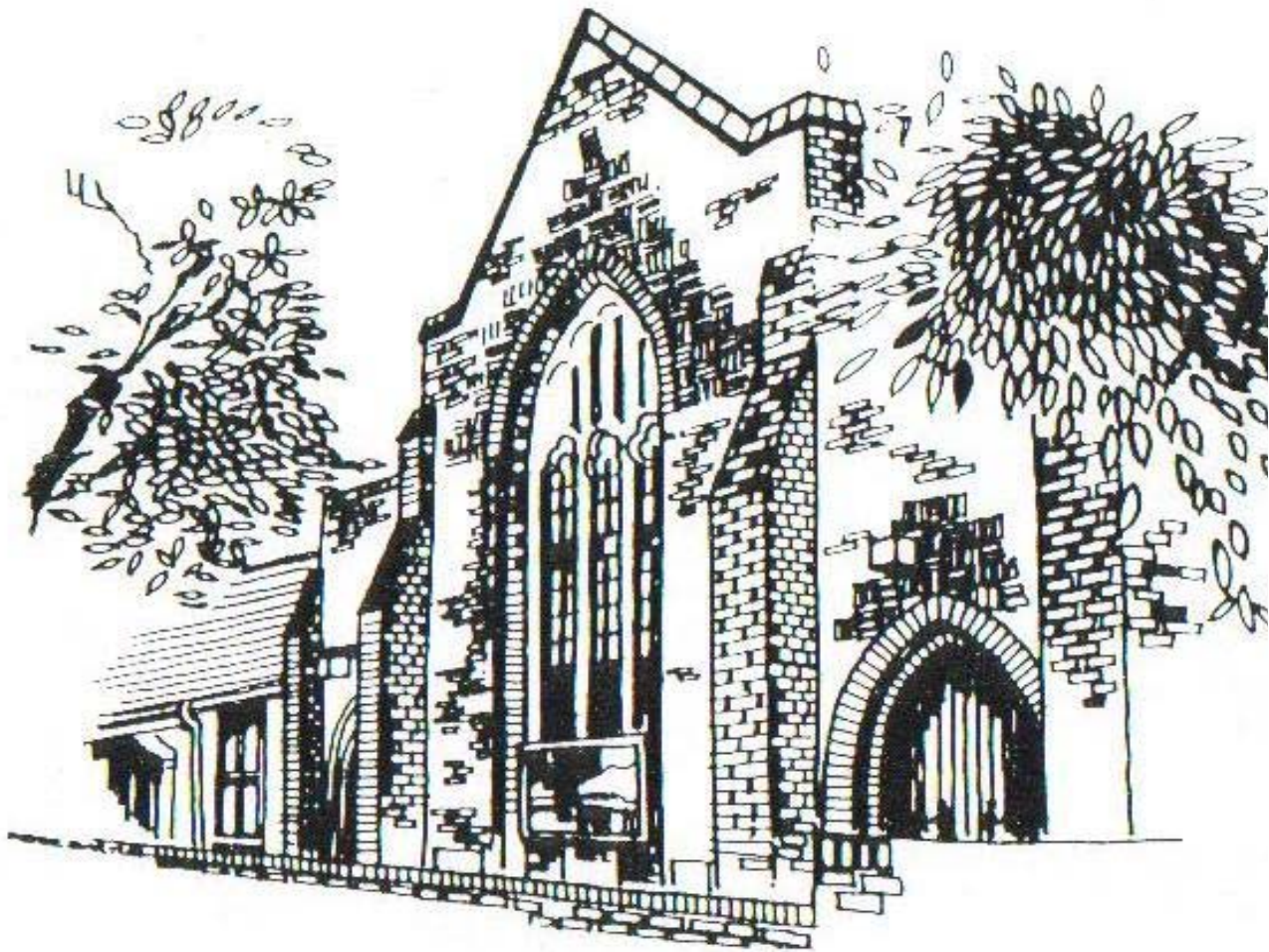




*The Magazine*  
*of*  
**Highams Park Baptist Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



**2016 NUMBER FOUR**

# CHURCH PROGRAMME



**SUNDAY SERVICES:** 10.00 a.m. Morning Worship (including a crèche and groups for children and young people)

Holy Communion is conducted regularly within the Services. We invite all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour to eat and drink in Communion. Please see the Church Diary (at the back of the magazine) for details.

**Monday** Gathered Prayer 10.00 – 11.00am at the Church  
An opportunity to pray for the life and work of the Church and for the local community

**Friday:** Boys Brigade and Girls Association:  
  
Anchors (For boys and girls in school years 1-3) 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Juniors (For boys and girls in school years 4-6) 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Company Section (For boys in school years 7+) 7:30 - 9:30 pm

**Cell Groups:** The cell groups are small groups of people that meet together every other week for friendship, support, Bible study / application. It would be great if you wanted to try one of the groups.

