

Ever feel like something's missing?



See inside

Four Kingston residents tell their stories



You're invited!

Come and ask your questions at one of our events

Find what you're looking for.
Find peace, hope and purpose in Jesus.



Dear Neighbours,

In March 2026, hundreds of churches up and down the nation will be taking part in an event called A Passion for Life. The aim of this event is to give people the opportunity to explore the historic Christian message about Jesus.

According to recent studies, there has been a resurgence of interest in historic Christian teaching. People who had previously shut the door on spiritual matters are now willing to look again to discover what it's all about.

The theme of A Passion for Life this year is a simple question: **"Ever feel like something's missing?"** Despite all that our culture can offer us, many of us still have those nagging questions: "Is this really it? Could there be more to life?"

We're pleased to introduce to you this booklet containing four stories written by members of local churches in Kingston borough. Their cultural backgrounds and life experiences are incredibly different, and yet they have all found lasting hope, meaning and peace in Jesus Christ.

On the back page, there's an invitation to a series of free evenings which you'd be very welcome to attend. Each evening will be held at the beautiful Christ Church Surbiton Hill, and will include a soft drink, an opportunity to hear the Christian message about Jesus, and a chance to ask any questions you might have.

You don't need to have any prior knowledge of Christianity, and there will be no singing or prayer at the events. As a group of local churches, we're convinced that lasting hope, purpose and peace can only be found in the Jesus of the Bible. Why not take the opportunity to explore that message for yourself? We hope that you enjoy these stories.

John Shepherd CHRIST CHURCH SURBITON HILL
Tom Sweatman CORNERSTONE CHURCH KINGSTON
Emmanuel Baikie EMMANUEL CHURCH TOLWORTH
Paul Pease HOOK CHURCH
Bart Erlebach HOPE CHURCH TOLWORTH
Mike Tindall KING'S CHURCH CHESSINGTON

Come and try – you are always welcome at one of our churches.



We will be holding special guest services, ideal for people new or returning to Christianity, on **Sunday 22 March 2026**. No need to RSVP – just turn up.

Christ Church Surbiton Hill
10:30am, 8 Christ Church Road, KT5 8JJ
ccsurbiton.org



Cornerstone Church Kingston
10:30am, Tiffin School, KT2 6RL
cornerstonechurchkingston.org
Find us on: [@](#) [f](#) [v](#) [y](#)

Emmanuel Church Tolworth
10:30am, 1 Grand Avenue, KT5 9HU
emmanueltolworth.org.uk
Find us on: [@](#) [f](#)

Hook Church
10:30am, Brook Road, KT6 5DB
hookchurch.org
Find us on: [@](#)

Hope Church Tolworth
10:30am, Knollmead School, KT5 9QP
hopechurchtolworth.org
Find us on: [@](#) [f](#)



King's Church Chessington
9:00am & 11:00am, The King's Centre,
Coppard Gardens, KT9 2GZ
kingschessington.org
Find us on: [@](#) [y](#)



Finding hope

Yasmin

CHRIST CHURCH
SURBITON HILL

On the bus to work that day, I couldn't stop thinking about Jesus. A rainbow formed over the road, and I knew God was telling me that it was going to be okay. I sobbed. Everything changed.

Soon after, I found the strength to leave the abusive relationship, doors opened for study, finances 'fell into place' and I moved to Kingston. There, I found a church to visit – Christ Church Surbiton Hill. I was terrified, but beautifully welcomed in. I heard the Christian good news, repented and gave my life to Jesus that morning.

Since then, life has been far from perfect, but I walk with a perfect Saviour. Jesus is healing my heart, breaking my addictions, giving me joy and anchoring me with eternal hope. Through His Word, His Spirit, community and love, I'm being made new – and I know now: I'm never alone.



I didn't grow up believing God cared – or even existed. I was raised in a loving but deeply broken atheist home, shaped by addiction, abuse and instability. I learned early on not to trust anyone.

Life felt like something to survive. If it got too hard, I believed I could always end it.

As life spiralled down – through grief, divorce and mental health struggles, to name a few – I found myself in the same patterns I'd grown up around: addiction, toxic relationships, barely holding on. I thought this was it – no hope, no way out.

Then, one day, a friend of my former partner saw how dark a place I was in and offered to pray for me. I didn't believe

“For the first time ever, I knew God loved me.”

in prayer, but I was desperate. He prayed in Jesus' name. The next morning, I woke up to what I can only describe as a miraculous, huge light and the presence of God in my room. For the first time ever, I knew God loved me.



Finding peace

Greg
HOOK CHURCH



I did a lot of things I'm not proud of in my teenage years and early adult life. I was surrounded by drugs and violence.

When I was 18, my dodgy ways caught up with me. I was dragged by a car along the road until I let go. As soon as I did, I saw blinding light, and it was very peaceful. I heard my name in the distance, and then I came round.

