

# Annual Report

## 2010/2011



### Journey with Jesus

Our vision is to be a vibrant and growing church, winning disciples for Jesus Christ who undertake a journey of faith towards spiritual maturity within a worshipping community.

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## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

It has been a challenging and exciting year for us here at Kingston as the various reports for our Annual General Meeting make evident. We have given of our resources and spent hours upon hours of our time helping the homeless, raising funds for action for Children, Christian Aid, Oxygen, and AIDS sufferers. We have invested in the work of Playbox and demonstrated our commitment to equal educational (and fun) opportunities for all children. We met to discuss the situation in Israel/Palestine, reflected upon the boycott called by the Methodist Church at a national level and, through Churches Together in Kingston, considered the impact of the government cuts on local resources and what the Church can do. We have continued to support the uniformed organizations and pray for their work, and we have seen the slow but steady growth of 'Revive' over the year.

At the last Church council we made some significant decisions: We agreed to invest in our future - to give serious thought to how we can allow our sanctuary space to be used by the community once we have updated the heating. We made the decision to return in September to the practice of holding a separate collection for a benevolent fund on those Sundays when we receive Communion. This will allow us to offer practical as well as pastoral support to those on our membership and community role, including the parents and children of Playbox.

The bigger challenge to us next year is to somehow make it more obvious that what we do springs out of our response to the work of God and the need to share the Good News of God's kingdom with others. It was largely for this reason that the Church Council decided not to extend the contract of the Evangelism Enabler. The hope is we will look more deliberately at how we can all develop the skills and confidence we need to talk more deliberately of God as part of our outreach.

We have set ourselves a challenge - to be a family, honest about our gifts and graces and what we can and cannot do, but nonetheless committed to sharing the Good News of Christ to our neighbours and deepening our own discipleship. To do this we know that we will need to increase the willing lay leadership of the Church, including the number of those able to lead Bible Study groups, nurture our young people, lead our worship, and preach the Word.

The year has allowed us to share in fellowship and worship and to extend our pastoral care. It has convinced me that at this stage in our life at Kingston Methodist Church, that we should focus not on our numbers, or on our many activities, but on our faith. So I invite you all, as we give thanks for the year that has passed, to join with me in committing the Church in the year ahead to ensuring that we grow together in grace and holiness, to the glory of God.

*Angie*

### Special Thanks

This will be the last AGM at which Dorothy and Barry will be present as our Evangelism Enabler, and Boys' Brigade Captain. Although this is not yet time to say goodbye, I wanted to take this opportunity to express the thanks of all the Church for the exceptional service that they have given to us and for their faithfulness to their calling.

Although everyone who is involved in the work of the Church is worthy of special thanks and consideration, I hope you will agree that both Dorothy and Barry have gone far beyond the call of duty in fulfilling their office and job descriptions. A significant part of our AGM report deals with their work. Their commitment has been exemplary. We are indebted to them for the way in which they have kept the work of evangelism and of the Boys' Brigade at the forefront of our thinking about the future of the Church.

We wish them both well as each explores the future work that God is asking them to undertake. We commit ourselves to pray for Dorothy and David at this time, in particular that God will use Dorothy's many talents to continue to build up the kingdom and provide worship that touches hearts and souls.

Likewise we commit ourselves to pray for Barry and Caroline as they adjust to a week that suddenly includes Friday nights! We pray that God will continue to use Barry's ability to communicate the gospel to the young to good effect, and that he will be able to hear and respond to whatever task you are calling him to next.

We also hold Alex in our prayers as he takes over from Barry, and ask for strength, faith and courage to be given to him in this important leadership role.

Thank you Barry, thank you Dorothy, for the ministry you have shared with us, we pray God's blessing on all that you continue to do in God's name.

## KINGSTON METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

presented to the General Church Meeting - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011

### Worship

#### Sunday School

It is a constant joy to witness the number of children who bounce out of the Church service into Sunday School each week, and although numbers fluctuate there is a steady core of children covering the spectrum of ages. The focus of our Sunday School teaching circuit wide continues to be based on Seasons of the Spirit material, which sometimes proves a bit of a challenge for both leaders and our young people. The Church's thanks go to Alison Ritchie, Alan Bennett and Nigel Spalding for their dedication, weekly preparation, encouragement and nurture of the children in order to provide a safe, thought-provoking environment in which to learn about living in God's way.

Staffing, as always, remains a challenge, particularly with the middle age range children who have moved up a year at school and need more stimulation as the age gap widens within the group. Although more help is needed all round, we do thank our regular helpers: Julie Moss, Joanne Honeybone, Alison Wakefield, Sarah Drane, Eugenia Shaw and Roseline Atim.

To overcome staffing difficulties during the summer holidays, the lower age range groups joined forces for craft, games and video sessions on the mistaken understanding that numbers would be reduced. Not so - it seemed that many of our church families, and visitors too, were Kingston-based for much of the summer. In addition we had the added pleasure of a visit from a group of 30+ Korean children over 3 weeks, during which time we looked at the Lord's Prayer through various activities.

At Christmas it was good to see so many children taking part in a Pageant of Christ's Nativity, which concluded with a couple of extra scenes at Epiphany - it's always an interesting challenge trying to coordinate the nativity play, but a delight to watch.

We are now blessed with a dozen young people in the 11-18 age group attending morning worship, with an average of around 5 per week, making for lively sessions. Recently several of the young people challenged Angie, Brian, John, Dorothy and Nigel's bowling skills, and also participated in the safari meal with the rest of the Church (Chloe makes a mean soup!) They have also been invited to join the membership class which Angie will be running between Easter and Pentecost, and you will see them helping in rotas for door stewarding, coffee and reading lessons. Please continue to talk to all our young people, get to know their names and involve them in our church family life.

