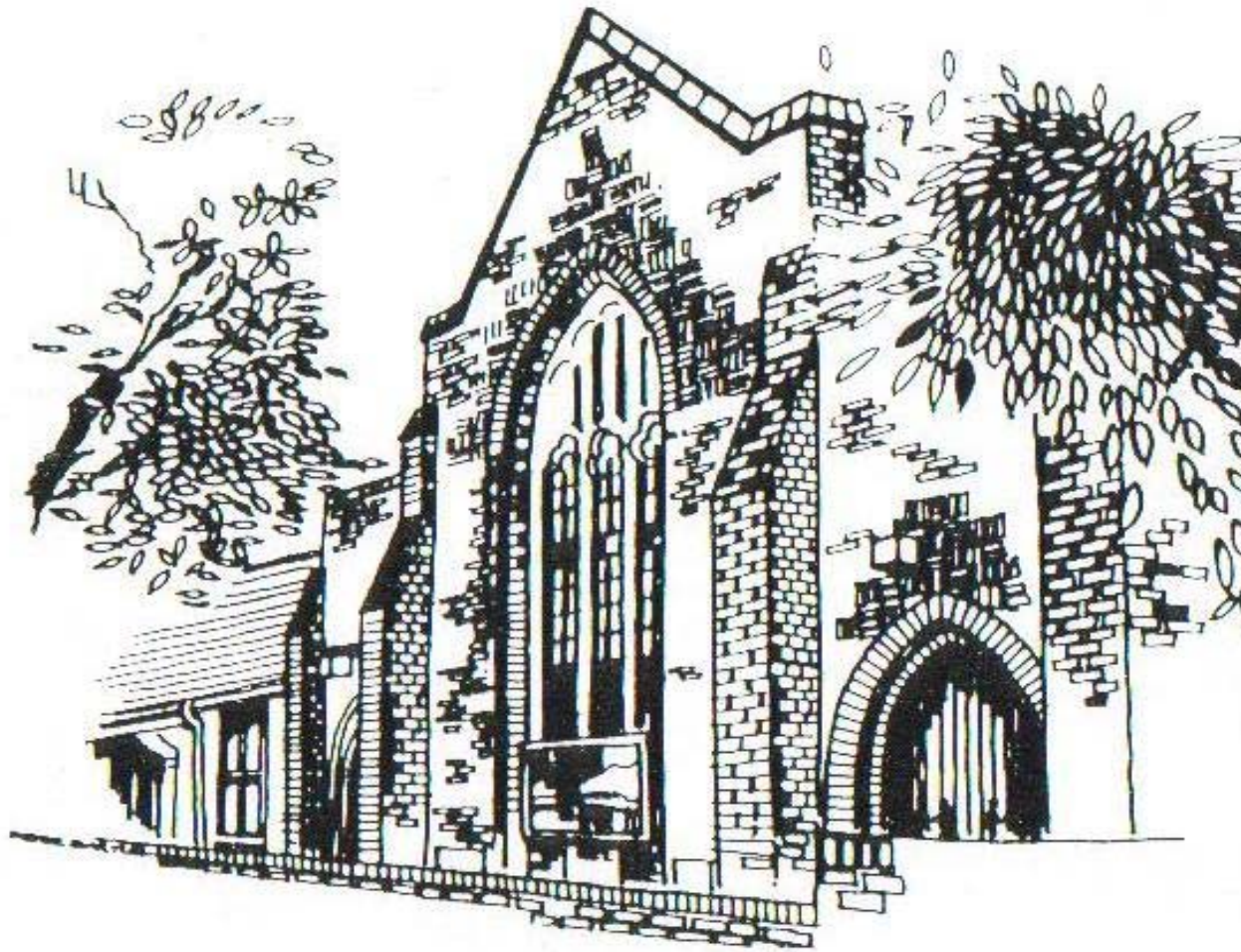




The Magazine
of
Highams Park Baptist Church

Cavendish Road, E.4.



2011 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

'Energize' Children's Group 6.00 – 7.30pm at the Church.
Every other Monday in term time for those in school years 1 to 6

Friday: Boys Brigade:

Anchor Boys age 5 – 8	6.00 – 7.15 p.m.
Junior Section age 8 - 11	7.15 - 8.45 p.m.
Company Section	7.30 – 9.30 p.m.

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. Details of the dates when the groups are meeting are available from Jonathan.

Sunday Cell Group 1: 7.30 - 9.00 pm at 21 Falmouth Avenue, contact Margaret on 8527 3544

Sunday Cell Group 2: 7.30 – 9.00 pm at 21 Warboys Crescent, contact Michelle on 8531 0620

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

The deadline for items for October / November edition is Sunday 18th September
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Dear Friends,

As we reflect upon all that is happening in our nation and around the world, may our heartfelt prayer to God, our perfect loving heavenly Father, continue to be 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done'.

The words are, as you will likely be aware, from the model prayer that Jesus encouraged His first disciples to use two thousand or so years ago, and it is a prayer that remains completely relevant to you and me today.

It might be, for different reasons, that we really don't understand what Jesus meant when He taught that we pray, "Your kingdom come..." We might wonder, "What exactly is God's kingdom?" And partly it might be because we don't use the word, 'kingdom' so much anymore, that is, unless we're reading the story of Sleeping Beauty. Other than that, on the rare occasions that we do use the word 'kingdom', we're usually talking about a place - the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the Kingdom of Nepal, or even the Magic Kingdom at Disney world in Orlando, Florida. When we use the word 'kingdom' these days we're most often likely thinking of a specific geographical place defined by measurable borders, but that's not the way that Jesus used the word.

In Jesus' day the Greek word that we translate as 'kingdom' was used to emphasize the **rule** of a king rather than the place where the king carried out that rule. So *the 'kingdom of God' is about the 'rule of God'*.

