

# IDENTITY<sup>®</sup>

January—March 2016



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*Kings: more than Sundays. 70 groups meeting across Eastbourne, Seaford and surrounding areas*



**CHURCH**

**FOR**

**EVERYONE**

where everyone belongs

Welcome to our new Identity magazine! If you have received this on your first visit to Kings it's great to have you with us.

Whatever your beliefs, background or lifestyle, Kings is a safe place where you can explore the Christian faith, make friends and get involved with all that goes on here.

Discover our new Groups. There's something for everybody, whether you're into volleyball, photography, books or singing. There are groups that explore Christianity and those that study the Bible.

And if you would like to find out more about making Kings your home, come along to our Rooted course — it's a chance to discover what makes us tick, our culture and vision, meet the leaders and ask any questions you like. We hope to see you again soon!



*Graham + Belinda*

**SUNDAY MEETINGS**

**Hampden Park**  
 9 & 11am at the Kings Centre  
 (opposite Morrisons)  
 27 Edison Road, BN23 6PT

**E'bourne Town Centre**  
 10am at the Hippodrome  
 Theatre, 108-112 Seaside  
 Road, BN21 3PF

**Seaford**  
 10am at Seaford Head  
 School, Arundel Road,  
 BN25 4LX



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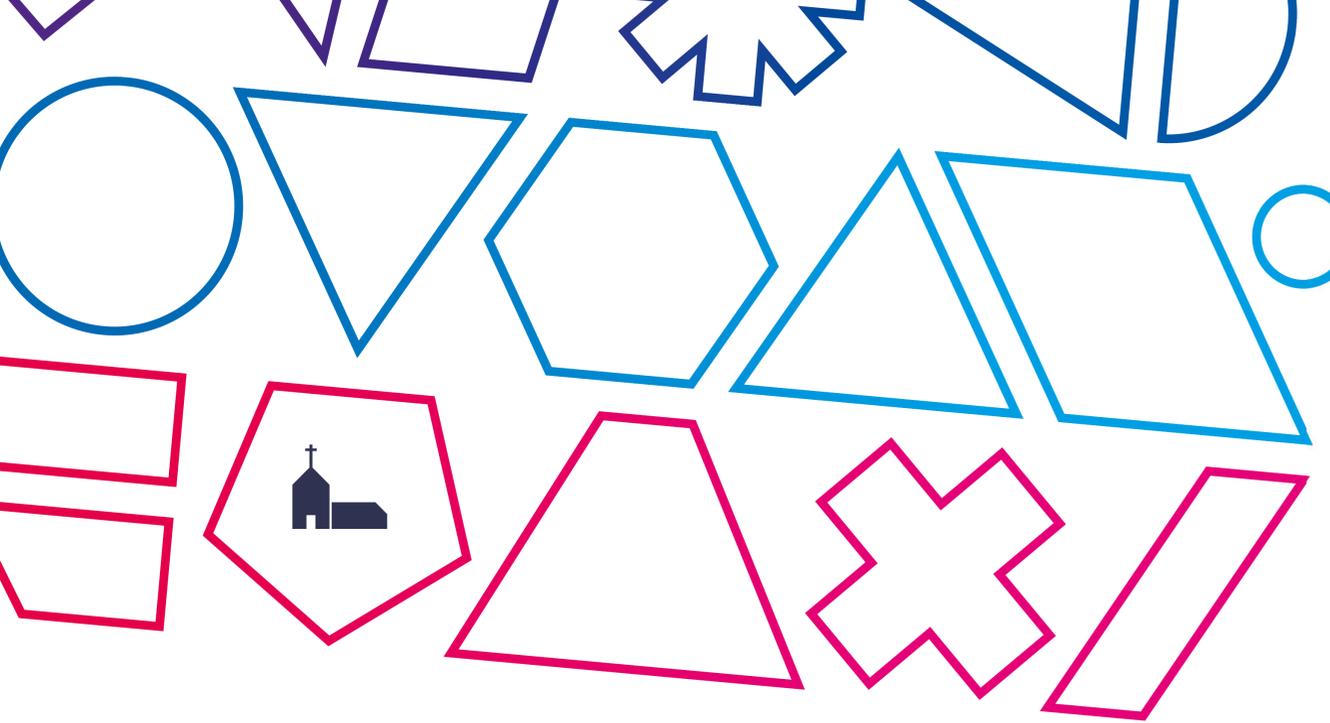
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Kings Church is affiliated to Newfrontiers and a member of the Evangelical Alliance. The Frontiers Charitable Trust: Charity No. 1065086, Company Registered No. 3404789. Our church office is: Kings Centre, 27 Edison Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 6PT. Tel: 01323 521125 Email: info@kingschurch.eu



**It might surprise you, but local churches are the most diverse places in the country.**

“Churches are best social melting pots in modern Britain,” ran the headline of a *Daily Telegraph* article in December 2014. Based on a survey of over 4000 people aged 13 upwards, the article explained, “Churches and other places of worship are more successful than any other social setting at bringing people of different backgrounds together, well ahead of gatherings such as parties, meetings, weddings or venues such as pubs and clubs.” It went on to show how churches were far more racially and socially diverse than the average UK setting, and came a close second to sporting events when it came to age. Church, it seems, is for everyone.

**Church for Everyone**

Then again, maybe this isn't so surprising. Ever since its foundation, two thousand years ago, the church has been a multi-coloured blend of Europeans and Asians, men and women, slaves and masters, old and young, rich and poor. In a world where birds of a feather tend to flock together, even in religious

contexts — wherever you are in the world, mosques and Hindu temples tend to look and feel pretty much the same — the church has often stood out as a place where totally different people come together as one. The only thing we have in common is our shared commitment to the God revealed in Jesus.

Jesus unites people who would never otherwise know each other. When he was born, he was admired by peasant farmers and foreign philosophers. When he got his twelve disciples together, they included impulsive alpha males alongside dreamy mystics, and rebels alongside collaborators. The crowds who followed him were urban and rural, rich and poor. He died between outlaws, then was buried in the tomb of an aristocrat. Something about this man drew the attention of everyone. It still does.

That's not just true globally, but locally here at Kings. Every Sunday, we gather together as kids and teens, babies and grandparents and students. We have academics and artists. We have marrieds, singles, parents and single parents, and others who have gone through the heartache of divorce, or the pain of

**“Churches and other places of worship are more successful than any other social setting at bringing people of different backgrounds together”**

bereavement. We have the employed and the job seeker, the long term sick and the long term carer. We have pharmacists licensed to deal in drugs, and others who have dealt illegally. We have current law-keepers and former law breakers: prison officers, police officers, politicians and magistrates, right alongside those who've turned over a new leaf. We have army and navy, sparks and plumbers, writers, artists and musicians. Shelf stackers and baristas and till operators. Alcohol dependents and addiction counsellors. Former atheists, agnostics and sceptics; former Muslims, Hindus and Jehovah's Witnesses. Kings really is a church for everyone.



**Practically, there are two main ways we connect with each other at Kings: on Sundays, and in groups.**



Every Sunday, we meet together at 9am and 11am (in Hampden Park), and at 10am (in Kings Centro, and in Seaford). But we also meet in smaller groups — in kitchens, church buildings, pubs, lounges, and community centres across the area, at various times throughout the week — which enable us to build community, get to know people better, and enjoy eating, socialising and doing things together.



Some of these groups are designed to help people exploring Christianity: courses, discussion

