



CHURCH news

United Reformed Church, Kingston upon Thames

www.kingstonurc.org

FEBRUARY 2009



Box Hill, Surrey

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Edited by Jean Thompson



CHURCH DIARY – 25 January/22 February

(for regular activities see inside back cover)

Sun. 25 Jan.		<i>Homelessness Sunday</i>
	10.00	Traditional Worship
	11.30	Interactive Worship with Communion
	14.30	Holocaust Memorial Event in Memorial Gardens/Guildhall
	18.30	Reflective Worship
Mon. 26 Jan.	19.30	Christianity Explored Course
Tue. 27 Jan.		A Walk around Rotherhithe
	19.30	URC's Ministerial Deployment Consultation (see pg.13)
Thu. 29 Jan.	19.30	Discipleship Course
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Sun. 1 Feb.	10.00	Traditional Worship with Communion
	11.30	Interactive Worship
	15.00	St Raphael's Annual Sr. Citizen's Party (see pg.12)
	18.30	Reflective Worship
Mon. 2 Feb.	19.30	Christianity Explored Course
Wed. 4 Feb.	20.00	Elders' Meeting
Thu. 5 Feb.	19.30	Discipleship Course
Sat. 7 Feb.	19.00	Burns' Supper
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Sun. 8 Feb.	10.00	Coffee available
	11.00	11 o'clock Service for all Worshippers
		Church News – copy to Vaughan James by 12.00
	18.30	Reflective Worship
Mon. 9 Feb.	19.30	Christianity Explored Course
Thu. 12 Feb.	19.30	Discipleship Course
<hr/>		
Sun. 15 Feb.	10.00	Traditional Worship
	11.30	Interactive Worship
	18.30	Reflective Worship with Communion
Mon. 16 Feb.		Activity Day
	19.30	Christianity Explored Course
Tue. 17 Feb.		Activity Day
Thu. 19 Feb.	19.30	Discipleship Course
Sat. 21 Feb.	12.00	ACT – Area Gathering (see pg.13)
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Sun. 22 Feb.	10.00	Traditional Worship – Rev. Roberta Rominger
	11.30	Interactive Worship with Communion
	18.30	Reflective Worship
	20.00	Holy Space

LESLEY'S LETTER

Dear All

Helping - how do you feel about it? 'Glad to', 'if I can I will'.

What about being helped? There are many people who are terrible about receiving the help of others. You could argue that even their faith is based not on their reality of Jesus dying on the cross, but on the good works which they have done to earn their salvation. 'What does life mean if I cannot do anything for anyone?' is a question which people do ask.

What about the problem that if I am going to help, then I need people who will let me help them? We have the picture of Jesus letting people help him, whether it was cooking for him or washing his feet. That does not mean he was not prepared to wash the feet of others; we know he did that too. However, there were times when he let people help him.

Can you do that?

More. What about us as a church? There was a time when the church thought of itself as a group of people who did things for people. We have all the answers, we have the strength and we will help you - weak person. You may be weak because you are young or old or disabled or a new parent or poor, but we will help you as we can. What about allowing people to help us? What about allowing people the place and joy of working with us on problems and issues? There are things which many people of good will, regardless of their faith, feel the same about. They want to help. There are times when, as an organisation, we can work with other organisations and do a better job. Also there are times when we can let individuals work with us on our projects. It is good news for them and us. It also helps those we serve, as we improve our service.

Best wishes, **Lesley**



NOTICE The Burns' Supper will be on Saturday, 7 February, from 7 – 10 pm. Cost £8 and £3.

MORE FROM LESLEY:

Church Weekend

Teaching, play, space, structure, bible study, games, communion, drink, people, single rooms, noise, beautiful surroundings, walks, time, stimulation, rest, activity, together, apart, voluntary, conversation, fellowship, prayer, food, lovely accommodation. ***Sign up today.***

New Ministry

There is a danger that we separate our church life into two parts which never touch each other. That we have a building which many people only come to on a Sunday, and for the rest of the week a few of us do some things but, basically, the building is run as any other commercial organisation and let out to anyone who has the money and the need.

Be clear we do need the money. We also want to use well this resource which God has given us. However, we need to make sure we do it in a way that matches with who we are and the unique things that we have to offer through our faith. That is why we serve coffee and why we have people ready to talk. We also have a place to allow people to write their prayer requests. Now we have a new phase of our ministry.