It's been said that 'God's kingdom appears on no maps, issues no passports and maintains no embassies. God's Kingdom is wherever God is accepted as King. God's kingdom is wherever God's rule is accepted and God's ways followed in the lives of men and women, boys and girls.'

This idea that the kingdom of God is 'God's rule' can help us to understand why there is also the phrase 'on earth as it is in heaven' within the prayer – it is a plea that this troubled earth will soon have the same harmonious state as that of heaven. Heaven, of course, is already under God's perfect wonderful loving rule – there all the angels and archangels are already joyfully doing God's will and by doing so glorifying God's name. The Christian's hope and prayer is that sooner rather than later God's perfect wonderful loving rule will be brought into this world.

According to Jesus, the Kingdom of God, and so the rule of God within our lives, is good news - Do you remember the words of Matthew 9 v35 '*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the **good news** of the kingdom.* A number of the parables that Jesus told make the point that the kingdom is so wonderful that it is something to be deeply desired and longed for. Jesus frequently used images of banquets and parties. Jesus' words encourage us to understand that the joy and delight of the kingdom is so great that it is not to be missed out on. To be a part of the Kingdom of God is more valuable than anything else we can have or experience.

As we pray the words we are seeking for God's rule and we are saying that we believe that God's will must always come first.

We are stating that we are committed to doing what God wants us to do instead of what we want to do. This part of the prayer is a way of saying, "In my life, Your will comes first. Your will comes before mine."

We are inviting God Himself to rule within us – "Come my King! Rule in my life". It's an invitation for God to expand His rule in our heart and mind and life. It's embracing the kingdom of God in every aspect of our day-to-day lives. We're saying, "My life is not my own. I belong to the Father God who loves me."

It's offered that the words 'Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done' is a prayer that changes the world, beginning from our very heart and moving out in space and time to everything under creation'. The question is asked: Are we really ready for that?

May we each be ready – ready for a changed world, expectant for that – expectant for a changed world, as we pray, and as we affirm day by day our desire for God to rule in our lives and for His will to be done in our lives, and as we seek for others to entrust themselves to God and to His rule too.

So please do continue to pray and pray lots - 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done'.

God be with you,

Jonathan

CAVENDISH CIRCULAR

As we approach High Summer and the schools have broken up for the holidays, we look forward to a time of rest, and a chance to possibly enjoy some good weather! Even if you are continuing to work we hope that you will find an opportunity for some Summer fun and relaxation at home or away.

The somewhat mixed Summer weather has not stopped our Church activities and HPBC has had some times of fun and fellowship, including B.B. outings, Sunday picnics, and the Summer Evening Event. Our Men's group recently held a Curry Evening at a local Indian Restaurant where a delicious meal was enjoyed by around fourteen diners. There appears to be a definite theme developing here as the group now looks forward to a Breakfast meeting - they are obviously a hungry bunch! Please see our special notice further in the magazine for more details. Thanks go to Phil Slaney for organising these popular events.

Our second Church 'Clean-Up Day' produced a small but dedicated and hard-working team who worked through a recent Saturday to clean, repair and decorate buildings and gardens. Many thanks to all those who gave of their time and talents on the day, and continue to work on the Church premises at other times, and to Jason Close for once again co-ordinating the day.

Our Summer Evening Event on July 23rd was thoroughly enjoyed by many friends and the weather was very kind to us! After watching displays given by some of the groups who use our premises week by week, and the chance to get to know them, an excellent Barbecue, followed by some delicious desserts, was enjoyed by all. The evening included some games and competitions for those wanting to exercise their brains, and the proceedings finished with a fun Karaoke session where some unexpected singing talents were discovered! We do thank all those involved with organising such an enjoyable event, including Jonathan and Michelle, Jason, Robert, Mandy and Stephen, and all those who worked to make it such a fun evening. A special collection was taken during the event which will go towards the Disaster Emergency Committee's East Africa Appeal via Christian Aid.

A very happy occasion took place on a recent Sunday morning when sisters Claire and Kelly (nee Davey) presented their daughters for a double Infant Dedication Service. Kelly and Stephen brought their first child Rhona Isobel, and Claire and Jonathan brought their second daughter Arabella Eliza Rose to be dedicated, and many proud family members, including big sister Darcey, and grandparents Yvonne and Mike Davey, came from far and wide to give thanks for these little girls' birth.

The Church was packed and it was great to welcome Kelly and Claire's daughters into the Church family. May God's blessing be upon these two as they grow.

Our Junior Church will be enjoying a day out to Willow Farm on 17th September and we wish them a happy and interesting Saturday, and look forward to hearing all about it at a later date!

Several of our members have undergone operations recently, and are receiving ongoing hospital treatment, including Geoff Norris, Rob Edwards and Phil Slaney. It has been great to see them when they have been able to get to Church despite their ill health. We uphold them in prayer as they continue with their treatment in the coming weeks. Please also remember our friend and former member Phil Brown (whose articles have appeared from time to time in our magazine) who has been very unwell recently and is receiving a further course of chemotherapy. Your prayers are also asked for Sylvia Tomlinson, Joan Ashley, Cath Hewitt, Karon Kelly, and all those who continue to suffer ill health or are unable to attend Church.

Many friends will be sad to learn that Betty Colinese and Gwen Roberts have died within the last few weeks. Betty, wife of Geoff Colinese, one of the founder members of our Boys' Brigade, had been in ill health for some years when her condition recently deteriorated suddenly, and she died on July 10th. Betty and Geoff moved away from London many years ago but are still very fondly remembered. They continued to be in regular contact with many of our members, keeping in touch with all the HPB news, and it has always been good to see Geoff when he has attended HPB for special occasions and B.B. events in recent years. Betty's funeral was held on 21st July in Market Deeping. There is an opportunity to remember Betty further in this issue. Our loving condolences go to Geoff, son Michael and daughter Audrey, and all the family at this sad time.

