



Faith – Hope – Love –
Since 1972

CHURCH NEWS

Kingston United Reformed Church

NOVEMBER 2022



Kingston Market- photo by Teresa James

www.kingstonurc.org

Charity No. 1131880

This edition edited by Sue Shaw

WORSHIP DIARY – NOVEMBER 2022

The following is the anticipated diary for November, but please see the e-mailed Weekly Notices, particularly for the online daily prayers, Craft activities and the online Thursday social evening.

Tuesday, 1 st	19.30 Elders' Meeting
Wednesday, 2 nd	10.00 Tots' Praise
	19.30 Online Bible Study
Thursday, 3 rd	19.00 Online Southern Synod Area Prayer Meeting
Sunday, 6 th	10.00 Worship & Communion, also live-streamed
	11.30 All Age Worship
	17.00 Reflective Worship
Wednesday, 9 th	10.00 Tots' Praise
	19.30 Online Bible Study
Thursday, 10 th	19.00 Online Southern Synod Area Prayer Meeting
Sunday, 13 th	Remembrance Sunday
	10.30 Worship, also live-streamed
	11.30 Church Meeting
	17.00 Reflective Worship
Wednesday, 16 th	10.00 Tots' Praise
	19.30 Online Bible Study
Thursday, 17 th	19.00 Online Southern Synod Area Prayer Meeting
Sunday, 20 th	10.00 Worship, also live-streamed
	11.30 All Age Worship
	17.00 Reflective Worship & Communion
Wednesday, 23 rd	10.00 Tots' Praise
	19.30 Online Bible Study
Thursday, 24 th	19.00 Online Southern Synod Area Prayer Meeting
Friday, 25 th	Day of Prayer
Sunday, 27 th	10.00 Worship, also live-streamed
	11.30 All Age Worship & Communion
	17.00 Reflective Worship
Wednesday, 30 th	10.00 Tots' Praise
	19.30 Online Bible Study

Please note the next Lunch-time Concert will be on Thursday, 24th November at 12.30 pm.

For Jolly Toddlers, Messy Church and the Nature Walk, please contact Sally Butler,
e-mail: youth@kingstonurc.org

Bron Robinson will be editing December/January's Church News.
Articles and Photos to Bron please by Friday, 11 November.
bronhr@gmail.com

LETTER FROM LESLEY

Dear All,

At Harvest we think of God who has created. Usually, we go on to be thankful for farmers and growers. Thanks for those who deliver and those who trade. The danger is, that for most of us, we think of these activities as what other people do.



But each of us is creative. Each of us is creating.

If you are like me that sentence could come as a shock. Arts and crafts are definitely not my long suit. Yet each of us creates. At the very least we work with God to create our lives, to work on how we face challenges, on what we focus on in relationships.

We are co-creators with God of our day. For example we make a difference to those around us. One of my pals with a fruity turn of phrase describes some people as 'fun sponges.' We have all met people like that. Lighten up. Smile at me.

Oprah Winfrey has a sign on her office door that says, 'You are responsible for the energy you bring into this room.'

What impact do we think we are having? Are we building up those around us? Recently in conversation with an elderly woman I heard a familiar song, 'I'm old, I'm useless. I cannot do anything.' Quite a lot of the problem in that reply is that people are lacking in creativity, in thinking about themselves and what they can do. People becoming rigid, thinking of themselves as doing what they always did.

But maybe we can still do what we used to do but we can do it in a different way. Some older members of KURC are champions at this. What can I do?

Before I went on my last long-distance walk someone gave me £15 in an envelope for ice cream money. Creative.

One member of the church is amazing at sending cards which acknowledge people's sadness. Creative.

One elderly member of the church phones people up to see how they are. Creative.

What difference are we making? It's not all about 'them'. Also, it's not all about massive, exciting enterprises. Consider who will we bless today? How can we use our resources, which includes time, to build God's kingdom?

Yours

Lesley

Ps. Married for 25 years! Who knew? Clearly Martyn Verge did.

Thanks to all those who gave gifts and sent messages. Thanks for the cards and cash. Best though, thanks for the times we have wrestled with God together. Very precious.

Memo from Martyn

It seems a while ago now, but I wrote the thoughts below the day after Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. I was reflecting on the day and what had been the highlights. I'm sure you have your own but the two things that stuck out for me were:

1. As the coffin was being moved from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey how crisp the drumming was. I know from my Boy's Brigade band days how hard the drummers had to work to ensure they were playing together. To be quite so crisp and clear must have taken many hours of practice.
2. The first hymn in the service, 'The day though gavest Lord is ended'. It seemed such an appropriate and challenging hymn given the heads of state who were there and the countries from across the world that were represented. I hope they were paying attention to the words!

