

SAINTS ALIVE

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL SAINTS AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

St John's Forest School

by | Stephen Simpson, Forest School Leader www.forestschooling.co.uk

Have you ever lit a fire with a fire steel at school? Lighting tinder and fuel you gathered from the woods? If you have, then you will know how satisfying it feels. The sense of pride and warmth is reflected in your lighting of the fire. You practised, you tried and tried to strike that fire steel to make the spark to light the fire. And then you did it! You made a flame, you kept that fire lit and fed it. You boiled water over it and made hot chocolate for everyone there. A success in front of your peers and classmates. You leave school that day feeling great.

Living locally, you may have noticed billowing smoke and increased activity in the woodland area at St John's School. There has been much climbing, jumping, building, creating, thinking, reflecting, running, discovering, socialising, learning, connecting and of course fire-lighting. Most importantly there has been personal growth happening on the site.

St John's has a forest school!

What is forest school? Is it bushcraft? Is it like scouts or guides? Is it solely about the forest? Do you climb trees? Is it only about nature and the outdoors? It's all of those things, and very much more.

Forest School is a unique educational approach that gives young people increased contact with, and knowledge of, the natural world, and a powerful process that enables the holistic personal development of young people. It aims to create an interest in the outdoors – a spark if you like – and keep that stoked and fuelled, giving the learners confidence and self-belief whilst on their journey.

At our Forest School we are keen to offer all types of learners the opportunity to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through different types of learning in the enveloping environment of the woodland.

Our Forest School is child-led, this means the children decide what they would like to do and discover things for themselves. All this happens in a safe environment designed to be fun. It's perfectly okay in Forest School to run around and climb trees and shout! Equally, it's perfectly fine to just want to relax in a



hammock and count the clouds fluttering by. It allows the children to achieve and, most importantly, grow – at their own pace.

We centre on their social, physical, intellectual, communication, emotional and spiritual needs, in other words – their holistic development. I like to say we concentrate on how the children learn and not what they learn. This, in turn, helps foster independent and creative learners that go on to be in charge of what they learn and use their new skills in the class room environment.

So if you are passing by and see us in our woods, do give us a wave and remember that the spark has already been ignited and we are having great fun fuelling our learning at St John's Forest School.

From the vicarage

All Saints

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



St John's

by | Revd Vicky Maunder

With, perhaps, rather depressing inevitability I'm going to write something about the World Cup ... by saying that of all the little triumphs it represented for the England team maybe one of the most significant was the way that we seemed, for now at least, to have set aside our jinx around penalty shoot outs. For decades our boys have been unable to win when it comes to "decider by spot kick" and so when, in the match against Columbia, we headed down to one end, once open play had finished, for five of the best from each side to see who would progress we all could be forgiven for a sinking feeling that was preparing for the worst.

Yet we prevailed, and I was gathering recently that it was preparation that was the key. In particular a certain sort of preparation that targeted a specific instinct in each penalty taker. For inspiration, rather oddly, they looked to a more sedate sport, golf, and especially to putting. For those who don't know, once a golfer has bludgeoned the ball over long distances of varied grass and obstacles they come to a neat, close cut oasis called "the green", somewhere in which is a small hole with a flag poking out of the top. It is into this hole that they must drive the ball via a gentle, controlled motion called "putting". Unlike other actions on a golf course putting is a slow, precise and very controlled one in which the adrenalin – inevitable, and necessary, at other times – must be captured and harnessed so that precision and accuracy can guide the ball to its final drop. Footballers are often quite fond of golf and I gather that the England management used this to give their players a mental framework around which to base their penalty practice encouraging them to think about putting as they got ready to shoot and so to slow down, to tame their instincts and to think about what they were doing rather than act impulsively.

Anthony De Mello, Catholic priest and monk, wrote a good little book called "Awareness", the central tenet of which was to suggest that we might cope better in life if we spent time noticing, becoming aware of, our thoughts and feelings, our words and actions. Do nothing more than let yourself be aware of them, he suggested, for that gives space to think and feel, and so respond rather than react. That difference between response and reaction is a useful one, the latter being more prone to the places of fear and need within us all from which defensive and selfish reactions emerge, while the former (response) implies the use of pause and consideration allowing us time to think about what's impacting upon us and so give our actions the benefit of some deliberation. It served our footballers well and might possibly do the same for us as we seek to meet the challenges that learning to bear the beams of love present.