Gwen Roberts had been very unwell for many years, recently spending time in Hospital for respite care. Gwen and John have been faithful and long-standing members of HPB despite their both suffering increasing ill health. Although it has not been possible for them to attend Church for some long time they have continued to play a very supportive and prayerful role in our Church life, regularly enjoying listening to our Sunday Service tapes, and were avid readers of the Magazine. They enjoyed regular visits and phone-calls from many Church members and continued to hold the fellowship of HPB in great affection. In their Christmas letter they would give a full update on their family news, always being keen to hear from others about their own news. Gwen passed away on July 11th and a Thanksgiving Service took place on July 29th at our Church before the committal at Enfield Crematorium. We do extend our love and condolences to John, daughter Christine and son John, together with all the family as they mourn a much-loved wife, mother and grandmother. Gwen is also remembered later in the magazine.

Betty Muriel Colinese , 6th December 1921 - 10th July 2011



Betty (nee Tipler) was born in 1921 in Peterborough to Tom and Ethel, arriving just ten minutes before her twin brother Donald. She went to St. Mary's Primary School and then to Brook St. Girls' School, which, coincidentally, her husband Geoff attended just a few years ago when he went to do computer studies on the site. She was fortunate to grow up living near several of her cousins and they enjoyed the usual childhood games, as well as being at school together. Betty also attended the Methodist Chapel Sunday School in Peterborough. Betty's father worked on the railways and in the early 1930's he was moved to London and the whole family came to live in

Highams Park; a place that was to play a large part in Betty's life.

After leaving Selwyn Avenue Girls' School, in about 1938, she joined a packaging company in Walthamstow and used to travel there on the 8.18 train from Highams Park, with her father and brother. During this time Betty became a pianist at Highams Park Methodist Church Sunday School, and it so happened that on the train there was a group, made up of folk from the 5 Highams Park Churches (2 Anglican, 1 Baptist, 1 Congregational and 1 Methodist) and they called themselves 'The 8.18 Gang', although Geoff often called them 'The Early Ecumenical Group'! It was whilst waiting for that train to arrive that Betty and Geoff eyed one another.....that was all.

In 1940 Betty changed her job to work for the Plastics Department of Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd., located on the North Circular in Walthamstow, where she was an Order Records Clerk and Typist. She used to pass Geoff every morning as he walked to the station and she cycled to work, usually with one hand holding her skirt in place! She also attended Chingford School of Commerce so that she could improve her position by studying shorthand. In October that year Geoff applied for the post of Assistant to the Sales Office Manager at De La Rue's. Imagine his surprise when the Office Manager asked "Miss Tipler" to show Geoff the sort of work he would be expected to do - he got the job! He started work and Betty and her subsequent Bridesmaid were his tutors, including how to use a paper knife so as to open the envelopes without destroying the valuable cheques inside! Betty always claimed that it was her report on Geoff that got him the job.

The Company, which employed 2000 people during the War had a very strong National Savings Group and every year for four years the employees voted for a 'National Savings Queen': one for the Tanks, another for the Troops, one for the Aircraft, and one for the Navy.

Betty was very much surprised when she was crowned for the Navy. Prior to this she had received singing lessons to sing patriotic songs to the workers and at her Cremation Service the congregation heard the song "We'll Meet Again" sung by Katherine Jenkins – one of the songs that Betty sang. The duty of having to sing at different events upset her nerves and she had to have time off work and it became Geoff's job to take her wage packet home to her each week. He thus met her Parents, and, although Betty denies remembering it, gave her her first kiss under the porch!

Work moved her father once more to Newcastle and Edinburgh and Betty went too, living in Monkseaton before returning to Chingford, to stay with friends. Betty was baptised by full immersion on 6th March 1946 and she and Geoff married on 10th April 1948 - a marriage that lasted 63 and a quarter years. On their wedding day she and Geoff became Joint Secretaries of the Walthamstow Auxiliary Sunday-School Union, a post which Betty relinquished when son Michael came along. She also assisted in the 17th South Essex Company of the Boys' Brigade, of which Geoff was a founder member. As daughter Audrey grew older Betty began to help with the Cadets Section of the 1st Highams Park Company of the Girls' Brigade, and was also an assistant in the local Laundrette, a dinner lady in two schools, and she finally retired from the post of shop assistant in a local shoe shop, where she often helped saddened customers as they spilt out life's problems whilst she fitted their shoes. Before Geoff's retirement they moved to Market Deeping and became very involved in the life of St. Guthlac's Church where Betty helped Geoff, especially during his time as Press Officer.

Sadly Betty's health had not been good for several decades but in early July things took an unexpected turn for the worse and she entered Peterborough City Hospital, passing peacefully away in the early hours of July 10th with Geoff, Michael and Audrey at her side.

Although it is with great sadness that we say farewell to Betty we do so with thanksgiving for a life well lived, and for all the love and happiness she shared. Let us take comfort in knowing that Betty is now at rest, safe in the hands of the God whom she trusted. Let us remember Betty well, safe in the knowledge that she is now at peace and sure of Christ's promise that His faithful will rise on the last day.

Taken from the tribute to Betty by The Reverend Philip Brent at her Memorial Service, held at St. Guthlac's Church, Market Deeping.

The picture of Betty was taken by Peter Dewar

Geoff thanks all those who attended the Service, especially those who travelled 4,600 miles to be there. Also, he wanted to thank everyone for their many cards, face to face messages, prayers, telephone calls, plus lots of hugs and kisses. He said that he had never received so many at one time in his life, both male and female!