I don't know why the Queen chose the hymn but to me it is a great reminder that the church is alive and worshipping somewhere in the world all the time. It also reminds us that kings and queens, presidents and governments come and go but God's kingdom "stands and grows for ever".

As we move into a new era with King Charles III on the throne and Liz Truss as our Prime Minister, we can rest assured that God has not changed over the last few weeks and is the same today as yesterday. Worshipping that God, we move on, doing our bit to ensure that God's kingdom continues to grow.

Martyn**FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER**

6th Madge Cole
 13th Liz Cook
 (Remembrance Sunday)
 20th Free
 27th Free (Advent)

If anybody would like to give the flowers for the 20th or the 27th, please have a word with Jean Thompson.

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see final page

Pastoral News

This has been a time for both celebration and a time of sadness.

We celebrated and gave thanks for Lesley's 25 years of ministry at KURC and to Ray for his unstinting support.

Lesley and Ray Charlton celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary.

Martyn and He Yeon celebrated 20 years of married life.

We mark the deaths of Jean Connett.

Ann Phillips has also died. Her funeral was on 24th October at Kingston crematorium

Sadly we report that William Powell aged 2 ½ has died. His mother brought William to Tots Praise and Jolly Toddlers. Pray for his family, friends and those who knew him through church.

Katie Frost has died after a long illness. Please remember her family and friends.

Catherine Treweek's stepmother Kay has died. Please pray for Catherine, Kevin and Jenna. Also for Catherine's father John and for Kay's family. May they all know God's peace and strength.

Daphne Walters is at home after a spell in Kingston Hospital.

Remember and continue to pray for Madge Cole, Mary Williamson, Valerie Parkinson, Gordon Moore, Jean Ashdown, Ron and Liz Cooke and Evelyn White

A Prayer

Gracious God

You bring light into our darkness and love in our sadness. Bring comfort and courage to the family and friends of toddler William, Katie Frost, Catherine Treweek and Ann Phillips as they mourn the loss of a loved one.

And in these unsettled times we pray for the homeless and those who are worried about rising cost of living and how they will cope financially.

These things we ask in name of Jesus. AMEN

Ray Erskine

Church Streaming Update by James Mason

During the pandemic, worship online suddenly became our only option for church and was speedily put in place, thanks to Rev. Suk In's early insight in setting up Lesley's recorded sermons. Having communion at home every week, assembling remote choir performances and the Christingle service were amazing examples of how worship could be offered in this new way.

The return for some to the church building and traditional services has been great, but it was obvious to all of us that the online offering needed to continue and offered an important opportunity for some to access KURC that would not be able to otherwise.

"We can just set some cameras up, plug the sound and powerpoint into the computer, and bingo! - we are off! Members can join Zoom as per normal and join the service live!"...Yes in theory, but...

After some months of unsatisfactory broadcasts - since zoom is not really set up to offer this kind of service - we decided to get some professional help. We didn't want to completely start afresh since we had already spent money on a camera which was working fine; the audio was the main problem. We found a company (New Tech Southern) who were used to working in churches, and offered to find a solution, using our existing set up. The first thing Andy suggested was to separate all the audio inputs so each has its own channel connecting it to the mixing desk.



This allows the operator to balance all the sounds in the church such as microphones, instruments etc.

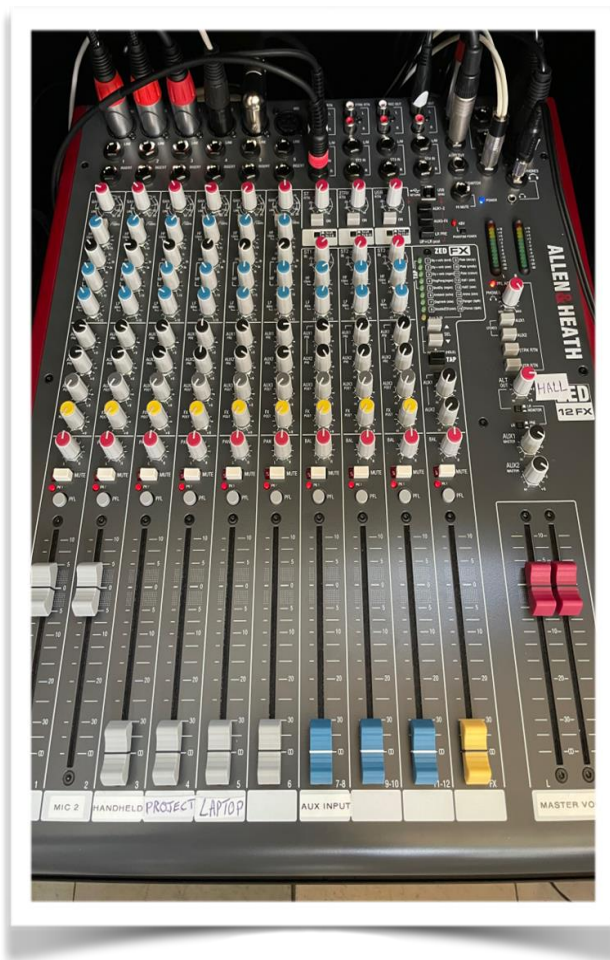
It has taken a few weeks to get the sound right, which we have now achieved. Unfortunately, during one troubleshooting episode, the camera was turned off to allow a whole system reset and when turned back on, did not work. Janine had the idea of a roving camera using a mobile phone which has been really entertaining but we will have a more permanent solution in place soon.