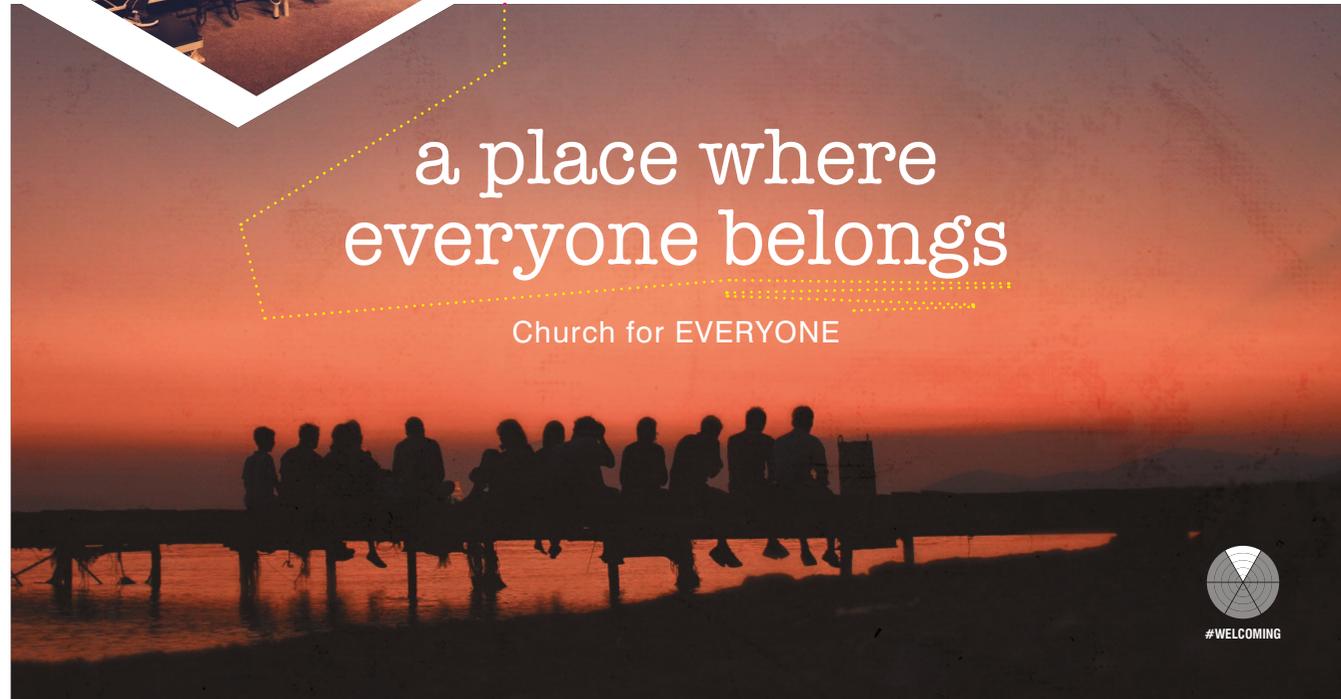
evenings over a meal, book groups, and the like. Others are there to help people form friendships in the church through shared interests, like volleyball, photography, knitting, singing, and playing sport. Others are aimed at Christians who want to deepen their faith, by studying the Bible and praying together. Whoever you are, our hope is that you will find a group that suits you.

In this magazine you'll get an overview of all the groups we have available for the term starting in January 2016. Have a browse of the options, and then if you're interested, sign up via text, email, paper or online form. We want Kings to be a church for everyone — but we also want it to be a place where everyone can belong. Welcome!

**FIND A GROUP TO GET CONNECTED**  
— PAGE 10 —

**a place where everyone belongs**

Church for EVERYONE



# One church — three venues

Everyone is welcome at Kings, no matter what your beliefs, background or lifestyle. So drop in and take a look!

Kings is made up of around nine hundred people across Eastbourne and Seaford. We have three venues; each sharing the same DNA — such as our beliefs, leadership, resources and teaching. We're united as one church, yet each of our venues has its own feel and local expression.

Whichever venue is right for you, you will be welcomed into our community. Our groups are a great way of connecting with people and making friends in a smaller setting. For more information on joining our church, discover the Rooted course on page 25.

## HAMPDEN PARK

9 & 11am every Sunday  
Meets at the Kings Centre (opposite Morrisons)  
27 Edison Road, Eastbourne, BN23 6PT

▲ Hampden Park is the largest of our venues, gathering people from all over Eastbourne and the surrounding areas. The scale of the meetings and the spacious venue create a great context for worship, celebration and equipping. It's family-friendly, with plenty of space for children to play and a full range of activities for kids and youth.

Our welcome team are here to help you from the moment you step through the doors to the time you leave. The Visitors Café is where you can get to know us, ask any question, and find out how you can get connected to life at Kings.

The meetings last 90 minutes and have an interval mid-way through. Although the meetings are larger in size, our groups are small and are a great place to get connected and become part of the community.

Our Vivo Café Bar is open from 8am on Sunday, so if you're an early bird, why not come in for tea, coffee or a light breakfast before the meeting starts?



## KINGS CENTRO

10am every Sunday  
Meets at the Hippodrome Theatre  
108-112 Seaside Road, BN21 3PF

▲ Kings Centro meets right in the heart of the town centre. With over 50% of the people who come living within walking distance, it's a great community full of locals, internationals and people of all ages and backgrounds.

With around 150 in attendance the venue offers a smaller setting for church which many people love. Each week our meetings can be translated into Spanish, Polish, Italian or Romanian (via headsets). And in true theatre style there's an interval mid way through serving free drinks and snacks.

Meeting in the Hippodrome Theatre, there's a distinct blend of our modern church style with the old, historic building. Next door to the Hippodrome is Centro Lounge — our fantastic visitors café where you can chat, get to know us, and ask any questions you like.

Like Hampden Park, our meetings last 90 minutes and there's a full kids program for 0-11s. Situated in the town centre, it's great for after-church activities and the occasional baptism in the sea!



## SEAFORD

10am every Sunday  
Meets at Seaford Head School  
Arundel Road, Seaford, BN25 4LX

▲ Our Seaford venue is a smaller yet vibrant community with many young people and families. Serving the town, the venue meets in Seaford Head School just before 10am for coffee and brioche. There are great activities for kids and young people, and a fantastic visitors café, full of cakes and treats. Here you can chat, get to know us, and ask any questions you like.

There's plenty of on-site parking and meetings last around 90 minutes. While the same core elements unite all our venues at Kings, Seaford is led, served and loved by the local people.

Mid-week groups offer plenty of opportunity to mix with people from all venues. But there's lots going on in Seaford as well, such as curry nights, picnics, summer sports, and the occasional bake-off and nerf gun war!

You can find out more about our Seaford venue online at [kingsseaford.eu](http://kingsseaford.eu)

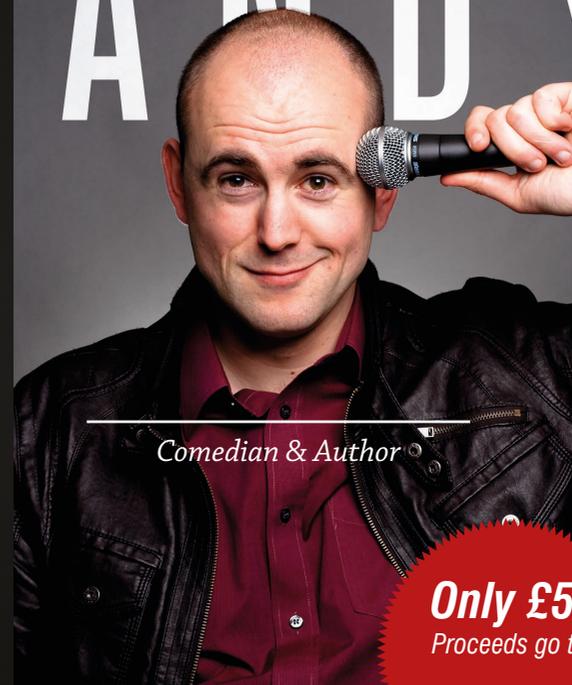


# HUNGER↑

3 DAYS OF ENCOUNTER & PRAYER LINKED BY A 48 HOUR FAST

Tuesday 12 Jan — 8pm  
Wednesday 13 Jan — 8pm  
Thursday 14 Jan — 10am  
Kings Centre  
Thursday 14 Jan — 8pm  
hosted by the young people

# ANDY KIND



Comedian & Author

Only £5!  
Proceeds go to



**Comedy Night**  
Thursday 21st January / 8pm / Kings Centre (BN23 6PT)  
— Book at [kingschurch.eu/andykind](http://kingschurch.eu/andykind)  
Friday 22nd January / 8pm / Seaford Head Golf Club (BN25 4JS)  
— Book at [kingsseaford.eu/andykind](http://kingsseaford.eu/andykind)  
Andy Kind won Anything for Laughs in 2005 and recently hurdled over the 1000-gig barrier. Described by The Scotsman as 'Terrific', Andy's stand-up style can best be described as 'the joyful rant of a post-30 chaos vacuum', and he has been featured on BBC1, ITV and Channel 4. Join us for a fantastic evening of comedy, with nothing on the agenda but a lot of laughs!

Drinks and snacks can be purchased from a licensed bar at both venues

# UNITED

AT

## THE KINGS CENTRE

FOR HAMPDEN PARK, CENTRO & SEAFORD

A night of community, worship and vision as one church

7:30PM  
FOR FOOD  
8PM START

WED  
27<sup>TH</sup> JAN

KINGS  
CENTRE

★ ALSO AT 10AM — THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JAN ★

## Got questions about life

The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. It's relaxed, low key, friendly and fun.

Our Alpha course is a series of nine evenings. At the beginning of each a free meal is served, giving you a chance to get to know others, relax and enjoy yourself. Then there's a talk, addressing key issues like 'Who is Jesus?' 'What happens when we die?' and 'What about suffering?'

And then there's an opportunity to discuss what you've heard, share your views, and ask anything you like. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.