*Val Hayden*

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#### Music Group

We continue to do our best to cover the morning services and lead the congregation in worship through song. We know we are not note perfect, but we continue to enjoy "making a joyful noise unto the Lord" together, and with you, the congregation. With a group of busy people, it is not always possible to have a practice during the week, though we all prefer to have one if we can. With a practice, we know we are better-prepared, to lead our praise to God through singing.

We have been very glad to have Sheila Hurton, from Surbiton Hill, continue to play the piano regularly with us, and are very grateful for her contribution, without which we would sometimes

be in difficulties. She has become one of us. A newcomer to us from the Circuit, and again playing the piano, is Esther Han. Esther is the wife of Rev Sangdon Han (Paul), the Korean pastor based at Chessington (working with the Korean speaking congregation there). Like Sheila, she is giving her “spare” Sundays and it has really helped us through some Sundays when we would have had no piano to lead us. Esther, too, is becoming part of the music group. The third “visitor” from the Circuit, this time from New Malden, is John Kelsey, who has also come to our aid when we have needed it. While on the subject of the piano, I would particularly like to thank Christine (Gibb) who, through difficult times of her own, while Anthony was so ill with no proper diagnosis, continued to do most of the playing for us and, when not needed on piano, helped “swell the sound” with her guitar playing.

I will not mention the other music group members by name. You know who they are and I, personally, continue to be very grateful for their contribution and loyalty.

A report to the Annual Church Meeting would not be complete without a reminder to everyone that our numbers are few, and that we are always pleased to welcome new musicians and singers to our group.

*Maggie East*

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## **Worship Consultation Group**

This group meets three or four times a year, and is a group open to anyone interested in worship at KMC, with some “core members” who hold certain offices within the church.

Exactly what it does varies with the minister in pastoral charge of the church, and we have, in the past, considered what makes a church a place of welcome as well as of worship, what constitutes a “healthy” and thriving church, setting out the “active ingredients” as points of reference against which to judge ourselves, and we have also reviewed and considered worship styles appropriate to KMC’s different services. Many of these things arise again, and are revisited over the years, as congregations, and ministers, come and go.

Our present group has covered planning for special services in the Christian calendar, e.g. Christmas and Easter (but not confined to those two) and planning our own special services, e.g. commissioning the Boys’ Brigade Officers, Toy and Gift Service, Action for Children service, etc. Sometimes it is the practicalities of worship time that are discussed, e.g. the seating arrangement of the church, how best to help the volunteers on the audio-visual system deal with problems, and so on. Where appropriate, recommendations are sent to Church Council. Soon after Angie joined us, we had to consider in some detail how to plan for services during her sabbatical - more difficult than it used to be with fewer ministers in the Circuit, and perhaps fewer active local preachers. This resulted in three services being Local Arrangements, something KMC had not experienced before, and our Worship Leaders were called in to lead full periods of worship within the permitted limitations of such Arrangements, something they had not experienced before!

The Missions Committee has now been merged with the Worship Consultation group, and we will be considering how this can best be achieved.

If you feel this group covers areas in which you have skills, do come along and get a feel for what it does. We tend to have a rather predictable attendance list, and would welcome some new faces.

*Maggie East*

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## Learning and Caring

### Reflection

The fortnightly meetings of this group have continued to provide an inspiring and challenging time. Both the spirit of fellowship and the range of topic covered have been very much appreciated and so there has been a very regular attendance. Various speakers have shared their thoughts about aspects of the Christian way of life with us, and so the meetings have ranged from devotional ones to a study of the political situation in Israel at present. We have learnt about the different situations which ministers deal with, and recently we enjoyed a meditation on the gift of colour which was illustrated in words and pictures.

We are grateful to our leader who has organised the meetings and to the ladies who have provided us with refreshments at the close of each morning.

*Derek Gumbrell*

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### First Steps and Crèche

Babies baptised in KMC (involving the First Steps Secretaries) tend also to be in our crèche, though the children in our crèche are not necessarily all children who have been baptised at KMC, or indeed children who have been baptised at all.

Since the last Annual Church Meeting we have had just two baptisms, Brian (May 2010) and Jeremiah (March 2011). We see both of them in the crèche, and are pleased that this place of safety is where the very first stage of their growing up within the church begins. We, as a congregation, promised to maintain a place of worship for them at their baptism, and here we begin to fulfil it. We know, from experience, that we shall feel as if we have hardly turned round before they make their next step and join the other children in Sunday School, to learn more about God and our faith, in stories and activities best suited to them. We also know, these days, that there will be more babies coming along to take their place, and we thank God for that!

*Maggie East  
Alison Wakefield*

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### Tuesday Bible Study Group

Since Liz's move to Manchester, it was decided to combine the Emmaus Group and the Tuesday Bible Study Group, which has worked very well. We have finished studying Luke's Gospel, and have discovered a lot about how we should be putting our Christian faith into practice in today's world. We have joined in Angie's course for Lent and then we plan, after Easter, to embark on an exciting journey as we look at the Acts of the Apostles, or as someone has called it 'The Continuing Words and Deeds of Jesus by his Spirit through the Apostles'. All are welcome to join us.

*Christine Gibb*

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## Prayer Chain

This group is unseen by most people in the church, but it is a vital part of it. If there is a need, a problem, or illness, people contact me and then the message is sent round by email or phone to a team of about 20 people who pray in the privacy of their own homes. So, if you are in need of prayer or know someone who is, please contact me or one of the stewards.

Email: [-christine@mi42.clara.co.uk](mailto:-christine@mi42.clara.co.uk) or phone 020 8549 0899 or see me on Sunday.

*Christine Gibb*

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## Pastoral Committee

With Petra Bacon's move to Devon in August the Pastoral Committee lost its pastoral secretary. Until a replacement has been found the duties are being undertaken by Christine Gibb (records), Thelma Merrifield (welcome) and Val Hayden.