There is now a designated area of the church (including and surrounding the children's table) which will be a deliberate camera 'blind spot' so if you do not wish to be caught on camera, you can sit there safely.

I'm really pleased that KURC has decided to keep both Zoom and Youtube. YouTube enables us to reach out to new people and Zoom allows members to have a more social experience, seeing each other online and chatting at the end of services. It's great to see your faces, Zoomers, so don't be shy about putting your cameras on!

There is a longer term plan to stream some Live Music performances onto YouTube. If anyone is struggling with their equipment at home, please reach out to the church and someone will help you. If you have any feedback or would like more information, please get in touch.

A big thank you to Cathy, Stuart and Janine for their diligence, and patience whilst all this work has been going on.



Here's a picture of the new mixing desk we have bought to support remote worship.

Carol's News

As I write this, I have been a student for 5 whole weeks! I am studying to become a minister of word and sacrament with an emphasis on community at Kingston URC. The course is part time over 2 years and at the end I will gain a Certificate in Theology, Mission and Ministry.

Much of my study is online – one weekend a month on zoom with a few visits to



Northern College in Manchester over the two years. The college is small and the biggest class I have been in so far has nine students. The smallest has three when we are all there, so nowhere to hide!

This year I am studying Community Development in the Church, Theological Reflection, Mission and Evangelism and Church Doctrine and History. Moodle, the

college software is where all the information for everything is accessed needed to study at college from timetables to assignment submissions to obtaining library books. The college memory stick has important info like claiming travel expenses.

So far, the key words are 'context' and 'reflection'. And much of the course is based around 'flipped' learning – a lot of preparation leading to discussion and debate in the teaching sessions. The first round of teaching involved asking questions such as 'What is community, what is mission, and what is theological reflection and believe me there are many varying definitions!!

Please pray that this time of transition goes smoothly and that I settle into the new rhythm of life. Oh! And thank you God that I now have a student card!

Carol Clack



In celebration of Black History Month here are contributions from some church members featuring their choice of black personalities from the Arts, Music and Business worlds.

Black music

Black music artists who have been with me all my life include Billy Holliday, Stevie Wonder, Louis Armstrong, The Four Tops, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, Nina Simone, Otis Reading, Bill Withers, Rod Stewart and the Faces (ok not black artists but their music is steeped in the rhythms of the soul greats). Maybe Junior Walker and the All Stars was the one who made me love saxophone music with his version of Stevie Wonders 'All in Love is Fair'.

I like all music that gets to the soul and want to share a relatively new artist. Her stage name is '**LadyBlackbird**', taken from the Title of the racism critical Nina Simone's 'Blackbird' song, about the despair of a Black Girl (in 1960's Bird was slang term for a girl or young woman) in racially challenged 1963 USA. The Beatles song 'Blackbird' is based on similar themes, penned in 1968, with more optimism than Simone's song.

At the end of 2021 she released her first album Black Acid Soul which I discovered during the pandemic.



The album is a mixture of some soul heavyweights and her own songs which she delivers wonderfully with that extraordinary rich voice of hers. Give it a listen and I hope you enjoy. It is mellow and deep for the soul. After that you may need an energising lift and I suggest Martha Reeves and Vandella's '**Love is like a Heatwave**' or '**Move on Up**' - Curtis Mayfield - oh yeh!

Ray Charlton

2 Tone

I've always loved the 2 Tone record label and what it symbolises. Black and white together. This music genre was all kicking off just as I arrived at Warwick University in late 1978.

The music drew influences from traditional Jamaican Ska music, as well as incorporating elements of reggae, punk and new wave. The Specials were our local Coventry band playing gigs at our students' union. A year or so later they were topping the charts. They along with other 2 Tone bands such as the The Selector and The Beat, made up of black, white and multiracial members, really helped to counter some of the racial tensions of the time. These talented young musicians, dressed in sharp suits and pork pie hats playing joyous dance tunes, were the backdrop to my university life and their songs will never fail to get me on the dance floor!