Gwen Muriel Roberts, 31st March 1928 – 11th July 2011



Gwendoline Muriel (Gwen) was born in Clapton on 31st March 1928 to Frederick and Hannah Rebekah Baker. It was just 13 days before John was born and in light of this their daughter, Christine, joked that Dad was Mum's 'toy boy' even before the term was thought about! When Gwen was 4 years old the family moved to 34, Ickworth Park Road in Walthamstow and, following sitting her 'Eleven-Plus' exam she went to George Gascoigne Central School. Devastatingly, early in the Second World War, their home was destroyed by a bomb. The family were in their air aid shelter when it happened due to Gwen's father having what was described as a 'premonition' that they should go into the shelter earlier than usual but Gwen's brother Edgar (Eddie) was blown into the shelter by the force of the blast as he entered it. Following this the family walked in their nightclothes, and in the rain, to the fire station in Station Road. They were later able to move a short distance down the street into No.30, which was being vacated by another family. Gwen was never evacuated during the war as she wanted to stay with her Mum and Dad.

From an early age Gwen cared for her dad, and later for her mum also. She began work as a receptionist in the school clinic at the Town Hall and, and her bosses organised it so as to ensure that she could carry on with her job and maintain the care of her parents. Gwen really loved this work which continued until 1954.

As a young person Gwen would invite everyone she met to the Mission Hall in Forest Road (known as 'The Church in the Garden') and she invited John there too. It was at the Mission Hall that Gwen and John came to faith in Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Gwen was baptized in 1950 at Blackhorse Road Baptist Church, as John was later. Gwen was part of the 'Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour', first as a Junior, then as a Senior with John becoming a Senior also. Each month Christian Endeavour members would re-affirm their commitment through a promise which began "relying on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation". Gwen and John attended Endeavour meetings together at the Albert Hall and Westminster Central Hall.

Gwen and John married on 3rd June 1950 at Blackhorse Rd. Church and John remembers it as such a hot day that children came to the wedding in their swimming costumes! When John had proposed to Gwen she told him that her parents came as 'part of the package' and following their wedding Gwen and John lived at Ickworth Park Rd. with her parents. Two weeks after they returned from honeymoon Gwen's mum fell down the stairs and became bedridden for a year as a result.

Gwen looked after her mother for the first 25 years of their marriage, continuing when the family, Gwen, John, son John (born in 1954) and daughter Christine (born in 1958) and Gwen's mum moved to The Avenue, Highams Park in November 1960, Gwen's father having passed away in 1957.

Both Gwen and John were faithfully involved at the Mission Hall, Gwen particularly with the Women's Groups, and this continued when, in 1961, shortly after their move to The Avenue, they came to Highams Park Baptist Church. Gwen attended the weekly services while still caring for her mum. She was a very good singer and had entered a singing competition at the Assembly Hall in Walthamstow, gaining second place. She sang elsewhere, including solos at the Mission Hall; Christine remembers Gwen's powerful voice in the services at HPB too. John became involved in teaching in the Primary Dept. of the Sunday School, continuing for 15 years whilst serving in various other roles also.

Gwen's mother passed away in 1975 and Gwen and John considered all the things that they had previously been unable to do whilst caring for her and would now be able to do. Sadly things did not materialize in the way they had hoped, for just a short while later in 1977, Gwen suffered a series of *grand mal* seizures and was diagnosed as having epilepsy. Hence, at the age of 49 it became necessary for Gwen to change her lifestyle completely. Linked with the epilepsy Gwen lost her memory for a six-month period, continuing to regularly suffer memory loss following seizures. Everything became a strict and necessary routine and Gwen's files became her memory, writing details down so that she could have a record if she suffered a seizure. Local shop keepers were very kind to Gwen when she went shopping with her list and the order of shops to visit. If she suffered a seizure whilst out, each shop keeper would gather the items needed for her, take the necessary money and then guide Gwen on to the next shop.

Despite her health issues, Gwen was the perfect good neighbour; people knew her and loved her for this and it was a role she carried on until recently. She has been described as 'someone special' – the first person to visit those newly moved into The Avenue, buying gifts and treats for neighbours. There were a myriad of little things she would do for others including letters and phone-calls. Birthday and Christmas cards were never discarded; they were collected and passed on to be re-used and sold for charity. Gwen also collected postage stamps for charity, including the Life Boat Institute. It was important to Gwen that there was a tin of sweets in the home for children whenever they visited, or a small amount of pocket money to give - it gave her great pleasure to sit and watch the children. Then there were all the people who gravitated to the house for help and advice from Gwen – she was something of an early Agony Aunt! She was skilled at embroidery although not able to do this latterly, and enjoyed word searches; 'Countdown' was one of her favourite television programmes.

Mindful of her powerful singing voice Gwen had recently become upset that she wasn't able to sing along to 'Songs of Praise' on TV. but she did tell John that she thought his voice had improved over the years, so John would sing for her! Gwen very much enjoyed the music of the 'Three Tenors', the 'Last Night of the Proms', and always watched the New Year's Day Concert from Vienna.

Gwen was something of a frustrated Nurse so when daughter Christine became one Gwen was delighted. Indeed, she had huge pride in her son John, Christine and her 3 grandchildren: Ryan, Becky and Kevin.

For health reasons Gwen had been unable to leave her house for 3 years when, on 11th March, following two collapses and falls in one day she was taken to Whipp's Cross hospital, later being transferred to Highams Court where she was well looked after. Gwen came home on 30th June and the work of the Carers and District Nurses following her return is very much appreciated by John and the family. Gwen passed away at home a few days later in the evening of Monday 11th July.