Alpha

See pages 13 & 27 for dates

#TryAlpha [kingschurch.eu/alpha](http://kingschurch.eu/alpha)

# GROUPS

Groups are where we make friends, share life and belong. There are lots of groups at Kings and lots of places to connect with others. Groups like Alpha and Alpha Plus for those who want to find out more about Christianity. Activity groups like volleyball, musicianship, photography and crafts. Groups focused on Bible study and following our Sunday teaching series. Groups like Rooted for those who are new to Kings wanting to find out how we tick. Groups that are teams, serving an area of church or community life. Groups that have a mission or social action focus. With such a wide variety we hope there is something for everyone, whether you are new to Kings or have been around for a while.

Flick through the following pages and you'll discover many new groups for 2016, along with the existing Kings life groups. For easy searching, groups are listed by day of the week and fall into five broad categories. These categories along with further explanation are shown opposite. For lots more information on how our groups operate, see the Groups FAQ on page 33.

## LOOK OUT FOR...

### TEAM

These fulfil a serving role and can include youth teams, focus teams, drama teams, worship teams. Teams can be ongoing or short term.

Listed here are five broad categories that make up the different types of groups at Kings

### REACH

Groups that are involved in social action projects, outreach or mission. These can be ongoing or short term, for example, people meeting to plan our involvement in community events.

### ACTIVITY

Shared interests such as sports, activities, hobbies or skills.

### COURSE

These groups gather around a curriculum, like Alpha, Alpha Plus, Rooted, Freedom, Marriage, Parenting and Money Matters.

### KINGS LIFE

Groups meeting regularly to build friendship and do life together. These groups typically follow the teaching series, with the option to look at a Biblical topic or book.

# SIGN-UP FOR GROUPS

Sign-up starts on Sunday 3rd January.  
Please don't attempt to sign-up before this date as your registration may not be accepted. To sign-up, choose one of the following options:

Text your full name and the Group ID code to: **07594 699 925**

Email your full name and the Group ID code to: **groups@kingschurch.eu**

Complete the Groups Sign-up form available each  
Sunday and return to the Info Point

Complete the Groups Sign-up form available  
online at **kingschurch.eu/groups**

mondays

LEARN  
ENGLISH  
FOR **FREE**

KINGS  
ENGLISH®

## KINGS ENGLISH

Chris & Jill Ashurst, Libby Flemming

Adults Code: C16

🕒 10am—12pm

An English course for anyone over 18 living in the area whose first language is not English.

🗓 Weekly

📍 Kings Centre

✉ chris.ashurst@kings-centre.co.uk



## INSPIRE LIFE GROUP

Jackie Perry

Age 60+ Following Sunday Teaching Code: K1

🕒 10am—12:30pm

A group for over 60s that love to study and discuss the Bible over a cup of coffee.

🗓 Weekly

📍 Kings Centre

✉ chocoholicperry@aol.com



## CHRISTIAN BASICS FOR OVER 60s

Marilyn Holder & Liliias Murton

Age 60+ Code: K2

🕒 10am—12:30pm

For those new to Christianity or who want to brush up on the basics over a cuppa and cake.

🗓 Weekly

📍 Kings Centre

✉ mehholder0301@gmail.com



## DAYTIME ALPHA

Dave & June Dean

Adults Code: C12

🕒 12:30pm—2pm

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. We enjoy a light lunch, have a presentation and then time for discussion.

🗓 Weekly

📍 Kings Centre

✉ alpha@kingschurch.eu

LEARN  
ENGLISH  
FOR **FREE**

KINGS  
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## KINGS ENGLISH

Chris Ashurst

Adults Code: C2

🕒 1pm—3pm

An English course for anyone over 18 living in the area whose first language is not English. An emphasis on conversation.

🗓 Weekly

📍 Centro Lounge

✉ chris.ashurst@kings-centre.co.uk



### SHORT MAT BOWLING

Terry Howard

Adults Code: A1

- 🕒 1:30pm—4:45pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ terryhoward@sky.com

A great indoor sport for all who enjoy a bit of competition. Lots of fun for experienced players or complete novices.

LEARN ENGLISH FOR **FREE**

KINGS ENGLISH®

### KINGS ENGLISH

Chris & Jill Ashurst, Libby Flemming

Adults Code: C1

- 🕒 2pm—4pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ chris.ashurst@kings-centre.co.uk

An English course for anyone over 18 living in the area whose first language is not English.



### CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

Nigel Wiggins

Adults Code: A2

- 🕒 7pm—8:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Roselands/Town Centre
- ✉ nigel.wiggins@gmail.com

Got a camera or smart phone? Then explore your creativity through photography. Create images that inspire and challenge.



### RAILWAYS & MODEL RAILWAYS

Sam Blundell

Everyone Code: A3

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 📅 Fortnightly
- 📍 Old Town, Eastbourne
- ✉ samiria@mypostoffice.co.uk

Are you a railway enthusiast or have an interest in model railways? Then this group is for you. We'll also plan day trips.



### MONDAY EVENING OUTREACH

Wendy Stevens

Adults Code: R2

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Centro Lounge
- ✉ pinkkittenlady@hotmail.com

We'll ask God to give us opportunities to speak to people in town before going out to talk with them and offer prayer.



### LEARNING TO LEAD

Oli Stevens

Adults Code: C13

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Roselands
- ✉ o.w.stevens@hotmail.co.uk

8 weeks to explore what it means to lead and how to use the gifts and opportunities God has given us to lead those around us.

# FUSION



Only the most awesome members of Kings attend our Fusion group.

Tuesdays evenings, 6pm at the Kings Centre

Supporting those who need a little more time to learn.  
Sign-up with code K13 or email [clairemhowell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clairemhowell@tiscali.co.uk) for more information.

TWO HOURS TO CHANGE A LIFE



Without hundreds of volunteers serving each week, Kings Church simply would not exist! We caught up with Bobbie Streek to find out why she's so passionate about her serving role at Kings.

**Q: When did you join Kings and how did you begin volunteering?**

We joined the church here in 1997 and I began volunteering straight away. I had been involved in the children's work for 16 years before so it seemed the best place to start. I also got involved with Alpha, Kidz Klub and home visiting the children each week, with Strand Academy, and helping my husband Mike run a life group for a while. I currently serve in Sunday Kidz (6-11s) on weeks 1, 2 and 4 each month.

**Q: Which areas do you love the most?**

I love working with children. They are gifts from God and all so different. The opportunity to help them find the love of God and train them in developing a meaningful relationship with God is such a joy. Having known such a love myself since 7 years old and seeing my children give themselves to God at ages 4, 5, 6, and

7, I really believe in the value of teaching the word of God to children while they are young. The Holy Spirit is able to work as powerfully in a child as in an adult.

I also get to make some crazy costumes which challenge my imagination and keep me on my toes!

**Q: Can you tell us any stories of what you've seen God do over the years?**

Firstly and perhaps most importantly I have seen children become Christians. I have seen many grow up strong in the Lord and continue to walk with him. I have seen children begin to hear God telling them things and them sharing what God has said. I have watched and listened to children praying for each other. I have heard of people who used to come to Kidz Klub still remembering the Bible verses we taught them.

**Q: What would you say are the benefits of volunteering at church?**

It helps you grow up in God. It teaches you to rely on God and not yourself. It shows you how much you have still got to learn and how much supply God has for you. It helps you feel that you belong and that you have a part to play in the family of God. You meet and make friends with people. It gives you opportunity to express your love for God in practical ways and go about doing good like Jesus.

"I HAVE SEEN CHILDREN BECOME CHRISTIANS. I HAVE SEEN MANY GROW UP STRONG IN THE LORD"

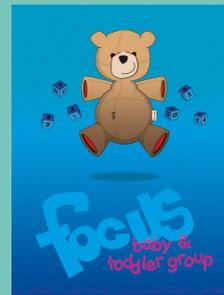
**Q: Have you ever been tempted to quit? And if so, what's kept you going?**

It has never occurred to me to quit working with children. I didn't always want to go home visiting in the rain and winter time. What kept me going then and still now is the fact that God loves me, He sings over me and He keeps company with me wherever I go. How amazing is that!

**Volunteering in the children's work really does change lives**

*We need volunteers who can serve for two hours on a Sunday morning*

If you're able to volunteer in any area of our 0-11s children's work please use the Getting Connected response card on page 41, email [julia.evetts@kings-centre.co.uk](mailto:julia.evetts@kings-centre.co.uk), or visit the Info Point on a Sunday Morning.



**TUESDAY FOCUS TEAM**

Julie Hartingdon

Adults Code: T1

- 🕒 9am—12pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ [julie.hartingdon@kings-centre.co.uk](mailto:julie.hartingdon@kings-centre.co.uk)

The team that hosts Tuesday Focus. Set-up, refreshment & craft preparation and more. Making all who come feel welcome!