I saw the fear in my friend's eyes as he told me to sit down. I disappeared from everyone after that. I just wanted to be on my own. I'd leave family events early just to sit on my own and smoke. There was a hole inside me, and I smoked a lot of cannabis to fill it. I wanted to forget about everything I had done and been through. I was just existing; I wasn't living. And I was always angry. Feeling that way for a long time is tiring and constantly makes you negative. I wasn't very nice to be around. I wanted to change, not only for myself, but for my son and my family. They didn't deserve being around someone like me.

My mum has been a big inspiration in my life. I noticed that Christ was the main support in her life. Trusting and loving Christ gave her this amazing strength that I wanted. So one day, roughly three and half years ago now, I asked if I could come along to a church service. I can honestly say Jesus has been my Saviour. I realise now He's been with me every step of the way. Looking back at that incident when I was 18, He gave me a second

chance at life, as I believe I should have died that day. I thank the Lord that He's working to make me a better person. For the first time in my life, I don't feel angry, and I don't need to fill the hole inside me anymore because I know Jesus loves me.

Since opening the door to Jesus, my life has completely changed. My faith was tested though, and I and my little boy have gone

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through a tough time. I was scared about the future, but I put my trust in the Lord, and some people here at Hook Church prayed for us. I can't emphasise how great the power of prayer is. I'm truly grateful that the Lord answered those prayers. We are truly blessed now and have found the peace we needed.



Finding purpose

I attended church with my parents all through my childhood and teenage years. Mostly it didn't mean much to me, except that it was what we did every Sunday.

I was privileged to be educated at private schools and gained a place to read Law at Hertford College, Oxford, in 1974.

On my first Sunday evening at university, I went to the college chapel. It seemed the obvious place to go to church, as I was used to doing on a Sunday. I remember the talk was entitled 'The Reluctant Agnostic: A Way Through', a title that fitted me exactly. What was new to me was the speaker talking about a personal relationship with God. I went to

"I remember the talk... 'The Reluctant Agnostic: A Way Through', a title that fitted me exactly."

a meeting after dinner with the speaker and the college chaplain, and prayed that Jesus would forgive me and help me follow Him.

At a number of points in my life, I've been reminded of the Bible verse where one of Jesus' disciples says: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (*John 6:68*). Those words impressed me



Cara

HOPE CHURCH
TOLWORTH

particularly on one occasion, and they've come back to me many times since. I and those whom I love are in God's hands, and He can be trusted to do what is best.

I often pray about these two Bible verses: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters" (*Romans 8:28-29*).

These verses teach us that God works everything for good in the lives of those who follow Jesus. It's not that God organises all that we experience so as to make us happy. What He does is to allow me to undergo all kinds of things which are designed by Him to change me into the person He longs for me to be – more and more like Jesus.



Finding truth

I was born into a Hindu home, but when I was 16, one of my brothers became a Christian.

He would read the Bible to me at night, and I began to believe in Jesus, though I didn't fully understand what it meant. I went to church but secretly kept drinking, smoking and partying.

At 17, I moved in with my partner and soon became pregnant with my son. The relationship fell apart, and I migrated to England, where I struggled with depression and loneliness. My son's father later joined me, and we married, but it became abusive. I turned to alcohol to cope. Through all of this, my brother kept encouraging me to follow Jesus. After my marriage ended, I continued down a destructive path, in and out of unhealthy relationships.

In January 2020, I contracted COVID. It was the worst experience of my life. My brother and sister-in-law prayed with me daily over the phone. In the second week, while lying in bed, I started thinking about what would happen if I died. I was surely going to hell because of my sinful life. Feeling vulnerable, I lifted my arms and prayed, "Jesus, please, I am fed up with this illness. Please help me Lord, I am ready to follow you." On the next call, I told my brother I was ready to follow Jesus.



Sarah

CORNERSTONE
CHURCH
KINGSTON

After recovering, my mindset shifted, my desire for parties faded, and I began searching for a church. That's when I found Cornerstone Church Kingston. Since giving my life to Jesus, I've come to understand His love and the power of His death and

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resurrection. My lifestyle has changed; my sons come to church, my sister and nephew are on their journey with Christ, and even my Hindu mother gave her life to Jesus before passing away. The Bible says: "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (*2 Corinthians 5:17*).

Taste & See



Come and explore how to find hope, peace and purpose in life. Join us for three free evenings to hear a talk on what Jesus Christ says about these topics, and ask your questions.

Thursday 5 March → Find Hope

Thursday 12 March → Find Purpose

Thursday 19 March → Find Peace

Join us from 7:30pm. Talk and discussion 8pm–9pm
Christ Church Surbiton Hill, 8 Christ Church Road, KT5 8JJ

 a passion
for life