Jonathan

My grandmother, who died many years ago, had two large apple trees in her back garden. During the summer months my sister and I were often tasked with picking the apples and collecting those that had fallen on the ground. If an apple had gone a bit bad it didn't matter. It was tossed into the box with the others. The bad bit was cut out and the rest of the apple enjoyed. No apple was to be wasted unless it was completely rotten all over. And it didn't matter what shape or size the apple was either. However imperfect it looked, it was valuable. Having lived through two world wars my grandmother understood scarcity and was grateful for every fruit of her summer crop. My sister and I were grateful for the delicious apple crumbles that we enjoyed every Sunday lunch for most of the year.

Attitudes to food have changed a lot since then. Modern society likes perfection and most of us are fortunate enough to be able to be rather picky about the food we eat and how it looks. How often do we throw food in the bin because it isn't quite as fresh as it could be? My mother, who always ignores "best before" and "use by" dates on food, is horrified when she comes to visit and sees us throwing out "perfectly good food" just because of a date stamp on the packaging which is about "quality not safety". And our desire for perfection has meant most UK supermarkets have, for many years, been very strict about only selling the best of the farmers' crop and rejecting fruit and vegetables that weren't a perfect shape or size.

But attitudes are changing again thanks to recent campaigns by celebrity chefs and websites like www.lovefoodhatewaste.com which highlight the vast amounts of food wasted every year and how that impacts the environment. "Wonky fruit and vegetable" ranges are now sold at many supermarkets at a discounted rate. And of course, crooked carrots or wonky potatoes taste just as good. They just need an extra bit of peeling. This is great news for farmers as the supermarkets take more of their crop.

It will soon be harvest. The time of year when we focus in church on being thankful for our food and remembering our connection to the earth and how we depend on it. It is easy in our busy lives to take our food for granted. But in a society where, sadly, Foodbanks are used more than ever it is good to pause and appreciate what we have and to review our attitudes to food and to caring for the earth. What small changes can we make in our daily lives that will make a difference? The website mentioned above offers lots of information and suggestions about what we can do. My husband and I are following the advice and trying very hard to cut our food waste and save money into the bargain. I encourage you to do the same.

Vicky
SAINTS ALIVE

Kingston Samaritans celebrates 50 years of listening!

by | Helen Dixon, Kingston Samaritans Director

This is a milestone year for Kingston Samaritans – the charity is celebrating its 50th anniversary of listening this year. We took our first phone call on 10th May 1968. The initiative to start the branch came from the church. The Rev Roger Wild of St Paul's Kingston Hill, inspired by the founder of the national Samaritans organisation, Rev Chad Varah, approached a group of other local churchmen. The charity has been providing support to the community in Kingston, Surbiton, Esher, New Malden and Richmond ever since. Given the importance of the Church in the establishment of the charity, we were delighted to hold a thanksgiving service at All Saints in June to mark this important milestone in our history and we were also delighted to be joined by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Cllr Thay Thayalan, the Mayoress, Deputy Mayor Olivia Boulton and Sir Edward Davey MP.

gender reassignment), disability, age, political opinion or family status.

The branch also provides support locally through its various outreach activities which include working in partnership with the YMCA in Surbiton, Network Rail and Wandsworth Prison. We also attend and run workshops and events in schools throughout the community and support events at both Kingston University and Kingston College. Our speaker's secretary will arrange for talks to be given to local groups upon request.

It may surprise you to know that anyone can see a Samaritan face to face at our offices at Elspeth House, 2 Wheatfield Way, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2QS, from 7.30am-9.30pm any day of the week. There is no need to make an appointment and the service is free of charge. It is now also free to call Samaritans by



Although the original directors were all clergymen, in 1980 it was decided to have a non-religious director. These days there is no affiliation with the church or any other organisation and volunteers and supporters come from all walks of life and backgrounds. Although there have been many changes in the way we work (largely due to IT improvements), we now respond to callers via email and text too, our mission is the same, fewer people die by suicide and our core values are the same as they were 50 years ago.

Samaritan volunteers are trained to be good listeners, to be sensitive to callers' distress and to explore feelings, including those which may lead to suicidal thoughts. We do not tell anyone what to do but, by listening and talking through their feelings, we hope we will be able to help our callers get through difficult times. You don't need to be experiencing suicidal feelings to contact Samaritans; however, if you are, you can be sure of an understanding and non-judgmental listening ear. The service is available to anyone irrespective of race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, gender (including

phone. The 116 123 number is free from any UK landline or mobile.

This year we have been honoured to be one of the charities chosen by the Mayor Cllr Thay Thayalan. The Mayor's support will help us raise awareness about our service and encourage those in distress to reach out for support. It is also recognition for the wonderful work of our volunteers not just by those who support our callers but our IT, publicity, premises, accounting etc.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering for Kingston Samaritans there is an information session on 5th September and 10th December at our offices from 7.30pm.