**SEWING FOR PURPOSE**

Vicky Griffiths

Everyone Code: A14

- 🕒 10am—12pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Roselands, Eastbourne
- ✉ [vickygriffiths75@aol.com](mailto:vickygriffiths75@aol.com)

A sewing group that makes and provides clothes for needy children. Make friends, support each other and learn sewing tips.



**FUSION**

Claire Howell

Adults Code: K13

- 🕒 6pm—7:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ [clairemhowell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clairemhowell@tiscali.co.uk)

Open to all adults who need a little more time to learn. Everyone is welcome, especially adults with learning difficulties.



**BOOK & WINE GROUP**

Andrew Wilson

Adults Code: A4

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Roselands, Eastbourne
- ✉ [andrew.wilson@kings-centre.co.uk](mailto:andrew.wilson@kings-centre.co.uk)

The book we'll look at this term is G. K. Chesterton's Orthodoxy. For those who enjoy their apologetics with a glass of wine.



**BITESIZE BIBLE**

Antony Hatton

Adults Code: K9

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Shinewater, Eastbourne
- ✉ [antony.hatton@hotmail.com](mailto:antony.hatton@hotmail.com)

Drawing on Phil Moore's book 'The Bible in 100 pages' we will overview the whole Bible.



### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Dave & June Dean

Adults Code: C3

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ davejunedean@gmail.com

An interactive and practical course looking at the Biblical foundation, work and activity of the Person of the Holy Spirit.



### KINGS LIFE

Chris & Allie Bratt

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K10

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Sovereign Harbour
- ✉ alliebratt@hotmail.co.uk

A multicultural group, growing in relationship with God and each other. We follow the Sunday teaching series and pray.



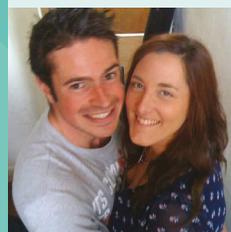
### KINGS LIFE

Steve & Ursula Thornett

Age 60+ Following Sunday Teaching Code: K4

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ sthornett2@gmail.com

A relational and social group where we follow and discuss the Sunday teaching. We pray and support each other and others.



### KINGS LIFE

Stuart & Heidi Macvean

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K27

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ stuartmacvean@hotmail.com

A fun and social group where we follow and discuss the Sunday teaching, pray, worship and eat.



### KINGS LIFE

Andrew & Alice O'Kane

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K6

- 🕒 7:30pm—10pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes EB/Polegate
- ✉ alice\_okane@cheerful.com

Friendship, pastoral care and support, prayer, worship and bible study. We also follow the Sunday teaching series.



### KINGS LIFE

Darryl & Sarah Gosling

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K11

- 🕒 7:45pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ dsandkids@live.com

Our group is about fun, food, and friendship! We will also follow the Sunday teaching and pray together.



### KINGS LIFE

Alex & Nancy Willis

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K15

- 🕒 8pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ alex@alexwillis.me

A friendly group that loves the Bible. We pray together, follow the Sunday teaching notes and focus on a chapter of the Bible.



### APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS

Phil Stanton

Adults Code: K3

- 🕒 8pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Upperton, Eastbourne
- ✉ begraced@gmail.com

Tackling apparent contradictions in the Bible. Facing doubts and disappointments of life and clearing a way for the walk of faith.



### THE S.H.A.P.E COURSE

Tim & Ruth Nunn with Mark & Julia Evetts

Adults Code: C11

- 🕒 8pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ theconvent@tiscali.co.uk

S.H.A.P.E. Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experience. Understanding more about how God has made you.



### KINGS LIFE

Jon & Jenny Clarke

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K14

- 🕒 8pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Seaford
- ✉ jon@nacft.com

We pray, break bread, encourage and support each other and follow the Sunday teaching. Once a month we enjoy a meal together.

# BACK FROM THE BRINK

ONE WOMAN'S STORY OF HOW  
LONELINESS, ANGER AND DEPRESSION  
DROVE HER TO THE EDGE OF  
DESPAIR. AND THEN GOD BROKE IN.

As a child, I did the whole church thing. I was christened and confirmed. I attended Sunday school and even sang in the choir. When I was a teenager I had an experience of God and as a result, I made a decision to follow Jesus.

Then in my 20's I fell in love with a Catholic man. We were married, had three children and were actively involved in the Catholic church, but my own relationship with God had drifted.

Sadly, after 23 years, I realised my marriage was over. I found myself living alone. A failed marriage and unable to work because I had slipped into a severe depression.

I was so angry. Angry with God. And turned my back on Him completely.

The downward spiral continued and I hated myself and found life so painful that I decided I could no longer carry on so I tried to take my own life.

After my failed attempt, I was admitted into the local psychiatric unit. I was highly medicated and separated from family and friends.

Three weeks later I was discharged. But I still didn't want to be alive. I had no sense of direction. And my failed

attempt to end my life was haunting me. So I made up my mind — I would try again.

The following day I bumped into an old neighbour. I hadn't seen her for years. She hardly recognised me. She asked me how I was... so I told her.

I told her about my failed marriage, my depression, my time in the hospital, and even my attempt to end my life.

I remember her putting down her basket, and saying 'this is no accident bumping in to you today. You have a Heavenly Father who loves you dearly and has plans for your life'.

She invited me along to Kings. I was polite, but had no intention of going. And then we said goodbye.

A few minutes later she found me again. "We must meet up for a coffee". She asked me for my number which I gave to her. But I had no thought of changing any of my plans.

But as I walked away, I heard a whisper — "but I have plans for you".

A whisper so gentle and loving it was as if I was being embraced and held. These few words whispered in my ear gave me back my life.

We met for a coffee. I went to Kings. The support, the unconditional love of the church was incredible.

Seven months later. I recommitted my life to Jesus. I've been able to forgive myself and I've been able to love myself again.

I feel like I'm on a journey. A bit like a child learning to walk. Sometimes I'm stumbling. Sometimes I'm falling, but I know my loving Father is there with His arms outstretched, picking me up, putting me back on my feet again.

He's always there for me... I know He has plans for my life.

*This story has been produced as a video which you can view at [kingschurch.eu/brink](http://kingschurch.eu/brink) The story remains anonymous, filmed using actors but narrated by the real person.*



Visit [kingschurch.eu/stories](http://kingschurch.eu/stories) for more accounts of God working in the lives of ordinary people. If you've got a story get in touch with our response card on page 41.



## MODERATE LEVEL FITNESS

Stephen Webb

Adults Code: A5

- 🕒 8pm—9:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre Sports Hall
- ✉ [stephenwebb82@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephenwebb82@yahoo.co.uk)

A moderate level group fitness class with qualified personal trainer Stephen Webb.



## KINGS LIFE

John & Judith Kettle

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K7

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ [kettle217@btinternet.com](mailto:kettle217@btinternet.com)

Meeting regularly to pray, encourage and support each other. We follow the Sunday teaching series and love social activities.



## KINGS LIFE

Nick & Sarah le Poidevin

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K8

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ [nickandsarahlep@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nickandsarahlep@tiscali.co.uk)

Fun, friendship, support and prayer. We also follow the Sunday teaching series.



## SUPPORT FOR LADIES

Rose Arnold

Age 45+ Following Sunday Teaching Code: K26

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Old Town, Eastbourne
- ✉ [geoff.rose.arnold@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.rose.arnold@gmail.com)

A support group for ladies over 45 who may be widowed, divorced or who have husbands that are not part of church.



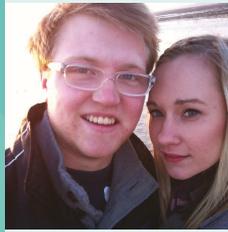
## KINGS LIFE

Bernie & Sally Brennan

Adults Following Sunday Teaching Code: K32

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ [rochdoc@aol.com](mailto:rochdoc@aol.com)

We follow and discuss the Sunday teaching. We pray for and support each other.



### GAME STATION

Paul Harvey

Men 18+ Code: A12

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Centro Lounge
- ✉ paul\_harvey\_sog@hotmail.com

Relax with other blokes and prove your gaming skills by beating challengers at FIFA, Call of Duty and Grand Turismo.



### KINGS LIFE

Alan & Jan Mitchell

Age 60+ Following Sunday Teaching Code: K5

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ ajmitchell1239@gmail.com

Friendship, pastoral care and support, prayer and worship with a focus on the Sunday teaching series



### KINGS LIFE — REFRAME

Paul & Kirsty Norton

Adults Code: K12

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ pkncarp@hotmail.co.uk

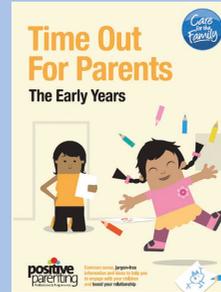
This term we will follow a study called 'Reframe: From the God We've Made . . . to God with Us'. Prayer, worship and friendship.

