

# KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



*Changing lives for good through the power of God's word*



## Easter 2023

# A Word from the Editor:



Welcome to this edition of the KMC Magazine for Easter 2023.

I am indebted to Rev Peter Hills for stepping in and producing a Message for us in Dave Faulkner's absence. We look forward to seeing him at KMC on Easter Day.

At the time of writing, the weather has turned quite mild so I am hoping it will remain the case in the weeks running up to Easter when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and all that this means to each and every one of us.

At this time of celebration, we must also remain mindful and continue to pray about the future of KMC. The report produced for the Circuit, and now published in this issue, makes for sobering reading and thanks are due to the Leadership Team who spent a considerable amount of time producing it on behalf of our Church.

As you will realise there has not been an issue of this Magazine since Easter last year since when, very sadly, Helen Jones passed away at the age of 96. The eulogy given at her funeral in August is produced in full in this issue to recognise her great contribution to the life of KMC when she was our organist.

Also within this edition you will find another newsletter from Ruth Pugh who has been working in northern India for the Diocese of Durgapur. As you will read, Ruth's time in the country finishes this year so this will be her last communication about the very valuable work she has been carrying out in that region of India. I would like to thank Ruth for all the newsletters she has written for us over the years and to take this opportunity of wishing her all the very best when she returns to the UK later this year.

Finally, thanks are due to the two ladies who bravely allowed me to interview them and the folk who took up the challenge of writing about their favourite hymn. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reproduce all the verses of every hymn selected but, apart from two hymns, the remainder can be found in Singing the Faith.

May you have a very happy and peaceful Easter and let us all remain prayerful and make sure we listen to what God says to us in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

**Robin Spice, Editor**

## KMC MAGAZINE

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**NEXT ISSUE: Summer 2023. Look out for information about the copy deadline.**

Copy to: Robin Spice - [editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)

# Message from Peter:

Our minister Dave Faulkner is on sabbatical from 5th March to 18th June inclusive. If you need a Methodist minister urgently during that time please contact Rev Claire Hargreaves:

[claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk](mailto:claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk)

As Dave is away, this Message is from Peter Hills:

## **Easter – A Reflection**

'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ has burst his prison,  
And from three days sleep in death  
As a sun has risen.

(John of Damascus)

Rise, heart, thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise  
Without delay,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise  
With him mayst rise.

(George Herbert)

The Lord of life is risen indeed,  
To death, delivered in your stead;  
His rise declares your sins forgiven,  
And shows the living way to heaven.

(Charles Wesley)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

(Brian Wren)

How could any words of mine compare with those of the great poets who have wrestled with the true meaning of the Resurrection over the centuries? There are times when all one can do is let the mystery surround us, and wonder, and laugh and sing and celebrate, even dance! I love to hear again the accounts of the Resurrection encounters, when Jesus meets a woman before any of the other disciples; walks with a couple of others (possibly a married couple) to their home and breaks bread with them; speaks to the rest, including Thomas (eventually!) in the very place where he last ate with them; prepares a fish breakfast on the Galilee shore and forgives Peter. All are shared memories, written down, probably, within the following 80 years (I am 78).

But before them, Paul was already dictating his letters, to 'young churches' in Macedonia (Thessalonica), Greece (Corinth), Turkey (Galatia) and Italy (Rome). It was Paul who first put the cross at the centre of



Christian belief; and when he wrote about the Resurrection, it was in the context of the passion and death of Jesus:

Do you not know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6.3-4)

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and he appeared to Cephas and then to the twelve. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. (1 Corinthians 15.3-5, 19-20)

I find that, to make sense of Paul, I need to read each passage more than once! His words are spoken and come from the heart, but not as carefully crafted as those written by the gospel writers – in my opinion. But such riches! I am a theologian, and enjoy the ‘wrestling till daybreak’ that Theology requires; but as a person of faith it is the simple assurance of the presence of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, which matters. Easter makes sense of the cross, but not only that: it is a reminder that Jesus meets us in a garden, on the road, in an upper room, on the seashore, or wherever we happen to be. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Alleluia!

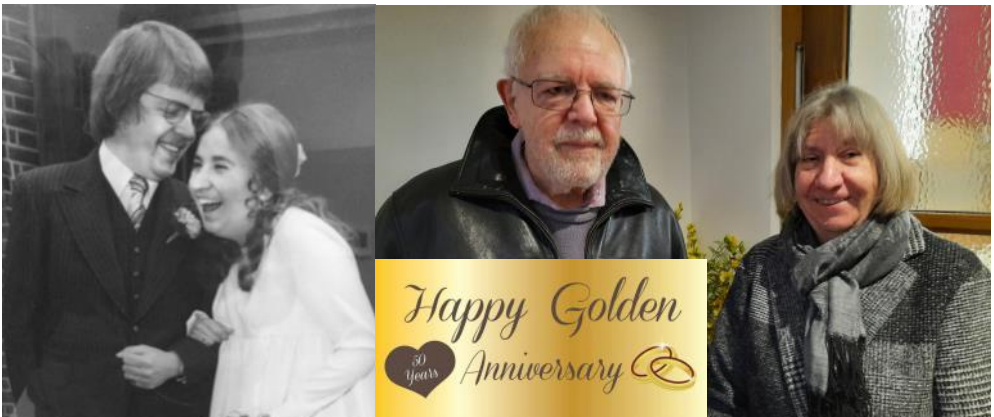
Happy Easter.

**Rev. Peter Hills**



## Family News

Many congratulations to **Liz & Mike Funning** who celebrate their **Golden Wedding** in April. Look out for more information on this wonderful event coming your way soon!



# Is the cross you wear too heavy to bear?

Complainingly I told myself  
this cross was too heavy to wear,  
And I wondered discontentedly  
why God gave it to me to bear.  
I looked with envy at others  
whose crosses seemed lighter than mine  
And wished that I could change my cross  
for one of a lighter design.

Then in a dream I beheld the cross  
I impulsively wanted to wear –  
It was fashioned of pearls and diamonds  
and gems that are precious and rare,  
And when I hung it around my neck,  
the weight of the jewels and the gold  
Was much too heavy and cumbersome  
for my small, slender neck to hold.

So I tossed it aside, and before my eyes  
was a cross of rose-red flowers,  
And I said with delight as I put it on,  
“This cross I can wear for hours.”  
For it was so dainty and fragile,  
so lovely and light and thin,  
But I had forgotten about the thorns  
that started to pierce my skin.

Then in a dream I saw my cross –  
rugged and old and plain –  
The clumsy old cross I had looked upon  
with discontented disdain,  
And at last I knew that God had made  
this special cross for me,  
For God in His great wisdom  
knew what I before could not see –

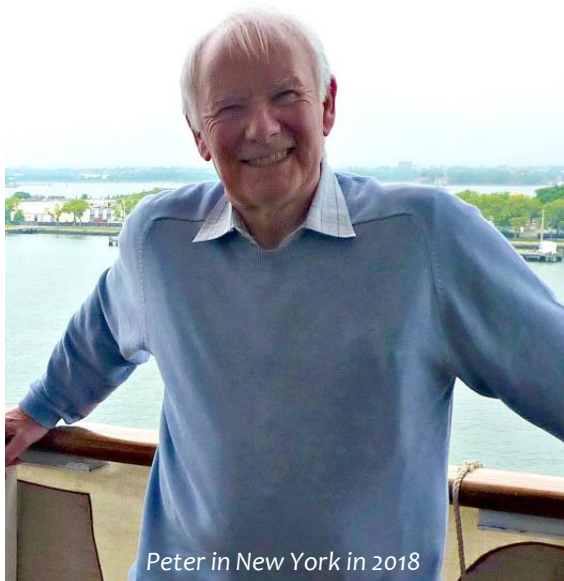
That often the loveliest crosses  
are the heaviest to bear,  
For only God is wise enough  
to choose the cross each can wear.  
So never complain about your cross,  
for your cross has been blessed –  
God made it just for you to wear  
and remember, God knows best.