Equally, if you'd like to support Kingston Samaritans with a donation, details of how to do this are on our website or you can text SAMS45 £10 to 70070 to donate £10. We do not receive any financial support from HM Government, so your contribution will be very welcome.

More information about Kingston Samaritans is available on the website – www.samaritans.org/branches/kingston-samaritans



As I type this in June our degree results have just been released and so now we begin preparing for the new academic year in September, with some time off and vast amounts of planning. It is a pregnant time for everyone, but especially for prospective students.

Change is inevitable but rarely easy. We load so much expectation and hope on new experiences, courses, relationships, jobs and so on, and often can feel a significant dip when the gloss wears off. The low is to be expected, but that doesn't prevent the sense of unfairness when it does happen.

Thankfully universities are pretty good at supporting students through the heady start of the academic year and the ensuing dip, what with personal tutors, counsellors, faith advisors, peer support schemes and so forth. These help massively, but I think it is the sense of belonging in a place which best helps you deal with the ups and downs during your time there.

The media often talks about young people feeling entitled to experiences which others will not necessarily get to try, but I find many students don't think like this. Instead they have to work so hard to fund their degree, keep up with their course, make the most of their time at university, and deal with all the other pressures of life that they can often need convincing that they have earned their place and can enjoy being here.

We all need to feel to some degree that we belong where we are. When we do that we can flourish and succeed. However, it takes time and effort to settle in and make connections – it doesn't happen by accident. This is why it's so important for students (especially new ones) to go to social events at university such as Freshers' Fairs, as well as to their classes. The network of friends and acquaintances that they then create will sustain them through the good and bad, help them keep a sense of perspective in what they do, widen their understanding, and broaden their horizons.

So if you're starting somewhere new in the next few months, get involved there in a range of activities, make an effort to get to know people there in different circumstances, and do what you can to make it familiar to you. The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it.

The Hogsmill, 22 February 1929

by | Carolynne Cotton

These workmen are standing on the land that was to be the site of the Kingston School of Art, they have been clearing the banks to prevent flooding. Behind them can be seen the trees of Knights Park and the "Blue" bridge. The fields between Grange Road and the Hogsmill had been used by Offer's Dairy to graze their cows from the 1860s until 1939. In 1939 the Kingston School of Art was built where they are standing. Beyond the trees the Municipal Clinic, now Bedelsford School, was built shortly after the photograph was taken. The photograph is in the collection at Kingston History Centre, where many more can be seen.

Photograph Kingston History Centre ref. K1-2850



Well-deserved accolades for Kingston Kindergarten

Written by | the parents of Kindy, past and present, July 2018

“Every day all of our lives are shaped by individuals doing great things – often behind the scenes, or away from the glare of publicity. People are the key to making our society and communities the special places that they are. The British Citizen Awards give recognition to individuals doing extraordinary things in the local community.”
The British Citizen Awards, 2018



In June 2018 Patricia Sargent and Angela Brooks of Kingston “Kindy” Kindergarten (an early years nursery) received British Citizen Certificates of Recognition for their determined, committed endeavour to education and the community.

They were nominated by almost 50 past and present Kindy parents and pupils wanting to find a way to honour Pat and Angela who *“have been quietly adding to the lives of little ones and their families in the area for decades.”* *“They do this selflessly for the good of the children, their families and the community, and the effect they have had on the lives of the youngsters goes far beyond the gratitude and recognition that the community can offer.”* The parents all agree that this Award goes some way to reflecting back the love people feel for them because of the huge difference they have made to all those they’ve connected with over the years.

Angela Brooks and Patricia Sargent took over running Kingston Kindergarten in 1999, following working there for a number of years prior. Jointly, they have thoughtfully and meticulously cultivated the “Kindy” environment: quietly and consistently providing extraordinary levels of exceptional care and education for children aged 2-5, their families and their staff.

“This is a special place where children are truly happy. It’s not an ordinary nursery where children wait for carers to pick them up. It’s a place full of fun, education, positivity and love.”

Alongside doing their jobs exceptionally well, they have brought something very special – so understated it is almost intangible – to the lives of so many. It is no exaggeration to say they have selflessly supported every one of those children’s families, as well as their staff; frequently going far beyond the scope of their jobs to ensure their “Kindy Family” is as healthy and happy as can be. The BCA application aimed to shed light on the magic that they have created. Their generous nurture and love for others plainly underpins generations of a community in Kingston upon Thames and their constant small acts of kindness have made a big difference to many people’s lives:

“They educated me as a parent.”

“I was very sick. For almost 2 months they used to drop my son in my home. Even on my operation date they dropped my son in the hospital.”