Gwen had carried dark red roses at their wedding – the only red items that she liked – and John would buy Gwen roses of this colour at each anniversary, and while she was in Highams Court he bought her some lovely artificial ones for her to enjoy. (*some beautiful red roses were also included in the lovely flower arrangements at the Thanksgiving Service*).

The Christian faith teaches that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for us and rose again from the dead so that we can have a right and wonderful relationship with God through faith in Jesus. We can believe that death is not the end; when a person believes these things and trusts in God they go to heaven to be with Him... 'Do not let your hearts be troubled' said Jesus, 'trust in God, trust also in Me'. Gwen believed this, and when we believe these things of God we can be sure that we will meet again. Until that day may we continue to treasure our memories of Gwen and give thanks for her life. She may be gone from our sight but she will never be forgotten from our hearts. We say thank you to God for all that she was and all that she continues to be in our memories.

Taken from Jonathan's tribute at the Thanksgiving Service for Gwen.

EXPRESSING THE INEXPRESSIBLE

Margaret and I have completed a Journey together which was unplanned and had both ups and downs. It started last March when I was diagnosed with a pleural effusion. It involved tests, scans, biopsy - the diagnosis was a chest tumour. Then followed 6 treatments of Chemotherapy (now completed). We could write an essay on side effects experienced, but will not. On this journey we were so aware of God's love and protection. We were also so grateful for the love and prayers of Family and Church. "We are praying for you" was an assurance we received in so many ways from our friends at HPB, by phone, by card, by message via Margaret after Sunday worship. The experience has taught us both a great deal in different ways; not least the love of the Lord and the love of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so grateful for your ongoing support and prayer.

On one of the few occasions I have been able to attend HPB, I sat at the back and looked at the congregation. Without exception all had, in different ways, expressed love, support and promise of prayer. I was overwhelmed with both humility and deep indebtedness. I wept with gratitude. Thank you each one. The other lesson I have learned is not to take worship for granted. For all my life Sunday morning meant being with the people of God and for so many Sundays this was denied me. I had not appreciated what a privilege and joy worship is. Thank you for the support: BB staff, our Cell Group, the prayers of the Prayer Chain, the prayers of Gathered Prayer, and the welcome, when I now have been able to return to our family in Christ. Finally a heartfelt thank you to Jonathan, who listened to my - at times - anguished phone calls, and whose ministry, support and prayer we both so relied on. We were so blessed by his calls, visits and pastoral care.

I close with the words of a hymn that has taken a special meaning over these months:

Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Thank you all at the Fellowship which is HPB.

Geoff Norris

**HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH MEN'S GROUP
FUTURE EVENTS 2011**



**SATURDAY 24TH
SEPTEMBER
THE BIGGER
BREAKFAST
INTERNATIONAL
MEN'S BREAKFAST
DAY**

(TO BE HELD AT A VENUE IN HIGHAMS PARK – FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW)

**SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
MEN'S BREAKFAST @ MULBERRY HOUSE
CHELMSFORD ROAD – HIGH ONGAR
ESSEX CM5 9NL**

(£10.50 INCLUDING BREAKFAST, DRINKS AND SPEAKER)

**FURTHER EVENTS FOR THE AUTUMN WILL BE NOTIFIED BY
PHIL SLANEY**

(PHILSLANEY@GMAIL.COM) MOBILE 07989668780

**HPB MEN'S GROUP – VISION AND PURPOSE:
“TO GATHER MEN OF THE CHURCH TOGETHER FOR
FELLOWSHIP AND BY VARIOUS MEANS TO DRAW IN OTHERS
AND EXTEND GOD'S KINGDOM”.**

A visit to Faversham

Some of you will know that Jacquie's father was a Minister of the Old Baptist Union Church. Prior to being ordained he was a Lay Preacher and one of his favourite preaching venues was at The Gospel Mission Hall in Faversham, Kent. For some time we have wanted to visit Faversham to rekindle old memories and the opportunity arose recently when we visited Alan and Margaret Smith in Broadstairs. By luck they have some friends, Tony and Marion, who live in Faversham - not only do they live there, but they have an abiding interest in the local history and a visit was arranged. After a welcoming cup of tea the conversation turned to Osborne Ivorex, 3-dimensional plaques and pictures made from plaster and wax which are now very collectable. We have one showing the Gospel Mission Hall which had been presented to Jacquie's father on the occasion of his last lay preaching visit.



We then proceeded into Faversham for what turned out to be one of the most interesting walks we have had. Faversham - or the old part that we saw - is a fascinating mix of beautifully kept buildings from many periods and has a large number of plaques indicating interesting things that happened in a particular

building. As we walked along we were kept fully informed as to the events and history of Faversham. This included showing us the building where Usborne Ivorex was actually produced. We walked to the quayside by the river - the tide was out and the mud looked horribly sticky and not at all inviting. This did not stop an Egret which was walking up and down! We were told that one of the buildings on the quayside was the site of the first Limited Company taking advantage of a new law.

We had parked in Tesco's car park - this being Faversham, it was not the usual glass and steel building but in a tastefully renovated old Brewery. We then came to the church of St Mary of Charity. We had seen its' very distinctive framework spire from various parts of the town and discovered that there had been a gunpowder mill in the town - if there was an explosion the openwork of the spire would let the blast through without damage!



As a rule of thumb, I believe that if a church has a number of leaflets and postcards for sale then there is something of interest there. This church was no different - for a start it is believed to be the largest Parish church in Kent at some 1,400 square metres - as large as some Cathedrals. It has a double aisled transept - one of only 8 in the UK. There has been a church on this site since Saxon times but as with all churches it has been rebuilt and added to over the years, however there is still a section of the Norman church

existing - a medieval painted octagonal column dating from 1306 tells the story from Annunciation to the Passion. The leaflet describing the general history of the church is equivalent to 4 pages of this magazine and makes fascinating reading, not least because it links so closely with the rise of Faversham as a town and port of importance in medieval times.

