



Peace
on
Earth



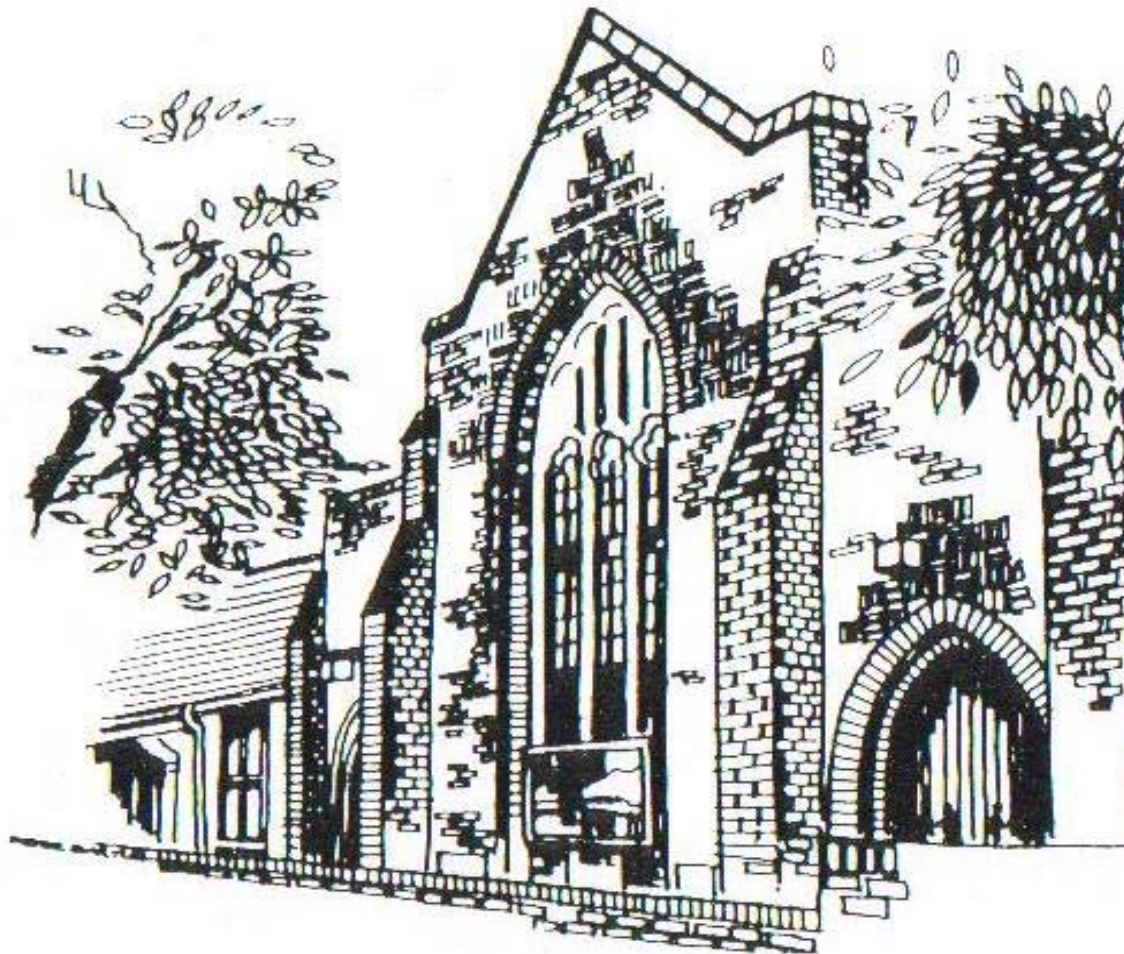
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THE MAGAZINE

OF

HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, E.4.



2014 Number Six



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

Wednesday Gathered Prayer 8.00 – 9.00pm 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. Details of the dates when the groups are meeting are available from Jonathan.