Bron Robinson

Businessman Kené Umeasiegbu



"To make a big difference in the world, you need to address what you do every day." says Kené Umeasiegbu who was recently awarded 'Business Person of the Year' at the Black British Business Awards 2022 last month.

He was recognised for a 20-year career in sustainability across non-for-profit, consultancies and corporations around the world, and focusses on the environment, human rights and food security. His work has been recognised in Brazil, Estonia, Netherlands, Nigeria and UK.

In his current role as Campaigns Director for Tesco, he addresses socio-economic issues, such as climate change, and his plans to have fully electric delivery vans, have been responsible for Tesco's recent growth and success.

He's an advocate and trustee for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, an organisation working on solving poverty within the UK, and is a mentor to young black professionals. As a young black man, myself, I can happily call Kené Umeasiegbu a recent role model, with the passion for bringing about future change.

Isaac Henriquez

Artist Brendan Fernandes

Camilo would like to nominate his nephew Brendan Fernandes (born 1979, Nairobi, Kenya).



Brendan is an internationally recognized Canadian artist working at the intersection of dance and visual arts. Currently based out of Chicago, Brendan's projects address issues of race, queer culture, migration, protest and other forms of collective movement. Always looking to create new spaces and new forms of agency, Brendan's projects take on hybrid forms: part Ballet, part queer dance hall, part political protest always rooted in collaboration and fostering solidarity.

Brendan is a graduate of the Whitney Independent Study Program (2007) and a recipient of a Robert Rauschenberg Fellowship (2014). He is the recipient of several prestigious awards. He is currently artist-in-residency and faculty at North Western University and represented by Monique Meloche Gallery in Chicago.

TV Personality

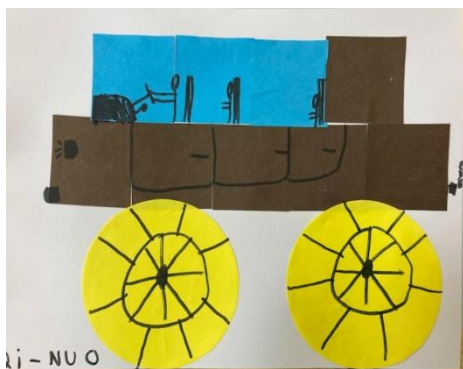


This Black History Month I am inspired by, fellow Kingston girl, **Clara Amfo**. Clara is a radio and television presenter who most notably works at BBC Radio 1.

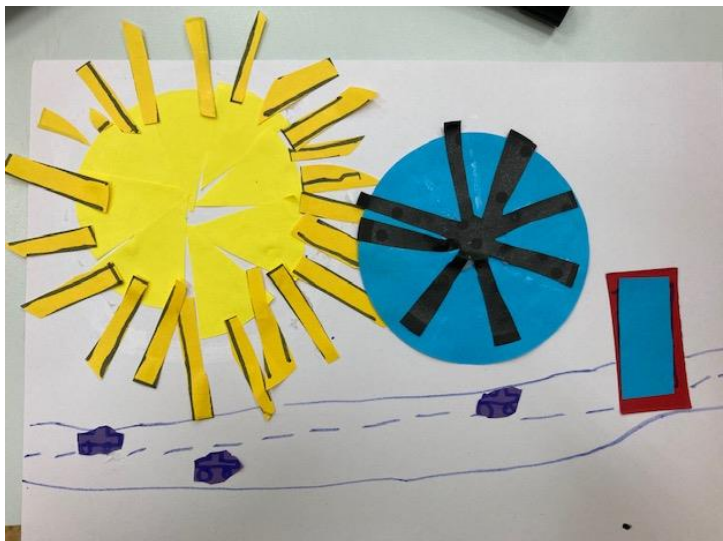
As someone who aspires to work within the media and television industry, it's pretty cool to see another Black girl who has successfully achieved this and continues to flourish in an industry where there are so few of us represented.

Bessie Kakayi

CHURCH BIG DAY OUT (AND IN!)



To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see final page



These photos give an idea of how much fun we had.

There also were discussion groups, a walk in Home Park, line dancing, a photograph competition and a concert.

Thank you to all who took part and to those who organised such a great day.



URC Racial Justice Gathering September 2022

Every year the URC Justice networks come together for a joint three-day residential conference. This year the gathering was in Sheffield. I was delighted to be welcomed by our own So Young who had been invited as a guest speaker (see page 13).

With us was Mark Robinson, convener of URC Business Committee, General Assembly, the first black person on the permanent panel, and Tessa Robinson,

elected to be the next General Assembly Moderator who will take up her post in July 2023. She will be the first black woman to serve. Here is a brief overview:-

Legacy of slavery work and where it started from in terms of the URC.