It has kept all of its charm (at least in the older parts that we saw) and is a town that is deserving of more time to be spent there - and hopefully we will.

And did we find the Gospel Mission Hall - was it still there or had it become a restaurant or other business? Of course it was there, still performing the same function.

Our thanks go to Margaret, Alan, Marion and Tony for organising this fascinating day. *Dave Lyus*



The Gospel Mission Hall as it is now and..as it was on the Ivorex plaque

Whitsun Thanks

A big thank you to Dave and Jacquie for their reminder in the last Magazine of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It was very well explained and so important for us. How great a gift from the Lord! After receiving the Holy Spirit the disciples went out and started the first Christian Church. It brought to my memory (I won't say how many years ago!) when I was up in Manchester, at the Old Baptist Union Church (where Jacquie's Uncle was the Minister) for a Conference. It was at Whitsun, so on the Sunday we went on the 'Whit Walk' as it is called. Everyone seemed to join in the March. Large banners were carried, with the name of the Church across the top, and a biblical text underneath, praising God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

My husband Alf was honoured and 'chuffed' when asked to help with the banner. All the little girls wore white dresses, and the boys, not to be outdone, wore white shirts and 'posh' ties. Many churches had marches and we needed to follow a route so as not to clash with each other. I think at the time there was friendly competition as to who led the most folk. I can say it was a great day of thanksgiving and joy. The people in the north are well-known for their marches and bands. Alf and I and our two boys were happy to have such an experience that we could all remember - the true meaning of Whitsun.

Doris Thorndyke.

Ed.Note: I well remember the Whit Walks when we visited my Uncle John in Manchester. It was a very special time when everyone wore their best clothes, as Doris has recalled, and we were very proud to take part in representing the local Churches on our 'Walk of Witness'. Jacquie.



Whit Walk in Stalybridge 1961 and... Uppermill 2011



The 17th Waltham Forest Boys' Brigade

As we end another session, I would like to take this time to update you on what we have done.

Our quiz in April, which was well supported, raised £290.00,

The Tesco Vouchers collected this year totalled 749, and together with last year's, we have managed to get a number of items for all the Sections - watch this space. Sainsbury's have agreed that the Boys' Brigade can use their vouchers going forwards, so next year should make a real difference.

Anchor Boys had their normal summer Friday evening out in the garden, and also an Anchor fun afternoon in May with all the other Companies in the Battalion. They also took part in the sports evening which was great fun despite being very wet at the end of the evening!

The Junior & Company Sections have had a good summer, with a number of evenings out together including trips to Quasar, Bowling, and Chingford Plains. The Juniors also had their evening in the hall where they did the Bob Goldthorpe trophy and Battalion events including the annual Sports Evening & Six-a-Side football. The Company Section had their own events including a 'Wii evening', skating and Cinema visits.

We also enjoyed a weekend away at Dedham, when we took four lads, for a fun and relaxing time. Yes, it rained like mad on the Friday but we managed to miss most of the other wet weather due to the different things we did. We finished our summer session in the normal way with a BBQ and Bouncy Castle which was as ever a fun – packed session.

Our summer camp this year is at Bushy Wood in Hailsham and we will update you on that in the next Church Magazine.

I would like to finish by thanking all the Officers & Leaders: Jonathan Boyce, Geoff Norris, Emma Cantwell, Jean Owen, Stephen Close & Margaret Norris; and the parents & church members that have stepped in to support us on Fridays when needed: Robert Edwards, Robert Jenkins, Phil Slaney, Beth Aggus, Sarah Caffel & Mavis Grint. They have all helped throughout the year to ensure the 17th Waltham Forest runs as successfully as it does.

On behalf of the lads and staff I wish you a joyful summer whatever you are doing.

Jason Close



CAR BOOT SALE – CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have any items that are new or in a reasonable condition sitting in your cupboard not in use? Then the 17th WF Boys' Brigade is looking for you. Bob Jenkins has kindly offered to attend a Car Boot sale with all monies raised going to the Company.

Now for your part. Please bring any unwanted items good enough to sell down to Church on a B.B. section evening, or contact Bob or Jason and we will be happy to collect and store them, and in September attend a Car Boot Sale, to raise some money for our BB Company.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 17TH - WALTHAM FOREST B.B. COMPANY

Friday 18th November - Battalion event for the Mayor of Waltham Forest Cllr. Geoff Walker at HPB 7.30pm to 9pm.

Sunday 4th December - Christmas Lunch by the 17th Waltham Forest BB. More information to follow.

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd April - 70th Anniversary of 17th Waltham Forest Boy's Brigade Company (formally the 17th South Essex)

CAN YOU HELP?

We are trying to contact as many Old Boys and Officers as possible, to invite them along to a number of different events that the Company will be running.

If you know of any please provide Jason Close with the person's contact details, so we can get in touch with them, to ensure we have a joyful and happy weekend.

Boys Brigade Walking Weekend 2011

In June an intrepid group of Boy's Brigade Officers, past and present, plus one female, gathered at the Ramada Hotel in Bury St. Edmunds for their annual reunion and walking weekend. This event has become something of a tradition now as so many folk meet up to renew friendships which go back many years in the 17th Company and, of course, to share experiences and enjoy the camaraderie and humour etc.

Over the years the pattern of the weekends has remained the same - meeting up on Friday evening at a hotel or B and B, enjoying a full English breakfast on the Saturday morning - walking for most of the day and afterwards relaxing in the evening usually with a meal, where we are all gathered round a large table.

On Sunday morning the process is repeated and we all arrive home happy in the evening but with aching limbs and muscles (and sore feet) but it's all worth it!