During the year Mary Ansell, Ruby Esson, Rebecca Quaye and Thelma Merrifield attended an Extended Communion course, and, along with Christine Gibb, have been taking communion out to those of our congregation who are not able to attend services.

We continue to welcome new people to our services, many of whom have appreciated the quarterly 'newcomers' lunches. We are grateful to those of our congregation who have hosted these in their homes.

During the morning service on 13 March, Angie commissioned the current pastoral visitors. Pastoral visitors fulfil a vital role, ensuring that members of our congregation are cared for pastorally. To enable all of our congregation to be cared for we desperately need more pastoral visitors, so if you feel this is a role you could fulfil please speak to Angie or Christine.

We give our good wishes to those who have moved - Petra and her family, Pat and John Fisher and Marcia Tali. Also to Liz Stuart who has taken a post for three years in Manchester.

We have given people the opportunity to continue their journey of faith. With Liz moving to Manchester, the Emmaus group has joined with the Tuesday Bible Study Group. The Gospel of Matthew is the subject for the Lent course, which Angie is running and Reflection continues to meet on Tuesday mornings.

*Christine Gibb and Thelma Merrifield*

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## Service

### Introduction

Someone asked me how we share our love of Jesus with those outside Church, and the following thoughts came to mind: KMC raises funds for many established causes dear to the heart of either Methodism or the individual fundraiser, as can be seen throughout this report. For many years we have supported the Whitechapel Mission through our Christmas donations, and for the last 2 years we have also offered our support to our local homeless people (see Shirley's report). Our two annual fundraisers - the Christmas Fayre and the Plant and Produce Sale - not only bring together many people from inside our Church, but also provide an opportunity for us to meet our neighbourhood friends in a less 'formal' environment, as well as raising considerable funds for a local charity. Read Dorothy's report for an insight into her evangelism on our behalf. These are all ways in which we spread the Word. Does anyone have any further thoughts, or ideas for future activities?

*Val Hayden*

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### Evangelism Enabler Report

This is an edited version of a full report that Dorothy wrote for the Church Council meeting, describing the work she has done over the last three years, and comments about how to take the work further. This cut down version focuses on the work done in the last 12 months since the last Annual Report to Church Council.

The prime purpose of the role of Evangelism Enabler has been in two main areas:

#### 1. Growth

- To develop working relationships on a regular basis with our ethnically-diverse Church congregation
- To develop the gifts, skills and leadership capacity of members of the congregation
- To support the development of innovative forms of worship, as appropriate to the target age group (25-40), whilst respecting the value of existing forms of worship

#### 2. Outreach

- To raise the profile of the Church within the local community and amongst local organisations and groups
- To make particular links with people in the target age group who participate, or whose children participate, in activities on the premises
- To encourage and better equip the congregation to witness to the local, multi-racial and multi-cultural community

### Growth

As mentioned in last year's report a Church of Scotland study showed that newcomers were more likely to stay in a church if they made six or more friends, belonged to a group and had a job to do in the first six months "Closing the back door". Relationship, belonging, friendship and participation are all vitally important to newcomers wanting to stay and become integrated into the life of our church family.

Continuing the work on from last year I have continued to work with Thelma who, as Welcome Coordinator, will ensure that she has a team working with her and will work with the Pastoral team to ensure that everyone is cared for. It has been hoped that more of our congregation would be encouraged to become involved in welcoming and recognise the importance of being a

welcoming and caring church. This year I arranged a training workshop for those involved in the welcoming process to give them confidence in fulfilling the role. The turnout was not as good as hoped with only a few of the team attending.

The Welcome Lunches have continued as part of integrating newcomers into the life of the church. The lunches provide newcomers with an opportunity for friendship, to have any questions answered and enable conversation on a deeper level, and have encouraged friendship amongst newcomers and those already in the church family. This continues to be very successful. We have three church members plus the Evangelism Enabler offering to host the lunches. Currently I have been coordinating these lunches as Evangelism Enabler, but someone else should now take on this role.

I have reviewed the church's "welcome pack" and effectiveness; to simplify, make readable, exciting and up-to-date so that newcomers can see at-a-glance opportunities that are relevant to them. This is also to help the congregation see that in today's society, image is very important and that people form opinions on what they see as well as on what they hear.

To support the development of innovative forms of worship, as appropriate to the target age group, whilst respecting the value of existing forms of worship I sought to promote an understanding of "Worship Leaders" in Methodism and to invite potential worship leaders to offer for training.

- To develop their gifts
- Encourage deepening relationship with God
- To explore God's call on their lives
- Enjoy being part of a small group and strengthen their own bond with the church
- To enable the church to explore different worship styles
- To support local preachers

Three members of the congregation have now completed the worship leader training course and one has taken a further step to train as a Local Preacher.

## **Outreach**

To raise the profile of the Church within the local community and amongst local organisations and groups, I

- Created a map of the community to highlight where our congregation lived and what organisations and groups met in the area; I then did a survey to discover what links we already had with community organisations.
- Used the survey to show that our congregation already had at least links with over thirty organisations in our local community, but it is not clear whether they see themselves on mission from the church whilst engaging in these activities. Due to many of the congregation's links with sport centres we explored the possibility of becoming part of the organisation 'Fit lives', a Christian charity with a passion to help people in health clubs make life work and fill the void within. The organisation had strong links with the recreation centre opposite the church and offered to talk to the management about allowing members of Kingston Methodist become Chaplains to those that use the centre. The Church Council decided that they as a church did not want to pursue the idea further, but left the possibility open for individuals to explore if they wished. This removed any further involvement of the EE.
- The new Children's Centre, Villiers Road was excited about involvement with their local community and I had talks with the manager of the centre about how to link Kingston

Methodist Church with them. They were excited about the help that I could give them, both as a professional nurse and midwife, but also for the possibility of my guitar skills. They hoped that I would consider being part of their governor body. I decided that what they wanted was too big a commitment to give as EE of Kingston Methodist. They were still happy to give out any leaflets that we had for church activities. None of our young families were at the stage in their own spiritual lives to recognise the evangelistic opportunities at the Centre and so links have remained minimal. We have still raised our profile with them and links could be easily strengthened at any time.

