version).

More information about Methodist Heritage go to:
<http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/>

Subscribe to Heritage News
<http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk/newsletter.htm>

**In happy moments – praise God; in difficult moments –
seek God; in quiet moments – worship God;
in painful moments – trust God;
and in every moment – thank God**

Top tips for shopping safely online



Tip #1 Only buy from websites you know

It's worth thinking twice about online offers from unknown brands selling luxury items at bargain prices. Avoid clicking on sales links in emails as these can lead to fake websites that look like the real thing – type the website name directly into the address bar instead, and search for reviews before purchasing. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.



Tip #2 Use a secure payment method

Never use a bank transfer to pay someone you don't know, even if you are buying something through a social media site. Bank transfers make it much harder to get your money back if things go wrong. To make sure you stay safe, don't transfer money to sellers, only pay by debit or credit card.



Tip #3 Look for the padlock symbol

The padlock symbol in the address bar means that your connection is secure, but be aware – it does not necessarily mean the website is genuine. Try to avoid online shopping on public Wi-Fi hotspots too, as fraudsters are sometimes able to hack the network and steal any personal information you share.



Fresh Milk - Fresher longer

If you need to keep milk in the fridge for a longer time than usual buy some Semi-skimmed FILTERED Milk - its more expensive BUT it has a shelf storage life of at least 7-10 days more than ordinary semi-skimmed milk. The average bottle of 2% filtered milk contains about 50% more protein, 50% less sugar, and 30% more calcium than regular 2% milk. This means that you are getting more of the nutrients that make milk awesome, while getting less of the things that makes milk less than the optimal food

Gentlemen's Christmas

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
You may be sure the ladies
Have sorted Christmas Day!
They've shopped and chopped and scrubbed and wrapped,
They've bought and dressed the tree
So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!

Now come, ye merry gentlemen,
And follow my advice
You'd better not upset her,
Or you will pay the price!
So get you to the nearest town
And buy her something nice -
Then you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
Then you will have a joyful Christmas Day!

So then, ye merry gentlemen
Who've tied those marriage knots,
Once Christmas lunch is over
Tell her you love her lots.
Then prove it, merry gentlemen
By washing up the pots.
And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!

Then, just as you are thinking
What a good chap you've been;
Perhaps you'll watch the movie –
It's one you haven't seen.
Forget it, merry gentlemen,
She'll want to watch the Queen!
But she's earned a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
She's really earned a joyful Christmas Day!

by Nigel Beeton

It was:

300 years ago, on 31st Dec 1719 that John Flamsteed, British astronomer died. He was the first Astronomer Royal, and founder of the Greenwich Observatory.

150 years ago, on 31st Dec 1869 that Henri Matisse, the French artist, was born. He became leader of the Fauvist movement.

125 years ago, on 3rd Dec 1894 that Robert Louis Stevenson died. This Scottish novelist, short story writer, poet, essayist and travel writer was best known for his novels *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and the *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

Also 125 years ago, on 29th Dec 1894 that Christina Rossetti, British poet and hymn-writer, died.

100 years ago, on 1st Dec 1919 that Lady Nancy Astor became the first female Member of Parliament (MP) to take her seat in the House of Commons.

90 years ago, on 12th Dec 1929 that John Osborne, British playwright, screenwriter and producer, was born. He was the first of the Angry Young Men, and best known for his play *Look Back in Anger* (died 1994).

80 years ago, on 1st Dec 1939 that Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer made his first ever appearance, in a children's colouring book given away by Montgomery Ward stores in the USA.

75 years ago, on 16th Dec 1944 to 16th Jan 1945 that World War II's Battle of the Bulge took place in Belgium. It was the last major German counter-offensive of the war, and an Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 1st Dec 1949 that Pablo Escobar, Colombian drug lord, was born. Head of the Medellin cartel, and considered the world's most powerful drug trafficker of the 1980s and early 1990s. (Shot dead by police in 1993, though some say it was suicide.)