In 2018, the Council for World Mission, an umbrella global organisation to which the URC belongs, launched its transatlantic slavery project, looking at the history of transatlantic slavery and the continuing legacies today. This was because missionary activity was rooted in colonialism and has played a part in transatlantic slavery. CWM was seeking to interrogate its own past and look at how that continues to impact and shape communities and lives today.

CWM launched its project which consisted of 4 hearings. The first of those hearings was in London. They visited Broadwater Farm with a group of young people and reflected on its history. It was the site of a riot in 1985, sparked by police mistreatment of black people. It culminated in an elderly black lady being pushed by the police and she fell and died, either by knocking her head or a heart attack. There was an outcry and a riot in which a police officer was also killed. Other visits included the location where Stephen Lawrence was murdered.

Looking at different aspects of hidden history, they discovered university buildings, road names, plaques and statues which are named after individuals who were slave owners or made their wealth as slave traders. The second hearing was in Ghana. They spoke to local people about transatlantic slavery, stripping out the youngest and fittest of their communities which to a state of perpetual underdevelopment. Locals said you might not see the wounds but they have not healed. It was a difficult journey, especially for the black British who always felt that they did not belong in the UK and had gone to Ghana to be told that they did not belong there either. For them, it was confirmation that they didn't belong anywhere, which was painful. The third place visited was Jamaica and the final one America. A report was written with 30 recommendations such as apology, reparations, etc. In July this year, it was presented at General Assembly, where there was overwhelming support. The URC adopted a statement of confession and apology. I can provide a copy of the full wording.

To make a financial donation to Kingston URC, please see final page

Empire, Race, Debt and Jubilee

We had a talk from Kevin, a white South African who was taught that Empire was a good thing. Now he views it as a system that keeps injustice going `The Unholy Trinity,' which includes the worship of money and consumerism. He believed that Empire is the root of racism, debt and we live in a time when Empire and Empire's reach seems to be on the rise.

We looked at unmasking empire in ourselves, as seen in the scriptures, locating empire in the past and now and in corporations. We discussed the 3 most important characteristics of debt. We explored the biblical meaning of Jubilee in Leviticus 25 and what Jesus said about money. We had to find as many parables as we could relating to money and debt.

Privilege

We explored different types of privileges, such as, gender, socio-economic, able-bodied privilege and also passport privilege, birthplace and religious. We agreed privilege happens when you don't have to think about doing something. We need to recognise that there may be obstacles in someone's way that we haven't thought about. If they turn up to church tired, or don't want to get involved ask what obstacles have they faced that day, week? What can we do to remove the obstacles? It's important that we recognise and own our privileges and disadvantages.

Mission Work

Revd. Ana Gobledale introduced us to the International Change Reference Group, a small group in the URC. They welcome every mission worker who comes to the UK or is sent out through the Council for World Mission. (Ana edits `Worship Words'. A global resource for worship material. Anyone can contribute. There is more information at the back of the church). We had talks from 3 missionaries, our own So Young, Alison Gibb who served in various place including Zambia and Yufen Chen from Taiwan, a missionary to the Mandarin speaking community.

White Privilege Overseas

Alison went to Zambia in 1977 and became Headteacher in a remote school perceived to be a 'sink school'. Her Identity as a non-Zambian white woman gave her many privileges. She was able to challenge local taxi drivers picking up schoolgirls for prostitution, to achieve justice for local people from the authorities e. g. she advocated successfully on behalf of a family in dispute with a bank who were withholding money they were entitled to.

Language

This was the most difficult topic. The acronym BAME has changed meaning over time. We found that people didn't know the correct, polite words to use, and black people were unsure what we wanted to be called. There have been many names, black, brown, Afro-Caribbean, Black British etc. It is still a work in progress. The gathering was not about being right or wrong as we recognised that we were addressing complex, sensitive topics. Despite this there was a lot of merriment and we found that at times we couldn't stop laughing!

Sharon Henriquez

New Members Welcomed (새로운 회원 환영)



At the morning service on 2nd October, it was a great pleasure to welcome Jun Hyup Hong and Soo Jin Choi into church membership. 10월 2일 오전 예배에서 홍준혁과 최수진을 교회 회원으로 맞이하게 되어 매우 기쁩니다. They joined KURC by transfer from the London Full Gospel Church, though are originally from North Korea. 그들은 런던 순복음 교회에서 전교를 통해 KURC에 가입했으며,

원래는 북한 출신입니다.

(If you don't know them Jun Hyup plays the violin at morning services. His wife is often found taking care of their grandchildren.) (당신이 그들을 모른다면 준혁은 아침 예배에서 바이올린을 연주하며. 그의 아내는 종종 손주들을 돌보는 것으로 알려졌습니다.)