David and Peggy Tang are going to be regularly in the building praying. They will pray for whatever they feel called to pray about, of course, but their purpose in being there is to be a bridge between the users in the building and our living faith. If you have any aspect of the church's life that you think needs particular prayer, please speak to them.

Gentle reader who are you?

I am curious to know the reader who is furthest away from our church and gets Church News. That might be in terms of geography, but it also might be in terms of distant from the fellowship of Kingston URC. How many people have passed on a magazine to someone else for you to receive yours?

Lesley



DEREK'S COMMENT

There has been a recurring theme of jigsaw puzzles for me this Christmas. It began by my wife ordering by internet a 400 piece Ordinance Survey overview of Kingston – with our postcode in the middle. While she gave our correct postcode – as the package was safely delivered – the map was for KY1 and not KT1, which is Kirkcaldy. It was, therefore, quite beyond me, but in telling this story at a Christmas party, one guest quickly said he had a great friend living there who would be delighted to receive it. I am now waiting for the correct puzzle to arrive.

Just over one week later I attended a URC Ministerial Deployment seminar for the Southern Synod. This seemed like a giant jigsaw puzzle, when they explained the options open to the URC in the future. For instance, we were reminded about some basic numbers with projections allowing for the retirement of Ministers.

URC	Members	Ministers
1972	192,000	1,092
2005	82,000	665
2010	?	523
2017	?	412

We were told that there has been a “significant” increase in numbers of individuals experiencing a call to become non-stipendiary ministers. This reflects God’s call to us to respond to the changing situation – but there is also the question of sufficient members and money. Martyn Verge gave an excellent presentation on this whole subject at the November Church meeting and you will recall there was a full report in the December edition of *Church News*. This is a very important subject for us as a Church and we need to follow progress. We can’t escape this one and find a new home for the problem elsewhere – like Kirkcaldy!

Two weeks after Christmas the Elders (including the new and recently retired ones) will be having their annual Away Day. This year we shall be spending the morning considering where we are now – as a Church – and where we believe God is calling us to go. In the afternoon we’ll be extending our considerations to what to do next. Hopefully, we shall start to come up with proposals to be considered later by the serving Elders and then shared or agreed at subsequent Church meetings. It would be simple if we could identify the needs in Kingston from my 400 pieces of

jigsaw. There's a limit to what we can do – but we must be able to do it well. I would like to share the following with you which came from the Deployment seminar:

Strong lay leadership is fundamental to the viability and effectiveness of a local church; without it there can be no functioning congregation. This has always been the strength of the URC and its forebears; there are countless people without whose devoted service we simply could not be the church and we honour them. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to signal clearly to local churches that responsibility for leadership falls, in the first instance, to the local church and in particular to its elders working collegially alongside its minister and not to its minister alone. Moreover, discernment of a local church's leadership needs (including how much stipendiary ministry) is a key role for the local church, in consultation with neighbouring congregations, both URC and ecumenical partners, and the Synod.

Derek Winsor

Oh dear, Christmas is over!

I always feel sad when the decorations come down and homes (and churches) look bare and dull. The saddest part to me is cutting up the Christmas tree and bundling it into black sacks. This year it was particularly depressing to have to dispose of the beautiful tree in the church, provided, as ever, by the Cochrane family. Its lovely bushy shape was a delight to decorate and it made a most attractive focal point.

Thank you yet again, Phyllis and John, for organising the delivery of our tree. As ever, we are extremely grateful for your generosity and I would like to say a big 'thank-you' on behalf of everyone who came to our Christmas services.

Steve Wenman

(Of course, there is some consolation if the tree is re-cycled: an example of death and resurrection perhaps?)



PASTORAL NEWS – at 11. 1.09.

Natasha Reid had an operation just before Christmas and is recovering well.

Peter Green is at present in Kingston Hospital.

Ray Erskine had a fall recently and sprained her ankle but is also recovering well.

Philip Sawney has commenced his 5th year on the waiting list for a heart transplant.

Tom Fisken continues his treatment but has not been so well recently.

David Richards continues with his chemotherapy, having some good weeks and some not so good weeks.

Lorna Tarbutt has also been unwell recently.

Jo McGee has given birth to a baby boy – Benjamin William – a brother for Joshua.