Sunday Cell Group : 7.30 - 9.00 pm at 21 Falmouth Avenue, contact Margaret on 8527 3544

Thursday Cell Group: 2.00 – 3.30pm at 212 The Avenue, contact Sheila on 8531 5480

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 18th September 2016  
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 25 Gordon Ave., Highams Park, E4 9QT 020 8527 1505  
Email: [davelus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davelus@yahoo.co.uk)

**Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG-  
(☎ 020 8527 8993)  
August / September 2016**

***Moderator:***

***Rev. Gareth Wilde***

***Church Secretary:***

***Mr. Philip Slaney  
49, Chingdale Road,  
Chingford,  
London E4 6HZ***

***☎ 020 8524 6258***

Wisdom,  
Integrity,  
Ministry,  
Baptist,  
Love,  
Energy,  
Dedication,  
Officer,  
New ideas,  
Attention to detail,  
Faithful,  
Christ centred.

These words were used to describe Jonathan's qualities on his last Sunday July 24th 2016 as Minister of Highams Park Baptist Church. The Church will always be grateful to God for the 12 years of Jonathan's ministry. We were reminded of the wisdom and integrity he exercised in his ministry and how he continued in the Baptist tradition with love, energy and dedication. Jonathan also, unusually for a Baptist Minister, played a full and active role as an Officer in our Boys Brigade and Girls Association, leading the Junior Section.

Jonathan brought new ideas to his ministry and this was demonstrated every Sunday and on special occasions, including celebrating the Church's Centenary in 2013 with '100 for 100'. This included giving away 100 cups of tea on the platform at Highams Park station to early morning commuters and releasing 100 balloons with some arriving as far away as Germany, Northern Ireland and Derbyshire! Jonathan's attention to detail and phenomenal memory has enabled him to be a wonderful pastor, always visiting the sick in hospital or at home and sending out prayer requests. Jonathan also blessed us each week with his well prepared sermons, pointing us to the truth and wisdom of the gospel of Jesus. Jonathan will always be remembered. not only for his dedication as a supporter of WIMBLEDON AFC , but as a faithful follower of Jesus and he will be missed.

*Phil Slaney - Church Secretary,*

# CAVENDISH CIRCULAR



As we look towards Autumn we are reminded that for many this season will mean a time of new beginnings. For some, schooldays will be starting for the first time while others will face a new school or higher education. Some may be living away from home for the first time or anticipating a new job in unfamiliar surroundings away from friends and colleagues. While some may be entering married life, or

becoming parents, others will be contemplating time on their own again after years of busy, challenging family life. As a fellowship we are also facing new territory with the departure of our Minister. We give thanks for all Jonathan, Michelle, Charis and Alyssa have meant to us during the past twelve years and look forward with courage and enthusiasm, knowing that God is guiding our decision making and strengthening our faith. Please support those who are entrusted with the task of leading our fellowship during the Transition, especially Phil, our Church Secretary, Rev. Gareth Wilde, who has agreed to be our Moderator, and the Church Council. We are all links in the circle that is HPB and as such, are vital to the future of our Church family.

The Boyce's farewell weekend was a great time of celebration and farewell which you can read about it further in the Magazine. Our thanks go to all who helped make it such an enjoyable occasion, especially Ruth Underhay who organised the event, and Mandy Edwards who co-ordinated the excellent Lunch on Sunday.



We send hearty congratulations to Fiona McGowan and Michael Thorndyke who married recently. We look forward to seeing them when next they come to England. This photo is just one of many that Doris will be happy to share with you! Our loving best wishes to the happy couple for their future life together.

We are pleased to report that Lynda Lewis-Azayear's hip replacement operation has been successful and that she has already been able to come along to Church. We

wish her a very speedy recovery and hope that she will enjoy better and pain-free mobility in the future. Her husband Gerald recently fractured his hand and we also wish him a good recovery.

Further congratulations go to Phil Slaney who has become a Grandfather for the first time. His son Simon and wife Sarah have had twin girls born on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Tabitha Faith and Edith Hope were very premature (born at 29 weeks) but are progressing well with expert care from the medical team at Homerton Hospital. Our loving best wishes go to all the family and we pray for the twins continuing good progress. We hope to bring you some pictures of the little ones in our next issue.

Our loving condolences go to Perlita Jenkins whose father Juanito died in early June following a long period of ill health. We pray for God's presence and peace for her and all the family.

We were sorry to learn that June Tresarden has recently had a fall badly cutting her hand which necessitated hospital treatment. We are glad to hear that she is now recovering well and hope to see her at Church soon.

Our loving condolences go to Jason Close and his family on the death of his father Douglas in hospital on 11<sup>th</sup> August. We remember his wife Christine, Jason, Stephen, Annette, Toby and Sophie, praying for God's presence, peace and reassurance at this sad time. Both Jason and Stephen were able to be with their father in hospital, taking turns to travel from the BBGA camp. We do thank all those staff and helpers who were part of the camp staff and know that despite the sad and difficult circumstances it was an enjoyable time for the young people. We will have a full report on the camp in our next issue.

*Jacquie L*

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## 'Taking Stock'

Before the Service began one Sunday morning, a member of a Church said to the Minister, "If you see me fall asleep while you're preaching, please don't take it personally. It's not that your sermon is boring. It's just that last night I was taking an inventory - an account of all of the different things in my shop and I didn't get to bed until the early hours of the morning. I discovered a lot of stock that I didn't sell during the year. I came to realize how many mistakes I had made. Some shelves were empty and others were full of goods that had not sold. Apparently I had bought too much of what I shouldn't have and didn't buy enough of others that were good sellers." Then he asked the minister, "Don't you think that each year, every one of us should take an 'inventory', that is take 'stock' of our lives?"