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 January
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December 2014 / January 2015

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Dear Friends,

I read recently of a survey of 2,044 British adults, commissioned by The Folio Society (a privately owned London-based publisher), and conducted by YouGov, which asked members of the public to name the books of most significance for the modern world. Those surveyed were given a list of 30 books from which they were asked to choose three titles. The three books which received the greatest number of nominations were as follows (in reverse order): 'A Brief History of Time' by Stephen Hawking (17%), 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection' by Charles Darwin (35%) and the Bible (37%). (*For the top ten titles visit www.theguardian.com/books/2014/nov/13/folio-society-survey-bible-edges-out-darwin*). Tom Walker, the editorial director at The Folio Society, said that the list perhaps revealed "which books are perceived as having influence or giving understanding, rather than those which we personally read in order to understand the world around us".

I don't know if you have ever seen the television programme 'Star Trek: The Next Generation'? – it's about the adventures of the crew of the Starship Enterprise in the 24th century. In one episode, the crew goes back in time to the old west, and the captain meets Mark Twain, the author of many books including the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and the Adventures of Tom Sawyer. After a series of adventures, as the captain bids farewell to Mr Twain, he says "I wish I had more time — I have so many questions I have to ask you." to which the character of Mark Twain replies "Just read my books — everything you need to know about me is in there." The claims of the Bible are that the words within it are not just the writings of human beings, but rather specially inspired by the Holy Spirit of God in a way that no other written material is. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 makes this point clear when Paul writes "All Scripture is God-breathed."

As we read the Bible it teaches us what God is like – a faithful Creator and Saviour God who never changes...a God who hates the bad stuff in our world even more than we do...a God who makes promises that he always keeps.



As we read the Bible it teaches us what God thinks about us – he always loves us...we matter to him...he listens to us and he cares for us. As we read the Bible it teaches us what God is up to – he's on our side...he's working for our best interest....he has a great plan that we are part of. As we read the Bible it teaches us how we can best live our lives for our good and to God's glory - for David, the writer of Psalm 19, the Word of God in itself, in what it reveals about God and in its *transforming* power for those who follow it, is therefore of far greater value than the most valuable of things that men and women so often so readily strive for.

As we read in the Bible of a baby to be born as part of God's great plan, Matthew, one of the contributors to the Bible, identifies the child in three ways - it's the story of the birth of the "Christ" [The Greek word that translates the Hebrew word for Messiah – 'God's anointed one']" (Chapter 1 verse 18), who is to be named "Jesus [Greek for "Joshua"—"God saves"] because he will save his people from their sins" (Chapter 1 verse 21) and who will be called "Immanuel (which means 'God with us')" (Chapter 1 verse 23).

Hence we wonderfully learn that the infinite, unlimited God took on the limitations of humanity so he could live and die for the salvation / 'rescue' of the world.

I didn't read all of the 530 comments to the Guardian newspaper's on-line reporting of The Folio Society's survey, just a few in fact, however those that I did read were mainly critical of the Bible and its content. As those who have come to believe and trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord ('Master') because of what we have read in the Bible and because of what we have experienced of God in our lives, we strive to do what we can to show and tell of him and to share of his great plan of salvation so that others would come to believe and trust in him also – they too enjoying the benefits and blessings of doing so - all the while celebrating what our believing and trusting in Jesus means for our past, for our present and for our future.

I believe in the Bible. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem for you, for me and for the world.

Happy Christmas.

Jonathan

*The Magazine Team
Wish You all
A Very Happy Christmas and a
Joyous New Year*



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Readers may have seen posters displayed recently, or heard the radio advert broadcast during Advent, that asks the question: '**Does Christmas start with a dodgy jumper?**'- or other popular Christmas themes such as crazy house decorations, glittering tinsel or dressing up as Santa! The message goes on to say that while all the fun things we enjoy at Christmas are great in themselves, **Christmas really begins with Christ**. As we once again enter the season of Advent we will be remembering the true meaning of Christmas as we light the Advent Candle each Sunday morning, sing the familiar Christmas Carols, and listen once more to the story of Christ's coming to earth as a tiny baby to dwell amongst us.

We send heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Lizette and Warren Wilson as they celebrate the birth of their new son, Nathan Theo, who was born on 22nd November, a brother for Angus. We hope to bring you a photo of the new arrival in our next issue. Every happiness to the family for the future.