*Virginia J. Ruehlmann  
& The Helen Steiner  
Rice Foundation 1996*

**Rev Peter Hills** will be with us on Easter Day and whilst he is known to us at KMC I thought there might be some things we don't know about him and how right I was! So read on....

## Ministry is not Boring!

Robin asked me to write a little about myself, especially since I shall be giving some pastoral support while Dave is away. I had the privilege to do that not long after I arrived in the Circuit, here in Knaphill; this time it will be at Byfleet. I say above, that ministry is not boring. I might as well have said that the Christian life is not boring, even when it is concentrated in one small part of God's world for a lifetime. It so happens that my Christian life has been spread over many parts of the world over many years, where I have experienced such variety, and met so many lovely people, and some less lovely: though all are loved.



*Peter in New York in 2018*

I was born on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent on the 18th January 1945. I have no memories of the War but lived in the aftermath of the War: bomb sites, ration books, one-legged men with crutches, and a community spirit – not least due to the influx of East-Enders (real cockneys) dislodged by the London Blitz and V1 and V2 rockets; and the returning veterans, some of whom taught me at school. I do have a clear memory of the King's death... the Coronation. I was baptised at Hope Street. Congregational Chapel in Sheerness (now a URC/Methodist united church) on Easter Day 1945: my mother was a Leading Wren and my father a dockyard electrician and member of the Home Guard. He later joined the Admiralty as a Civil Servant and I remember being taken to see the new Queen at the Trooping of the Colour, and then being bussed to Portsmouth to see the Spithead Review. My dad was always disappointed that I later joined the Army and not the Royal Navy.

I was brought up at Broadway Methodist Church and was sent to the local Tech, having just failed to obtain a place at Borden Grammar School. I was a Church Member and Sunday School teacher at 15 and preached my first sermon as a Preacher on Trial in 1963, aged 18: sixty years ago, this year! I



went on to be a student teacher, training at Bognor Regis, and was recognised as a Local Preacher in March 1966. After teaching for a while in West Sussex, I joined the Royal Army Educational Corps, with whom I served for over 16 years. As a Local Preacher I was much involved in church life, working with a succession of wonderful chaplains – mainly Anglican, as it happens. I served in four English counties, Lisburn during the Troubles (1974-5) and twice with the British Army of the Rhine.

I met Margaret in Canterbury when I sang the tenor solos in a Bach cantata, and we married later that year (1973: and, yes, we are looking forward to our Golden Wedding in December).

I trained for the ministry at Wesley House Cambridge, where among our friends were a young couple, Paul and Janet Glass. I think you may have met. I served my probation at Horley in the Redhill and East Grinstead Circuit, before being asked by the Methodist Forces Board to return to the Army as a chaplain. We arrived in Cyprus in 1991, having driven across Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy and Greece: not the most direct route, but the Balkan wars had already started; we travelled via a series of car ferries, via Corinth, which I found exciting – though we were robbed there on the return journey, losing our cameras and other small items. After Cyprus came



Catterick. We came to love Richmond and the Yorkshire Dales. Margaret was deeply involved with the Georgian Theatre Royal, where we both performed in plays and operettas.

While in Catterick I was deployed to Canada with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and then to Bosnia with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; it was our first experience of long-term separation, but by the time I went off in my blue United Nations beret Margaret had company in the shape of our first Labrador, the ladylike Hatti. I was back in Bosnia after only six months at home, having just moved to Germany for the third time – though on the



*Remembering the Somme at  
Richmond Castle in Yorkshire 1996*

Dutch border, much closer to home. Back in Germany I took over the Free Church & Church of Scotland Church, St Andrews, for two wonderful years. I deployed again during my final few months, this time to North Macedonia and later Kosovo, travelling between three countries to give pastoral support, including a regular Saturday morning Communion service on the shores of Thessalonica. Glorious!

My military service ended back in Cambridgeshire, at a training unit, where we lived for a while in the best of the many houses we have had. So it was back into Circuit, aged 57, as Superintendent of the Sevenoaks Circuit (now part of the Weald of Kent Circuit, whose Superintendent and I served as chaplains together in Kosovo). It was such a lovely church, active with good children's work, and an adjoining group of alms houses which the Circuit administered, and still does. The eight years we spent there was the longest period we had spent anywhere. It was the last of many times I was a school governor, but also a time of new beginnings, as I began the chaplaincies which are such an important part of my ministry today. We also said a sad farewell to Hatti and took on the far from ladylike but adorable Izzy (who died only a year ago). So, I look back on my active ministry, and my churches: Horley, St Michael's Ayios Nikolaios, St Aiden's Catterick, St Andrew's Rheindahlen, Bassingbourn Garrison Church and The Drive Sevenoaks. Each one tells a story.

I also look back on my ministry since: first as a Supernumerary with pastoral charge in Tenterden and the edge of Romney Marsh in the South Kent Circuit – where my Superintendent was Sam Funnell: Wey Valley has turned out to be quite a place of reunion! It was also a return to my time as a Local Preacher in the old Folkestone Circuit forty years earlier, where Margaret and I had married before our adventure in Northern Ireland. What a wonderful life. Believe it or not, we will have been in Guildford for eight years in May. I am still an ecumenical officer, chaplain to Surrey Police and South East Coast Ambulance Service, Camberley Sea Cadets and Cranleigh Air Cadets, Honorary Chaplain to the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, about to retire as a visiting chaplain to Westminster Abbey, and most recently have become a chaplain to the Brookwood Last Post. So at 78, it seems that God still has things for me to do.



KMC members were invited to share their favourite hymn and here follows the result with thanks to all who put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard.

**Christine Woodley: O Jesus I have Promised**

Many years ago, when we still lived in Pooley Green in Egham, I was in the kitchen preparing the vegetables for dinner when my two daughters burst in from school. Joanna, the eldest was cheerfully singing. "That's nice", I said to her, "what is it"? "Something we have been learning at school", she replied. "It's called. O Jesus I have Promised".

I was so enthralled by the lovely music, I made her sing it to me every day after school until I could join in. I then realised how meaningful the words are and so that started my journey to follow Jesus.

The promise we make when we become Christian is similar to the marriage vow, a promise from both parties and the words in the last verse read:

*O Jesus you have promised  
To all who follow you*

*That where thou are in Glory  
Your servant shall be too.*

I requested this hymn to be sung at my first Communion at KMC, but it had to have the right music as there are several tunes available. Hatherop Castle is the tune my daughter brought home. It also reminds me of wonderful the experience of being a Mum to a lovely family for which I give thanks as that is also another journey filled with promise!