We might choose to reflect on the questions: How have I matured spiritually since I became a Christian? In what specific area have I grown most? What tangible difference has this growth made in my life? How is God sanctifying me at the moment? If those who know me best were asked these same questions about me, how would they respond? Would I be pleased or embarrassed by the growth or lack thereof that others see? If things are not as you would want them to be, ask God for His help by His Holy Spirit to bring about 'glory to God' change.

*Taken from one of Jonathan's recent sermons*



## A weekend of Joy and Sadness

Over the weekend of July 25-26<sup>th</sup> HPB said goodbye to Jonathan and his family. It was obviously one of mixed emotions. We were happy that Jonathan had been led to his decision but sad at his going. But, in true HPB manner, we tried to make the best of the situation...



On Saturday there were lots of amusements – aimed at the children or so we were told! These included a bouncy castle – more of which later! There were also chairs and tables arranged around the quadrangle for those of a more sedate disposition who wished to sit and chat (HPB has been

known to be good at that). Whilst we were sitting and chatting people flitted amongst us with cutlery (disposable), condiments and napkins – these were purple in colour and it was wondered if they had been left over from the Queen's Birthday Party in the Mall. The reason for all this soon became apparent as boxes of fish and chips and chicken and chips arrived. At this point the hubbub of chat subsided! After this repast it was back to the amusements. A call went out that the Bouncy castle was open to those older than the children it was designed for. To some this did not seem such a good idea so soon after eating, however a fair number of 'adults' did try, much to the amusement of the massed ranks of watchers. As the sun began its slow disappearing act, the second part of the entertainment started.



It would appear that a certain departing minister is a fan of Barn Dancing so what else could we provide? The caller was excellent and had the knack of getting the right number of people to 'volunteer' to dance!



The younger members of the group apparently decided to get their own back on the adults who had taken over the bouncy castle and joined in the dancing -and very good they were too... There was of course the opportunity to chat. The Saturday night was voted a great success.



The Sunday service brought the mixed emotions back again with the congregation realising that this was the last service that Jonathan would take and the period of 'ministerial transition' (what in the past was known as 'interregnum') was about to start. As usual, after the service refreshments were served and this neatly moved into a bring and share type lunch. The food was, as ever, excellent and in copious quantity. A presentation was made to Jonathan and family and Jonathan gave a short but moving speech. Fortunately Phil Slaney lightened the mood by having a brainstorming session whereby he gave a letter and asking the rest of the people

present to give a quality of Jonathan starting with that letter. The result can be seen in Phil's message at the beginning of this magazine. A little more chance to talk and then twelve wonderful years were over. We wish Jonathan and family all the very best for the future.

There were, of course, many people involved in the planning and execution of the weekend. It would be difficult and invidious to name them all (and probably forget somebody!). However, a huge amount of thanks goes to two people - to Ruth who had the job of overall coordination and to Mandy who, as ever, looked after the catering. They both carried out their tasks so well that the rest of us could concentrate on the occasion. HPB is very lucky to have you. Our caps are doffed to you!

*Dave L*



I have recently taken on the task of taking our donations for Eat or Heat, left in the plastic box in the welcome area of HPBC, to the South Chingford Congregational Church.

They are very grateful for all items received but they are particularly keen to acquire the following items:

- 🗑 toilet rolls
- 🗑 pasta sauces
- 🗑 tinned meats
- 🗑 tinned fish
- 🗑 tinned tomatoes
- 🗑 jams
- 🗑 soups

Please remember this when you make your next donation although, obviously, other items are very welcome.

Many thanks for all you have done in the past.

Dave Kendrick



*With apologies to Dave and Dianne!*



## ISLE OF WIGHT REVISITED

I think many friends in our Church are familiar with the various activities and events involving our Boys' Brigade/GA Company throughout the year, and one particular event in the calendar that continues to be very popular is the weekend away walk involving former Officers, Staff and 'old' boys.

This year's walk was a sentimental trip back to the Isle of Wight, the venue for so many Summer camps. Our base this time was the Appley Manor Hotel in Ryde, very close to the Portsmouth – Fishbourne car ferry, where the group of about twenty, assembled and booked in. We were very fortunate to have good walking weather and of course, the island scenery is as charming as always.

The format for the walk is quite simple, a location is agreed upon and everyone initially meets up at a hotel on the Friday evening for a splendid meal together. This year was no exception. Then after the essential Saturday morning full English breakfast, the group would set out across a pre-selected track, trail or coastline and eventually reach their destination. Over the years the amount of walking covered has varied, from 30 miles to this year, where a more sedate 15 miles or so, over two days was achieved. Also, because the walking arrangements are more flexible now, friends have options, doing all of the planned walk, or joining up at strategic points for part of the course. As one can appreciate, we are all getting older and the body just cannot do what was easily possible twenty or more years ago!!