“They have made me feel so comfortable. I’ve managed to get over my anxiety and now I can comfortably watch my daughter blossom.”

“My son has severe anxiety and they went to great lengths to make his time at Kindy feel as secure and happy as possible. Pat took him for short walks each day which gave him one-to-one time, structure and routine which he needed and enjoyed.”

“They offer to drive children home when you are sick.”

“They discreetly hosted birthdays for children whose parents couldn’t afford a party.”

“They help find emergency childcare when you are in a fix.”

“They nurture your child and their very special individual personalities as if they were their own children.”

Only a limited number of British Citizen Honours are presented each year. They are carefully considered by the BCA Independent Assessment Panel and each nomination is given a rigorous review which makes the awarding of The British Citizen Award so significant to those who receive it.

Pat Sargent and Angela Brooks are known for their modesty: never making a fuss or wanting attention or praise. However they are worthy recipients as they have truly devoted themselves to their work within education, the community, caring for individuals and volunteering their time and skills. They truly understand children and have created a unique, safe, caring environment where children, parents and staff consider them as family *“a huge achievement for a kindergarten, and one that is testament to the skill and dedication of Pat and Angela.”*

Kingston Kindergarten runs from St John’s Parish Hall, Grove Lane, KT1 2SU. Tel: 07741 174801.

A new charity launched in Kingston to resettle refugees

by | Vincent Daly



Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship (KCRS) became a registered charity in June. KCRS has been formed to resettle refugee families in the Kingston area, working within the government's Community Sponsorship scheme. In this scheme, local communities raise funds, organise voluntary effort and find suitable accommodation to resettle refugee families that have been selected by the Home Office, working with the U.N., as being particularly vulnerable. The KCRS website gives more details (Google "Kingston KCRS"). KCRS trustees are drawn from several local faith communities, including All Saints and St John's churches. Anyone interested in supporting KCRS

in its efforts to resettle refugee families can make contact at KingstonCRS@gmail.com or via the KCRS website.

What is Community Sponsorship?

It's based on a successful Canadian model, in which community groups accept major responsibility for sponsoring and resettling a refugee family into a local area. Backed by a government initiative, the local community group raises the necessary funds and is hands-on in helping the family settle in the community, learn English and find work.

Why go for Community Sponsorship?

The Canadian experience shows that Community Sponsorship leads to faster settling in and integration of refugee families. Several faith communities are working together in our borough to set up a new charitable organisation, Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship (KCRS), to make this happen in our area.

What is involved in community sponsorship?

Kingston Borough Council and the Home Office approve sponsor organisations and their proposals. The sponsor locates suitable housing and tops up the rent payments if they exceed the local housing benefit rate, for two years. The Home Office and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees match a family up with the available accommodation. The Sponsor provides formal resettlement support for one year, and possibly for longer on an informal basis.

KCRS will collaborate with Refugee Action Kingston, which has in-depth expertise in helping refugees and asylum seekers.

St John's Regeneration – It's Coming Home!!!

After more than 30 years of "hurt" of poor heating and lighting, the dedication and loyalty of our wonderful fans and supporters are finally being rewarded!

We're delighted to announce that the first phase of the St John's Regeneration will begin this summer, as soon as the final permissions from the diocese have been received. Our first phase involves:

- Heating: Replacing the overhead strip heating with discreet, heat-efficient side radiators to help make St. John's the "warm" welcoming space we want to be.
- Lighting: Replacing the oh-so-attractive overhead strip lighting with a new lighting system to brighten the church and highlight its attractive features.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our fund-raising team, and the generous and committed support of the congregation, local community, church user groups and local businesses and partners, we are on our way to becoming the community "hub" we want to be. We are truly grateful to everyone who has donated, fund raised and supported our community events to help us realise this vision. Thank you!

Our fundraising efforts continue. We have applications in to two Trusts for significant grants, and our Grants & Trusts team is making applications to other grant-awarding bodies. Our community events for phase 2 will recommence once the heating and lighting work is completed, look out for details in the next *Saints Alive* and on the church website.

Please come and support these events and see the results of your fund-raising efforts first hand. Our vision is for St John's to be a safe, warm space for learning, social and group and family activities of all kinds, providing hospitality and emotional and practical support for people of all ages and abilities, all faiths and none. Thanks to your help and support, we're on our way!