**Maggie Spice: Lord of all Hopefulness**

This hymn has been my favourite since childhood. I really like how it makes me feel that Jesus is with me throughout each day. I find the words very comforting.

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*



**Helen Chamberlain: Now let us from this table rise**

The words of the final verse sum up my attitude to life and I have always found it inspirational. I also find the last two lines in the last verse of the hymn a very helpful way to think about how to live my life. It is actually a Communion hymn but as I say, it is the final verse that so resonates with me:

*Then give us courage Father God  
to choose again the pilgrim way  
and help us to accept with joy  
the challenge of tomorrow's day.*



**Ella Allen: Let us build a house where love can dwell**

I have chosen two hymns. This first one I like because it talks of welcoming everyone into God's house.

It is also a modern hymn and we can all understand the meaning of it.

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,*

*rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

**When I survey the wondrous cross**

This is a hymn full of emotion and sung to the tune Rockingham. Jesus Christ the suffering servant.

*When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.*



**Lynda Shore: Love divine all loves excelling, Great is thy faithfulness, And Can it Be**

I love all three of these hymns because of the words and the music.

*Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.*

*Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.*

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

*And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*



*Amazing  
LOVE*

**Tarina Berry: Master speak thy servant hear us**

This was the first hymn I heard after the operation I had to restore my hearing back in 1968. It is so appropriate!

*Master speak! Thy servant heareth,  
waiting for thy gracious word,*

*longing for thy voice that cheereth;  
Master, let it now be heard.*

**Sheila Mynard: *Think of a world without any flowers***

This hymn sums up everything precious to me in my life.

*Think of a world without any flowers,  
Think of a wood without any trees,  
Think of a sky without any sunshine, Think of the air  
without any breeze:  
We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine;  
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.*



**John Mynard:** As I know so many hymns and songs it is very difficult for me to pick out a particular favourite, but there are a few that are special to me.

***'I will sing the wondrous story'*** (I just love the words at the end of the last verse, in particular.)

*Then he'll bear me safely over where my loved ones I shall meet.  
(What a wonderful thought.)*

***Come let us sing of a wonderful love***, tender and true,  
*Out of the heart of the Father above  
Streaming to me and to you.  
Wonderful love, dwells in the heart of the Father above.*



(Who said streaming is a new thing! This hymn was sung at my mother's funeral when I was just sixteen.)

But the one I have chosen to elaborate on is ***'How great thou art'***.

I love the words in the last verse, ***'When Christ shall come and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. How great thou art.'*** Amazing.

*When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation  
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, 'my God, how great thou art!'  
Then sings my soul...*



**Penny Putman: *Shine Jesus Shine***

Many years ago around 1990, there used to be a Pilgrimage to Guildford Cathedral on an Easter Monday. It included churches and youth groups from all around the area. Members of KMC used to walk there organised by Marilyn Meller, during the time she was leading the local Guides I think. This hymn stood out for me. It sounded amazing ringing out in a packed Cathedral.

*Lord the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
shine on me, shine on me.  
Shine Jesus, shine.*

*Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with  
grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord and let  
there be light!*

## Robin Spice: *God be in my Head*

This is not a hymn that is heard very often. I have not sung it since my father's funeral in 1990. It was written in the 15th century and revived in the last century. It is very short, but the words are simple and all encompassing. This hymn has been given many tunes but the most lasting one, and in my view, the best, is the tune by Walford Davies.

*God be in my head  
and in my understanding.  
God be in mine eyes  
and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth*



*and in my speaking.  
God be in mine heart  
and in my thinking.  
God be at my end  
and in my departing.*

## Raj Chhetri: *Amazing Grace*

This hymn was written by John Newton (1725–1807) who was the Captain of the Slave Transporting Ship from West Africa to the New World.

*Amazing Grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I was once lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.*

*And, when this heart and flesh shall fail  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.*

This hymn reflects upon my own journey towards salvation of my soul.

Indeed, Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the Amazing Grace--the Son of Man made human. Yes, I was a wretch and I must confess that I am still at times a wretch when I fail on His Commandments. Indeed, I was once lost but now am found. I was blinded by another theosophy--theological Dogma. But now I see God's Vision for Mankind.

I have come across many risks/dangers and traps and I still do at times. But, so far God's Grace has brought me this far and I know through the Holy Spirit He will lead me home. I look upon the Lord's Promise whenever I feel I am snared and exposed to dangers by the devil. Realistically, the Lord's Words - His assurance is my hope. He has shielded me from dangers and He will continue to shield me from risks/dangers until I die. When the time comes for leaving this temporary life, I know within the veil I will have a life of joy and peace. Amen.

This is my Testimony and when I die this Hymn will accompany me, Rajendra Raj Chhetri - Retired Registered General(RGN) and Psychiatric(RMN) Nurse with 44 years' service in the NHS.



**Do you want to make money for KMC - at no cost to you?**  
**Sounds like an idea? Well, since 2016, 28 members of KMC**  
**have raised nearly £1000 for the church!**

**It has not cost them a penny, and you should join them....**  
**Have a look at page 30 for details.**

*To His feet thy tribute bring...*

This is one of the hymns that have most affected me. It has been sung on special occasions for me, and I would like it at my funeral too. The music is good – a fine tune, with four (or five) verses in different harmonies. But more important – much more important – it has words that remind us of worship, of redemption, of forgiveness, of merciful love, of the relationship that God has with us.

*Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven –*

It's slightly "odd", this hymn: it is being sung by the singer to his own soul – the singer is telling his or her self to praise the Everlasting King, and giving good reasons for it. Just the four reasons, the four aspects of salvation listed in this line are a truly amazing group. Ransomed: bought back (at what a price!); Healed: the damages wrought by sin repaired; Restored: brought back to where and who we ought to be; and finally Forgiven: despite our (wilful) errors, we are completely and utterly forgiven. Wow!

*Who like thee His praise should sing?*

Who indeed! This hymn is a short paraphrase of Psalm 103 "*Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.*" That Psalm has even more in it than this hymn: it tells us in more detail what He has done, and will do, for us. It sets it in a context that could be understood by the first hearers of that Psalm and can be understood also by us here, now. And it is only a partial understanding - there is so much more to come.

Has God granted His salvation and care to others? Yes – and it's not just "our fathers" but "all people".

*Praise Him for His grace and favour to our fathers in distress*

And is God going to carry on with this care and outpouring of love? For all time? Yes!

*praise Him, still the same for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.*

Does He care for us? Does He know us - all of us - deeply, completely? Yes!

*Father-like, He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;  
in His hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.*

And not just to us personally, each one of us, each in his or her own situation, each of us whose life is a personal gift... but Everywhere and Everywhen, in all places at all times...

*Angels, help us to adore Him! Ye behold Him, face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space.*

From your own private soul to the outermost glories of His creation, He is to be praised!

*Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven.*





# Whitechapel Mission



Our church here in Knaphill has been supporting the Whitechapel Mission since 1992. It came about as a result of one of our previous ministers becoming involved via contact with another minister who had an interest in this type of missionary work. Initially, we visited four times a year with the men helping with the showers and the women assisting with countless other jobs that had to be done.

We needed at least four men on each visit to help and it was not always easy because of work commitments during the week. Some men did not feel like getting up and going out at 6am on a Sunday morning as you can imagine!