This year the walk was roughly 25 miles over the two days and is the first stage of three walks being planned. The next two in 2012 and 2013 will take us through beautiful countryside through the Stour Valley and will finish at the port of Harwich. Our first stage walk along the Suffolk and Cambridge borders started near Newmarket, along the Devil's Dyke, through the villages of Great Bradley and Great Thurlow and finished at Stoke-by-Clare on the Sunday. The weather was lovely and sunny on the Saturday with rain spoiling things a little as we finished on the second day.

For the record, Staff who attended the weekend were: Steve Barklem, Gerald Brooks, Jason and Stephen Close, Arnold and Norman Coe, Gary Coomber and his wife Karen, Steve Grave, Steve Jenkins, Gary Marshall, Terry Mead, Phil Slaney, Alan Smith, Bob Sargeant, John Frances (the Organiser and leader) and myself.

We are always interested in news of any former members who might like to join us for the next walk in June 2012.

Bob Jenkins

The Summer Fun Evening

It may seem strange that something as serious as the drought and famine in East Africa can be linked to an evening of fun and enjoyment. However the Summer Fun Evening on Saturday 23rd of July proved it can be done.

The weather was good and 90 plus people turned up to be entertained - and entertained (and fed) they were. There were displays from groups that use the halls, notably the Monday and Thursday Keep Fit groups represented by Linda Carter and Christine Hollington respectively and Boot Camp led by Tracey Box. There were items from the After School Club and Pauline and Tina representing the Little Explorers. They were all very welcome.

There were computer games - especially The Beatles and Rock Band games - which I am assured are not easy (certainly if you have absolutely no musical talent like me!). There were games outside too, including a Pictionary type game and a game with what looked like peas with numbers on! (I never did find out what that was - but there were prizes awarded).

There were lots of tables and chairs and a wonderful smell of cooking. It was a chance to meet and speak to friends old and new. The opportunity was very well taken!

And then the food - a table groaning under the weight of salad, crisps, chicken pieces, bread and lots more, the most important of which was a plate. Without this you could not really visit the barbecue. Here there were burgers and sausages and rolls and sauces. It was wonderful and ably staffed by Robert and Stephen Edwards. I gather it was Stephen's first go at barbecuing and very well he did it too. They were wreathed in smiles (and smoke) and the food was delicious. All this was followed by desserts which posed the problem of which one (or two or...) to have. A huge thank you goes to Robert and Stephen and also Mandy who between them had provided food to remember. Thanks also go to Jason and all the helpers who made the evening run so well. As the evening drew on the chatting carried on until the karaoke was announced. Several people took the plunge and very good they were too. The evening lived up to its name and money was raised for a very good cause!



Lots of time for chatting whilst taking in the lovely smell of cooking!

The food laid out just waiting for some customers!



"I'm sure I had some sausages in here somewhere!"

And the connection between East Africa and our evening? - well, to date about £500.00 was raised which will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee via Christian Aid. Well done to all who took part.

Dave Lyus

What's causing the food crisis in east Africa?

The lives of more than 11.5 million people are at risk as a result of food shortages in east Africa. This emergency is caused by a complex combination of factors including: the worst drought in 60 years, poverty and marginalisation, high food prices and conflict.

Through our partners we are providing for the safety and immediate needs of those affected now, including in Dadaab refugee camp, home to nearly 400,000 people. We need your support to prevent this emergency becoming a humanitarian catastrophe and to help affected communities re-build their lives and livelihoods, for the long term.

Why is there a food crisis now?

The rains have failed over the past two rainy seasons in parts of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Although rainfall is unreliable in this region, the present **drought is extreme**. In some areas it is the worst drought since records began in 1951. Boreholes have run dry, livestock are dying and harvests have failed; many people are using up all their food reserves. The current drought shows the vulnerability of poor people in the region. It is hard to determine whether the drought is linked to climate change, but changes in weather patterns are leading to failed harvests and hunger. Pastoralists in Ethiopia rely on access to land for their livestock, they move to reserve pasture nearer rivers during drought conditions. Pastoralists are finding that grazing land has been taken over for commercial farming, in some cases for non-food crops like biofuel. Land has also been damaged by deforestation and loss of forest cover. This leaves pastoralist communities much more vulnerable to the affects of a drought and many are seeing all their animals die. A rise in food prices of up to 300% has aggravated the situation, this is linked to the global markets and failed harvests.

The ongoing conflict in southern Somalia and ineffective governance there has left thousands of people vulnerable to the current drought. In addition, the military group Al Shabaab, which controls much of southern Somalia, has forbidden many humanitarian agencies from access to the area. The situation may change in the current crisis, but provision of food and humanitarian assistance remains very difficult inside Somalia. This has caused thousands of people to leave their homes, land and livelihoods in search of safety, food and water.

Could the present crisis have been avoided?

Christian Aid and our partners have been preparing for the possibility of a disaster. In December 2009 the Early Warning System, put in place after the 1983-85 Ethiopian famine, predicted the possibility of a food crisis. Our partners in Kenya and Ethiopia have long term projects to help those living in the most arid and remote areas to access clean water and to improve their ability to grow crops and to support their families. At the end of 2010, the UN appealed for \$500 million from member states to address food insecurity. Yet by the beginning of July 2011, only \$250m had been received. Even now with the UN appealing for \$1.6 million, there is still more than \$800 million lacking. Christian Aid Press Release

Diary of a Church Mouse *by John Betjeman*

Here among the long discarded cassocks, Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,

Here where the vicar never looks, I nibble through old service books.

Lean and alone I spend my days behind this Church of England baize.

I share my dark forgotten room with two oil lamps and half a broom.

The cleaner never bothers me, so here I eat my frugal tea.