We pray for Lesley in her continuous support to our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with these people and with those on our regular prayer list:

Margaret Fisken, Ann Mackay, Ken Trigg, Alan Clegg, Joan and Munro Mackay, Colin Veale, Olive and Jim Webb, Muriel Adam, Hilda Tunley, Patty Davies, Mimi Williams and Helen Simpson.

We also think and pray for those who are caring for someone at home: Virginia Trigg, Olwen Sawney, Nigel Tunley, Lilian Veale and Maggie & John Arnold.

Maggie Arnold



DANIEL & SU PRINS

Daniel & Su Prins have recently become members, and the editor asked them to tell us a little bit about themselves. Daniel writes:

“We are both South Africans from Cape Town and have been married for 37 years. We have two grown-up children. Our married daughter lives in Scotland and our son is a post-graduate student in South Africa. We have lived in the UK during the 90's when I was working here. Upon my retirement at the end of 2007 we decided to return to the UK and now live in Teddington.

We have been members of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa for a long time. In our new home we have decided to join Kingston URC. We have been welcomed by all at Kingston URC and are very happy to be part of our new Church.”

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those people, both in our church and beyond, who are supporting me during the chemotherapy I am having for prostate cancer. I much appreciate the prayers and messages of encouragement I have received and feel humbled that prayers have been said for me and for the doctors, nurses and others involved in the treatment. Prayers have happened in churches locally and abroad where friends have heard of the illness. They do make a difference!

I would also like to thank you if you took part in the Kingston Cancer Appeal which has resulted in the William Rous Centre where Royal Marsden have linked with Kingston Hospital to provide treatment locally. This is a splendid facility for which all those involved should be very proud.

David Richards



IBRA Bible Readings for the week of Monday, 2 February:

Widows, Orphans & Aliens.

Text for the week: Luke 2: 38

Mon. 2 Feb.

Luke 2: 22-38

Thurs. 5 Feb.

Numbers 27: 1-11

Tues. 3 Feb.

1 Kings 17

Fri. 6 Feb.

2 Kings 11: 1-12

Wed. 4 Feb.

Luke 18: 1-8

Sat. 7 Feb.

Esther 2: 5-18

Other weeks can be found on the IBRA website – just Google 'IBRA'

ENGLISH IDIOMS

As a Korean I am often confronted with difficulties when people say things like “She is the Queen Bee” or “He is the King Pin.” What do these strange sayings mean? I thought a Queen Bee lived in a hive and was important to reproduce new bees. How can a person do that?

When I read a newspaper or magazine or watch the television or hear the radio, I find it quite difficult to understand what these cultural references mean. I have not had experience of English history so, of course, I often hear references to past historical figures and cannot understand why they are being mentioned in a modern context. Another thing I find difficult is when someone says a serious point, but really means the opposite of what they say.

When a friend was telling me how mean a man is, he said, “he has a short sleeve and long pocket”. What does that mean? “I wouldn’t touch him with a barge pole” means steer clear of this dishonest person. Why? “She looks as if she has had the cream”. This refers to a cat who is purring because she has had the best bit of the milk. How can a person be a cat? I have heard my daughter refer to a friend as a cat. Again, why?

In English I have discovered there are many words that look the same, but mean something different. For instance, ‘refuse’ can mean I will not do it, or rubbish thrown out, depending on the pronunciation and context. Again, there are words that sound the same but look different, for example, there, their and they’re. It’s all very confusing for a poor Korean!

In Korean we say, “we have mended the barn door after the cow has gone”. I think that has a similar meaning as “close the stable door after the horse has bolted”. If something is very difficult, we say, “we have taken the star from the sky”. A lazy and foolish person is called a cow in Korea, but we think of a pig as cute.

Jesus used idioms all the time. Think of the camel pushing its way through the needle’s eye or the sheep and the goats. What about the story of the man who invited friends to his feast? The excuses they offered were frankly ridiculous. Who checks on his cows at night or measures his field at night? So you can see that to make one’s meaning clear it is useful to use idioms and metaphors, but they can be confusing if your knowledge of a language is restricted.

Rev. Suk In Lee



News from the National URC: Churches join up for Spiritual Renewal

Almost one third of all United Reformed churches have joined a three-year programme to encourage people to re-engage with the Bible, prayer and evangelism. The Vision4Life initiative is proving to be one of the most popular national projects ever undertaken by the United Reformed Church – and numbers are still growing.