Over the years, until 2011, we managed to deliver clothing, toiletries, tin food and money. Since then we have tried to carry on the good work we started by giving goods and money and this has been our main way of helping Whitechapel in recent years.

Some of us still visit, if only on an annual basis, so we can attend their Thanksgiving Service which is held every November.

Tony Miller and his wife Sue (*above right*) have been in charge for most of the time since we started our support of the Mission. Tony works tirelessly year after year and for all this charity work he was awarded the MBE in 2012 which was given to him by our late Queen.

Tony thoroughly deserves this honour. If the weather is really severe he will keep the homeless on the premises overnight, which is not an easy thing to do because it means he has to work 24 hours a day.

There are many activities going on at the Mission on a regular basis. One of these activities is providing help to the homeless to claim housing and other benefits. This involves people having to prove their identity by means of producing a birth certificate, passport or other ID document. The assistance provided can often be difficult to do and very time consuming.

Lynda Shore and I visited last November to the Thanksgiving Service and this is when the photograph of Tony & Sue was taken. At the annual service there is usually a well-known minister preaching and afterwards we are treated to a delicious tea!

Many of you may remember meeting Tony as he has been to KMC several times over the years to tell us about his work.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who continue to support the Whitechapel Mission.

**Ella Allen**



## Helen Jones – Eulogy



*This is the eulogy given by Robin Spice at Helen Jones's funeral at KMC on 23rd August 2022.*

On behalf of Helen's brother, Eric who can't be here today, I would like to thank you all for coming to this funeral service to give thanks and appreciation for the life of Helen. Some of you will remember her when she was the organist at this church.

Of course, Helen continued to worship here at KMC long after she vacated her role as organist and did so up until the time she moved into a care home.

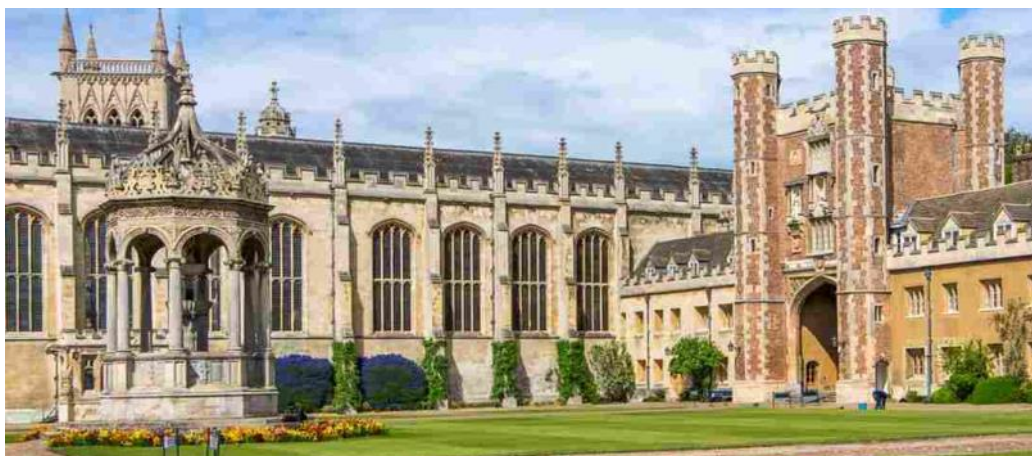
Although Helen did have other interests, her life revolved around music whether that was teaching music or playing the piano or organ herself at which she was very accomplished, but let's go back to the beginning.

Helen was born in Brisbane, Australia on 13 December 1925. Her mother was English, born in Northumberland and who lived until she was 96, the same age as Helen. Her father was Australian and born in Brisbane. He passed away suddenly at the young age of 66 which of course was quite a shock for the family at the time. Helen's brother Eric was born a couple of years after Helen and at the age of 95 he still lives in the Brisbane area with his wife Jessica.

It was Helen's mother who taught Helen the piano when Helen was just 6 years old - so started Helen's life-long interest in music. It was not long before, through a friend, she started to learn to play the pipe organ and then to study music seriously. In her teens, Helen won a scholarship in Brisbane to attend Trinity College in London to study the piano. At that time Trinity College only gave 10 of these scholarships to the world each year, two of which went to Australia, and it was one of these that was awarded to Helen. Not a bad achievement I think you will agree.

Due to the war, however and for family reasons, Helen was not able to come to England at that time as she had wanted to do, so she studied music privately in Brisbane and then started work at a school where she taught the piano. Helen told me that her first Methodist service was as organist at a Methodist Church in Brisbane when she was just 15. Little did she know that this was just the start of what life had in store for her in England! Helen eventually became a Fellow of Trinity College and having won that scholarship years earlier, she still hoped that one day she could come to England and attend Trinity College as well as find a job, teaching music.

Her wish finally came true in January 1955 when the family – that is Helen and her parents - left Sydney for England by sea. Helen's father had never been to England and had always wanted to come and so they accompanied Helen on this trip. They arrived in England in March 1955.



The family managed to find a flat in Clapham in which to reside and within two months Helen had found a teaching job at St Mary's Hill School in Horsell. This was a private boarding school for girls which closed in 1967 and then was demolished. I believe it was located near St Mary's Church, in the Lych Way area if you know Horsell.

Helen taught the piano at this school and luckily the job came with accommodation. In addition to this job, every week for half a day, Helen was also delighted to be able to attend Trinity College in London for singing lessons.

Her parents returned to Australia in 1957 and they originally thought Helen would go with them. However, by then Helen was so settled that the last thing she said she wanted to do was to go back to Australia. Her mother apparently used to say: "Now make sure you always have enough money so that you can come back home". Helen used to change this in her mind to: "you mean make sure I have enough money to go home and then come

back here again!" I would say that was typical Helen; very independent, a great, albeit rather wry, sense of humour and someone who once she had made her mind up that was it.

Helen taught at St Mary's Hill School for 10 years and then left to become a music teacher at Maybury School where, by chance, Paul Weller was one of her pupils. As you may know Paul later became famous with the group The Jam and had a successful solo career. Helen was very pleased to think that she was instrumental in starting his interest in music. She told me that "he was a quiet little boy who never gave me any trouble!"

Over the years Helen worked at a number of local schools peripatetically as a music teacher. These included schools in Monument Hill, Lightwater, Sythwood, Hermitage and Westfield.

In 1967 Helen moved to a brand new flat in St John's. It was in a small block of flats which had been built by her friend, local businessman and musician, Walter Deakin. Helen met Walter through a pupil who had attended St Mary's Hill School. At that time Walter was organist here at KMC and wanted a soloist for a performance of The Messiah that he was staging. Helen obliged and the rest, you could say, is history!



It was in 1958 that Walter Deakin formed the Epworth Choir. The Choir consisted of choirs from local Methodist Churches and Helen joined as a first soprano. In the late 1970s, however she was asked to take on the role of rehearsal accompanist which she thoroughly enjoyed. At the same time she performed the same role for Woking Operatic

Society until 1996 so she was one busy lady. My wife Maggie and I first met Helen when we joined Epworth in the late 70s, but it was not until she retired as organist at this church in 1996, and became part of the congregation, that our friendship really grew.