More senior members will remember Vera Ames who, together with husband George, were long-time members of HPBC before moving away some years ago. Vera reached her centenary on October 6th, celebrating with family and friends in Worthing where she lives. Judy Rowsell tells us that Vera is in the best of health and 'sharp as a razor'. Indeed, she continues to enjoy travelling and is planning yet more trips abroad with her sister Kath. Congratulations and best wishes to her and her family as she celebrates this great milestone.



Further congratulations are due to Emma Purver and Craig Lewis-Azayear who were married on 10th October at All Saints Church, Woodford Wells. Every happiness to the couple in their future life together.

Once again we have received news of the



death of a former member of our fellowship. Marcia Fugler, who for over forty years was a committed member of HPBC, died on 29th October, after a long period of ill health. Her funeral took place in Lincoln where she had been living. Marcia was involved in many aspects of our church life, including catering, women's groups, choral singing and the running of our Crèche. There is an opportunity to remember Marcia further in the magazine. We send our sincere condolences to her family at this sad time and give thanks for all she meant to our fellowship

Our oldest friend of HPB died earlier in the year. Gwladys Callow, for many years a faithful member of our Church, died in June and her daughter, Bronwyn, has sent us a tribute to her mother which appears in this issue. Gwladys died just before her 107th birthday and was a keen and interested reader of our Magazine, enjoying news of older friends and keeping up to date with our church life. We send our sincere condolences to Bronwyn and all the family in their loss. We thank God for all Gwladys meant to her family, friends, and the church fellowships she faithfully served throughout her long life.

Geoff Colinese has sent news of Joyce Williams, also a former member of HPB, who died in October in her early nineties. Joyce and her husband John, who died earlier this year, moved to Peterborough some years ago, but they had kept in touch with all our activities via the Magazine. Our prayers go to her family in their loss.

We once again remember in prayer all those of our fellowship undergoing hospital treatment or experiencing health problems at present. These include: Beryl Brown continuing in very frail health in Ross Wyld Nursing Home, Mavis Grint, recently returned from a spell in Whipps Cross Hospital with breathing difficulties, June Tresadern who has had shoulder problems following an infection, Barry White who is now in St. Margaret's hospital undergoing intensive physiotherapy and rehabilitation, and Mike Ansell who has had a mild stroke and is now home recovering.

Phil Slaney, who is a Director of the London Baptist Association (LBA) has been undertaking a course including preaching skills at Spurgeon's College. It has been suggested that his name be added to the LBA's database of Lay Preachers and the Church Annual General meeting recently endorsed Phil's application, enabling this to proceed.

Phil has recently preached at Winchester Rd. and Loughton Methodist Churches and we wish him every success in this new venture.



At our recent Annual General Meeting the following members were elected: Geoff Norris as Church Secretary; Robert Edwards as Church Treasurer; Phil Slaney as Church Administrator; Kerstin Dixon as Deacon (first term) and Sarah Raymond as Deacon (second term). We thank all these and the whole Church Council for their willingness to serve the church in this way.

At the AGM it was agreed that our Christmas offering this year will be divided between the Christian Kitchen and the 17th Waltham Forest Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association.

And finally.....

On a personal note may I take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their prayers, kind messages and best wishes following my recent admission to hospital in October and subsequent operation at the end of November. Despite my being many miles away from Highams Park, in Nottinghamshire, during this time, I was very much aware of your prayerful support which helped both Dave and I tremendously in those weeks and which was of great comfort to us. I look forward to being at Church again very soon. Jacquie Lyus.

What does this building have to do with The Baptist Church?



Find out in our next issue!

Many of our readers will remember Marcia Fugler who, for over 40 years, played a large part in the life of the church. She moved away some years ago



and has been living with her son Martin near Lincoln. Marcia passed away at the end of October and we were able to attend the funeral on behalf of HPB. (Jacquie and Dave)

This is the eulogy given by Martin:

Remembering Marcia Fugler



My mother was born Marcia Patricia Glanville on the 24th. September 1920. This is what appears on her birth certificate. Somehow, my Grandfather managed to get confused, and her birthday was celebrated throughout much of her life on the 28th. Only in later years did someone actually check the birth certificate, and see the true date. As a result, Mum was a bit like the Queen, and had an official and an actual birthday.