The Rev Roberta Rominger, General Secretary, said, “I am excited, not only by the number, but also by the enthusiasm and creativity that local churches are bringing to their involvement. Clearly, Vision4Life is addressing the hunger for spiritual renewal.

People are eager to engage with the Bible and discover something more of what God wants to do in their lives”.

By December, 500 of the URC’s 1600 congregations had signed up to Vision4Life. A first phase began in Advent with a year of material focusing on the Bible; in Advent 2009 a year based on prayer begins, with a third year focused on evangelism beginning in 2010. A menu of materials has been sent to every congregation; fuller versions will be available in print and on the Vision4Life website as the year progresses.

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY



1 Feb.
8 Feb.
15 Feb.
22 Feb.

Brenda Parkins
Jean Thompson
Hilda & Nigel Tunley
Margaret Randall

From the United Reformed Church's Website:

Chaplain honoured for Work with War Casualties

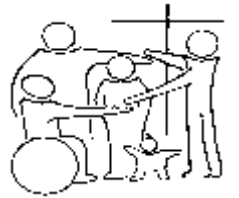
Steven Whiting, a United Reformed Church minister and senior army chaplain has been accorded a rare distinction for his work with casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list.

The award is for Steven's work with returning casualties at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham. He is now senior chaplain at the headquarters of the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham. He has previously served in Germany, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Steven said "This is a tremendous honour, not just for me personally, but for all British Army chaplains who are with their people in often dangerous and difficult situations, loving, caring and praying with and for them. To be a military chaplain is to be alongside mostly young and often unchurched people who, in the stresses and strains of military life, look frequently to the chaplain for support and guidance in trying to make sense of death, tragedy, loneliness and separation".

Southern Synod Wimbledon Area Co-ordination Team (ACT)

Vacancies exist for members of the Review Team
to carry out Church Life Reviews
to enable periodic visits to each church to be made
to listen, exchange views and help where necessary
Hopefully only once a year
Duties are interesting and stimulating
To know more, please speak to Lesley
or John Henderson - 01372 378795



CHURCH HANDBOOK 2009

With their Church News for February, members will hopefully receive their copy of the Church Handbook for 2009. It has been compiled from information available in the 2008 Handbook, with the addition of new details and corrections made throughout the year, provided to the Handbook's editor by several people, but principally and frequently by Jean Thompson, she of the eagle eye who can spot a misplaced comma at 1,000 paces, to whom enormous thanks are due. Thanks are also due to Gill Carstens for the delightful cover illustration.

The 2009 Handbook may not be perfect in every detail, but we have done our best. If you spot an error – a wrong phone number, postcode, even (heaven forbid) a wrongly spelt name, *please let me know in writing*, preferably by e-mail (tony.wenman@btinternet.com), and I will see that a correction appears in Church News. Also let me know if you acquire or change an e-mail address so that it can be included. Work has already begun on the 2010 Handbook. It will be as accurate as you, the members, make it.

Please do not tell me about Handbook changes as I am going into church to play for a service, or even over a cup of coffee afterwards. My ability to forget things is getting stronger as the rest of my faculties decline! I react almost immediately to e-mailed information, and I lose bits of paper! Please e-mail or write me a letter.

Tony Wenman

Our thanks to you, Tony, for hours of work behind the scenes. Ed.

St Raphael's Annual Senior Citizen's Party

SUNDAY, 1 FEBRUARY, FROM 3 – 5.30 PM

at St Joseph's School

Open to any senior citizen in the Borough

Admission is free, but by ticket only

Please contact Michael in the Parish Office on (020) 8541 4999

**United Reformed Church, Southern Synod
Wimbledon Area Co-ordination Team**

**There is an AREA GATHERING
on Saturday, 21 February 2009
12 - 4 pm
at Trinity URC, Mansel Road, Wimbledon**

SUBJECT: BIG ISSUES - YOU can make a DIFFERENCE

**Speakers: Alwyn Knight - Christian Peacemakers Team,
who regularly visits Palestine
Sonia Christie - Eco Mum who writes in *Reform*
Paul Jacobs - Co-ordinator of Kingston Street
Pastors**

**It is hoped that young people will also find the day
interesting**

Lunch will be provided followed by a short Act of Worship

Please let Derek Winsor know by the end of January if you can attend

URC's Ministerial Deployment Consultation

Please note an important meeting on this subject will be held on Tuesday, 27 January, at 7.30 pm, in Room 3. Martyn Verge explained the options at the November Church Meeting (see also article in December Church News). This meeting will be the last chance to express views before the Southern Synod's questionnaire has to be returned by 15 February.