- I have had regular meetings with Churches Together in Kingston (CTK) to create a greater understanding of our context, to find out how God is already at work in Kingston and I have promoted our activities through their newsletter to all the churches involved. I have given a seminar to the children's team at the URC on how to educate children 0-3 years about faith with songs and use it through their toddler groups. Kingston Methodist Church has its own toddler groups and at present there is no scope to develop similar musical toddler groups, but the leadership may wish to think about this at a later time.
- I regularly visit McDonalds and other cafes and restaurants in Kingston and talk to other customers as the opportunity arises. This also has raised the profile of the church in the community.
- Talking to the parents of our Playbox nursery children, our mother and toddler parent and carers and the families of our Boys' Brigade, helped make particular links with people in the target age group. Just being at the groups, playing the guitar and everyday conversation has built up trust to enable more direct talk about the church and faith. We have had parents coming to our mission project, Revive, and our Christmas Christingle service.
- We started our barn dance group to open up opportunities for reaching out to non-church. These have been great for providing space for fun and conversation, helping to develop relationships between non-church and church family members. They have also allowed us to raise money for charity and that has also helped develop links with our community and raise the church profile. The leadership need to help the congregation understand the value of coming to meet and talk with the non-church families that have attended, to build up positive attitudes toward Christianity.
- Getting to know the area and the community that we are reaching was a crucial part of my work. I have prayer-walked the area and visited most of the local pubs. I regularly went to the Honest Cabbage pub, built links and developed relationships, gently speaking about the church and faith when appropriate.
- Regular visits to the local pubs, taking part in the karaoke events has allowed conversations with non-church people. This has also raised the profile of the church in our community.
- Faith fest in Kingston: I put together a stall with large A3 paintings of past Saints with a short story about what they did because of their faith. I wanted to show the relevance of Christianity in the world, both past and present and then had information about Methodism and Kingston Methodist Church, its relevance to the local community and wider world showing its charity work with Action for Children, Haal and Revive. I was able to hand out the Revive flyer that I used for the Christmas Fair and copies of our Welcome Pack. The event organiser was especially interested in Revive and said that she would love to come and see what we do and if possible get involved. The event mainly attracted others from the faith communities and was very useful for networking and raising the profile of the church and publicising Revive as a church project.

## Where do we go now?

I believe that we need to ensure that every person who counts themselves a member of Kingston Methodist Church is given adequate and appropriate pastoral care to foster spiritual growth among all church members, to continue to build a sense of family, and encourage our members through different ministries such as home groups to build one another up.

Areas that should be looked at include:

- Home groups
- Prayer ministry
- One to one discipleship
- Newcomers/Welcomers
- Hospitality

In my time with Kingston Methodist Church I have come to love our church family, their diversity not only in ethnicity but in how they express and live out their faith, from those new to our church family, exploring faith for the first time, to those that we can look up to as grandparents, grown wise by their experience of God. I have tried to help our congregation grasp that everyone is an evangelist. It has been shown that for someone to develop faith in Christ there must be a positive attitude towards Christianity. Our attitudes, the way that we witness with our lives, living out the love of Christ, can change someone's attitude towards Christianity from a negative to a positive and help them become open to Christ himself.

I believe that if we continue to develop the principles of a healthy church and natural church growth then Kingston Methodist Church will become a vibrant force for God, reaching out and extending God's Kingdom in their community.

The whole church needs to catch the vision!!

*Dorothy Innes*  
*Evangelism Enabler*

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## Missions Committee

The Missions Committee has now combined with the Worship Consultation Group. We continue to monitor the various charities we support and make sure that our efforts are spaced out throughout the year.

*Christine Gibb*

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## Action For Children (previously known as NCH and National Children's Home)

Considering the difficulties with weather and other circumstances we have done very well in raising £2523 since the last ACM. This was made up as follows:-

House-to-house collection	£753.00
Christmas effort including:-	
Carol singing, Christmas collections and donations	£1700.00
Action for Children Sunday	£70.00
Boxes (total not available yet)	

Thank you at all who have helped in any way.

Our next effort will be house-to-house collecting in June. We are very short of collectors, so please help us this year and see Derek Gumbrell or myself, even if you can only do part of a street.

If you would like to have a box in your home please see Elena Sanchez.

Warren Park is an Action for Children project on Kingston Hill for disabled children. The proceeds from the Plant and Produce will go to Warren Park this year and the money collected will go towards a much-needed people carrier.

Action for Children Sunday is on July 10th when we hope to have a speaker from Warren Park to tell us about their work.

*Christine Gibb*

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## Christian Aid

KMC belongs to a group of local churches who organise fund-raising events on behalf of Christian Aid ([www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)).

The highlight of the past year was Christian Aid Week, the nationwide event held annually in May. Over the course of the week our church raised a grand total of £1600, an increase on the year before. This comprised £1300 for the house-to-house collection and £300 for the church lunch. The market stall raised £414 in conjunction with the other churches, a record sum I believe (a special thanks to the bakers!).

In December we serenaded the shoppers of Clarence Street with some warming carols. A sum of £277 was raised on the night, a significant increase on the year before.

In total over the calendar year Kingston Christian Aid raised nearly £15000, a 10% increase on the previous year. This sum does not include over £400 raised by KMC in January 2010 for the Haiti earthquake emergency appeal. KMC's total contribution to Christian Aid for the calendar year was over £2000.