Recently finished Alpha and Alpha+?  
Are you new to Kings?  
Been wondering where you fit in the life of the church?

# ROOTED

**SIGN-UP ON PAGE 25**

EXPLORE OUR VISION, VALUES AND CULTURE  
DISCOVER YOUR PLACE.



### POSITIVE PARENTING 0-5 YEARS

Ruth Butler

Ladies Childcare available Code: C5

- 🕒 10am—11:30am
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ parenting@kingschurch.eu

An early years parenting course for parents of under fives. Includes limited crèche facility.



### LADIES OF A CERTAIN AGE

Miriam Blundell

Ladies 60+ Code: R3

- 🕒 10:30am—12pm
- 📅 Fortnightly
- 📍 Various Homes Eastbourne
- ✉ samiria@mypostoffice.co.uk

We meet together for coffee, mutual support and encouragement and to make new friends with people not part of the church.



### STITCHIN' TIME

Lynn Thorpe

Everyone Code: A7

- 🕒 10:30am—12:30pm
- 📅 Fortnightly
- 📍 The Beach Deck, Eastbourne
- ✉ lynnysunflower@gmail.com

Do you love knitting, crochet and needle craft or would you like to learn, have fun and make friends at the same time? This is for you.



### ID YOUTH TEAM

Adz Brennan

Everyone Code: T2

- 🕒 6:45pm—9:30pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ adz.brennan@kings-centre.co.uk

Be part of the team that runs ID — reaching young people inside and outside the church. Playing your part and growing in God.



### ID: 11-14s YOUTH

Adz Brennan

Age 11-14s Code: A8

- 🕒 7pm—8:45pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ adz.brennan@kings-centre.co.uk

ID is THE place to be for 11-14 year olds on a Wednesday night with five-a-side football, video games a tuck shop and much more. We can guarantee you will have a good night!



**give your relationship an MOT**

**THE MARRIAGE COURSE**  
Steve & Ann Blaber

👤 Adults **Code: C4**

🕒 7pm—9:30pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Kings Centre  
✉ steve.blaber@kings-centre.co.uk

Want to enhance your marriage? A candlelit dinner, short presentation and discussion time as couples. Cost is £7.50 per couple, per week (subsidies available).



**KINGS LIFE**  
Peter & Jeanette Lowe

👤 Adults 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K16**

🕒 7:30pm—9pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Various Homes Eastbourne  
✉ thelowes50@gmail.com

Friendship, pastoral care and support, prayer, worship and bible study. We also follow the Sunday teaching series.



**CREATIVE WRITING**  
Alex Willis

👤 Adults **Code: A6**

🕒 7:30pm—9pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Westham, Pevensey  
✉ theauthor@alexwillis.me

Always wanted to write? Never quite knew how to get started? You will be encouraged to write short stories, poetry, novels etc.



**20s/30s IN SEAFORD/NEWHAVEN**  
Debora Da Costa & Jo Dawkins

👤 20s & 30s 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K31**

🕒 7:30pm—9pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Seaford & Newhaven  
✉ debi\_cost@hotmail.com

Meeting together for friendship. Praying and encouraging each other in our walk with God and following Sunday's teaching.



**BAND OF BROTHERS**  
Ben Holbrook

👤 Men 18+ **Code: C14**

🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Eastbourne  
✉ holbrookben9@gmail.com

Drawing on John Eldredge's Wild at Heart, we'll have a mixture of activities and teaching to equip men to stand in life together.



**ROOTED**  
Graham & Belinda Marsh

👤 Adults **Code: C6**

🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Centro Lounge  
✉ graham.marsh@kings-centre.co.uk

What makes us tick? What is our vision, culture and values? What does it mean to be part of Kings Eastbourne, Centro and Seaford?



**KINGS LIFE**  
Will John

👤 Adults 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K28**

🕒 8pm—9:30pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Various Homes, Eastbourne  
✉ will\_john1@tiscali.co.uk

A relational and fun group where we follow and discuss the Sunday teaching. We pray and support each other and others.



**IMPACT**  
a discipleship gap year

**THE YEAR INVOLVES:**

**IMPACT IS FOR ANYONE HUNGRY FOR ADVENTURE AND READY TO TAKE RISKS IN THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

Placement in a local church working on a range of projects including social action, youth/students, children's ministry, worship & many more.

7 residential training blocks, including a week at CenterParcs.

Life changing teaching on a range of core subjects: prayer, ethics, Genesis 1-3, leadership, the Trinity & more.

An overseas missions trip with one of our partner churches.



### LADIES INSPIRE GROUP

Anne Veasey

◆ Ladies 60+ 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K18**

- 🕒 10am—12:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ annveasey1@hotmail.co.uk

Ladies over 60 who love to worship, pray, read the Bible, listen and respond to the Holy Spirit. We support and care for each other.



### MEN'S INSPIRE GROUP

Terry Howard

◆ Men 60+ 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K19**

- 🕒 10am—12:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ terryhoward@sky.com

Men over 60 who love to worship, pray, read the Bible, listen and respond to the Holy Spirit. We support and care for each other.



### INSPIRE GROUP

Kay Cooper

◆ Age 60+ 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K22**

- 🕒 10am—12:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ kaycooper98@gmail.com

A friendly and welcoming group who follow and discuss the Sunday teaching series. We pray and support each other.



### KINGS LIFE

Chris & Jill Ashurst, Pat Wagstaff Shim

◆ Adults 📖 Following Sunday Teaching **Code: K23**

- 🕒 2:30pm—4pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Seaford
- ✉ chris.ashurst@kings-centre.co.uk

Following through the Sunday teaching series, this group also loves to pray, support, discuss and develop spiritual gifts.



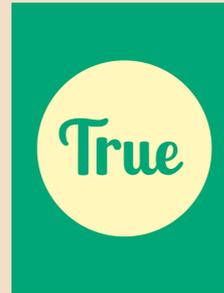
### 11-18s SEAFORD YOUTH

Martin & Polly Wilkinson

◆ Ages 11-18s **Code: K30**

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Seaford
- ✉ martin.wilkinson2@bexhillhigh.org

Wide games, laser quest, treasure hunts and lots of fun activities along with Bible study, worship and prayer.



### TRUE

Adz Brennan

◆ Age 15-19s **Code: K33**

- 🕒 7:30pm—9pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ adz.brennan@kings-centre.co.uk

We want to see our young people become robust followers of Jesus. At True we spend nights getting to know each other and finding out more about God.



### ALPHA

Alpha - Seaford

◆ Adults **Code: C7**

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Seaford
- ✉ jez.field@kings-centre.co.uk

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. We enjoy a meal, have a presentation and then time for discussion.



### ALPHA

Alpha - Eastbourne

◆ Adults **Code: C8**

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ alpha@kingschurch.eu

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. We enjoy a meal, have a presentation and then time for discussion.



### ALPHA PLUS

◆ Adults **Code: C9**

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ andy.thorpe@kings-centre.co.uk

Alpha Plus is for new Christians or those who want to find out more about the basics of Christianity after completing Alpha.



### COURAGEOUS

Chris Hartingdon

◆ Men 18+ **Code: C15**

- 🕒 7:30pm—9:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Eastbourne
- ✉ chris.hartingdon@hotmail.co.uk

We'll be looking at what it means for a man to take responsibility as a faithful husband, father, and to run the race with integrity.

# INKOSI KIDS



Over the last three years Kings has partnered with Thembalezizwe Church, Bulawayo, to support and develop an 'early childhood development centre' for children growing up in a rural community within Zimbabwe.

The children are from very poor backgrounds and wouldn't otherwise get an education. Many have lost parents and grandparents to HIV and Aids, others face on a daily basis the distress caused by poverty, violence and malnutrition.

The school was established in January 2013, initially with 20 children aged 3 and 4 from the local area. The project has since grown with members of Kings now sponsoring 87 children; not only providing education, materials, uniforms and play equipment but striving to recapture the laughter, joy, self-confidence and hope that these children need.

As the children are often under nourished they are fed with porridge, fruit, peanut butter sandwiches and vegetables at school as well.

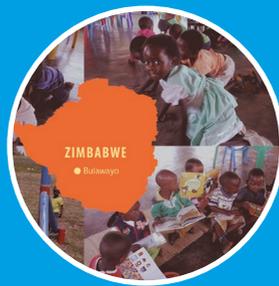
The original group of 20 have graduated and are now being sponsored through the local primary school. The Head teacher has commented on how advanced they are in their learning compared to the rest! All the children recently went on their first school trip to a zoo. Some of the kids had never even been outside of their village and were really excited to see lions, leopards, monkeys and crocodiles.

The school has a clear Christian ethos, and is based in the Thembalezizwe Church, where our four teachers come from. Several of the parents have started attending church through the school, so it's proving to be a fantastic tool for outreach as well.

