

Kingsley Messenger

KINGSLEY PARK METHODIST CHURCH
MILTON STREET, KINGSLEY PARK TERRACE,
NORTHAMPTON NN2 7JF



Sunday 1st April
10.45 Easter Service
Rev A Sharp



Ministers Letter

God gives us the genuine article.



Saturday 7th April
10.00-12.00 NANNA

Sunday 8th April
10.45 Rev J Marsh
Flowers Mrs S Attwell

Thur' 12th April
15.00-16.30
The Good Shepherd



Saturday 14th April
10.00-12.00

Sunday 15th April
10.45 Rev R Pedro
Flowers Mrs J German

Saturday 21st April
10.00-12.00

Sunday 22nd April
10.45 Dcn R Beckett
Baptism Service
Flowers Mrs S Dempsey

You will all be expecting a Ministers Letter in this edition for I know how much you look forward to reading it. So firstly the letter should be from the Revd Phil Snelson, but as you know the Revd Phil has not been too well lately. So the first thing we need to do is send him our best wishes for a full recovery to good health, and all our Christian love and prayers and look forward to seeing him back in ministry amongst us.

So I have been sent on as substitute and hope that you will find it acceptable to write something in place of the Revd Phil. So I want us to think about substitution, which is also part of the Christian faith, because that is what we are involved in.

In certain areas of life and contexts we find substitutes. Sometimes we look on with concern because we feel secure and happy in the original, material or product.

I found this when I went birthday shopping ten years ago on a major birthday. When I say shopping I mean real shopping, not looking for Bird's Custard powder or finding a custard powder of a substitute supermarket brand. I found myself in "Harley World" in Chesterfield, Derbyshire where I do enjoy going. I went to buy another motorcycle, a real Harley from America. I had looked at many copies made in Japan, they looked very attractive and enticing, they were great bikes but they lacked a real heart and soul from a riding experience.

From that style of motorcycle that had been produced since 1903 they had found something very definitive in motorcycle riding experiences. Yes it wasn't the finished article in some areas, decidedly old fashioned and agricultural, but from its heart - the engine, came music and rhythms from the depths of its soul this was the nature of the beast.

I handed over a big wad of cash and rode down the road having paid an extraordinary amount for the bike and the name on the tank, but I did get what I paid for and I haven't stopped having pleasure from it since. The Japanese bikes were good copies of a Harley but they weren't quite the real deal. You can find this in many other areas. Handbags and shoes for example. Radley and Prada are some of my favourite brands; I like Burberry and John Smedley when it comes to woven cloth. I do like well turned out people if they can afford it.

Church's shoes in Northampton own Jimmy Choo and when I went window browsing in Toulouse in France I saw my favourite shoes Crockett and Jones, however a young person may choose Nike trainers, genuine items only. Northampton has still a prominent position in the high end of quality shoe manufacture. My father always used to say quality and class is permanent, long after the price is forgotten. Substitutes don't get a look in. In some sports substitutes are a part of the game and can turn out to be good moves to alter the course of a game and the outcome of winning a match. When I used to regularly watch some football, Liverpool had a player called David Fairclough, he hardly ever started a game, and he was always on the bench from the start.

The manager would bring him on halfway through the second half, particularly when they were behind or level and needed to win. He would have a couple of touches of the football and there were two goals and the game would be won.

He got the nickname "Super Sub"; he seemed to have a Midas touch, "It turned to Gold".

I may accept a reasonable substitute when it comes to custard powder, I do like Bird's but when it is not available I have to choose the "own market" brand, which will have to do, sometimes that is not a bad thing as there is normally a price premium difference.

We have just marked the end of Lent in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday which is a difficult and challenging time for faithful Christians, but we are now in the season of celebrating the resurrection. The two are very close together. On Good Friday Jesus was our substitute, a sinless, perfect offering and sacrifice for our sins upon the cross of crucifixion, he didn't deserve to be there, we did, the two criminals were there for a reason, transgressing the law metered out by Rome. One was contrite and sorrowful for the life he had led; the other threw insults at Jesus. They were going to die a painful death. Jesus said to the contrite one "Tomorrow you will be with me in paradise".

Three days later after Jesus was laid in the tomb, the stone was rolled away and the body cloths lay on the floor neatly arranged and Jesus was alive. The women were the first to encounter the risen Christ followed by Jesus' close band of disciples.

God had promised and given them the genuine article, in the risen Christ. What a substitute. Alleluia! Every blessing in Jesus - Rev John.

Hold the date - Spring Fair - 2nd June

OUR DEAR DAVID

On the 16th February our beloved organist David Old died in hospital after a short illness. David was already well known to some members of Kingsley as a piano tuner when he became an occasional accompanist to the Kingsley Showers singing group. When the church needed a relief organist, David offered to play for some services. This commitment expanded until by 2013 he was playing every Sunday morning. Although he remained a regular member of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church he became part of our church family too, joining us for many special occasions.

His skill and versatility as a musician was enhanced by his sense of occasion and his ability to adapt to the needs of any service and any preacher.

David was much loved by Kingsley folk and will be remembered for his music, but also for his loyalty and his friendship. He died in faith and the heavenly host has gained a talented musician and a lovely man.

Worship at Kingsley - Rev Jill Marsh

We are delighted that Rev Jill Marsh has agreed to lead our worship at Kingsley Park on Sunday morning 8th April.

Jill is the Director of Mission for the Northampton District and will be interested to learn about our Mission outreach here at Kingsley.

So do come along and give her a great big Kingsley welcome and take the opportunity to talk to her and let her know what we are doing at Kingsley and how she can help. Jill sees her main task as supporting Methodist Circuits and churches as we engage in the mission God gives us. I know she would be pleased to hear from you and to listen to what you have to say.

MISSION GROUP

Kingsley Park Mission Group have planned another Prayer Ribbon Day to be held on Saturday morning 14th April on the church forecourt.

Passers by will be offered a free cup of tea or coffee and if they wish to chat to someone or write a prayer on a ribbon to tie to the trellis, members of the Mission Group will be available to welcome them. Please remember our Kingsley Park community in your prayers.

The Mission Group are also planning involvement in the international prayer project called 'Thy Kingdom Come' from the 10th May to the 20th May.

Check it out and Google 'Thy Kingdom Come' for further details. It's exciting! Look out for more details from the Mission Group later.

Prayer Corner

Living Lord Jesus,

We rejoice today in the good news of your resurrection.

You met with Mary in the garden, bringing laughter after tears.

You met with women returning from the tomb, bringing confidence after confusion.

You met with countless generations across the centuries,

bringing renewal after rejection.

Meet with us now, in this day, this moment, bringing light after darkness.

Fill our hearts with the new life of Easter, until that day when, with all your people, we enter your kingdom

and rejoice in the wonder of your love for all eternity.

In your name we pray. AMEN