Kingston Christian Aid recently applied to join a partnership scheme which is raising funds for a sanitation project in Sierra Leone. Under the terms of the scheme any funds raised will be matched 3½:1 by the EU.

Finally, many thanks to everyone for all their efforts and donations over the past year. We look forward to more fund-raising over the coming months.

*Matthew Taylor & Julia Bennett*

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Kingston & Merton Company Boys' Brigade

The BB here at KMC continues to play a major part in the life of the Church. Many of our boys are from families who regularly worship with us.



Our numbers are very healthy at the moment with 12 Anchor Boys (5-8yrs) - down on last year but probably a more manageable number. Junior Section has 14 boys (8-11yrs). This is a little up on last year. The Company & Senior Section has 14. Overall this is a little lower than last year but still very good numbers with the Company being one of the largest in the area.

We continue to strive to offer the boys a safe, friendly environment in which they can be “themselves”. We offer a varied programme of activities suitable to their age, to challenge them and help them develop all manner of life skills. This is done in an effort to equip them to meet the challenges that society has to offer (or throw at them) as they become young adults. Constantly reminding them of the love of God and sharing the Good News as best as we are able.

The Junior Section is soon to go on their holiday, which, again, is to the Scripture Union site near Bridgewater in Somerset - a truly beautiful location in the middle of nowhere, staying in Canadian log cabins.

The Company camped at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight last year, the wettest week of camping I can ever remember. This however did not dampen our enthusiasm or spirit and a great week was had by all. This included Christmas dinner with all the trimmings on Thursday evening to celebrate my last year at BB camp. It was a wonderful occasion, made all the more special with guests travelling to join us for the evening.

This year sees my retirement from BB. The Company is being left in the capable hands of Alex Ritchie. Please pray for Alex and the Company as they embark on this new chapter in the life of the Company. I am sure it will go from strength to strength and continue to serve KMC for many years to come.

*Barry Mudie, Captain*

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Kingston Guides

We have been very pleased to welcome several new leaders during the past year: Sameera and Rowan joined us at the beginning of 2010 and after training with us, left in September to start a new Guide unit of their own in North Kingston - we wish them well. Sarah and I were joined in January this year by Lucy and in March by Mellissa and we welcome them to our team.



We have had another busy and varied year. In October we went to the Docklands Museum to see an exhibition on the history of Guiding and in March we went indoor climbing and visited the Centenary Maze at Crystal Palace (where Guiding originated due to a handful of determined girls at the Scout Rally there, who demanded “something for the girls”). Eight girls made their promise while ice skating by floodlight at Hampton Court; we have been swimming, bowling, and held our own “mini Olympics” in the park, complete with medals. We also had a very interesting visit from a dog trainer/veterinary nurse, and have been to visit the Pets at Home store.

During the past year we have worked on cook and confectioner badges, crafts, various Go For It topics, and taken part in various County and local centenary events culminating in the nation-wide promise renewal at 20:10hrs, 20/10/2010. We went to a disability awareness evening in November, we have also been carol singing for Action for Children at Kingston railway station and had a stall at the Church Christmas and May Fairs. In January we had a fantastic weekend trip to Disneyland Paris - see our photos on the noticeboard! We are already planning to go again next year . . .

We have 14 guides at the moment and we are looking forward to camping and boating next term.

*Jackie Junemann, Guide Leader*

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Kingston Brownies

During the summer term we gained our Healthy Heart badges and we designed a Brownie uniform which could be worn in the future.

In May a couple of my Brownies attended the Mothers and Daughters picnic at Ham House. We also held our very own Brownies got talent and the sixers (older Brownies) planned and took over a Brownie meeting.

To celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we held a fancy dress party where we all dressed up as TV characters. The games and food were enjoyed by all who attended.

This year's pack holiday took place at Walton Firs campsite and the theme was based on the Wizard of Oz.

In the autumn term we gained our Home Skills & Artist badges.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October (should have been 20:10 20/10 2010) to celebrate the end of our centenary year we decorated biscuits and, at the end of the meeting, we all renewed our promises.

We decorated tree photo frames to sell at the Church Christmas fair, made snowflakes to decorate the Church for Christmas and fairy hanging decorations.

In December we went ice-skating at Hampton Court Palace and we also joined members of the Church for carol singing at Kingston Train Station, where we raised £425 for Action for Children, which was followed by tea at McDonalds.

This year we started by decorating our calendars and we also made dragon masks for the Chinese New Year. On Shrove Tuesday we ate pancakes and made Mardi Gras masks.

To celebrate Thinking Day we started working on and completed our World Guiding Badges and one of my Brownies attended the Division Thinking Day event. We also gained our Swimmers and Toymakers badges.

For Mothers Day we made cards and decorated heart candle holders and chocolate nests for Easter.

Numbers are currently 24.

*Ursula Williams*

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During the summer term we continued working on our World roundabout badge by making dough bumble bees and painting them. We also designed a Rainbow uniform which could be worn in the future and continued working on our Rainbow magazines.

In May a couple of my Rainbows attended the Mothers and Daughters picnic at Ham House.

To celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we held a fancy dress princess tea party - where we played lots of games and ate a specially made cake.

During the autumn term we finished our World roundabout badge by making an autumn jelly garden and taking part in the torch treasure hunt.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October (should have been 20:10 20/10 2010) to celebrate the end of our centenary year we decorated biscuits with pictures relating to Rainbows and at the end of the meeting we all renewed our promises.

We also made purses to sell at the Church Christmas fair, decorated our tree hanging decorations with lots of glitter and made snowflakes for the Church windows.

We started this year off by decorating calendars, we also made dragon masks for Chinese New Year and Welsh love spoons for Valentine's Day. For Shrove Tuesday we ate pancakes and decorated Mardi Gras masks.