Through the programme, people from Kings are making a huge difference to the lives of children who are disadvantaged in every way.

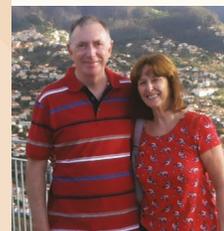
Sponsoring a child costs just £10 a month. To find out how you can get involved, contact Dave or June Dean at Kings:

Landline: 01825 873644  
Mobile: 07899 071725  
Email: [inkosikids@kingschurch.eu](mailto:inkosikids@kingschurch.eu)



📺 Watch a 3 minute overview of our work in Zimbabwe at [kingschurch.eu/zim](http://kingschurch.eu/zim)

Thursdays



## KINGS LIFE

Dave & Fran Mitchell

📅 Adults 📖 Following Sunday Teaching Code: K17

🕒 7:45pm—9:30pm  
📅 Fortnightly  
📍 Willingdon  
✉ [davefran@btinternet.com](mailto:davefran@btinternet.com)

A relational and fun group where we follow and discuss the Sunday teaching. We pray and support each other and others.



## KINGS LIFE (SPIRITUAL GIFTS)

Clinton & Sarah Lock

📅 Adults Code: K24

🕒 7:30pm—10pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Various Homes Eastbourne  
✉ [clintonlock@gmail.com](mailto:clintonlock@gmail.com)

What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit's gifts? How do we use them and encourage each other to do the same?



## KINGS LIFE

John & Julie Staplehurst

📅 Adults 📖 Following Sunday Teaching Code: K21

🕒 8pm—9:30pm  
📅 Fortnightly  
📍 Bexhill  
✉ [juliestaplehurst@hotmail.com](mailto:juliestaplehurst@hotmail.com)

We love to pray, worship, eat, study the bible and discuss the Sunday teaching. When it's warmer, an occasional pub walk.



## MONEY MATTERS

Neil Barnett & Wes Game

📅 Adults Code: C10

🕒 8pm—9:30pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Centro Lounge  
✉ [barnett107@gmail.com](mailto:barnett107@gmail.com)

We start with biblical principles concerning finance, and develop this using practical tools to help with personal budgeting.



## KINGS LIFE

Colin & Terry Belsey

📅 Adults 📖 Following Sunday Teaching Code: K20

🕒 8pm—10pm  
📅 Weekly  
📍 Various Homes Eastbourne  
✉ [colin@terriandcolin.co.uk](mailto:colin@terriandcolin.co.uk)

A relational and fun group where we follow and discuss the Sunday teaching. We pray and support each other and others.



## FRIDAY FOCUS TEAM

Julie Hartingdon

Adults Code: T3

- 🕒 9am—12pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ julie.hartingdon@kings-centre.co.uk

The team that hosts Friday Focus. Set-up, refreshment, craft preparation and more. Making all who come feel welcome!



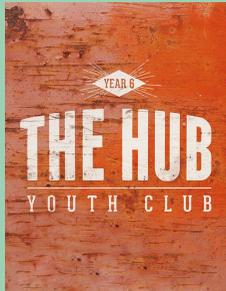
## LADIES WITH CHILDREN

Jo Moyses

Childcare available  
Ladies Following Sunday Teaching Code: K25

- 🕒 12:30pm—2pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre
- ✉ moyz77@btinternet.com

For ladies with children, providing support and friendship. Over lunch we share, pray, worship and learn together.



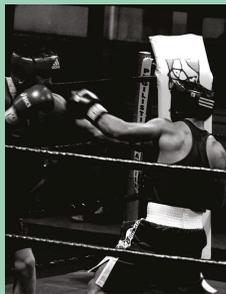
## THE HUB TEAM

Paul Gosling

Adults Code: R4

- 🕒 6:15pm—8:15pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Shinewater, Eastbourne
- ✉ gosling2000\_99@yahoo.com

The team running a Youth Group for children living in the Shinewater area in school years 3-6.



## BOXING CLUB

Steve Gafney & Lee Jenkins

Ages 12+ Code: A13

- 🕒 7pm—10pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Eastbourne Town Centre
- ✉ stephengaffney1@btinternet.com

New boxing initiative for anyone 12 and over. Basic play around for inexperienced and opportunities to spar for those with more experience.



## SOUNDS OF ALL NATIONS CHOIR

Rumbie Linsell

Everyone Code: A9

- 🕒 7pm—8:30pm
- 📅 Fortnightly
- 📍 Eastbourne
- ✉ soundsofallnations@hotmail.com

A new choir infused with cultural diversity. Adding colour and vibrancy to our church. Love to sing? Then you're welcome.



## STITCHIN' TIME

Lynn Thorpe

Everyone Code: A10

- 🕒 8pm—10pm
- 📅 Fortnightly
- 📍 Redoubt, Eastbourne
- ✉ lynnysunflower@gmail.com

Do you love knitting, crochet and needle craft or would you like to learn, have fun and make friends at the same time? This is for you.



## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Chris Taylor & Lynn Doidge

Adults Code: R5

- 🕒 7:30pm—10pm
- 📅 Weekly
- 📍 Meads, Eastbourne
- ✉ christinertaylor@hotmail.com

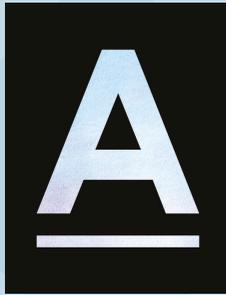
Are you new to the church? Would you like to meet new people and make friends? Each Friday, over a relaxed meal we'll do just that. We'll chat, laugh, care, learn and grow together.

Meets Tuesday's & Fridays  
10am — 12pm during term time  
at the Kings Centre

Mums, dads and grandparents are welcome  
in our friendly and supportive group.  
For babies, toddlers & pre-school children.

Email  
julie.hartingdon@kings-centre.co.uk  
for more information.

**focus**  
baby & toddler group



## AUTHENTIC

Olly Allison, Hannah Sanders, Gary Walke

Students & 20s Code: K29

- 🕒 1pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Wetherspoons (Cornfield Rd)
- ✉ olly.allison@kings-centre.co.uk

Students and 20s across all venues meeting for Sunday lunch. We also regularly hang-out, pray and worship together. Sign-up to be involved with the best group at Kings!



## VOLLEY BALL & TABLE TENNIS

Adrian Oana

Adults Code: A11

- 🕒 3pm—5:30pm
- 🗓 Weekly
- 📍 Kings Centre Sports Hall
- ✉ adrianoana@gmail.com

Volleyball, Table Tennis and other indoor games. Make friends, keep fit and have a lot of fun with others.

## GROUPS FAQ

Groups run on a termly basis. The first term in 2016 is shorter than normal and runs for 8 weeks from the beginning of February until Easter. You can find out how to sign-up on page 12. And if you're interested in starting a new group next term, we would love to hear from you!

using the Group code; for example T5 (Team) or C3 (Course).

### How do I register for a Group?

At the beginning of each term, we will publish a new Kings Identity magazine which will contain the Groups Directory. Each group will have a sign-up code alongside its listing. Use this code to sign-up by text, email, online or paper form.

### When do Groups start?

Most Groups will start 4 weeks after the main school term starts. The first 4 weeks of each term will be reserved for church-wide events. This term our groups will start the week beginning 1st Feb.

### When can I sign-up for a Group?

The sign-up window for Groups starts at the beginning of the term and will last approximately 3-4 weeks.

### What happens after I have signed-up for a Group?

The Group leader will contact you and introduce themselves to you. If you have any questions about the Group, this is the time to ask. Once you are both happy that the Group is for you, you will be added to the Group for that term.

### What happens if I miss the sign-up window?

During the sign-up window, you will have plenty of opportunity to sign-up for a Group. However, on occasions it may be possible to join some Groups during the term if there is still space.

### What can I do if a Group I would like to join is full?

Many Groups will run for more than just one term, so you will have another opportunity to join later in the year.

### How long will Groups run for?

Most Groups will run until the end of the term, between 9-11 weeks. As Easter falls early this year, the first term is only 8 weeks long.

### Am I allowed to stay in a Group for more than one term?

Yes. If the Group is running the following term, then all you need to do is sign-up again at the beginning of the new term. Your Group leader may be willing to do this on your behalf at the end of the previous term.

### Can I join more than one Group?

Yes you can, but remember it's better to attend one Group regularly than lots of Groups occasionally.

### If I attend Kings Centro, can I join a Group linked to Kings Seaford or Eastbourne?

Yes, as we are all one church, you can join a Group linked to any venue.