Mum missed a lot of schooling, through her own illnesses, and the need to become a full-time carer and housekeeper because of her mother becoming wheelchair-bound when she was 13. From that time, her talents were

entirely practical: running a home, balancing the housekeeping, and cooking. Her only real work as an employee was in the fire service during WW2.

Boy, did she cook!

My childhood memories are of our oven hardly ever going cold. Mum would seem to be forever making or cooking something that belied the fact that she had never had any training. She would make cakes to sell for church funds, prepare and lay out the food for all manner of church functions, as well as run a sideline of making and decorating wedding cakes. Dozens of them. I would come home from school, and find all manner of baking cooling on the table; if Mum was out doing another of her pin-money sidelines, hairdressing in peoples' homes, she would have to leave me a note to say YES if I could eat any, or NO if not. I always looked forward to the off-cuts from wedding cakes before they were decorated. She always said that her brains were in her fingers.

Mum was a pretty good soprano in her earlier life, and formed a little concert party with some friends from church. They would make occasional appearances at local old folks' homes, entertaining the pensioners- even past the time when they were all pensioners themselves!

Family and Home were all to her. Loving and caring for my sisters and me was what she saw as her mission in life, and this was something she never



stopped doing. She worried about us all the time, although of course I never gave any cause!

We always knew that our friends were welcome in our house, where they would be plied with homemade ginger beer and all manner of cakes. I think that she was never more truly happy than being busy doing this, bustling around her kitchen. It did also mean, of course, that she knew where we were. Mum was never a party animal, always happier to be tucked up in bed while others stayed out late. Must be where I get it from. She was teetotal, not through any real conviction; she just did not like the taste of alcohol. This was evident once when Marian and I were visiting her, and she had tried to make us welcome by getting in a box of wine; unable to figure out how to open it properly, she had snipped the corner of the bag inside, and decanted the lot! Shame I was driving home that same day...

Mum always felt the cold. Along with the inevitability of death and taxes, you could always count on Mum's woolly cardigan - as well as hearing an oft-repeated story told all over again as if fresh and new. She loved watching soap operas on TV - all of them - and doing the newspaper prize crosswords - in pen.

Mum delighted in not only her children, but also their children. She loved us unconditionally, and saw it as a real bonus to have the chance to love great-grandchildren as well. Family was all.

Mum battled through the loss of her little sister Evelyn, migraines, a world war that took her brother Gordon, the loss of her mother, later her father, rheumatic fever, cancer of the thyroid, diabetes and a defective heart valve. The breakdown of her marriage to my father, and then the sunshine of the happy years shared with her darling Arthur, only to then lose him too. Her sisters Ena and Lorna also went before her, as well as many friends. Through all this she was always looking to help anyone in need in any way she could. She lived her faith. A devout churchgoer all her life until her health failed, she was a pillar of the church community in Highams Park for forty years, then later in Coggeshall when she moved out into Essex.

At the end, when she knew there was no recovery possible for her, she was not afraid. She just became full of longing to be with Our Lord. Her faith was resolute and unshakeable.

May her reward be as full as she deserved.

*May peace be your gift at Christmas and your
blessing all year through.*



Volunteering in the Dominican Republic

I had been interested in doing voluntary work abroad for some years, and whilst I was at spring harvest this year read about Mission Direct, who went to various countries doing building projects to provide housing for the poor. Even though I didn't have any building skills, I was assured that I would be useful in doing painting or labouring and so in September I went to Sosua which is near Puerto Plata in the north of the Dominican Republic. Mission Direct have been going for 10 years and support ongoing projects. Their main partner there is the Samaritan Foundation which is a Canadian charity who build homes for those living in slum style shacks. When they build a new village they provide a school and medical centre so that they are complete communities.

We were a small group of seven; five women and two men ranging from 19 to 67 years. Our accommodation was a nice hotel on the beach with a pool, but I understand working in some other countries it could be very basic with simple food, cold water and a bucket for a shower!