In February to celebrate Thinking Day we made cards and three of my Rainbows attended the Division Thinking Day event.

We have also designed and decorated photo holders and cards for Mothers day and we made chocolate nests for Easter.

We have just started working on another Roundabout badge by making and decorating a boat that will hopefully float.

Numbers are currently 14.

*Ursula Williams*

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## **Fairfield Playbox Playgroup**

Fairfield Playbox Playgroup has had another very successful year. We are full and have a healthy Waiting List - despite the fees going up to £10 per morning last September!

I reported last year on all the paperwork which the staff have to do for the Kingston Early Years "Moving On" programme, which relates to the Government's Early Years Foundation Stage. This includes all the observations, planning and assessments which we have to do on each individual child who attends playgroup. We also produce a 'Learning Journey' booklet for each child so we can show parents their progress at Playbox and an 'Individual Development Map' (or IDM) which charts their development and ensures we monitor that each child is reaching their "age related expectations".

Sheila Moore, my co-Manager, and I recently attended a 'Moderation Meeting' where the Kingston Early Years Team checked on whether all the childcare settings in the borough were doing all this paperwork correctly and we were relieved to be found to be doing very well in all aspects. Trudy Mason, who gained her Early Years Professional Status qualification in July and became an 'Early Years Professional', has helped us with all this work and was asked by the Kingston Early Years team to help with the moderation process. We have heard since then that she has impressed the team and they consider her a great asset to our group and to the borough!

Our greatest strength is our staff team. All our staff now have (or nearly have) a recognised childcare qualification. Alison Ritchie has very nearly finished her Level 3 and is doing exceptionally well - attaining 96% in her last assignment! Julie Ockenden gained her level 3 in Childcare last July and Miyuki Bullivant (our relief member of staff who covers absences) is

working towards her Level 3 - due to finish in July. Isabel Adolfo has a Level 3, Liz Taylor a Level 2 and Tricia Stark has a qualification as a Speech and Language Therapist.

Our team of Volunteer helpers are also highly valued. Mary Ansell, Ann Summerfield and Shirley Lecky have been joined by Christine Clatworthy who, with her experience working with children with special needs, is proving a great asset and Alan Bennett who is acting as a Relief Volunteer helper - standing in when someone is away. We are very grateful to all of them for their help and also to our Management Committee members - Alan Clatworthy, Nigel Spalding and Alison Wakefield. We also have some good students who are studying for childcare qualifications and doing their work placements with us.

The highlight of the past year has to be the completion of the outside play area. Thanks to a grant of nearly £10,000 from the Council/Government we now have a wonderful garden for the children to play in. This has been something we have wanted for many years and although the space is small we have made very good use of it. It has made such a difference to the children - visitors have commented on how much calmer the atmosphere is now that our youngsters can play outside in the fresh air - in all weathers! If anyone wants to visit us to look at it "in action" you would be very welcome!

*Julie Carroll*

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## **Playbox Playclubs and Parent, Baby & Toddler Groups**

The PlayClubs for all children under 5 years of age, held in the Lower Hall on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, continue to thrive under the excellent leadership of Alison Ritchie. The Monday morning group, especially, is very popular. These groups provide a regular "feed" for the Playgroup.

Our Baby & Toddler Groups, held in the Crèche on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, are now all led by Joy Dearlove, a qualified, experienced Nursery Nurse. Her enthusiastic approach has enabled her to build these into small, lively and friendly groups. The parents who attend them value Joy's advice as she has a lot of good experience in childcare, including working with children with special needs.

The Kingston Town Children's Centre, in Villiers Road, recommend us to parents when their 'Stay and Play' sessions get too crowded and they have to turn people away - they can then come to us! Some people prefer to come to a smaller more intimate group - especially if it is the first time their young babies/toddlers have been to a Toddler Group. We have good links with the Children's Centres and they provide a very valuable service, so we are working together for the benefit of families with young children in the community.

*Julie Carroll*

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## **Oxygen**

Launched in 2001, Oxygen is a local project, started by local churches, that works in partnership with a range of local agencies. Oxygen's vision is to give young people an opportunity to discover and follow Jesus, by serving, building relationships and relying on God."

<http://www.oxygen-online.org/WhatIsOxygen.html>



Since that launch Oxygen has contacted over 4,500 young people from all over South West London and now meets an average of 300 young people through 60 hours of face-to-face

relational youth work each week. Recent news is available at the address <http://www.oxygen-online.org/OxygenNews.html>

As part of this Oxygen runs a variety of projects. Oxygen runs after school clubs in local schools to provide the younger children “a place to Chill, Study and Play after school” and there is an after school café run at Oxygen’s “the Basement”. Later in the evening, Oxygen’s “Urban Nites” project provides things to do and places to go for young people, and also “Friday nights at the Basement” provides a place for young people to get together and includes the opportunity to be musically creative. Oxygen also provides creative opportunities in art, music and film-making as well as mentoring and faith exploration. Full details of activities are available at <http://www.oxygen-online.org/Whatson.html> . Oxygen also oversees work of Street Pastors, local to Kingston; a charity that engages with young people who may feel themselves to be excluded and marginalised. Further details about that charity are available here <http://www.streetpastors.co.uk/>

KMC supports Oxygen through donations and funding, such as the exciting “Barn Dance for Oxygen” run by KMC and featuring congregation members who formed a live band. During the year Oxygen has appointed a new director, John Trend, who has already been to visit KMC during one of our Sunday services. The year has ended with a bright outlook, as Oxygen finalised plans for several events to celebrate their 10th Birthday during 2011. Oxygen is keen for volunteers and church events to support them. If you would like to know more you can either contact Adrian Mitchell, or Oxygen directly using the details on their website <http://www.oxygen-online.org/involved.html> . So if Oxygen appeals to you, and you would like to be involved, then get in touch!