Helen became the organist here in 1970 through her friend the late KMC member Elspeth Pike. And very committed and dedicated to the job Helen was too – not being able to drive she would travel from St John's to Knaphill by bus in all weathers for the 11 o'clock service on Sunday morning and then again for the 6.30pm service in the evening. She also played for three musicals that were produced here at KMC during the 70s and 80s, giving all her time to them and playing at all the performances. In 1995, to recognise her 25 years as our organist, Helen was presented with a vase on which there is an inscription marking the occasion.

Apart from music, Helen had many other interests, although you wouldn't have thought there would have been time for much else – Helen was a guider throughout the 60s and 70s and this was a continuation of her guiding exploits from when she was in Australia too before she came to



England. She enjoyed archery and loved travelling, particularly cruises, and especially if she was on the QE2. She also liked bird watching and collecting silver charms. In later life she enjoyed doing crosswords, sudoku and watching motor racing, with Lewis Hamilton being her particular favourite racing driver. Who knew?!

Helen returned to Australia several times over the years, the last time being in 1997 when she stayed for 3 months. Unfortunately, during this holiday she had a fall during a trip to Tasmania which caused the retina in her right eye to become detached. On returning home she sought treatment, but this did not go well and over time she lost the sight in this eye completely. This more or less ended her piano playing days as a rehearsal accompanist. Despite being partially sighted and eventually almost blind, she did not miss much and never lost her sense of humour. I have lost count of the number of times we used to joke about what was on the lunch menu at her care home because invariably it always seemed to contain chicken. It was probably totally unfair of us, but it became a running joke and it amused us even if nobody else was particularly impressed! Helen moved into care at the end of 2014 at a time when it became increasingly difficult for her to manage the stairs at home. But it was when she broke the bones in her foot in a fall outdoors which ultimately resulted in her not being able to walk that meant she could not continue living independently. After moving into Jackman's Lodge, yes, she was well cared for and happy to be living there, but she would refuse to involve herself in much of the care home's activities unless they were of particular interest to her and these were few and far between. Of course, her poor eyesight did preclude her participating in some of what went on. However, overall as I say she was pleased to be living there and all the staff were very fond of her. Such was the relationship she had with them over the 7 plus years she lived there, that they even managed to persuade her to play the piano. Even as recently as last year she was managing to play as best she could, much to the delight of staff and residents.

Helen never married. She hinted that there may have been someone back in Australia in her earlier years, but at the end of the day music was to be her great passion and it was this that largely took over her life and she enjoyed it so very much. And it was of course all the children she taught, including Paul Weller, all the congregations at the church services she played at for 26 years particularly at this church, all the members of the Epworth Choir and Woking Operatic Society that she played for at rehearsals, who were the ultimate beneficiaries of this lady's great talent for which Helen, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May you now rest in peace. You may be gone, but you will never be forgotten.





## People in Profile

### - Vicki Drew

Vicki is a relatively new member of the congregation at KMC but she is certainly not new to Knaphill or Woking come to that!

Vicki was born at the maternity hospital which existed in Heathside Road at the time, her family home being on the Barnsbury Estate. She attended Highlands School in Bonsey Lane, Westfield and her first job was as a post office telephonist. Following work at a solicitors, and an import/export business near Heathrow, Vicki spent 6 years



as a clerk/typist at a firm which manufactured barrels and kitchen sinks.

Vicki married in 1977 and moved with her husband to a flat at Cresswell Corner on Anchor Hill here in Knaphill. From 1980, 3 children arrived, one daughter and two sons. To help the family finances Vicki worked nights at Sainsbury's in Burpham and she continued to do this job for 13 years so she could be around during the day for the children.

It was in 1997 that Vicki decided to return to the classroom and for the following 2 years, on one day a week she went to Guildford Technical College to study Welfare Studies. The plan was to be able to get a job that involved welfare and in December 1999 such a job turned up in the shape of an education welfare role with Surrey County Council. During the subsequent 20 years Vicki was mainly based in Woking except for a short period when she was moved to a Leatherhead office and covered a number of schools in that area.

The role of education welfare officer required Vicki to visit schools which included two senior schools and 10 or 11 primary schools as well as doing home visits to families where for a variety of reasons children were not attending school on a regular basis.

Retirement beckoned in 2017, but in fact Vicki stayed another year and finally left in 2018.

By this time Vicki, who divorced in 1999, had been living in a flat above one of the shops in Knaphill almost opposite KMC. Unfortunately, she had to leave this

accommodation due to it needing to be refurbished. So it was, that for around 9 months Vicki lived outside of Knaphill, in West End, until her current home, back in the centre of Knaphill, became available.

Vicki had been attending Emmanuel Chapel in Portugal Road in Woking for many years until it closed in 2017. On moving back into Knaphill Vicki decided to give KMC a try and to cut a long story short she has never left. This means she has been with us since December 2017. Her attendance also resulted in meeting again, after many years, a pupil who was in the same year at Highlands as Vicki and that was Susan Bennett!

Vicki has lots of hobbies including knitting toys, learning the piano and reading. She also does some voluntary work every week which she enjoys. Her 3 children each have 3 children of their own and one of the grandchildren has a baby which, of course means Vicki is a great grandmother. If this wasn't enough to occupy her time in December 2020, Vicki acquired an allotment. It took her 3 months to clear it following which she put in some paths and installed a shed. Now she is growing her own vegetables and really enjoying getting her hands dirty! So, all in all Vicki is kept very busy and no longer has time for a fulltime job!

In addition, Vicki has become an integral part of KMC because for the last three years she has been our Safeguarding Officer and attends Church Council meetings.

Vicki's favourite hymn is *Above all Powers*. At the Emmanuel Chapel this hymn was sung a great deal and her bible teacher at the Chapel, who is no longer with us, loved this hymn. Whenever it was sung, she and Vicki would look at each other and smile because Vicki loved this hymn too. So now the singing of this hymn is a great reminder for Vicki of that teacher.

*Above all powers  
Above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began  
Above all kingdoms  
Above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure what You're worth*

*Crucified  
Laid behind the stone  
You lived to die  
Rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall  
And thought of me  
Above all.*

## People in Profile - **Susan Bennett**

*Believe it or not, I had already asked if Susan would be a “victim” for this Magazine before I knew that she and Vicki Drew were friends at school. So, it is therefore pure coincidence, but fitting that both ladies’ profiles should appear in this issue.*

Unlike Vicki, Susan hails from the Birmingham area, only moving to Woking with her parents when she was 2 years old. Initially, the family lived in Send before moving to the Barnsbury Estate in Woking to be nearer the school which Susan was to attend and of course this is how, ultimately, she met Vicki.

Susan’s father was a coach painter, but this included the painting of cars too after having spent the majority of the 2nd world war in the army. After he retired, he had a part-time job as a chauffeur to the Mayor of Surrey Heath, a job he had for several years until he later passed away in 1994.

The family moved to Knaphill when Susan left school at the age of 17. At school Susan had undertaken a commercial course learning shorthand and typing and her first job was at a parachute company which at that time was based in Portugal Road, in Woking. Susan in fact worked at their other site which was where Robin Hood Works is now located. However, apparently she spent more time checking parachutes than practising her shorthand and typing skills!

Nine months into this job she was made redundant, following which she took a clerical and typist job at an insurance company in Woking. Susan then moved to another insurance company in Guildford before being made redundant again. For the best part of the next 11 years Susan worked for a firm of pension advisers until in 2017 she was made redundant again at which point she decided to retire.