Reflections from Soo Young

I would like to share some reflections based on 3 years of mission field experience here in Kingston. My work is with British and Korean women and children including North Koreans.

When I decided to start mission work in the mission field, my heart was filled with a sense of enthusiasm, passion, and missional purpose. I was also a hard worker full of passion, praying and thinking, "I can do everything because God led me here and everything will be fine if I do my best obeying God's will." So when I faced repeated situations when people did not open their hearts to me and closed their ears to my story, I used to feel resentment towards those who didn't recognize my enthusiasm.

Now, as time has passed, I realize that I didn't fully appreciate their situations that they showed and explained to me. Rather, I tried to understand their situation from my perspective. I realised my skills in empathy, relationship formation, and listening were relatively weak as my focus was on spreading the gospel.

Therefore, as time went by, I tried to change my priorities about mission and focus on building relationships. I began to share my daily life with them and they shared

their lives with me, eating, studying together, or just spending time doing nothing and three years passed.



Following my change in attitude, the people I was in contact with began sharing prayers and their stories with me naturally. They even shared their stories of love and romance! I spent more time with them and tried to listen to them more. Then, one day, I felt that I was loved and the mission also became established.

This March I attended **CWM Europe** conference. One of the Bible readings was about the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8. The story describes how the Ethiopian Eunuch wanted to understand the word of God but couldn't understand it because there was no one to teach him. Philip approached him and taught the eunuch the Word of God. Interestingly, even though Philip was led to the eunuch by God he didn't try to teach the gospel directly when they first met.

The first thing that Philip did was ask the eunuch a question and Philip tried to understand his situation and needs. We hear how the eunuch stopped his carriage and invited Philip to join him. He was ready to accept the gospel when Philip listened to his opinion first and waited in prayer. As a result, the eunuch asked to be baptised by Phillip.

Through this eunuch story in the Bible and my mission field experience, I have come to realize that the first thing to do as a missionary (or as any Christian) is to respect and listen to the story of the people where God brings this opportunity.

I think we need to have a sense of superiority of the gospel, but not have an attitude of superiority. One of the missionaries who I respect, Reverend Ji-il Bang, said this.

“Missionaries should respect the local church and respect the local people.”¹ He consistently insisted on the close relationship between missionaries and local people. In future, I will be using my ears to listen and respecting the people who God has given me here in the UK.

REMINISCES

When Teresa James asked Gordon Moore how he felt about the Queen's death and the events that followed and were being televised he replied:
 'Well, when you've seen the death of George V, Edward VIII, George VI, the Queen Mother.... '
 'and Winston Churchill... ' Teresa added,
 'Umm, yes and minor personages' he continued, smiling, 'then'.
 More evidence of what Gordon has experienced AND still remembers, even if now 101.



Archive of the Month



In 2005, thanks to vigorous fundraising by members and generous support from charities, several of the rooms in our church were redesigned to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Sally's Slot

Lots to mention this month. I start with the sad news that one of the toddlers who used to come to Tots Praise and Jolly Toddlers, unexpectedly died. William was a lovely 2 ½ year old, who brought us much joy. We are all devastated by this and will miss him terribly. The team will be going to the funeral in Portsmouth, along with a group of parents/carers from the Tots Praise community.

Tots' Praise celebrated our 7th birthday. The attendees came with food for a feast! Twenty-one children played Animal Corners, Musical Statues (great dancing Lesley! 😊), had a Treasure Hunt for gold chocolate coins and 'attempted' an Obstacle course! Lovely chaos.

¹ Jong Pyo Lim, "The reverend Ji I Bang's Mission and Theology." (Seoul, Kenosis and World Mission Study Institute, 2018), 106-107.

We sang songs to God and had a birthday cake with a number 7 candle and a number 7 sparkler, then learned about the number 7 in the Bible!



Crafternoons have been going well. Recently, one of our Childminders brought her own older children and her Mum-in-law! The girls all enjoyed making bath fizzers and body scrubs. They ALL enjoyed painting/decorating their nails in weird and wonderful, colourful patterns!

Christmas for the children and young people will be a little different this year! We have decided to focus on Advent and then celebrate the 12 days of Christmas!

There will be an **Advent party** for Jolly Toddlers but they will receive their Christmas gift later.

Christingle via Zoom will be on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

We will still have the **Pop-up Nativity Gift Day service** but that will be our only celebration before Christmas. Please come as a Nativity character on Sunday 11th December at 10.30.

Christmas Crafternoon will be December 17th.

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Anyone who **would like to dress the window** on the theme of one of the 12 days, please let me know. Window displays will be changed every day. Think about the carol, The 12 Days of Christmas! We want to encourage people to prepare spiritually for Christmas and see that Christmas is not just one day but a 12 day period of feasting and celebration. Then... Epiphany! Let's not get 'Christmased Out' before the big day!!