Officially, the full planned route started near Blackgang Chine, heading north to the famous village of Godshell and then north again to the main town on the Island, Newport. There were plans to continue north to East Cowes, but the overall general feeling was that by the time we had reached Newport we felt that we had achieved our goal and had enough for one day. It had also been decided that on the following Sunday morning after another full English breakfast, there would be a six mile 'casual' walk along the coastline for those who were keen, finishing at Ryde. This optional walk started at St Helens, and for many of us, the start was like going back in time, visiting and paying homage to the scene of our old campsite, now a housing estate. It was a strange experience, posing for pictures at what was the entrance to Stonewood camp; even more intriguing was that one of the residents of the new houses used to be in the Boys Brigade! so he was very helpful and sympathetic, and understood how much these campsite memories meant so much to the staff present.

The 'mastermind' for the weekend was Andy Bowles, not only did he plan every detail for the walk meticulously and tested most of it! but was responsible for all the Email information and travel details and advice, and with his wife, Helena, hosted a superb barbecue/get together meal at his house at St Helens on the Saturday evening, hugely enjoyed by everyone.

A weekend like this is such a great way of keeping in touch with old friends and although the format has changed, this has not taken away or lost any of its sparkle in terms of humour, social activity and banter. For the record, I have listed the names of the people who were there, it sounds like a 17<sup>th</sup> who's who:

Steve Barklem, Andrew & Helena Bowles, Arnold and Norman Coe, Karen & Gary Coomber, Gaye Evans, John Francis, Steve Grave, Howard Jones, Dave Mayhew, Terry Mead, Bob Sergeant, Phil Slaney Sue & Jeff Tarling and myself. (Jenny & Gary Marshall were there, representing the 6th Company).

So now we look forward to next year and welcome newcomers to join us for another enjoyable weekend together. The venue and who leads may be subject to a referendum!

*Bob Jenkins*

*Ed's note: we hope to include some pictures of this event in the next issue.*

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## A run for your money

Lee Dorrington recently undertook The Great Newham 10K run, which he completed in 1hr 0:41 secs. The run took place in and around the Olympic Stadium. That was the (relatively) easy part - as Lee writes:

*'My next challenge is hopefully next year doing the full London Marathon again for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. I will also have to train with the British Army for one week as part of this run.'*

Lee thanked everyone who sponsored him for the 10K run - if you didn't you can, no doubt, make amends next year!



# Four Months in Ghana

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, I flew out of the UK, to spend the next four months living and working voluntarily as a teacher in Ghana, West Africa. I was based in the Eastern Region, in the town of Nkawkaw, (population approx. 60,000) about two and half hour's drive from Accra, the capital city.



I lived with the Salvation Army officers (ministers), Justice and Christiana, whose house, called the Mission House, was right next to the church. Although it was very basic, with no running water, other than from the tap on the side of the tank, no flush toilet and a wet room in which to have a bucket bath, I was well looked after there. My washing was done by hand, three times a week and I was not allowed to do my own ironing. I even got told off when I tried to wash the dishes in the bowl outside

the kitchen. Ghanaians do not allow older people to do anything in the way of housework. Even my bedroom carpet was brushed with a palm branch broom, although I was allowed to make my own bed.

Being situated on the edge of the market, in the middle of the town, I had to get used to lots of noise, especially the loud music from the drinking spots – one virtually outside my bedroom window and one a few metres down the road in the other direction. At times, it felt as if I had a night club in my bedroom! The music often started around 5.30am and lasted till 10pm, and till midnight on most Friday and Saturday nights.



Add to this, preachers shouting their message out over the loud hailers in the town, or cars driving around blaring out music or information about medicine, plus the squawking hens, bleating goats and barking dogs, along with the traffic and people. Then the Pentecostal and Assemblies of God churches would often have late night sessions, sometimes till 3am! I used



to welcome the frequent power cuts, simply to have a bit of peace and quiet; that is, until the generators kicked in or the power came back on at 10pm!

I spent three days a week, teaching at the Salvation Army School in the town, and the other two days at Kwahuman International School, which is a private school across the road from where I was living and where Gideon, Justice and Christiana's son, attended school. The two schools were very different. The SA school

was situated in a very poor area on the outskirts of the town and the route there was along rough dirt roads.

The mud of the rainy season turned to dust in the dry season, meaning you really had to watch your step, as you shared the road with traffic (although not a lot) and wandering animals such as dogs, hens and goats, and other people.

At the SA school, I spent a couple of weeks in each class, from the kindergarten up to Primary 6. The age of each class varied, as many of the children started school at different ages and were held back if they didn't meet the expected grades for that year. In Year 6, one girl told me she was 18 and I met a 12 year old in Year 2. I had to prepare and teach lessons in English, Maths and Science, using a blackboard, chalk and very little else, unless I resourced materials myself.



Each week, there was an assembly where the children were told a Bible story. I was asked to 'preach' each week, to the Year 4, 5 and 6 classes, so I covered the parables that Jesus told and the healing miracles that He performed. One of the teachers then translated my stories into Twi, to ensure understanding.

Teaching was in English, as that is the official language of Ghana, apart from when the local



language Twi was taught. Many of the children struggled to understand me at first, as they had been taught English with an African accent. They taught me a few words of Twi and I also picked up some words and phrases that became useful commands in the classroom.

On my daily walk to and from school, I was always greeted by the locals, who had their stalls and kiosks set up beside the road and they loved it when I responded in their language.