Her daughter Leah was born in 1986 and it was really through Leah attending Sunday School, that Susan started attending KMC in around 1991/92. It was at KMC that Susan met her future husband Colin Bennett, and this was all apparently due to Ella Allen who put them “on the door” together to welcome people to the service. Their relationship developed and they eventually married in July 2007.

It was also through attendance at KMC that Susan joined Woking Ladies Choir. The choir used to rehearse at KMC before they relocated to Old Woking and then





to Trinity Methodist Church which is where they now rehearse. Susan is also involved with the Clothes 4U initiative held once a month at KMC.

Sadly, Colin passed away in 2017. One of his great loves, apart from Susan, of course, was the Morgan motor car. He originally purchased one when he was in his 20s but unfortunately could not keep it at that time because he could not get it insured.

When he retired he wanted to own one again and eventually did so. It was his pride and joy. After he passed away Susan approached the firm who used to service the car, who are based in Borough Green, Kent near Brands Hatch, to see if they would sell the car on her behalf which they subsequently did. Due to her contact with this company and through another Morgan owner who lives in West End, Susan now volunteers to serve refreshments to customers at their "Breakfast mornings" which are held once a month. To travel there and back, Susan gets a lift in her friend's Morgan which she thoroughly enjoys.

Susan's parents were not regular churchgoers, however they were religious with Susan's mother being a non-practising Catholic.

Susan is grateful to have forged friendships with people at KMC and is happy to have become more involved in the life of the church over the last few years.

Outside of church, Susan still attends a bereavement group which she finds helpful and loves getting outdoors on long walks.

Due to the appropriateness of the words, Susan's favourite hymn is *Lead us Heavenly Father, lead us*. It is also her favourite because it reminds her of school and singing this particular hymn at school assemblies.

*Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee,  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.*





# Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC



from  
**KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH**

**Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey. GU21 2DR**

Firstly, Jane Ing and I wish to say thank you to all of the volunteers that give up their time once a month for the Clothes4U clothing bank, as without their support and help the clothing bank would not operate as efficiently it does.

We have Syrian families that continue to come along plus new visitors too. Everyone is given a friendly welcome and help is offered if needed. We provide free refreshments, which includes cakes that are brought in by one of our ladies, so providing the opportunity to sit and chat. When children visit with their parents we give them colouring pencils, paper and toys to play with, which helps pass the time for them.

Although it can get quite busy, we get a real sense of pride being able to supply good quality clothing to those families who are in need, irrespective of their financial situation.

The clothing bank is always in need of pre-loved clothes, especially those for older children, teenagers and gentlemen too. Please ask work colleagues or friends if they can donate when they have a clear out of their clothes. They will be gratefully accepted by us and our visitors, who often have difficulty in obtaining such a basic need as clothing for themselves and/or their children.

With many thanks as ever.

**Helen Brice and Jane Ing**

## Spring Bulb Anagrams

At the time of writing Spring has yet to fully arrive, but hopefully by the time you read this it will be here. So, what better time than to try to get to grips with the following anagrams. Good luck!

**Answers on page 35**

SCARS IN US	
WORN PODS	
FAIRY TRILL	
ATE COIN	
A CHINK IS UP	
HOLLY IVY LEAFLET	
LIT UP	
DO HOAX ICON	





# KMC's Written Assessment for the Circuit 'Vision & Strategy Consultation'

## Overview of process & summary

In September 2022, the Circuit Meeting 'agreed to proceed with a consultation process in the context of the paper ... 'Wey Valley Circuit Structure & Strategy'', which set out considerations of 'the future of the Circuit, specifically in terms of financing & stationing': the existing 'structure & administrative burden' being considered 'unmanageable'. Part of the purpose was to 'seek to identify opportunities for 'mission, mutual encouragement & help', in order to 'secure a spirit-led & viable future for Methodism in Wey Valley'.

The Consultation asked that each church in the Circuit produced 'its own written assessment to be included in a report for the March Circuit Meeting'.

So, on 1st November, KMC Leadership Team (LT) met with our Circuit Stewards, David Lander & Jean Normington, who set out the requirements of the Consultation, and talked us through the 'key areas' of 'Church Life' which we would need to consider.

The LT reconvened on 14th November to discuss & record our responses: we had to 'comment on' current status, opportunities, prospects, and risks & challenges for each of 8 areas of Church Life (given below).

From this discussion, a report was written, presented to, reviewed and ratified by the LT Meeting on 3rd January, before submission to the Circuit, and to be discussed at their March meeting.

The following in *italics* is a **summary** of the Written Assessment that was submitted.

**Worship:** *KMC usually offers only one Sunday morning service per week, with a few additional seasonal worship events. Services are 'somewhat formulaic in style': there is little inclusion opportunity for children and occasional visitors, and no 'streaming'. 'Visiting, and Local Preachers', and a 'willing Worship Group' do facilitate 'more dynamic & engaging worship', and are more inclusive in participation: continuing or re-visiting 'alternative' worship requires better longer-term planning. A very small team of people - mostly LT members - plan & organise worship, with 'many jobs being covered by only 1 person', creating considerable 'stretch' & pressuring 'overload': it is increasingly hard to get willing volunteers.*

*A small number of people regularly use the monthly Prayer Diary, & attend the Zoom Prayer Meetings.*

*Our current Presbyter, Rev. David Faulkner, leaves at the end of this Methodist Year.*

**People:** *Current membership stands at 67: only 40% form a congregation at any one time. Most members are 'older' - 'retirees+'; there are no children or youth in*

regular attendance. Most are 'reluctant' – with regard to taking on church roles, and/or wider inclusion, development & church growth. There are only 3 Stewards – all close to the maximum 6-year service & fulfilling many other roles. The 7-8 pastoral visitors are also restricted somewhat by age & ability.

Opportunities to engage with the 'missing demographic' are not sufficiently supported.

There is insufficient planning for succession, or encouragement.

There is 'a lack of whole church responsibility'.

KMC is likely to 'die off'.

**Finance:** Currently, this is an 'unhealthy' situation: insufficient 'income to continue to cover the required Assessment to the Circuit' (we have 'enough' for about 2 years payment for this and 'average' bills); reduction in real-terms giving; removal of significant hiring of premises income – all within a 'financially draining' property, (see below) stressing an extremely dedicated Treasurer & challenging our Lettings facilitator. We cannot run at a deficit.

The Outreach Fund is 'healthy' but remains largely 'untouched'.

**Property:** The Worship Area – only used for 1½ hours per week, 'unhirable', and not 'fit for purpose as a truly 'useful' & multipurpose worship area' – and other rooms, all require attention: £104,000+ work was identified in the 2020 Quinquennial Report, and it is likely that 'the financial draining of the current property demands is only going to increase': a 'money-pit!' Facilities & their arrangement are not conducive for some hiring purposes. No Property Steward is an 'unsustainable' 'time & resources' drain on the LT, who have ensured 'trouble-shooting' & 'compliance' issues have been met.

No avenues of 're-development' interest opportunities have amounted to anything. The building remains 'too expensive to maintain, let alone, 're-do', & 'unfit for purpose.'

**Mission & Service:** KMC is involved in a number of mission-linked events: monthly, Clothes4U & Coffee Mornings; annually, collections for other missions – Whitechapel, Salvation Army and through the Benevolent Fund and Christmas Tea.