My bread is sawdust mixed with straw; my jam is polish for the floor.

Christmas and Easter may be feasts for congregations and for priests,

And so may Whitsun. All the same they do not fill my meagre frame.

For me the only feast at all is Autumn's Harvest Festival,

When I can satisfy my want with ears of corn around the font.

I climb the eagle's brazen head to burrow through a loaf of bread.

I scramble up the pulpit stair and gnaw the marrows hanging there.

It is enjoyable to taste these items ere they go to waste.

But how annoying when one finds that other mice with pagan minds

Come into church my food to share who have no proper business there.

Two field mice who have no desire to be baptised, invade the choir.

A large and most unfriendly rat comes in to see what we are at.

He says he thinks there is no God and yet he comes...it's rather odd.

This year he stole a sheaf of wheat (it screened our special preacher's seat)

And prosperous mice from fields away come in to hear the organ play,

And under cover of the notes ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.

A Low Church mouse who thinks that I am to papistical and High,

Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong to munch through Harvest Evensong.

While I, who starve the whole year through must share my food with rodents who

Except at this time of year not once inside the church appear.

Within the human world I know such goings-on could not be so,

For human beings only do what their religion tells them to.

They read the Bible every day and always, night and morning, pray,

And just like me, the good church mouse worship each week in God's own house,

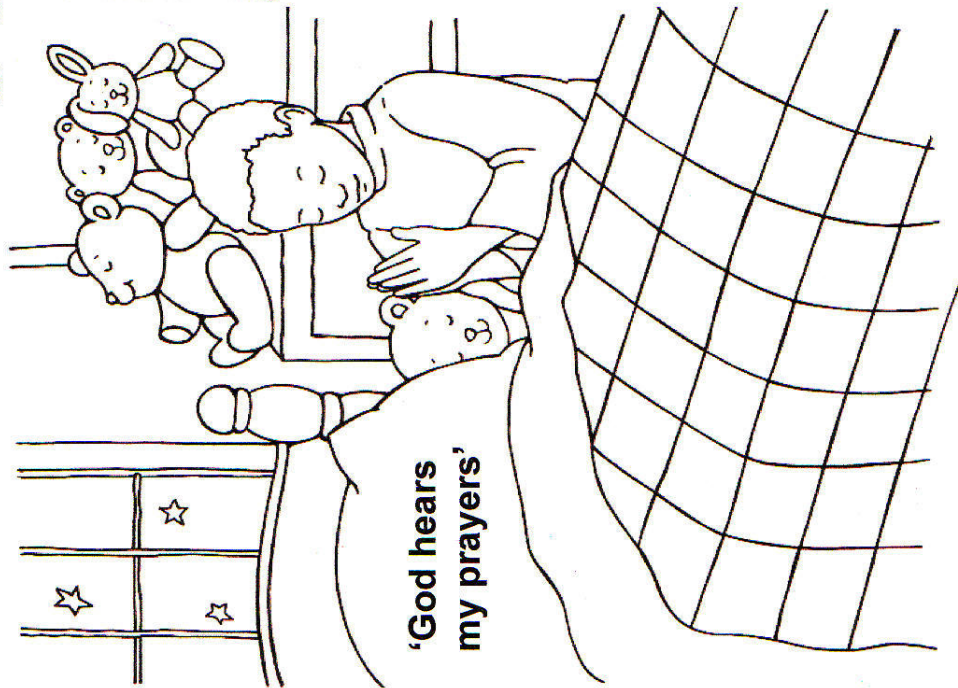
But all the same it's strange to me how very full the church can be

With people I don't see at all, except at Harvest Festival !

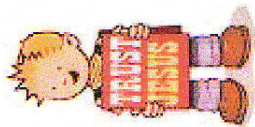


Junior Church

A Picture for you to colour:



**'God hears
my prayers'**



Keep on

Praying:

Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up

See Luke 18:1-8.

DISCIPLES
REFUSED
PERSISTENT

SHOW
NIGHT
DAY

WIDOW
TOWN
JUDGE

JUSTICE
CHOSEN
BOTHER

LISTEN
UNJUST
JESUS

LORD
PARABLE

FEAR
PRAY

M U J D I A V U N J U S T Q R
Q H R O P E C D W V A W W G
L O P C R F A S H Q J O C B S
L Y B E Z E U R X O D U Y W F
Y D A Y R S F B A I S A D R U
M B E Z E S G U W B R E A G X
H D W J V I X S I E F E C I W
Q A I B S X I S I E F E C I W
Q P D S B H R K T O D Q K Z Y
L M O H C O O M F E O N S A V
I U W V A I T W F X N Y V M F
S A Q B W H P H J U S T I C E
T C M G V O L E H W L U W Q
E Y D I G M S A E R F V I F
N D N T O W N N B S L T C C A

Can you find these words from Jesus' parable in the wordsearch?

August

Sunday 7th 10 am Morning Service
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

Sunday 14th 10 am Morning Service with Communion
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

Sunday 21st 10 am Morning Service
conducted by T.B.C

Sunday 28th 10 am All Age Service
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

From 12:45 pm Church Picnic at Ridgeway Park, Chingford

September

Thursday 1st 7:30 pm Church Council Meeting at 21 Warboys Crescent

Sunday 4th 10 am Morning Service with Communion
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

Sunday 11th 10 am Morning Service (followed by Refreshments)
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

Sunday 18th 10 am Morning Service
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

approx. 11:30 am Church Members' Meeting

Sunday 25th 10 am All Age Service: Harvest
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce
(followed by Refreshments & Bring and Share
Lunch)

October

Sunday 2nd 10 am Morning Service with Communion
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce

Sunday 9th 10 am Morning Service (followed by Refreshments)
conducted by Rev. Jonathan Boyce