The school environment was a real challenge, as the classrooms were very dark, especially when it rained or was cloudy. In some classrooms, there was a single lightbulb, but this was ineffective, especially when the power was off for the day. The playground was basically a large, dirt area, which became a lake of mud during the rainy season and a dust bath during the dry season. Around the beginning of December, when we were into the dry season, I saw a couple of whirlwinds making their way across the playground, whipping up the dust in a spectacular way. There was no running water, so the children were often seen carrying bowls of water on their heads, from one of the nearby houses. The grass was cut by the older pupils, using a cutlass, which they had brought in from home.

The children were supposed to buy their own books and pens/pencils, but there were usually about six in each class of around forty children who do not have stationery. I soon learnt to keep a supply of pens, pencils and a book to tear pages out of, on me; otherwise the children would sit and do nothing, or start annoying each other.





When I left my school in England, I was given hundreds of pencils by the parents and these were gratefully received by the pupils. I also sent over lots of my teaching resources which both schools appreciated.

I mentioned earlier about using a blackboard and chalk when I was teaching at the Salvation Army school. The SA church I attend in Hackney raised some money which they sent to me and I was able, with the help of Justice, to arrange to have whiteboards

installed in six of the classrooms. The teachers were absolutely delighted, as were the children. It was wonderful seeing their faces when the whiteboards arrived and the Year 6 boys helped to unload them from the truck. There was enough money left to give each teacher a set of whiteboard pens and wipers



My two days a week at the private school couldn't be more different. I was invited to look at behaviour management across the school, Nursery to Year 9, as the cane was no longer allowed to be used. I was asked to observe in classes, looking at how the teachers maintain discipline without using the cane, then come up with suggestions for how behaviour management could be improved. It was a very interesting exercise and the teachers were more than willing to have me

observe them. I wrote reports for everyone I observed and very quickly saw changes happening, which was very encouraging.

The Director, Mike, whose father founded the school over 50 years ago, had lived in the USA for ten years, spending time in the military. He was a larger than life person, who couldn't have been more supportive, so we had some very interesting discussions. The staff, which was made up of predominantly handsome young men and beautiful young women, were so friendly and welcoming. I was known in each school as 'Miss Jan'.

Many schools and organisations have what is known as 'Friday wear', when everyone wears clothes made from specially printed Ghanaian fabric. This happened in the International School and just before the end of the year, the teachers' fabric was changed. Any design could be made from the fabric and I felt honoured to be included when the new staff uniforms were made.



Although my main place of worship was the Salvation Army Church next door to where I was living, I also visited a few other churches with Justice, when he was invited, as one of the ministers in the town.



The format was similar in each church, but one thing that struck me was the number of offerings that would be taken. The first was a testimony offering, after several people had shared about how God had helped them during the week past, then there was the regular offering a while later. Instead of a bag or offering plate being handed around, everyone would shuffle dance and praise God as they came forward to the music, to drop their offering into the box or bowl.

There was often fund raising going on as well, for Harvest Thanksgiving, for a bereaved family, for ministers who were retiring or who were going to another appointment. These offerings were over and above the regular offerings and took the form of someone standing at the front appealing for specific amounts from each person, so that you were supposed to go forward and put that amount in. I did find this way of raising money unusual, but was amazed at how much was raised each time.

One church I visited was the Evangelical Presbyterian in a village in the Volta region, to the east of where I was living, near the border with the country of Togo. I will never forget the choir singing 'Take the name of Jesus with you', as they processed in from the back, accompanied by African drums and singing in beautiful harmony. They were dressed in robes with mortar board style hats, which I soon found was a common choir uniform. The people from the Volta region are renowned for their singing and harmonies.

One Saturday, I visited the Seventh Day Adventist church, at the invitation of two of the teachers from the private school. That was an interesting experience, as the young people took a prominent part, including a double act for the sermon, which was in Twi and English. Once again, the choir singing was beautiful.

Christmas in Ghana was an interesting experience. While very little happened at the Salvation Army school, things were very different at the private school. A 'house' choir competition was held. Each choir, chosen from the Year 4 to Year 9 classes, had a set carol to perform in Twi then another of their own choice, in English. Rehearsals started a couple of weeks before the competition and were held during the first hour of school, so it was something that I was able to have a some input into. The pupils, including the nurse and infant classes, were also practising a number of other carols for the carol service. This took place a couple of days before the end of the term.



Not having a school hall, the partitions between four of the classrooms were pushed aside to form a large enough space to accommodate the whole school of about 600 pupils. The carol service included the house choir competition, a nativity play, carol singing by the whole school, several mini- sermons by the older pupils and specially prepared songs by the nursery and kindergarten classes. Christmas Day started just like any other day in Ghana. Christiana and Portia (the young lady from a nearby village who lived with us) were up early, sweeping in the yard and the music at the drinking spot started about 5.30am, with the usual loud Ghanaian pop music. It over shadowed the occasional Christmas carols I could hear on Christiana's radio.

I got up about 6am and wished Christiana 'Merry Christmas', to which the reply was 'Happy New Year'. I received the same response from Justice a bit later. Being Friday, it was washing day, so Christiana and Portia, were on the job early, along with Gideon.