*Adrian Mitchell*

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## **JMA - Junior Mission for All**

JMA (Junior Mission for All) allows some of our young people to learn about issues faced by their peers in Britain and overseas and the projects and partnerships created by JMA to help overcome them, as well as giving our collectors the opportunity to pray and serve.



One way our JMA members serve is by raising money. It is important. What the Methodist World Mission Fund does with the money makes a difference in many people’s lives. For example, training women in Togo e.g. to make liquid soap and body ointment to provide an income for their families; for tsunami relief where our donations have enabled the Methodist Church in Samoa to buy tarpaulin, bedding, bricks and mortar, tables, chairs, crayons, paper, fabric, thread and sewing machines for the people of the island; for mission partners from the UK e.g. working with the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe to enable orphans to be supported in the community.

Last year our collectors raised £580 and our thanks go to every single JMA member for their dedication throughout the year. It is not the easiest thing to ask for money, even when we have so many generous people within the Church who donate to JMA on a regular basis. We are fortunate in having several collectors now - our team of ‘old hands’ (Chloe, Cameron, Julia and Remi), joined last year by Ryan and Christina, has recently been enthusiastically enlarged by Synthyche, Jessica (with help from Jesse) and Aylin with Jerene waiting in the wings for her first donations.

Our thanks to all our JMA collectors and contributors - every little really does help.

*Val Hayden*

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## The Leprosy Mission (TLM)

Jesus touched the leper. The man had probably been rejected by his family and been thrown out of his home to fend for himself. An outcast from all social contact and feared by all in case they should contact this foul disease by being anywhere near him. No one in their right senses would want him around. Why did Jesus touch him then? Not just because he felt sorry for him, but because he loved him. In that instant the crowd were forgotten. The man was healed.

Still today the fear and disgust carries on. Yet T.L.M. doctors and staff are loving, touching and healing in Christ's name.

Thank you to those who have donated recently. £209 has been sent to T.L.M. this year, and approximately £46 will be added by Gift Aid.

*Derek C. Hockham*

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## Queen Victoria Seamen's Mission

QVSR, or the 'Queen Vic', as it is more familiarly known, has been the Seamen's Mission of the Methodist Church since 1843, and is now the last remaining maritime charity providing accommodation and support for seafarers in the East End of London. It is also the largest seafaring hostel of its kind in the UK with accommodation for 172 men.

Teams of 5 welfare staff are available for advice every day between 9am-8pm, with some sleep-in cover. No formal keyworker system is in place but the staff meet with residents as and when required. The staff provide advice and support around benefits, making appointments, move-on and organising regular activities, events and outings.

There are also currently 2 volunteers who engage with residents, and organise events and activities. If you are interested in helping with this type of work please phone the manager for volunteering enquiries on 020 7987 5466.

Alexander Campbell BA CMgr FCMI is Chief Executive. The organisation also endeavours to support active and retired servicemen in need of accommodation as well as other individuals who find themselves homeless. The 'Queen Vic' has a strong reputation as it has been serving seafarers for over 160 years and Alexander has continued to build on this by being in the forefront of establishing imaginative new services to reach the people and help them rebuild their lives and discover new opportunities.

You can find out more about the life and work of the Queen Vic from the Annual Report, available at the back of the Church, or from their website [www.qvsr.org.uk](http://www.qvsr.org.uk)

Many thanks to the members of the church who help support this work, and enabled us to send £250.00 this year.

*Jennie Widdowson*

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## Night Shelter

By agreeing, once again, to host last winter's night shelter, members of KMC's congregation have demonstrated their care and concern for homeless people, and by their tangible enthusiasm, commitment and support the desired effect was achieved.

During one of the coldest winters on record KMC, amongst other churches in the Borough, provided a warm and caring environment for homeless people to have a hot meal and bed-down for the night.

Members did not need much persuading to provide cooked food for evening meals or provide food for breakfast. Some food providers also volunteered to attend the shelter to cook and serve breakfast. In addition, various members agreed to man the various shifts. Regular supplies of toiletries was provided by a church member which enabled our guests to wash and freshen themselves after a day walking the streets.

Financially, I received a total of £110 from four church members; after deducting £50 for necessary purchases I allocated the remaining £60 to Church funds. No doubt, considering the severe winter, the Church's utility bills will need to be factored in the financial cost of hosting the night shelter.

I believe KMC's participation in the Winter Night Shelter scheme shows our care and concern for disadvantaged people, in particular those who are homeless. If we have improved one homeless person's life by our hosting of the night shelter the exercise will have been worthwhile.

Overall, there was no worrying anti-social behaviour; considering their circumstances the guests were well behaved.

Finally, my thanks to our Property Steward, Alan, who ensured that the heating was adequate during the six, very cold Sunday nights when KMC hosted the night shelter.

*Shirley Lecky*

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## Rest and Recreation

### Badminton

Badminton Club continues on a Wednesday evening with varying numbers and it has to be acknowledged that we aren't all as young as we used to be. We play for exercise and the friendship that goes with it. Unlike some clubs we don't require a particular standard so if we would like to see what happens come along on a Wednesday from 8pm.

*Alan Bennett*

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### Kingston Methodist Cricket Club

Season 2010

As another season dawns, it's time to reflect on the season gone by. Of the 20 games played we managed to win 12 and lose 6, with the remaining 2 abandoned due to inclement weather.



Once again we were thankful to Alan Clatworthy in providing us with a challenging and entertaining fixture list.

As was the case last season, Richard Driver scored over 500 runs; this included a century against a new side to us, Golden Age. The only other century of the season came in the same game for Steve Hart, his maiden century for the club. Well done to both, especially Steve, on this his first century for the club.