Along that same reflective vibe, I am offering an **'Advent Waiting'** time on Zoom every Saturday during Advent. We will start at 10am and spend time away from the hustle and bustle, simply reflecting on Advent themes and quietly praying together. Advent is about waiting, repentance, fasting, expectation, coming home to God.

Dates: 26 November, 3 December, 10 December, 17 December. Open to ALL adults and older children. Zoom details nearer the time! No booking required and it's a mince pie free zone!!



Dates for
the Diary:

30th November 7:30pm

KURC Curry Night Monty's

53 Fife Rd, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1SF

Please book your space
kingstonurc@gmail.com



23rd December 7pm

Drinks at the Ram (Xmas
Jumpers required)

*Festive Sing alongs & classic pop
from The Forty Fives duo*

www.instagram.com/thefortyfiveslondon/?hl=en

34 High St, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1HL



The KURC New Years Eve

Party

5pm - 7pm

Details coming Soon



Unusual Churches



Just when I thought I had run out of material for this regular monthly feature, I came across this church while on holiday in Herefordshire. It is in a village called Shobdon.

The exterior is unremarkable, but when you step inside you enter an extraordinary world of Strawberry Hill Rococo gothic dating from the mid 18th century. The whole building was designed at one time, which means that the furniture, decorations and embellishments are all of a piece.

Everywhere is painted light blue and cream and maintained to the highest standard. A reading desk and seat below the pulpit can be moved like a sedan chair. The driving force behind the creation of this church was Richard Bateman of Shobdon Court.

Richard was a close friend of Horace Walpole who had built Strawberry Hill in Twickenham. Having pulled down a Norman church which stood on the site, Bateman must have felt pangs of guilt as he decided to rebuild some of the Norman arches on a nearby hilltop.

John Fisher



If you are having issues with your PC, Laptop, Internet etc. then I may be able to help you. I am an independent IT consultant and often can help you remotely with IT or computer problems that you may be experiencing. I am also willing to visit you in your home should you prefer.

Stu Chandler
07914 536 621 or stu@121pcweb.com
(<https://121pcweb.com>)



The Kings Storeroom located in the foyer has a great selection of Christian books, fiction and non-fiction, gift books, cards, calendars and bible reading notes. The shop is open six days a week from 10am.

Great fiction for tweens and teens, the Jane Austen Investigates series follows a young Jane Austin as she seeks to solve mysteries.

The Wingfeather Saga is a fantasy series that will be loved by anyone who enjoys C S Lewis' Narnia chronicles.





READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

READINGS IN 1 CORINTHIANS

1 Walking as one

Tuesday 1 November (All Saints' Day)	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Wednesday 2 November	1 Corinthians 3:1-23
Thursday 3 November	1 Corinthians 4:1-21
Friday 4 November	1 Corinthians 5:1-12
Saturday 5 November	1 Corinthians 6:1-20

2 Spiritual guidance

Sunday 6 November	1 Corinthians 7:1-9
Monday 7 November	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Tuesday 8 November	1 Corinthians 9:1-23
Wednesday 9 November	1 Corinthians 10:1-24
Thursday 10 November	1 Corinthians 11:1-16
Friday 11 November	1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Saturday 12 November	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

3 The higher way of love

Sunday 13 November	1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Monday 14 November	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Tuesday 15 November	1 Corinthians 14:1-25
Wednesday 16 November	1 Corinthians 14:26-40
Thursday 17 November	1 Corinthians 15:1-22
Friday 18 November	1 Corinthians 15:35-57
Saturday 19 November	1 Corinthians 16:1-24

A COLOURFUL BIBLE

Sunday 20 November	Genesis 9:8-17
Monday 21 November	Genesis 1:29-31
Tuesday 22 November	Exodus 28:31-35
Wednesday 23 November	Joshua 2:1, 15-21
Thursday 24 November	Acts 16:11-15
Friday 25 November	Song of Solomon 5:9-16
Saturday 26 November	Revelation 1:12-20

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS:

TABERNACLE AND TEMPLE

1 The wilderness tabernacle

Sunday 27 November (Advent Sunday)	Exodus 24:15-25:9
Monday 28 November	Exodus 25:10-22
Tuesday 29 November	Exodus 35:30-36:8
Wednesday 30 November	Exodus 39:32-43

Meditations

I find it easier to feel close to God when I am outside among nature and can reflect on the beauty of God's creation. Here are a couple of reflections while I was in the garden at Kingston Quaker Centre.