At church, the Christmas service was led by an SA officer couple from Accra. We sang a couple of carols in English – 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', at the beginning and end, with a couple of Twi ones in the middle, one of which I was familiar with. The service was very similar to the Sunday services, with two offerings, testimonies and announcements. The sermon was in Twi, with occasional English words and phrases, so I was able to get the concept of it, which was about Jesus coming as a baby to earth for everyone.

I wanted to see what Christmas Day looked like in Nkawkaw, so I went for a walk around the market and surrounding streets. I greeted a few people and some responded with 'Merry Christmas'. It seemed like business as usual, as most market stalls and kiosks were open and seamstresses and tailors were back at their machines, probably after going to church. Several young people wanted me to take their photos, including some young guys on the truck which was delivering water pouches. Back home, we had Christmas lunch, which was jollof rice with fish and chicken, plus fried plantain and warm salad. It is quite common in Ghana for the children to sit outside at small stools to eat, while the adults sat inside, and this was what happened on Christmas Day, which really surprised me. Gifts are exchanged over Christmas, but very few people send greeting cards.



This has just been a snapshot of my time in Ghana. There is so much more that I could talk about, but the most important thing to say is that I was very aware of God's love and protection during my time there. It was a totally different lifestyle in every way and I learnt so much about trusting God from the people I met. Materially, so many of them had so little, but they were always

full of praise and thanks to God, as they trusted Him for their everyday needs.

It was hard to say good bye to my friends in both schools at the end of the term. I was thoroughly spoilt with some beautiful, colourful Ghanaian clothes which had been specially made for me. As a volunteer, I wasn't paid, so such gifts were totally unexpected. I also received similar gifts from Justice and Christiana, who I had been living with, as well as from the Salvation Army church. It was truly humbling and I felt so blessed, simply by being in Ghana.

*Jan Smithers*

## *From Book to Stage...*

*Many of our readers will be aware of Steve Jenkin's work to tell the story of (Leyton) Orient players joining the ranks in the First World War. His book 'They took the Lead' has been translated into a stage production - details below. Well done Steve...*

### **THE GREATER GAME HITS THE SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE**

The True story of the men who went from the playing fields to the battlefields is finally told - The Southwark Playhouse opens its doors this September to The Greater Game after a long awaited premiere.

The Greater Game tells the true and moving story of the 41 men who swapped the football fields of London for the battle fields of the Somme in 1916. Based on the book 'They Took The Lead' by Stephen Jenkins, The Greater Game is more than just a story about football or war, but a poignant one of comradeship and camaraderie. An emotional story that touches all aspects of life, of love, friendship, laughter, family loss and ultimately death. It has been heralded as one of the great true stories yet to be told and now, 100 years after the men went off to the trenches of WW1 France their amazing story is brought to life.

After a reading starring Tom Watt, Danny Mays and Neil Dudgeon, things looked very positive for the play, with interest from West End producers and rave reviews from both industry professionals and the public alike, however the project was shelved and the story of these brave men looked set to be left untold forever. The Royal British Legion then heard of the project and wanted to make it part of their 100 centenary commemoration of the Battle of the Somme and part of their 'Sports Remembers' campaign and after a very generous sponsorship the play is now set to wow audiences in Southwark for a four week run from September 15th.

It has been a labour of love to make this happen but with the help of people like former professional footballer Peter Kitchen and the very talented Tilly Vosburgh, the Play Director, we are able to do these brave men justice.