On the bowling front, Jason Soanes bowled particularly well all season and was the leading wicket taker.

A welcome addition to the team towards the end of the season was Alex Routledge who added an extra dimension to both our bowling and batting line up. In the four games he played he took 11 wickets and scored 90 runs. We hope he can play a bit more this coming season.

Our tour was once again one of the highlights of the season. Once again, we toured on the Isle of Wight. We all had a fantastic time and even managed to win both games for the second season on the trot.

Special thanks must go to Richard Driver for ensuring the team came together on a Saturday. It was particularly tough last season as we regularly struggled to put a team together. There were several occasions where we played with 10 men and even 9, which isn't ideal!

The key statistics and trophy winners from last season are as follows.

#### Batting

Trophy winner:	Richard Driver	trophy average of 37.07
Most Runs:	Richard Driver	519
Most 50's	Richard Driver	3
100's	Richard Driver (101) and Steve Hart (108 not out)	

#### Bowling

Trophy winner:	Bob Hart	average of 20.90 runs per wicket
Most wickets:	Jason Soanes	19
Best Bowling:	Alex Routledge	5 for 35

## Fielding

Trophy Winner: Michael Hayden

Most catches: Michael Hayden 9

*(The fielding trophy is a committee vote for the best fielder over the season, not necessarily the most catches)*

**Most Improved Player** *(for the player that has improved the most since the previous season)*

Rob Alder

**Chairman's Trophy** *(for all round contribution to the Club during the year)*

Alan Clatworthy

There is still a strong Christian element within the club with ten of the members being regular church goers, and there is still a very strong link to Kingston Methodist with Alex Ritchie, Tom Hayden, Alan Clatworthy, Nigel Spalding, Iain Alexander and Alex Routledge all playing last season.

If you wish to know how the Club is doing week in week out, then the results are written on the fixture card on the notice board near the Upper Hall stairs, or you can ask a player on Sunday, or look at our website at [www.thekmcc.com](http://www.thekmcc.com), which includes match reports, results, statistics, club history, etc. Please have a look.

We are always looking for new members to strengthen our squad. If this appeals to you, please contact one of the playing church members or take a look at the website. Saying yes doesn't commit you to every Saturday; it would be nice to hear from you.

Please come along and watch us some time, even for a short time. See you there.

Thanks

*Michael Hayden (Captain)*

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## Revive

The concept for "Revive" originated from a project called "Space to be" held in Holy Trinity Church, Barnes. It was started by their Minister who had successfully set up and run another similar project in her previous church.

Revive is designed to engage the local community with the local church by providing a "safe space" for people to explore Christian spirituality and to see what church is like. It takes place on our Church premises between 6:30pm and 9:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month, excluding December and August. The Church is arranged into different zones for different types of physical, mental and spiritual calm and stimulation. The activities include professional massage and listening, light, healthy food, art and craft activities, all of which are free due to grant funding received for the first three years. At a given point in the evening, there is also the opportunity to take part in a guided Christian meditation.

The numbers attending have varied depending on the time of the year and school holidays. They have ranged from 12-21 people attending at one time, with three new people since January. Those attending are mainly outside the Kingston Church Family and many are non-church. The interest is growing steadily and if all came that have attended there would be over thirty.

My thanks to Mary Ansell for preparing the refreshments and serving them; to Heather Clarke for preparing and guiding the art and crafts and Eugenia for providing massage and to those who support by faithfully coming every month and talking to our non-church attendants. My thanks

to those involved, not part of Kingston Methodist Church but who value the project and commit their time and energy faithfully every month: Nicola Lince', Sarah, Jenny, Louise.

My thanks also go to Alan Clatworthy for his offer to bank any money on a Monday at the same time as the Sunday offering.

*Dorothy Innes*

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## Resource Management

### Property Report

Investigations have continued into the best solution for the ageing heating system together with the vast amounts of single-glazing in the Church and halls. The last Church Council agreed we should seek to find an architect through the Methodist Property Division but nothing has been forthcoming to date. Meanwhile the firm who fitted the new convectors at New Malden have come back with a reduced quotation for the Church itself and have surveyed the rest of the building. Fitting a new system for the Church would mean that all our eggs would not be in one basket.

There is no doubt that the building, now 45 years old, will need a significant amount of money spent on it before long.

At Angie's request we have tried a different layout of the Church furniture so that the preacher can see most of the congregation at the same time. The music group also wants to investigate re-arranging their instruments and equipment so that the singers can hear the piano better. We might need to try a phase 2 of the re-arranged furniture.

There is of course much on-going maintenance which keeps us busy. The help of everyone with recycling, leaving things tidy etc. would be appreciated.

*Alan Bennett*

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### Church Archives

The church archives tell the story of the life and work of Kingston Methodist Church, from the early Victorian Days when Kingston had 4 large and impressive churches (Kingston Hill, Richmond Road, Eden Street and Victoria Road) to their coming together in 1966 on the current site at the Fairfield. The older material, pre 1966, is held at the Surrey Archives in Woking. The newer material is held locally, but I hope to be able to get all the documents returned locally in due course.

As well as the formal records of KMC: minutes of ACMs and other meetings, weekly notices, newsletters and magazines, there are photographs of events held at the church, or attended by groups or organisations associated with it, and trophies or souvenirs from those events. Today's events are tomorrow's history.

If you are submitting photographs, it is helpful if you can make a photocopy to accompany the original. On this you can provide some details of the event, who is in the picture, when it happened, and why. This makes the pictures much more meaningful and interesting to those viewing them but who were not there.

Anything you wish to send electronically can be sent to me at [jennie.widdowson@btinternet.com](mailto:jennie.widdowson@btinternet.com) I look forward to receiving your donations as I start to turn my thoughts towards us celebrating 50 years of the Church on the Fairfield.

*Jennie Widdowson*

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