Our typical day started with breakfast at 7am followed by devotions and then ready on the bus with our driver Freddy and interpreter Issekah to go out for the day, returning at about 5pm when we had free time to swim. Dinner was at 6.30pm followed by debrief. Usually by 8.30 or 9pm we fell into bed exhausted.



The first day on the building site we had to shift a pile of earth into a house to form the floors using shovels, wheelbarrows and rakes. Even with 7 of us working it took all morning especially in temperatures of about 35 degrees. The following week we did the same but mixed cement for concreting the floors. Other days we varnished pews in the church, painted window frames and spent time in the woodshop making Louvre windows. This I particularly enjoyed and

achieved making about 7 windows. We also used the power tools to cut wood to size and make holes for the nails etc. (I'm sure health and safety wouldn't allow us to do that here).

In the afternoons we visited other schemes such as an orphanage for disabled children where we spent time playing with the children, having fun with bubbles and balloons which we had taken along. Another day we went to a men's rehab centre where we were greeted by a very noisy and lively group singing and playing music, we had a time of prayer and people shared testimonies. Afterwards we were shown around the premises and finished with everyone joining in a grand conga formation with more music and singing.



We visited schools and performed simple drama and sang action songs which we had prepared. Our interpreter Issekah had wonderful rapport with children and they sang with great enthusiasm. In one of the villages we helped with their feeding programme, a meal which was provided twice a week for children and the elderly. The meal was a soup cooked in one large pot and served in plastic bowls with a cup of squash.

We joined the locals at their church in the woods where we sat on the ground for the service, but didn't understand too much of what was going on as it was in Spanish. We also went to an English service at The New Life Church where the resident missionaries attend. On one of our free days, we went by cable car to Mount Isabella where there is a statue of Jesus similar to the one found in Rio, with wonderful views over the sea and botanical gardens with numerous tracks to explore. Our other free day was a trip to Paradise Island. We travelled for about two hours, so it was nice to see some of the countryside, and had a speed boat ride out to a sandy platform in the middle of the sea. We stayed for a couple of hours and were able to snorkel and sunbathe. A very nice day out after all our labours.



On the last day we were able to move a family from their tumble down shack to one of the new houses. They were a Mum and her four daughters and their two children. We went to the new village first where our leader Clare took a short service of dedication and we showed the family the house. After which we travelled back to their old house for us to see. It was very tumble down and leaky although set in a wonderful landscape of banana trees and I must admit that it seemed idyllic to me in comparison to their new concrete jungle but of course life would be a lot better for them.

The work in The Dominican Republic is very much ongoing. Our leader Clare is a resident there and in between groups of volunteers going out, she is constantly working with the villagers to improve their lives. A lot of the Haitian refugees have no registration papers and without them cannot go to school, work or get medical treatment so she is trying to resolve this for them.

I look upon my trip as a great experience and adventure. Thank you so much to everyone who donated so generously with money and other aid items. I was able to hand these over personally so could really see where your generosity went.

Jenny Cove



The Junior Church remembers....

On Remembrance Sunday in Junior Church we spent some time talking about what the children had been doing at school. Some had been writing poems, some had been reading stories and some had played instruments or sung in concerts, more than usual for Remembrance Day, due to the centenary of the First World War. For children today in this country it is a difficult thing to imagine: what was it like during the war? How young were those who went and died for their country - and why did they do it? These are all abstract concepts of history not much different from any other piece of history for them. We decided that it is important to remember what happened so that it doesn't happen again and we talked about why the symbol of the poppy is used to help people remember. They were shocked to discover that some of the people in the church had active rolls in the war and others would have experienced all the hardships with food rationing and families being split up. To them it was a long time ago but these facts brought it closer to home. They understood that to those involved, Remembrance Sunday can be a sad time as they especially remember the friends and family members who lost their lives and how we can show respect by being quiet during the two minutes silence. We rejoined the church service for the silence and I am proud to say I did not hear a peep from anyone in our group. Two minutes is a long time for some of them to be silent!