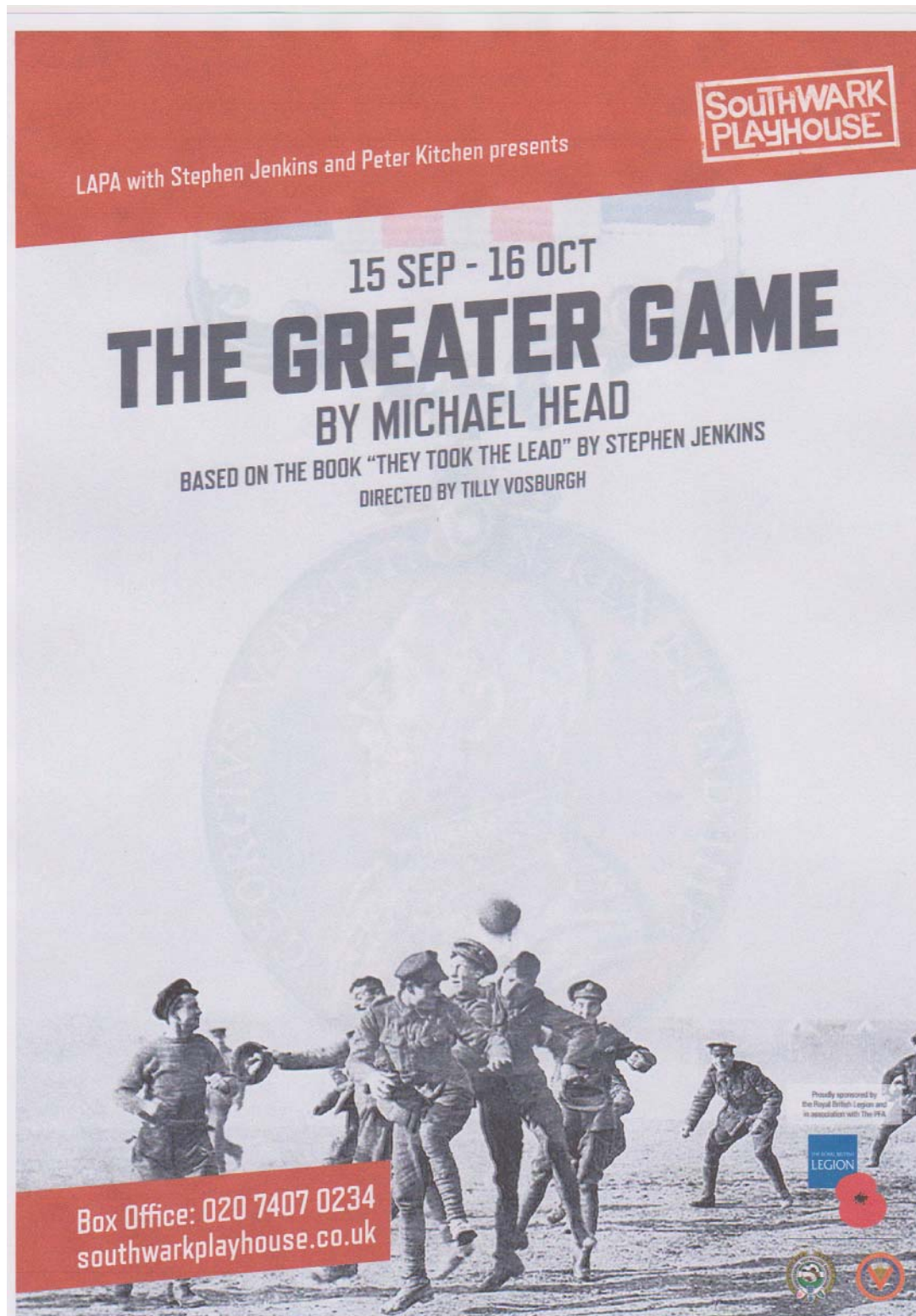
Brave men like the mad cap and injury prone goalkeeper Jimmy Hugall, the wise cracking Cockney, Peggy, The lazy but lovable rogue Jumbo and their inspirational captain Fred 'Spider' Parker.

Bermondsey born comedy writer Michael Head states, 'as soon as I heard the facts about this story I knew it was one that had to be told, it was also important to me to make it funny as well as ' powerful and moving '.

The writer also stated proudly 'It is an honour to have the play go out in my home town and to be able to tell the story of these great men, a story which I truly believe cannot be surpassed'.



The Show runs from September 15th - October 16th, with shows Monday - Saturday, matinees on Tues and Sat. To book tickets please **contact** The Southwark Playhouse box office on 020 7407 0234 or visit [www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk)



## **YOUTH GROUP REUNION by Bob Jenkins**

If you are of a certain age, you won't remember the fact that we used to have a Youth Group down the Church every Tuesday evening which at its height, had around a HUNDRED teenagers turning up regularly. We had a talented Staff led by Carol and Phil Slaney and the evenings were fun, challenging and memorable. We also arranged special events and weekends away.

The Group was formed in the late sixties, at the time when the inspirational Michael Walker was Minister here and when Michael left the Church, the group carried on almost to the start of the eighties. Prior to this, the Church had a YPF (Young People's Fellowship) but in the sixties, there were big social changes. The Youth Group evenings were typical of the time, the music, and of course, the fashions, long hair, flare trousers, Ben Sherman/Brutus shirts, stacked heels, tie 'n' dye T shirts etc, and who could forget the mini skirts!!

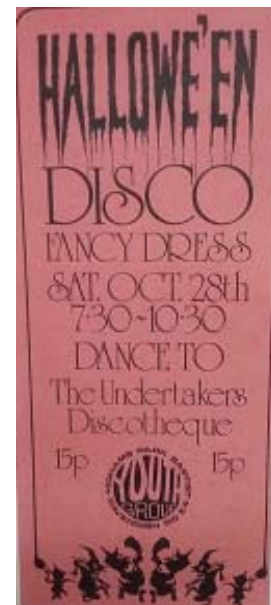
I say all this because Phil Slaney, myself and later on David Lange, a former member who took over the leadership in the late seventies, met and decided last year that rather belatedly, it would be great to have a reunion and try and locate as many former members and friends as humanly possible. Over a lunch we managed to remember so many names, but the difficult and almost impossible task lay before us, how do we contact these people, some of whom may have passed on? However, undaunted, we pressed on and the culmination of all this was an official reunion which took place last month when you will be pleased to hear we had a lovely day together and over twenty people turned up. It was disappointing that some friends we contacted could not make the planned date but it was great to link up and hear their stories and recall experiences. Our plan was to recreate on a Saturday afternoon/evening a typical Tuesday evening, paying subs as you arrive, play table tennis/ pool or snooker and listen to the great music of the time. Who can forget the discos, that took place when 'The Undertakers' used to turn up in a hearse with their all black outfits and top hats to boot. They really arrived with their equipment in a coffin!

The highlight of every Tuesday evening was the 'pastoral plug' a regular weekly item, and led by a different leader. It was meant to be a kind of a thought for the week, a time of reflection and a few words of inspiration, sometimes from the Bible, and the kids loved it.