### I have an idea for a Group that I would like to run in the future. Is that OK?

Yes, we are on the lookout for new Groups and would like to hear your idea. Email a brief summary of your idea to [groups@kingschurch.eu](mailto:groups@kingschurch.eu)

### How do I know which Group is right for me?

All the Groups are in general categories T.R.A.C.K. (See page 11 for more details.) Check the category

If you have any other questions about Groups, please email [groups@kingschurch.eu](mailto:groups@kingschurch.eu)

**CALLING ALL YOUTH EVERYWHERE!!!**

**AGED 11-14 OR 15-19? GET INVOLVED!**

**EASTBOURNE: EMAIL. ADZ.BRENNAN@KINGS-CENTRE.CO.UK**

**SEAFORD: EMAIL. JEZ.FIELD@KINGS-CENTRE.CO.UK**

## STEPS OF GENEROSITY

1.  
**STEP IN & MAKE A START**

However small the step, giving for the first time begins the journey

2.  
**STEP UP & GIVE MORE REGULARLY**

Commit to giving every month, increasing in generosity

3.  
**REGULARLY GIVE 10%**

Continue taking steps until reaching the Biblical concept of a 'tithe'

4.  
**STEP BEYOND!**

Regularly giving over 10% of your income

**G**iving to God is one of the most exciting things in life, and we're so grateful for the generosity of those who've made Kings their home.

Giving honours God, blesses the community and resources the church. So whatever stage you're at, we would love you to join the adventure!

Giving should be done responsibly. We're called to be good stewards of our resources, and would encourage you to give without getting into debt. If you need help with budgeting, our Money Matters group (page 29) is here to help.

And if you are a UK taxpayer, please complete a Gift Aid form. Through this we're able to claim back an additional 25% from the government on all your giving. You can complete one at the Info Point on a Sunday morning, or download a form from our website (see below).

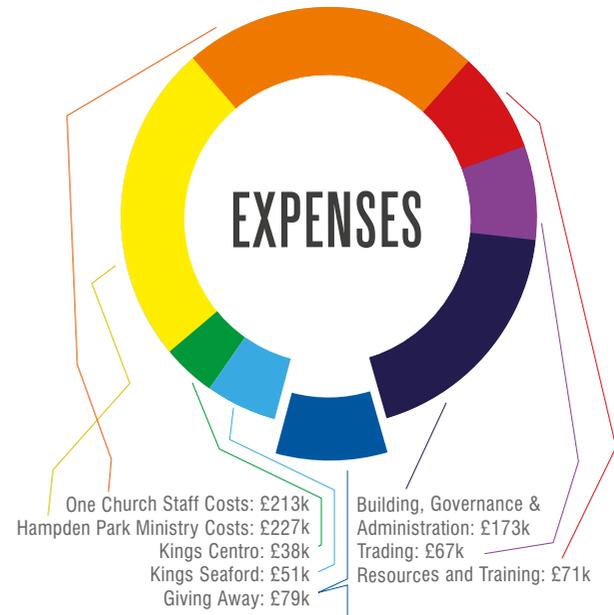
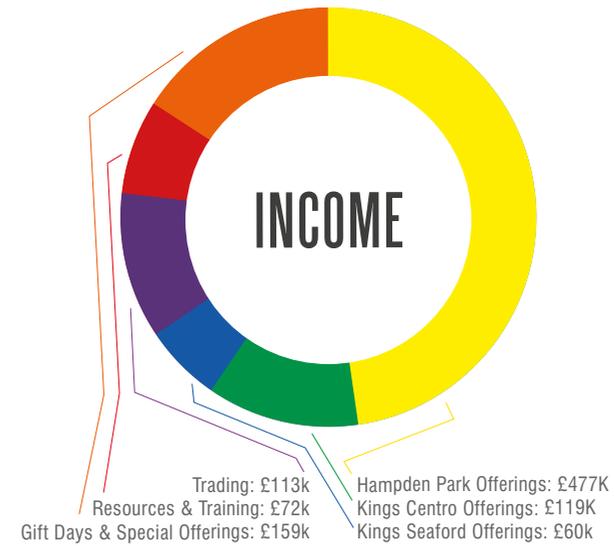
### WAYS TO GIVE

You can give online, download a Standing Order Mandate and Gift Aid forms at [kingschurch.eu/giving](http://kingschurch.eu/giving)

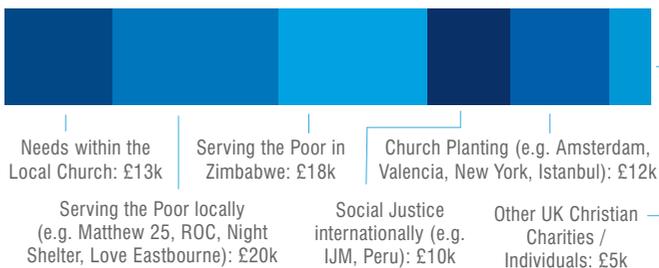
You can also give cash, cheque or by card during our Sunday meetings. To give through internet banking, please use the details below.

Account name:  
**Frontiers Charitable Trust**  
Account no: **00639745**  
Sort Code: **202791**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE 2014-15



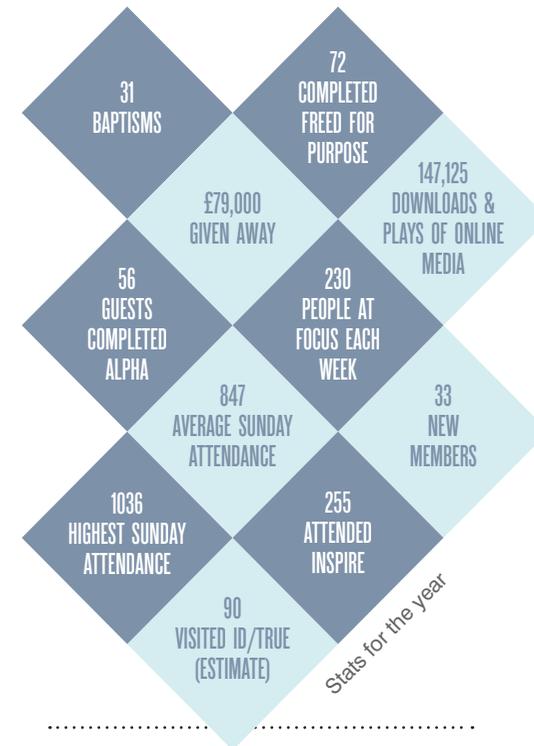
### GIVING AWAY: TO THE POOR, INDIVIDUALS & CHARITIES



**Kings is an astonishingly generous church. If you include everything, including all our offerings, the trading company and the training courses we run, we raised £1m last year — which means our overall income was 5% up on the previous year.**

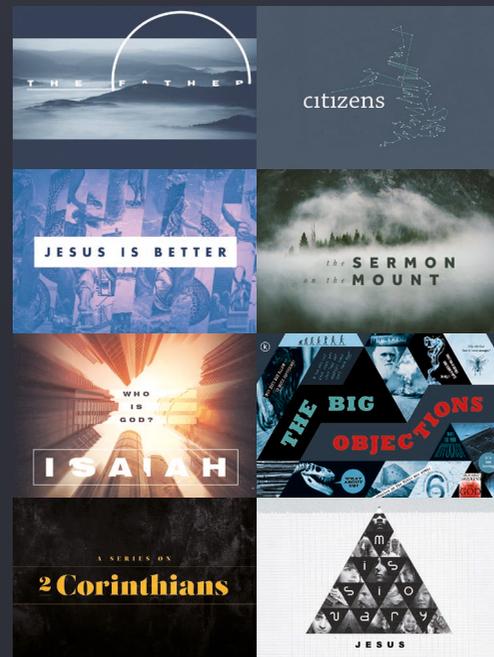
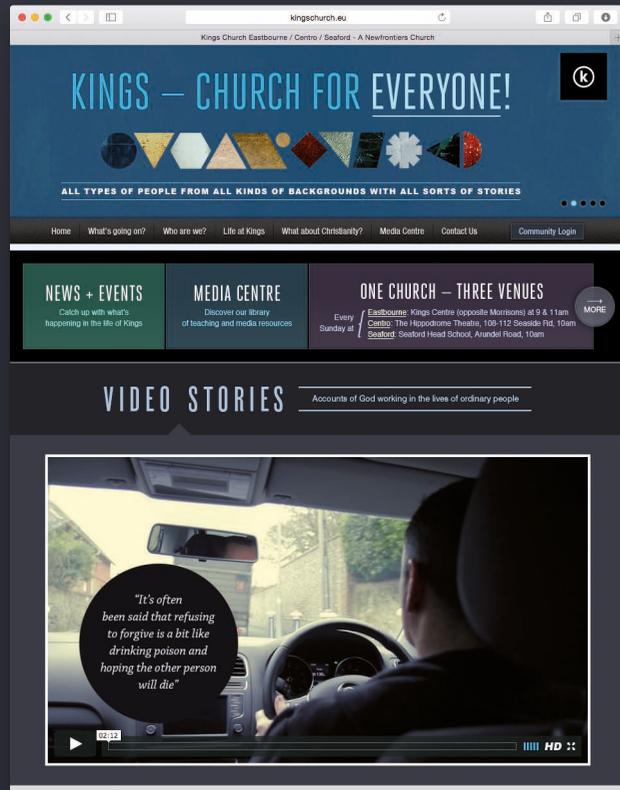
Of this, about £350k goes towards operational costs (trading, buildings, governance, administration and training), leaving us over £600k to spend on preaching the gospel, making disciples and serving the poor.