We all coloured and signed a poster with poppies on it to promise that we would never forget as we don't ever want another world war to happen. During refreshments we asked some of the adults to sign our poster too. We thought it would be good to put the poster in the magazine for you all to see.



Christmas Nativity with Junior Church

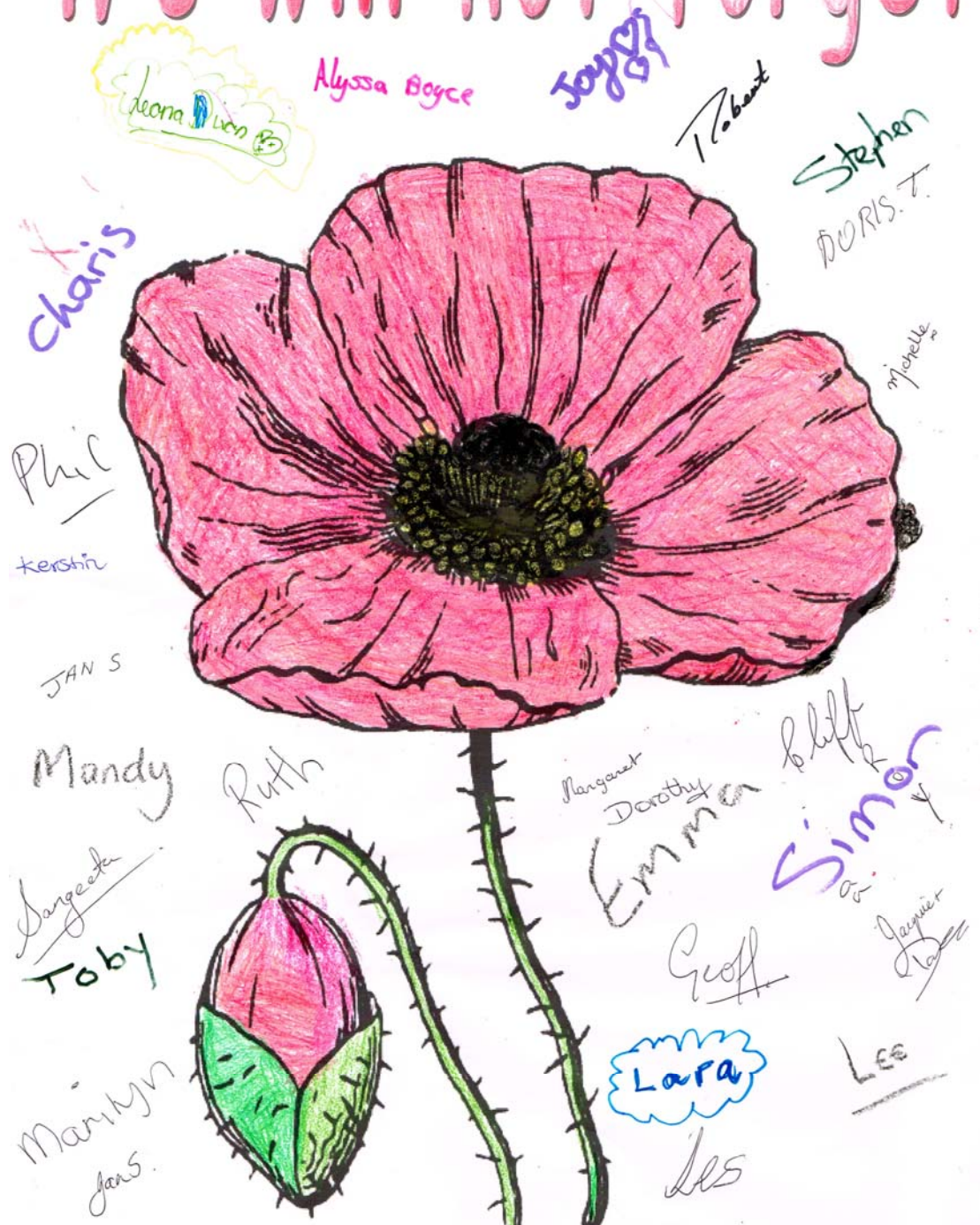


Our Nativity rehearsals are well underway so please put 10am on the 14th December in your diaries to come and see this year's production. It's called "The Christmas Story", original huh! It is slightly different this year as many of the children are learning instruments now and we thought it would be nice to incorporate them using their newly learnt skills. We have keyboard, flute, cello, xylophone, chime bars, guitars, saxophone and of course voices to make this a musical extravaganza. So please come and share this special time with us.

