

Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known No 76: Winter 2013



The Bridge

BRIDGES are exciting. My children always rush to a bridge to see what is underneath, hoping to see water rushing by, or a canal boat in a lock.

And bridges connect us with the other side. It can be frightening to cross a metaphorical bridge in your life that changes something fundamental. Even change to something positive can be overwhelming. Whenever something makes me anxious, I take it apart, and look the worst case scenario in the face. *What is the worst that can happen?* Often it does not seem so frightening then.

The fear of the unknown can sometimes paralyze us, shivering on the other side of the bridge. But in my life, I have experienced many times, how Jesus was there with me, and I was not crossing the bridge alone. And change can bring something wonderful. Even this change to the darkest time of year brings something bright.

Driving on the road the other evening, it was dark and chilly outside, and I passed an old English building, with all the chimneys, and the old wooden door and light shining golden from all the windows. It looked so inviting, and I thought that this is what it is like for me to come to God, you come in from the cold into something so inviting and warm, you feel at home.

I love this time of year. As Christmas approaches, I dive right into the decorations, baking and lovely songs about Christ being played on radio channels that otherwise are completely secular. It is a chance to show kindness and attention to someone who is alone, to enjoy the warmth of Christmas cheer does not have to mean lavish dinners or expensive gifts. It is the connection between people that I find encouraging.

And this is also what Christmas is, a bridge between our increasingly Christ-less world and its Saviour. I love to invite neighbours and friends to my house for something sweet and homemade, or invite them to something at the church to enjoy the lovely music and cosy atmosphere, hoping to be a bridge between them and God.

After all, the bridge is there for me too, because **Jesus himself IS the bridge** between us and God. The fact that Jesus became human and died for us bridges the gap between us humans who so often try to be good and loving and so often fail, and a God who always loves unconditionally. So I plan this Christmas to cut down on the tasks that "have to" be done, and just enjoy the connection, the bridge between me and other people, and the connection between me and God.

I hope whatever you do this Christmas season, you feel connected to other people, cared for and close to the friend who is always there to connect you with a love that will never end.

By Pastor Karin Wiczorek

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Immanuel - which means "God with us." Matt 1: 23, NIV

KIT Flashback

IN EARLY JULY, we said a reluctant goodbye to **Pastor Jonathan Valls** and his family. They planned to go on holiday in Spain and then travel to Australia where Jonathan has taken a ministerial post. Without exception, together with Minerva's mother, they enhanced our worship services because of their musical talents. We wish them a very happy future. The photo shows at the back **Ruben and Minerva**, and in front **Jaris, Jonathan and Alan**.



The Flower Festival in September organised by **Audrey Balderstone** raised £11000 to be split equally for the benefit of Keech Cottage Hospice for Children and the church's development fund. The photo by **Arto Keshishian** shows Audrey handing a cheque for £5500 to **Louis Guenin** the chairman of the church development committee.

Punographics - sent in by Greta Poulton.

I **KNOW** a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

In Candleglow by Maggie Smith

BY doorways, where holly wreaths
Herald the story
Of Christmas spent in a time-honoured way;
Find candlelit windows,
A crib's simple glory,
Small figurines nestling
In sweet-scented hay.

Laughter and merriment
Ring down the village streets,
Happy young voices
And warm festive cheer;
Fragrant firs glowing
With candles and chocolate treats,
Children's delight
Tells us Christmas is near.

Out over dusky fields
Church lights are beaming
The old, glorious message
Of a small Christmas Child!
Prayer stirs in our hearts
As the dark earth lies dreaming,
With a welcome for Jesus,
The Light of the World!

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NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

FIRST OF ALL I need to apologise for mixing up two flower Festival photos and crediting Kirra Moser with a display created by **John Horwood**. Apologies to you both. We are unable to show you the display Kira did for Parallel, but below is one she did on her own behalf.

SADLY, two families as well as the **Valls** family left us since the last KIT. **David and Caroline Swain** left us in early October to move to Ireland where I know they will be a blessing. Apparently it is largely due to David that our A.V. Department at church is such a success. Also Caroline has worked hard in several church departments. In January we expect to welcome back **Pastor Mary Barrett**, and also **Pastor and Mrs Samuel Neves**, ironically Amy Neves is the daughter of David and Caroline, so we expect to see a lot more of David and Caroline too.

In early November we lost to Scotland, **Rory and Ivana Mendez** and little **Bibliana**. Officially described as a pastoral intern, Ivana had an incredible time at Stanborough Park. Not only did she produce her first baby, but she preached thought provoking sermons and led out in an evangelistic campaign. She flew down from Scotland to take the last meeting so people would not be disappointed.

Also in December we shall lose **Pastor Karin Wiczorek** and her family. Karin plans to return to her native Sweden. She is a lovely person and we shall miss her.

Below are photos of Kira's arrangement taken by **June Coombs** and Karin (centre) and Ivana (right), both taken by **Arto Keshishian**.



In October two babies were dedicated to the **Lord**. On the 5th, little **Maria Sade Ashaolu** was dedicated by Pastor Wiczorek, and on three weeks later, **Zachary Elliott Davison** was dedicated by **Pastor Paul Clee**. I believe **Johnson Wong** took both pictures and unusually the one of the Ashaolu family shows them during the prayer over Maria. Congratulations to all the proud parents and grandparents.



We are used to the musicians in our congregation, dare I say it? *bringing home the bacon*, by winning competitions here and abroad. Now a fifteen-year-old has joined them. On October 6, **Sang Bin Jung** played violin at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Young Musicians' Competition and took second place. Congratulations Sang Bin.

On October 19, we gained two new members. **Raquel Pardo Sampaio and Mark Aurelio Pardo Sampaio** joined us from the North West Portuguese speaking church. Welcome Raquel and Mark Aurelio.

November started on a high note with the sixtieth birthday of our own **Florence Allen**. She celebrated with a thanksgiving service in the sanctuary followed by a party with about 100 guests later. Congratulations Florence. Very many happy returns.

The Weight of Evidence - Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH

THE AMERICAN orator Robert Ingersoll once stated *In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments...there are consequences*. There is a weight of evidence to prove him correct. A common misconception is that if something is good, a lot will be even better! Reportedly the UK general public have embraced the idea of using herbs and spices in their cooking. So much so that it has been estimated that around 5000 tons of out-of-date unused spices and herbs now fill our kitchen cupboards adding to the weight of our shelves.

We let weight accumulate on our persons also. Various health agencies are now concerned that the extra weight will have severe health consequences. Rather than spoil the party around the festive season, the Cancer Society is calling for a 100 calorie reduction in meal sizes, and suggests that this can be achieved by modifying what we eat and how we prepare it. Certainly the weight of evidence shows that a wide range of health risks can be reduced by relatively simple measures in both diet and exercise. Time perhaps to both empty our cupboards and take steps... literally... to reduce the weight of evidence for the New Year.

Remember:

THERE IS a niche in the heart of God that only you can fill. David Asscherick

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A New Year Message by Elizabeth Gozney

RING in the new year message,
The hopes that we all share,
For strength within our daily lives,
For friendship's tender care,
And for true understanding now,
And in the future, too -
That we may find inspiring times
Through friendships old and new

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It remains to say

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS
AND
GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSING THROUGHOUT 2014**