Most of this is invested in people, whom we see as our greatest asset. Our staff and volunteer teams serve in a huge number of ways, touching thousands of lives every week, and serving a community of well over a thousand people (you can see some great facts and figures below). We have also had the enormous privilege of giving away £79k towards poverty relief, justice and overseas mission.



## RESOURCES FROM KINGS

Our website receives over 12,000 downloads of our audio and video content each month. Here we've highlighted some of our media resources, freely available online. You won't just find our Sunday teaching — we've produced video stories, daily devotionals, Q&A videos, online articles and even published books (check out Andrew's sample chapter on page 38). Keep up-to-date with all our fresh content with the social media links below.



Find our latest talks online at [kingschurch.eu/media](https://kingschurch.eu/media) along with our full archive of teaching.

## THE BIG OBJECTIONS

Engaging with common doubts, questions and objections to Christianity. Find a full range of media resources online at [bigobjections.co.uk](https://bigobjections.co.uk)



## DAILY DEVOTIONS

26 daily devotions unpacking John's gospel, giving us insight on who God the Father really is. Each day features a short video accompanied by notes. Online at [kingschurch.eu/thefather](https://kingschurch.eu/thefather)



## VIDEO STORIES

Watch online at [kingschurch.eu/stories](https://kingschurch.eu/stories)



Accounts of God working in the lives of local people through healing, provision, guidance, adventure, faith, answered prayers & more

Find out all about Kings online at

# KINGSCHURCH.EU

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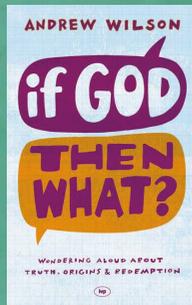
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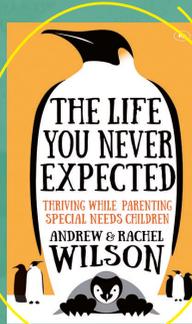
### BOOKS

Available at all good book shops (including Vivo at Kings!)



A profound, quirky and amusing take on life's biggest questions.

People encounter truth by sharing stories and asking questions. Andrew Wilson asks nine big questions about truth, origins and redemption, and wonders aloud about the possible answers, representing a new fresh way of communicating the gospel.



Sometimes you end up living the life you never expected. When Andrew and Rachel found out that one, and then both, of their children had severe autism, their world was turned on its head.

With clarity and biblical insight, they share their experience of grief and worship, struggle and hope. As well as reflecting on the specific challenges of raising children with special needs, they speak to broader questions as well: the problem of suffering, building a marriage under pressure, fighting for joy and trusting in the goodness of God.

This is not just a book for families and friends of special needs children, but for all who have been thrown a curve ball in life, and need to know how to lament, worship, pray and hope.

## OPENING CHAPTER

Finding out your children have special needs is kind of like being given an orange.

You're sitting with a group of friends in a restaurant. You've just finished a decent main course, and are about to consider the dessert menu when one of your friends gets up, taps their glass with a spoon, and announces that they have bought desserts for everyone as a gift. They disappear round the corner, and return a minute later with an armful of

spherical objects about the size of tennis balls, beautifully wrapped, with a bow on each.

As they begin distributing the mysterious desserts, everyone starts to open them in excitement, and one by one the group discovers that they have each been given a chocolate orange. Twenty segments of rich, smooth, lightly flavoured milk chocolate: a perfect conclusion to a fine meal, and a very sociable way of topping off an enjoyable evening. The

table is filled with chatter, expressions of gratitude between mouthfuls, and that odd mixture of squelching sound and intermittent silence that you always get when a large group is filling their faces. Then you open yours.

You've been given an orange. Not a chocolate orange; an actual orange. Eleven segments of erratically sized, pith-covered segments, with surprisingly large pips in annoying places, requiring a degree in engineering in order to peel

it properly, the consumption of which inevitably involves having juice run down to (at least) your wrists, being squirted in the eye with painful acid, and spending the remainder of the meal picking strands the size of iron filings out from in between your molars. You stare at the orange in front of you with a mixture of surprise, disappointment and confusion. The rest of the table hasn't noticed. They're too busy enjoying their chocolate.

You pause to reflect. There's nothing wrong with oranges, you say to yourself. They are sharp, sweet, refreshing and zesty. The undisputed kings of the citrus fruit world – when did you last order a freshly squeezed lemon juice? – oranges are enliveningly flavoursome, filled with Vitamin C, and far better for you than the mixture of sugar, milk powder, cocoa butter and milk fat your friends are greedily consuming. With a bit of practice, they can probably be peeled without blinding your neighbours. Looked at from a number of perspectives, in fact – medical, dietary, environmental – you have actually been given a better dessert than everyone else. And you didn't have a right to be given anything anyway.

But your heart sinks, all the same. An orange was not what you expected; as soon as you saw everyone else opening their chocolate, you simply assumed that is what you would get, too. Not only that, but it wasn't what you wanted – you could pretend that it was, and do your best to appreciate it and be thankful, but you really had your heart set on those rich, smooth, lightly flavoured milk chocolate segments. And because you're surrounded by other people, you have to come to terms with the sheer unfairness of being given your orange, while your friends enjoy, share, laugh about and celebrate theirs. A nice meal has taken an unexpected turn, and you suddenly feel isolated, disappointed, frustrated, even alone.

Discovering your kids have special needs is like that.

Before we become parents, we have all sorts of ideas, expectations and dreams about what it will be like. These ideas come from our own childhood, whether good or bad, from the media, and from seeing the experiences of our friends and relatives: pushing prams with sleeping babies along the riverside, teaching our children to walk, training them how to draw with crayons rather than eat them, answering cute questions, making star charts, walking them to school. We don't look forward to the more unpleasant aspects of parenting – interrupted nights, nappies, tantrums – but because we know that they will come, and because we know that they will pass, we are emotionally prepared for them. Mostly, we daydream about the good bits, and talk to our friends about the joys and challenges of what are about to take on.

**“it rocks everything, and the entire picture of our lives, both in the present and the future, gets repainted in the course of a few hours”**

Then something happens. For some of us, it is at a twelve-week scan, or at birth; for others, it is several months or even years later. But something happens that tells us, somehow, that all is not well. We'll talk a bit more about this later, but for now, it's enough to say that it rocks everything, and the entire picture of our

lives, both in the present and the future, gets repainted in the course of a few hours. Gradually, as time starts to heal, we come to terms with the situation, and we learn that there are some wonderful things about what we've been given, as well as the difficult and painful things. Yet we can't help feeling isolated, disappointed, frustrated, even alone.

Special needs, like the orange, are unexpected. We didn't plan for them, and we didn't anticipate them. Because our children are such a beautiful gift, we often feel guilty for even saying this, but we might as well admit that we didn't want our children to have autism, any more than we wanted them to have Down's, or cerebral palsy, or whatever else. Give or take, we wanted pretty much what our friends had: children who crawled at one, talked at two, potty trained at three, asked questions at four, and went off to mainstream school at five. We could have lived quite happily without knowing what Pedro boots were for, or what stimming was, or how to fill out DLA forms. So there are times, when we're wiping the citric acid out of our eyes and watching our friends enjoying their chocolate, when it feels spectacularly unfair, and we wish we could retreat to a place where everyone had oranges, so we wouldn't have to fight so hard against the temptation to comparison-shopping and wallowing in self-pity. We know that oranges are juicy in their own way. We know that they're good for us, and that we'll experience many things that others will miss. But we wish we had a chocolate one, all the same.

If you're new to all this, you should know: that feeling becomes less acute, and less frequent, over time. Your appreciation for the wonders of tangy citrus and Vitamin C increases, and your desire for milk fat and cocoa butter diminishes. But in our story, so far, it hasn't disappeared. I'm not sure it ever will. And that's OK.



*Notes:* .....

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## STORIES

Do you have a story of how God has worked in your life? No matter how big or small, we love to hear how God is working in the lives of ordinary people. Fill out the form below (and include your name on side 1). Or go to our website at [kingschurch.eu/yourstory](https://kingschurch.eu/yourstory)

*Your Story:* .....

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- I am happy for this to be shared at Kings Church venues on a Sunday morning
- I am happy for this to appear on the Kings Church website and social media accounts

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