PLEASE COME IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Derek Winsor

ACTIVITY DAYS - 2009

A few years ago we decided that a week-long holiday club might not be the best way to make contact with children and their families. We decided to try a different approach - activities in most school holidays so that we see the children regularly through the year and, therefore, make stronger links with them.

In 2008 we held a small but successful Activity Day in the Christmas holidays themed around the Wise Men. We smelt frankincense and myrrh, told the story between us, and listened to the story of Babushka. We made crowns and hamma bead stars, as well as playing with the parachute, trikes and toys, painting and play dough. We had considered a Christmas Activity Session after an e-mail from a deputy head the previous year asking if we were doing anything, as there wasn't much for children in this particular holiday.

In 2009 our intention is to host activities on the following days:

Monday and Tuesday, 16th & 17th February

Friday, 10th April, **Good Friday**, from 12 to 2 pm

Friday, 17th April

Friday, 29th May

Plus a day trip for anyone who wants to go, some time May - July

Monday and Tuesday, 27th & 28th July

Monday and Tuesday, 24th & 25th August

Monday and Tuesday, 26th & 27th October

Wednesday, 30th December

We are going to try changing the age-ranges for the morning and afternoon groups this year so that the younger group is 3-9 year olds or up to school year 4, and the afternoon session is 9-13 year olds or school years 5-9. We will be flexible with the older group, however, so if an older sibling would prefer to stay in the morning group that will be possible.

If you would like to be involved in the planning or leading of these activities, then please speak to Emily Young or Steve Wenman.

Emily Young



Regular Weekly Activities

Monday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)

Tuesday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)

Wednesday:

10.00 Parents & Toddlers (during school terms)

10.45 The Wednesday Forum (first Wednesday monthly except August)

13.10 Lunchtime Service

14.15 Women's Fellowship (weekly except August)

19.30 Prayer Meeting

Thursday:

19.00 International Discussion Group

Friday:

From 17.30 Girls' Brigade (during school terms)

From 17.30 Boys' Brigade (during school terms)

22.00 All night prayers and Street Pastors (until 04.00)

Saturday:

22.00 Street Pastors (until 04.00)

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 no later than midday on the **second Sunday of the month**. Electronic copy is preferred, by e-mail or on diskette. Typed or hand-written copy should be left in the editor's pigeon-hole opposite Room 6.

The next copy deadline is 12 noon on Sunday, 8 February 2009

Editor: Vaughan James

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for printing Church News

www.kingstonurc.org

You can also keep in touch with worship and activities at our church through our website. Log on and subscribe to regular e-updates

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

Our Sunday Services:

10.00 – Traditional Worship
(with communion first Sunday monthly)

11.30 – Interactive Worship
(with communion on the last Sunday monthly)

18.30 – Reflective Worship
(with communion on the third Sunday monthly)

20.00 – Contemporary Worship
(on occasion on first Sunday)

On the **second Sunday** of each month a **combined service at 11.00** replaces the 10.00 and 11.30 services

Tea and coffee are served between the 10.00 and 11.30 services, before the 11.00 service on the second Sunday and after the 18.30 service

During the 10.00 service there are **group activities for children** of all ages. Children go to their group at the end of the second hymn. Visiting children are welcome to join them

***Kingston United Reformed Church
is a member of the Local
Ecumenical Project in Kingston
Town Centre with its partners, All
Saints Parish Church in the Market
Place and Kingston Baptist Church
in Union Street***

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Church Treasurer: Robin Hoar
Tel: 020 8977 1524

Church Organist: Tony Wenman
Tel: 01372 464709

Premises Manager: Michael Brennan
Tel: 020 8549 1888
E-mail: premises@urckington.org.uk
Premises are open from 09.00-17.00

Private Prayer: The Sanctuary is open daily from 11.30 to 13.30

Coffee and Tea: Our foyer is normally open every weekday and Saturday from 11.00 until 14.00 for coffee and tea.

A Listening Ear: If you would like to talk with someone about a matter of concern, you should find someone wearing a badge in the foyer between 11.00 and 14.00 on every weekday and Saturday who will be pleased to help.