60 years ago, on 1st Dec 1959 that 12 countries including the UK and USA, signed the Antarctic Treaty, setting aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve free from military activity.

50 years ago, on 18th Dec 1969 that the British Government abolished the death penalty for murder.

40 years ago, on 20th Dec 1979 that the British Government announced that council tenants would be given the right to buy their homes under a new Housing Act (effective from October 1980)

30 years ago, on 3rd Dec 1989 that US President George H W Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced the end of the Cold War at a meeting in Malta.

Also 30 years ago, on 22nd December 1989 that the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin was reopened, effectively reuniting East and West Germany.

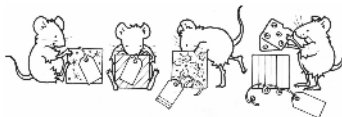
20 years ago, on 1st Dec 1999 that an international team of scientists announced that they had mapped an entire human chromosome. (All human chromosomes were mapped by April 2003.)

Also 20 years ago, on 2nd Dec 1999 that the UK devolved political power in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee.

Also 20 years ago, on 31 Dec 1999 that the London Eye, at that time the world's tallest Ferris wheel – was officially opened on the banks of the River Thames. Because of mechanical problems, it didn't open to passengers until 9th March 2000.

15 years ago, on 26th Dec 2004 that the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also known as the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing over 230,000 people in 14 countries.

10 years ago, on 1st Dec 2009 that the Treaty of Lisbon came into effect. It amended the Maastricht Treaty and the Treaty of Rome, which form the constitutional basis of the European Union.





Christmas and New Year Ealing Bin collections..

Monday

23/12/2019

Tuesday (Christmas Eve)

24/12/2019

Wednesday (Christmas Day)

25/12/2019

Thursday (Boxing Day)

26/12/2019

Friday

27/12/2019

Monday

30/12/2011

Tuesday (New Year's Eve)

31/12/2019

Wednesday (New Year's Day)

01/01/2020

Thursday

02/01/2020

Friday

03/01/2020

Monday

06/01/2020

Tuesday

07/01/2020

Wednesday

08/01/2020

Thursday

09/01/2020

Friday

10/01/2020

Monday (no change)

23/12/2019

Tuesday (no change)

24/12/2019

Friday

27/12/2019

Saturday

28/12/2019

Monday

30/12/2019

Tuesday

31/12/2019

Thursday

02/01/2020

Friday

03/01/2020

Saturday

04/01/2020

Monday

06/01/2020

Tuesday

07/01/2020

Wednesday

08/01/2020

Thursday

09/01/2020

Friday

10/01/2020

Saturday

11/01/2020



COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019

- Mon 8.00 pm **Guides** (most Mondays throughout term time)
- Tue 3 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** Christmas Pick & Mix with Alan Smith
- Wed 1-3 pm **Babies & Toddlers** (term time only)
- 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 7 10.00 am Setting up of Nativities
- Sat 10.30 am **Coffee Morning & Chat** in the Foyer - all welcome
- Wed 11 8.00 pm Phil Male's **Bible Study Group** at the Manse
- Fri 13 10.11.30 am Rev Susan Male's **Bible Study/Fellowship Gp**
- Tue 17 2.00 pm **Tuesday Club** Xmas Tea Party - Dave entertains us



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan

- Tue 7 2.00pm **Tuesday Club** (New programme begins)
- Wed 8 8.00 pm Phil Male's **Bible Study Group** at the Mans
- Fri 10.11.30 am Rev Susan Male's **Bible Study/Fellowship Gp**
- ue 21 8.00 pm - Property Committee

Feb/Mar

- Wed 12 Feb 8.00 pm Phil Male's **Bible Study Group** at the Manse
- Sat 15 Feb Comedy Day, Ealing Green
- Mon 24 Feb 7.30 pm - Mission & Outreach Committee
- Tue 24 Mar 8.00 pm - Finance Committee

(Future Diary Date: **June 14** The Harrow Apollo Male Choir Concert at Ealing Green))