16th September 2022

Today the grass and the trees are lush in their many shades of green. The wind whispers through the trees with an occasional clatter of leaves when the wind gusts. I find the sound of the wind in the trees peaceful and calming. It is reminiscent of waves swishing in and out over a beach. There is movement as well, as the trees change their shape when the wind blows through them.

Do the trees merely react to outside forces such as the wind? Or do they have a life of their own? When I saw them a while ago, were they pained by the lack of water to nourish them and the heat of the sun scorching them? Are they now celebrating the rain and cooler weather as their leaves flutter and rustle? Are they happy about their bright hue and their healthy appearance? Do they recognise the transformation and renewal that has happened?

Here at the Quaker Centre I feel peace and calm. It's an oasis in the middle of a busy town. Across the road there is stability and security in the terrace of cottages, looking simple, almost like a house that a child would draw, and yet sturdy and safe. There is a comfort in knowing that they have stood here over many years. I wonder about those living in them. So close to shops, library, transport systems, rush and bustle. Yet there is shade from the trees and access to green space in which to relax.

But, all may not be calm and peaceful. The cottages across the road would once have been workers cottages yet now one would need a healthy bank balance to buy one of them. I wonder whether somebody is still sleeping rough the other side of the fence where there is a duvet, a blanket, a pillow and some empty drink cans. There is building work going on close by, evidence of change.

23rd September 2022

This tree is magnificent

Tall and leafy, providing shade;

Brown leaves, green leaves and all colours in between;

Spiky leaves with three spikes to them;

Thin leaf stems on which you clearly see where they were attached to a branch of the tree.

The trunk is tall and wide in girth;

On it are many layers of bark, different in colour and texture,

Greens and browns and yellows creating different shapes.

How long have you stood here tree? What changes have you seen tree?

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You are coming close to shedding your leaves and taking a rest over winter;

We know you will be back next spring ready to start the cycle again;

You understand the rhythm of time – the changes that take place, the cycle of life that is yours.

Despite these rhythms of change you have stability and strength and certainty.

The promise of regeneration over and over is present in you.

This tree is magnificent!

Maddie Anlezark

Be Brave and Pray

A member of the church heard the news of a family member having a heart attack. What to do? Ask for prayer. A message was sent round. We did pray.

Months later she told the family member, who is not part of any worshipping community, that she had done this. The person was touched and said, "Please don't forget to pass my sincere thanks on to Lesley and her flock because I am quite sure that their prayers together with the good wishes of many other people definitely contributed to my recovery. Hopefully I will continue in the right direction and will soon be back to my normal self."

Lesley

Be Wise

The other day in a cemetery I saw a grave that read, 'you have to row with the oars you have been given.' It made me think of the line I am always banging on about, God saying to Moses, 'what is in your hand?'

What an interesting thing to have on a grave. I wonder why? How to share such wisdom?

Answer- email it to Sharon on the KURC twitter email. Then she may use it for our twitter account. twitter@kingstonurc.org. If you do not use email write it on a piece of paper and put it in the office and Catherine will pass it on.

Lesley

Be Faithful

Many people live with the unconscious or conscious expectation that eventually things will get better; wars, hunger, poverty, oppression and exploitation will vanish; and all people will live in harmony. Their lives and work are motivated by that expectation. When this does not happen in their lifetimes, they are often disillusioned and experience themselves as failures.

But Jesus doesn't support such an optimistic outlook. He foresees not only the destruction of his beloved city Jerusalem but also a world full of cruelty, violence and conflict. For Jesus there is no happy ending in this world. The challenge of Jesus is not to solve all the world's problems before the end of time but to remain faithful at any cost.

Quotation from 'Bread for the Journey' by Henri Nouwen

Sue Shaw

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Kingston United Reformed Church – Information

A warm invitation is given to all who read this magazine to come and share in our services and activities

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How to contribute to Church News:

Contributions on matters of reflection and opinion as well as reports of activities are welcome.

Copy for **Church News** must reach the editor by the second Friday of the month.

The next copy deadline for December/January is Friday, 11 November 2022

Editor: Bron Robinson: bronhr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL DONATIONS to KURC can be made in a number of ways:

Complete one of the forms at the back of the church to set up standing order payments.

Make regular cash gifts at the Sunday services. By using the offertory envelopes, you allow the church to reclaim Gift Aid.

You can also pay directly into our bank account: sort code 20-46-73, account number 60921289 and quote Kingston United Reformed Church Charity.

Kingston United Reformed Church is a member of the Local Ecumenical Project in Kingston Town Centre with its partner, All Saints Parish Church in the Market Place.

The town centre ministers meet regularly.

We are a part of Churches Together in Kingston.

Kingston URC is also affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

and the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK)

You can also keep in touch with worship and activities at our church through our website: www.kingstonurc.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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