A lot of work went in to the arrangements for our reunion last month as you can imagine. We had some wonderful items of memorabilia on show which linked up beautifully with all the memories shared on the day. It would be great to have another reunion in the future and to meet up again, especially as some friends were not able to be with us last month.



Maybe we will arrange a different social event, but one thing is for certain, we will arrange it sooner rather than later. If anyone does have any contact with, or information about former Youth Group members we would love to hear from you.



What is not included in this display is the name of the person who created most (if not all) of it - step forward our Church Secretary Phil Slaney - a man of many talents. He also used his expertise in designing some of the cover work for the books of prayers written by Michael Walker. These are well worth getting hold of even though out of print.

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The Youth Group reunion, as these events do, triggered many memories. Amongst these were the ways in which many lasting friendships were made. At that time there were two main Youth groups in Highams Park - at HPB and at the Methodist Church in Handsworth Avenue. Most of the other churches also had some form of youth meetings.

As is usually the way there was a degree of interaction with people from one church going along to events at another. Out of this came The Highams Park Christian Youth Council (HPCYC). When a like minded group of young people get together they think they can change the World (well we did in the 60's and 70's). Perhaps the World wasn't ready for us but we enjoyed the friendships and fellowship.

An example of the interaction was the annual carol singing that took place around the streets near HPB and especially in Aldriche Way. Of course you cannot sing carols without music so we provided some! The father of one of our friends told us of a piano that was no longer wanted - unfortunately it was near Blackhorse Road station some miles away. Undaunted we obtained a trolley and having been taken to the place where the piano lay, manoeuvred it onto the trolley. However it was late and therefore dark and we had to transport the piano along main roads - no problem - battery operated lights - white to the front and red to the rear were attached and off we went. The 'we' were all friends most of who did not go to HPB. As we reached the Bell corner a police car drew up alongside - and its occupants nearly died laughing. Off we went again up hill and down dale, eventually going over the level crossing and finally to HPB.

When we went carol singing a good many friends joined, including Barry Trotman. He volunteered to knock on doors seeking money. Having a certain degree of eccentricity he wore a red lined black opera cloak, a top hat and carried a silver topped cane. Imagine the surprise of people opening the door to this vision - but he did collect a good deal. Barry's name was much mentioned at the reunion but, very sadly, he died in early July. At times like this memories mean so much.

And the piano playing carol singing - well it went on for a few years but then Aldriche Way got double glazing so people could not hear the 'wonderful' music being made. This, coupled with the dislike of householders to answering the door at night, meant that it stopped.....

As an aside we were very saddened about another recent death. As mentioned above there was a thriving youth club at the Methodist Church in Handsworth Avenue (no longer there - the church closed in 2003). The club was run by Roy and Jean Viggers who had no children of their own but had a great rapport with club members. They were a great influence on us and, again, many friendships (and indeed marriages) had their beginnings on a Friday club night. Roy died some time ago and Jean followed in late June this year. Their memory lives on in many hearts in many parts of the country.

*Dave L*

## Highams Park comes together...

This year's Highams Park Day took place on a bright sunshine laden Saturday. Over the past few years this has not always been the case!



The field in Vincent Road played host to many local groups and the large number of people attending were both educated in the ways of Highams Park, and entertained by singers and a pipe band. There was also the opportunity to play games and have refreshments.

Winchester Road Church had a large area dedicated to feeding the inner person whilst HPB in the guise of the BBGA provided a range of sweets from their stall. Our thanks to Jason, Gemma and Jean.

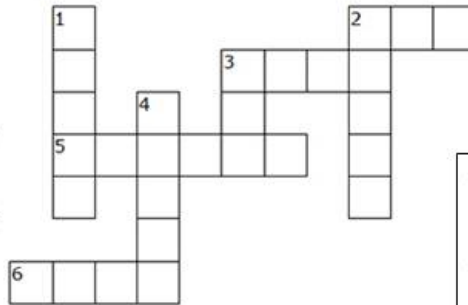
We found ourselves meeting up with people we had not seen for some time and having a good 'catch up' session. A very enjoyable way to spend an hour or so - hopefully the weather will be as kind next year...



Dave L

**Run the race:** (Hebrews 12v1)  
 'Let us run with perseverance  
 the race marked out for us'

u  
n



**Answers:**  
 cross Jesus  
 run throne  
 faith joy  
 eyes race

i

#### ACROSS

2. A feeling of great happiness
3. A contest of speed
5. The place where a king or queen is seated
6. The organs which are used to see

#### DOWN

1. A strong belief in God
2. The Son of God
3. To travel on foot at a fast pace
4. The wooden structure on which Jesus was crucified;

o

r

c



A picture for  
you to colour

h

u

r

c

h



Can you find the words  
below in the word search?

balance  
 commitment  
 endurance  
 focus  
 God's  
 Olympics  
 strength



## **CHURCH DIARY**

### **August**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Songs of Praise Service led by Ruth
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Phil
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Jenny Howland
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Paul and Sarah

### **September**

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	All Age Service led by Gemma
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Council meeting in Church Lounge
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jan and Phil
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Dr. Paul Davis followed by Church Members meeting .
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service Harvest Festival with Communion led by Phil.

### **October**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 am	All Age Service led by Jason
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by The Women's Group

*Refreshments are served after the Morning Service every Sunday.*