There is a quarterly invite to worship with Trinity Methodist Church, Woking.

There are 'no longer 'working' links with' uniformed organisations.

The Mission Committee has not met recently.

We supplied and upkeep a 24/7 access community defibrillator.

Lack of vision statement, & 'no 'outreach team', means opportunities to 'bring people outside church in' are not 'missionally' planned for. There is 'little or no effective church growth', 'either in numbers or spiritual health'.

Again, 'too few people to co-ordinate well & effectively', despite being 'vital work'.

**Ecumenical Involvement:** KMC is represented at C4K (Churches for Knaphill). A few people have attended the local Walk of Witness (Easter), Act of Remembrance (11th November), Lent Courses (when run) and World Day of Prayer events, but not

widely as contributing/planning members. CAMEO and a house group have some ecumenical membership.

The church does not really think 'ecumenically': it is currently 'needy' with 'a limited amount to 'give' in any immediate future partnership.'

**Compliance & Governance:** 'Currently, KMC is compliant with all the requirements the LT is aware of': policies are regularly reviewed and updated; the two safeguarding officers fulfil their roles; GDPR details are returned: the Methodist website is consulted for current advice e.g. 'during the Covid-19 pandemic'; online training is undertaken.

With no 'paid administrator', 'LT members now take on these tasks between them' increasing 'paperwork' continues to overload, and the wider church do not seem particularly interested in helping with this.

**Resources:** We currently have one Circuit Steward; two local representatives at the Circuit Meeting, and one representative on the Circuit Invitations Committee.

KMC 'tends to 'think' locally, rather than as 'part of the wider Circuit'.


"There is great concern within the LT to not fall into 'poor stewardship': a wasting of time, money and resources on 'projects' that are clearly 'not going anywhere.'"

"In terms of the 3 'categorisations of churches' offered on p22 of the Wey Valley Circuit Structure and Strategy paper, KMC falls somewhere between **A place of Pastoral Care** and **A place of Discerning**, with, most probably and realistically a stronger 'lean' towards the former."

"Opportunities for Circuit 'help' (if no realistic situation for redevelopment presents itself)," the whole of KMC would need considerable support to lovingly and gracefully 'wind down' the local church, and help members to integrate successfully into other Christian faith communities."

[A copy of the full Report can be loaned on request from the Stewards.]

Considerable and heart-felt time, effort, discussion, prayer (and tears) were put into compiling the report by all concerned. The outlook for KMC from here is bleak. However, remember this:



**Our God is faithful.  
Throughout the  
Bible he makes  
something from  
nothing:  
it's the way he loves  
to work to keep us  
humble and faithful.**

**We should  
stop telling God:  
"Hey God, we've got  
a Big Problem!"  
Instead we should say:  
"Hey Problem, we've got  
a Big Powerful GOD!"**



So, please, let **US ALL** heed Martin Luther's words:

***"PRAY as if everything depends on God,  
then WORK as if everything depends on you."***

**KMC Leadership Team**

### ***Message from Lynda Shore (KMC Treasurer)***

Following on from the article on the previous pages, I just want to make sure our financial situation is clear to everyone. We have money as reserves (like savings), but we are not getting enough money in each year to cover our outgoings. This creates a deficit, which we can only cover by drawing on money from our reserves. For the past 3 years we have run at a deficit. With the departure of the pre-school, our regular income has dropped further, meaning that this financial year will see our 4th and worst deficit so far. This is an unsustainable situation. If anyone wishes to know some actual figures, please speak to me.



We've had an eventful term since Christmas. The first 2 speakers had to cancel at short notice, but Sheila Mynard gamely stepped up to the mark and gave us a very entertaining talk on her favourite author. The following absent speaker was covered by me; I did a reading of the inspiring book, *The Mole, the Boy, the Fox and the Horse*, which went down quite well.

Thankfully, Mayor Saj Hussain did turn up and gave a fascinating talk about the work of being the Mayor of Woking. I learnt some interesting facts about the role and Woking itself.

Our remaining speakers are Dee Roberts about her trip to Oberammergau and Anna Carrington, a trainee Methodist Minister.

Next term we are planning to have a Coronation Tea with the rest of the diary filling up nicely – watch this space!! Everyone is welcome at 1.30 for a 2.00pm start. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month with a break for Christmas, Easter and the summer holidays.

**Barbara Humphries**

[barbara@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:barbara@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)

# Beautiful Blooms wordsearch

H	A	T	P	K	N	O	C	R	I	U	U	N	D	I
J	Y	R	M	D	I	L	Z	O	C	T	K	E	A	M
Y	U	A	P	V	E	G	U	S	D	R	I	T	F	W
X	N	R	C	M	Z	R	L	E	E	E	T	J	F	A
I	U	O	A	I	U	C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N
Z	R	T	E	U	N	I	B	M	T	L	E	F	D	E
E	I	I	R	P	T	T	N	U	W	L	K	B	I	M
S	I	F	S	B	N	X	H	A	O	E	V	A	L	O
F	R	E	E	S	I	A	J	R	R	B	R	N	Y	N
N	E	M	A	L	C	Y	C	P	R	E	J	D	P	E
A	I	L	H	A	D	H	I	X	B	U	G	M	P	N
I	Q	Q	H	T	I	L	U	R	F	L	N	K	O	V
H	Y	E	V	D	U	V	E	B	H	B	L	E	P	M
Q	S	Q	P	T	W	G	G	O	L	A	S	T	E	R
X	V	C	N	U	W	B	M	Q	Q	D	J	X	H	E

IRIS

PEONY

GERBERA

POPPY

ROSE

TULIP

CARNATION

ORCHID

FREESIA

DAHLIA

HYACINTH

DAFFODIL

ANEMONE

CLEMATIS

CYCLAMEN

GERANIUM

ASTER

BLUEBELL







# COFFEE MORNING



AND

IN AID OF

# SALE<sup>2</sup>

# KSSX

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY  
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

**Bacon Butties!**



There will be various stalls including:  
Cakes, Body shop, Raffle, Tombola, Guess  
the Weight of the Cake, Guess the Name of  
Teddy, Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar,  
Model Railway & Bric - a - Brac.

*Offers of help and donations of items welcome!  
Contact Tarina Berry*

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## Saturday 9th September 2023

## 10am to Noon

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2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping; you can even download an App that will remind you!
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for **no extra cost whatsoever!**



There are **no catches or hidden charges** and KMC will be really grateful for your donations. Since 2016, we have raised nearly **£1000** to date with only **28 people** contributing... please join us - **more people, more money, simple!**

# News from Ruth Pugh in Durgapur

*Ruth has been working in India for the Diocese of Durgapur, under the Church of North India (CNI), part of the Methodist Church. Her main role was to teach children music, specifically to play string instruments. She also trained them to be Cathedral musicians enabling them to play for all the services at the Cathedral. Ruth also coached them to take The Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity College London (TCL) exams. This enables them get jobs as teachers teaching Western Music or playing professionally in orchestras. Ruth also worked as a music teacher at local schools.*



Dear KMC friends

Happy Easter. This year has been yet another very different year. In April 2022 all the younger children finally came back after two years without being at school. Some managed the online classes, but others only had WhatsApp and PDF files to work from. When the work is all in English and parents are not able to help, it meant that our children were a long way behind. However, with hard work this year they are making ground in most subjects.