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August Events

- Thu 2nd All Saints** 11am-2pm Thumbs Up It's Thursday Activity Day – Terrific Tiles
Sun 5th St John's Baptism of Sophia Whiteway
Thu 9th All Saints 11am-2pm Thumbs Up It's Thursday Activity Day – Mythical beasts
Thu 9th All Saints 7pm Banquet Records Gig – Deaf Havana
Thu 16th All Saints 11am-2pm Thumbs Up It's Thursday Activity Day – Super Stained Glass
Thu 16th All Saints 7pm Banquets Records Gig
Sat 18th All Saints 9.30am-12.30pm Rock Choir Workshop
Thu 23rd All Saints 11am-2pm Thumbs Up It's Thursday Activity Day – Kings and Queens
Thu 23rd All Saints 12noon-1pm Cuppa with a Copper
Sun 26th All Saints 9.30am Baptisms: Chelsea Louise Mahy, Callum Stuart Russell and Esmae-Anne Bethany Russell-Terrey
Mon 27th All Saints 7pm Banquet Records Gig
Thu 30th All Saints 11am-2pm Thumbs Up It's Thursday Activity Day – Saxon Treasures
Thu 31st All Saints 12 noon-2pm Practise your English

September Events

- Sat 1st All Saints** 9.30am-12.30pm Rock Choir Workshop
Sun 2nd All Saints 12noon-5pm Kingston Carnival
Sun 2nd St John's 10am All Age service with Blessing of School Bags
Mon 3rd-Thu 13th All Saints Chernobyl Art Exhibition
Sat 8th All Saints 2pm Wedding of Andrew Cornick & Anca-Maria Cornea
Thu 13th All Saints 7pm Tiffin Leavers' Celebration
Wed 19th All Saints 7pm Music with Soul – Embracing Differences
Thu 20th All Saints 1pm Topical Lunch – Scams - and how to avoid them. Sergeant Les Jackson, Kingston Police
Sat 22nd All Saints 7pm Kingston Chamber Concert – Matthew Jones violin; Annabel Thwaite, piano
Mon 24th All Saints 11am Crown Court Service
Wed 26th All Saints 7.30pm Welcome Evening
Fri 28th All Saints 12 noon-2pm Practise your English
Sun 30th St John's Baptism of Paige Naughton

October Events

- Mon 1st All Saints** 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert
Wed 3rd St John's 10am Bedelsford School Harvest Service
Thu 4th St John's 2pm St John's School Harvest Service
Thu 4th St John's 5.30pm Student Welcome Service
Sat 6th All Saints 7pm Kingston Arts Society Fundraiser Concert
Sun 7th All Saints 9.30am Baptism of Joshua Ross Richmond
Sun 7th St John's 10am Harvest Festival Family Communion
Mon 8th All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert
Mon 8th All Saints 7pm Kingston Chamber Concert
Fri 12th All Saints Cards for Good Causes starts trading
Sat 13th All Saints 10am-12noon Diocese Vocational Fair – stalls; talk
Sun 14th All Saints 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving
Mon 15th All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert
Thu 18th All Saints 1pm Topical Lunch All change at Kingston Council – The new Leader talks, listens and welcomes views. Councillor LIZ GREEN, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kingston.
Thu 18th All Saints 7pm Tiffin School Inter-form Choir Competition
Sat 20th All Saints 7pm Emergency Services Fundraiser Concert
Mon 22nd All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert
Tue 23rd All Saints 7pm Kingston Chamber Concert
Thu 25th All Saints 11am-2pm Activity Day
Sat 27th All Saints 6pm-8pm K-Pop Competition
Mon 29th All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert

All-Year-Round Events

- All Saints:** The church and cafe are open daily and visitors are welcome.
On weekdays and Saturdays from 11am to 12.15pm trained listeners are available to offer pastoral support to people who wish to speak with someone in confidence. Little Saints toddler group is on Tuesdays & Fridays.
St. John's: The church is open for Little Groovers toddler group on Tuesdays term time only; the Community Café is open Saturday mornings 10am to 12. All Welcome. St John's Weekly Bible Study Group – Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm. We are reading Mark's Gospel, discussing a chapter each week. For more information contact Gordon gfjump@gmail.com.”

All Saints Sunday Services

- 8am Holy Communion
9.30 Sung Eucharist (with Children's Church).
6pm Sung Evensong

Weekday Communion Services

- Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon Common Worship;
Thursday 10.30am Book of Common Prayer;
Friday 11.30am Praytime - brief songs and prayers for
Toddlers and Carers; 12 noon Silent Prayer

St John's Sunday Services

- 1st Sunday of the month:** 10am Family Communion
2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 10am Parish
Communion with children's church
3rd Sunday of the month: 9am Holy Communion
10am Sacred Space with children's church
Morning Prayer is said in Church at **9am** on Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday

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All Saints & St John's are part of an Anglican Team with St John's Kingston Vale

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