Mandy Edwards



We will not forget





Remembering Gwladys Callow

We have received the following from Gwladys's daughter Bronwyn. Some of our readers will remember Gwladys who was at HPB for many years. We apologise for the delay in printing this - Bronwyn sent it some time ago but it was lost in the ether!

The following is about my mother Mrs Gwladys Sloggett Florence Callow nee Lacey who was born 30 June 1907. Sadly Mum died on the 1st June 2014 just 4 weeks short of her 107th birthday in her bedroom at Kent House Care Home, Broadstairs, Kent with myself by her side.

Her funeral was on Monday 16 June 2014 at Queens Road Baptist Church, Broadstairs and followed by Service of Committal at Thanet Crematorium. Her service at the Church was led by the 3 Ministers and the Reverend Dr Stephen Cave read out a message in Welsh for Mum which was greatly appreciated. This was Mum's Church for the past 47 years since she left Highams Park to move to Broadstairs. Mum had been a very active member of this Church running the Women's Fellowship and singing in the choir and also baby sitting for the Rev. Michael Jones's children. She attended this Church right up to her late 90s. Her ashes have been taken back to Llanreath Beach Pembrokeshire where her husband's were put just 53yrs ago at her request..



Her father fought in the second Boer War 1899-1902. After returning home he went on a recuperation holiday to Llanreath a small village, and there he met Lilian and married and then had to move to Dalston where Thomas worked as a book binder.

The family moved to a very rural 102 Winns Avenue Walthamstow where Gwladys attended Higher Elementary School which later became Walthamstow High School for Girls. She matriculated from this school and won an Art scholarship which would have meant going to study in Paris. Her mother would not allow this so she went to work as a clerk in shipping in the City of London. Gwladys was a Church member and attended Greenleaf Road Baptist Church Walthamstow..

Gwladys met her husband Edward at Waterlows Sports Ground – he was a young Waterlow's typesetter and good footballer. They married when she was 21 years old on Christmas Day 1928. They bought a house at 145 Cavendish Road Highams Park and started to go to Highams Park Baptist Church where she was an active member and also ran the Womens Fellowship until she moved home to Broadstairs in 1967.





Gwladys was a very determined lady and didn't want to leave her bungalow where she had lived alone until the age of 103 but sadly as she was getting weaker had to move into Kent House where she was greatly loved by all. They had regular Sunday Services at the home which Gwladys loved and was visited by the Church Ministers and members.

Gwladys on her 106th Birthday

Gwladys was the proud grandmother to Debbie, Kate and Mark and great grandmother to Alex, Chris, Laura, Caitriona, Rachel, Hannah, George and Megan and lastly great great grandmother to Lucian.

In her life she had lived through two World Wars and her parents were bombed out of Winns Avenue, Walthamstow. Gwladys was very keen on using Skype in her latter years and was amazed by the technology today. Over the years so many people Mum knew at Highams Park Baptist Church have died, but she was always keen on reading the Church Magazine each time. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.



*The Women's Group is holding a
Christmas Refreshment and Carol Singing Event
On Saturday 13th December at Kerstin and Mark's
home - 22 Harford Road, Chingford E4
Between 2 and 4 pm.*

Christmas and World War One



During this year we have been thinking about the Centenary of the start of World War One. Now as Christmas approaches we look at how the two are remembered. I think that there are three main lines to be followed: How the war was 'going to be over by Christmas', the Christmas truce where the opposing armies stopped fighting and even played football and the present sent in the name of Royalty...