They were very happy to come back to their music, and to start playing in the Cathedral again. All of the Cathedral musicians are now a mix of the students from the hostel and other students who come to me and live nearby. This includes those who play guitar and keyboard.

We have not had any programmes to play this year, but we have played as an orchestra as well as individually and also worked towards exams. These have been made easier because there is now a performance exam which is digital. When they are ready their performances are videoed and then uploaded. This way of working means the results come back quickly. It also means the exams can be spread across the year, and not all have to be prepared for the same day. In addition, we are able to use recorded backing tracks, of which there are many on the ABRSM's (Associated Board of the Royal School of Music) website, so this makes it easier too.

I now have David and Priyanka helping with teaching. They work alongside me with the outside students who are mostly beginners. As a result I have put different hostel students into their care at different levels so I can help guide them when they reach the higher levels. As you may recall, Priyanka passed her Grade 8 exams a few years ago. She has now finished her schooling and works as a teacher at St Michael's School and has rooms there. She is also teaching some students of her own, so when I am out she is able to run the classes.

As well as teaching, and my deacon work in the Cathedral, I am busy writing a violin book, a piano book, and a very simple hymn book with hymns in three languages. The simple hymn book also has guitar chords, so they can be played along with too. It is written so a beginner pianist can play either on an Indian harmonium, with someone else pumping it for them, or keyboard.

We had a small programme on a Sunday recently after church where the children danced and played their instruments, which they enjoy. Playing all the

programmes in the past did help to bring their playing on, as I challenged them just a little each time. My orchestra is much smaller now as many children didn't return after the pandemic, because they had effectively finished school. We have not had many younger children over the last few years either. During the pandemic the children centres were closed and only the hostels reopened. The hostel in Durgapur is still the only one with boys. All that said, there will be a few more children joining us at the beginning of April for the new academic year.

Between Christmas and New Year I had a request, at very short notice, to play at St Teresa's Catholic Church's Golden Jubilee. They asked if I could find 3 other players so forming a quartet. We played 2 or 3 Christmas pieces and they were blown away with it and so asked us to return and play for them at their big



*This is how you will see me on a Sunday.  
Here I was leading the service  
celebrating International Women's Day*

morning programme the next day. I managed to find another 3 players and we played three or four pieces including “My heart will go on”. We had a wonderful response.

Lent is a very busy time as prayer meetings are held in every church family's house, so I have been organising these and going to them all. During this Lent season Father Sam has been moved to Purulia and Rev. Sandipan Sinha is moving to the Cathedral. Rev. Saswati Roy has been coming with me and sharing the workload. She is in the Cathedral on Sundays, but during the week she runs Shanti Griha, the guest side of the Diocese, and also the ISPCCK (Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) book shop.

I have finally received my visa this year having waited 6 weeks. It is only a 6 month visa which means I shall be returning to the UK in September. Where I will be based and what I will do, is in God's hands.

When one little girl overheard that I would be leaving, all she was worried about was who would give her a new pencil when she needed it! I will make sure she has a few boxes of pencils to keep her going before I go...

I'm sure the next six months will fly by with all I have to do. We have some big programmes coming up, including a celebration for the end of the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese, on the first weekend of July. There will also be Summer camp for the children, and other Golden Jubilee programmes. We have already had some great programmes and revival meetings during this year.

For the first time, for three years, I did make a quick trip home in June 2022 to see my father, who was not well, and my family. It was a hectic time travelling from one family member to another over 11 days. I also made a quick trip back in October to my father's funeral - he sadly passed away on 25th September 2022, 20 years to the day after my mother.

Please pray for:

- ✙ my health during this time, especially as it is forecast to be very hot. Daytime temperatures are already up to the mid 30c's each day;
- ✙ the children;
- ✙ Priyanka and David (who is still a student in school) as they take on more teaching roles;
- ✙ the future of the string programme;
- ✙ the Diocese and its Golden Jubilee programmes.

I look forward to being able to come and see you all again when I return.

Yours in Christ

**Ruth**

**Rev Dn. Ruth M.M. Pugh**



*This is a Revival meeting at Raniganj in February and we were all given brightly coloured stoles.*



# What Easter means to Me

*(Sung to the tune of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore")*

Easter morning, God be praised, Allelujah!  
Jesus Christ from death was raised, Allelujah.

On Good Friday, Jesus died; Allelujah!  
All for us, He was crucified. Allelujah.

Jesus bore the pain for me, Allelujah.  
From my sin, to set me free. Allelujah.

Death could not confine our Lord, Allelujah!  
And to life He was restored, Allelujah.

Easter morn we consecrate, Allelujah!  
His resurrection to celebrate. Allelujah.

Jesus' love means when we die, Allelujah!  
We'll live in heaven with Him on high. Allelujah.

Our Saviour loves us awesomely; Allelujah!  
That's what Easter means to me. Allelujah.



# KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



**Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey. GU21 2DR**

**Our minister Dave Faulkner is on away on Sabbatical from 5th March to 18th June inclusive. If you need a Methodist minister urgently during this time please contact the Revd Claire Hargreaves at: [claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk](mailto:claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk)**

## **SUNDAY SERVICE**

### **10am - Morning Worship**

*(includes facilities for children)*

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our Worship Group.

The sermons are Bible based and are sometimes themed over several weeks. Holy Communion is generally on the 2nd Sunday of every month. After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments; a time for a chat and to get to know each other.

We have a special Family Area at the back of the church with lots of things for children to do.

For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact: [admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)

**[www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk](http://www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk)**

This is a Q code - scan it with your Smartphone to go straight to our website



## **A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS**

The KMC Magazine has a wider readership than just within KMC because it is published on the KMC and Circuit websites as we want to be able to share it with the other Churches.

However, we recognise some contributors may be uncomfortable with being mentioned, particularly on the internet. I will therefore be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

**Editor** (email: [editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:editor@knaphillmethodist.co.uk))

Narcissus; Snowdrop; Fritillary; Aconite; Puschkinia; Lily of the Valley; Tulip; Chionodoxa.

**Spring Bulb Anagram answers** (page 23)



# Services @ KMC

- 2nd April**      **10am** Palm Sunday - Sam Funnell
- 7th April**      **9.45am** Walk of Witness from *St Hugh of Lincoln*  
**10.30am** Good Friday Service  
*at Holy Trinity (Anglican church)*
- 9th April**      **10am** Easter Sunday Holy Communion - Peter Hills
- 16th April**      **10am** Morning Worship - Holly Wadsworth
- 23rd April**      **10am** Morning Worship - Hugh Bowerman
- 30th April**      **10am** Morning Worship - Paul Glass
- 7th May**      **10.30am** Joint Service at Trinity Methodist, Woking
- 14th May**      **10am** Holy Communion - Claire Hargraves
- 21st May**      **10am** Morning Worship - Janet England
- 28th May**      **10am** Morning Worship (Pentecost) - Elizabeth Gurd



Week: 14-20 May



Christian Aid Week is 14 to 20 May.  
If you can help with collections, or  
fundraising in any way, please  
speak to Lynda Shore.

## Dates for 2023:



- 22nd April**  
**27th May**  
**24th June**  
**22nd July**  
**26th August**  
**23rd September**  
**28th October**  
**25th November** **CHRISTMAS 2023**

