

KINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW-STYLE MESSENGER/LETTER
MAY 2020



Hi everyone,

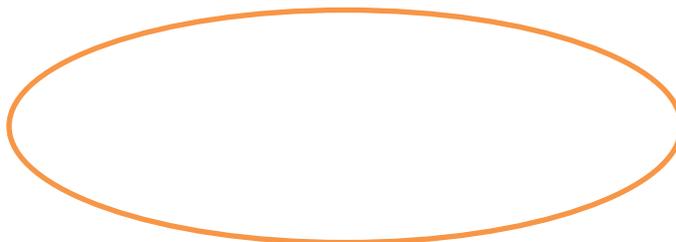
Well, here we are again - another month has gone by and we're still in lockdown. I hope you are all keeping well and managing to get everything you need. Please do let Graham, Liz, Bill or Richard know if you need help with anything. On my daily walks with the dogs (who, by the way, are very happy to have me home more and to have bit longer walks) I'm taking time to notice nature much more i.e. the blossom on the fruit trees and the wild spring flowers; and then of course there's the bird songs - I don't think I've ever heard them sing so loud. It's wonderful, and they say the air is getting cleaner!! It would be good if we could find a way of keeping the positives when this is all over.

Richard's thoughts.....The best things in life are heavenly things: whatever is true, noble, just and pure; things that are lovely and of good report; virtue and all that's praiseworthy. We're told to fill our minds with these things. (Philippians 4.8)

These are heavenly things. They are able to make life beautiful and enriching even in a sad and fallen world. They feed our minds and brighten our souls. They're an antidote to all that's ugly and harmful, that create anxiety and stress. At the heart of heavenly things are kindness, hope, patience, generosity and hospitality. Not being able to share some of these heavenly things makes this crisis hard for many of us to endure.

The most heavenly thing of all is love and all that shows love, all that expresses love and deepens love. Heaven is a world of love: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. These are the best things in this life – they bring a foretaste of heaven on earth! If coronavirus teaches us anything it is 'not to store up treasures on earth ... but to store up treasure in heaven'. With my Christian love and prayers, *Richard*

A special word of thanks to Joe who's computer skills have been invaluable in managing the website and especially in setting up the 'Thought for the Day' on the website. We couldn't have done it without you Joe! Thanks.



Please visit our website for the KBC spoken word 'Thought for the Day'
<https://www.kingtonbaptistchurch.org/>

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

After mentioning last month that I had been speaking to Mary Whittall - it is with very great sadness that I have to tell you that Mary passed away in her own home on Maundy Thursday 9th April - she was a great friend to our Church and will be greatly missed.

On a happier note, we have several special occasions to mention in May.

Janet James is celebrating her birthday next Sunday 5th May, Frances is celebrating the next day 6th May and Bill will be another year older on 20th May. Also Alma and Beresford celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary on 30th May - I just can't believe a year has gone by since there diamond!!

We send them all our love and blessings on their special day. I know they won't be able to celebrate much and we won't be able to "sing" to them, but perhaps, when this is all over, we can go out for one of our special Church meals.

If you are able to, please don't forget to listen to the 'thought for the day' on Kington Baptist Church website. They really are very good and, if you listen to them each morning, they set you on the right road for the rest of the day - it is so encouraging to hear Richard's familiar voice!! Well done Richard and Joe - thank you so much. If you would like a copy on CD please let me know.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

The May Bank Holiday was changed this year to Friday 8th May to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day but of course the celebrations have had to be cancelled. This doesn't mean we can't celebrate quietly at home and remember what this really meant to our country – there may even be things on the television about it.

Reflections....

Yesterday, today, for ever, Jesus is the same:
All may change, but Jesus never,
Glory to His Name! Glory to His Name! Glory to His Name!
All may change, but Jesus never,
Glory to His Name!

LOVE SONGS FROM HEAVEN are filling the earth

Bringing great hope to all nations.

Evil has prospered, but truth is alive, in this dark world the light still shines.

*For you we live and for you we may die, through us may Jesus be seen,
For you alone we will offer our lives, in this dark world our light will shine.*

Nothing has silenced this gospel of Christ, it echoes down through the ages
Blood of the martyrs has made your church strong,
In this dark world the light still shines.

Let every nation be filled with your song, this is the cry of your people
We will not settle for anything less, in this dark world our light must shine.

Alma

FOOD BANK NEWS

As you can imagine, during this difficult time the Food Bank is getting used a great deal – we are aware of social distancing and managing to achieve this. If anyone would like to donate any food then please contact me and I will arrange for it to be collected from your doorstep.

Items most needed are....

Tins of corned beef, spam, hot dogs, tuna, rice pudding, custard, fruit, also sugar, cereals, pasta, pasta sauce, biscuits, jam, long-life milk. But anything will be gratefully received. Many thanks. *Angie*

A Snippet from The Friendship Book
Have you ever seen one of those Where's Waldo, or Where's Wally, books? The point of them is to find the one distinctly dressed character on the page. That ought to be easy enough, but to make it more challenging the illustrator crams the page full of other objects, animals and characters. Every centimetre of each big page is filled with something interesting or exciting.

But, of course, finding those things isn't the point of the game; it is to find Wally (or Waldo). All those other drawings are nothing more than interesting distractions.

Finding what matters in this life can be a bit like searching for the main character in one of those books. The truth, or the purpose of it all, is there but life is crammed full of distractions.

Perhaps, if we are serious about finding the truth, we might borrow this prayer from the Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard – "Lord, give us weak eyes for things which are of no account, and clear eyes for all your Truth."

And, like everything else, the more you practice the better at it you become; the more you look for the truth, the more you will find it.

Just a thought.....

We all go through times of emotional or spiritual darkness. When it happens, accept that it was always going to happen – but don't consent to stay in it. Go slowly, taking care, like you would in any dark place. Accept an outstretched hand if you find one. Develop the sense you don't use in the light and understand you have been prepared for this. And remember that darkness is nothing more than the preparation for growth for every seed that grows in the ground. **READY. GET SET. GROW!**

And finally.....

WATCH out for the rainbow, its beauty behold,
Each delicate colour of pastels unfold.

A spectrum of nature to dazzle the eye
Though somehow uplifting, we cannot tell why!
Perhaps it's the feeling that comfort is found
In the wonder of nature we see all around
To give us at least a small breathing space
Apart from the everyday problems we face.
Perhaps in the colours the rainbow imparts
We may find inspiration to brighten our hearts;
For it's moments like these that bring grace to each day.
So watch for the rainbow – it's heading your way!

Elizabeth Gozney

During these times of Covid 19 children are being encouraged to draw pictures of rainbows and place them in their windows - I guess as a sign of cheerfulness and hope.

Look after yourselves everyone.....keep positiveand keep safe!

With Christian Love Angie