As we now know the war was definitely not to be over by Christmas 1914 - what is less obvious is how the phrase came about. There is a theory that it was put around by the leaders of the forces (British and German) to encourage people to sign up - especially in Britain where our army was much smaller than the German. Most sources in fact point to the fact that Kitchener, Field Marshall Earl Haig and David Lloyd George are all on record as saying that the war would be prolonged and terrible. One hundred years on we still do not know why belief in this phrase came about. Perhaps it was just wishful thinking. Today we would probably call it 'an urban myth'.

The Christmas truce only happened in 1914. In subsequent years troops on both sides were threatened with disciplinary action if there was a repeat. The truce began on Christmas Eve when the guns fell silent and soldiers from the opposing forces started singing carols to each other. At dawn on Christmas Day we are told some German soldiers left their trenches and approached the British lines with cries of 'Merry Christmas'. Suspecting a trick the British forces did not move until it was realised that the Germans were unarmed. When they came out of the trenches they shook hands and exchanged presents - plum pudding and cigarettes. There are a number of reports of football being played between the two armies.



Somewhat more in the spirit of Christmas were the Princess Mary Gift Boxes. She was the daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. She had the idea of paying for a present to be sent to each soldier and sailor.

This was impractical but the idea caught on and money was raised by public subscription. It was calculated that nearly half a million boxes would be needed. They were to be made of brass and initially each was to contain one ounce of pipe



tobacco, twenty cigarettes, a pipe, a tinder lighter, Christmas card and photograph of the Princess. However it was soon realised that not everyone smoked and so it was decided that non-smokers would receive a brass box, a packet of acid tablets, a khaki writing case containing pencil, paper and envelopes together with the Christmas card and photograph of the Princess. Other minority groups and nurses would receive more appropriate gifts. There were a good number of Indian troops and their boxes varied - the Gurkhas were to receive the same gift as the British troops; Sikhs received the box filled with sugar candy, a tin box of spices and the Christmas card; all other Indian troops, the box with a packet of cigarettes and sugar candy, a tin box of spices and the card. Nurses at the front in France were instead offered the box, a packet of chocolate and the card. It was difficult to arrange distribution to all by Christmas Day and so it was decided to create 3 groups:

Class A: comprised the Navy, including minesweepers and dockyard officials, and troops at the Front in France. Also, the wounded in hospitals and men on furlough, prisoners and men interned (for whom the gift was reserved), members of the French Mission with the Expeditionary Force, nurses at the Front in France and the widows or parents of those who had been killed. Members of this class were to receive the gift on or near Christmas Day.

Class B: all British, Colonial and Indian troops serving outside the British Isles (but exclusive of those provided for in Class A).

Class C: all troops in the British Isles.



(information about the boxes is from the Imperial War Museum website)

If you wanted to own such a tin on November 14th there were about 60 available on E Bay - mostly just tins but some with contents intact...

DL



4 Church Membership

*Part of the 'Baptist Basics' Series
Series Author: Dr. Nigel G Wright
Produced by the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

The first people to hear the Christian message on the day of Pentecost and be baptised went on to devote themselves to the local community of believers (Acts 2:41-42). It was a natural thing for them to do. It was through that community in the form of the original one hundred and twenty believers (Acts 1:15) that they had come to hear of Christ and believe in him. It was in that community that they would continue to learn from the apostles' teaching, to experience the Spirit and play a part in an exciting enterprise. Becoming a Christian was not just a personal decision. It was a social event as the original Christian community extended its reach and incorporated ever increasing numbers within itself. Being a Christian is not just a matter of finding personal salvation. It involves becoming part of a project through which God is working in the world. That project is the Christian Church and it occupies a central part in God's purposes.

The people of God:

From near the beginning of human history, God has been concerned to have a people through whom he can work. This work began with Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. God made a covenant with Abraham that was continued with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob, and led to the twelve tribes of Israel. They were specially chosen by God, not because there was anything special about them but because through them God would be able to display his wisdom and power (Deuteronomy 7:7-11). God preserved this people even in times of famine and captivity. God eventually delivered them from slavery and oppression in Egypt in order that they might occupy the land of Canaan as the Promised Land. Here they were to be under God's reign and were to live out a distinctive communal life by observing the practices of circumcision, sabbath and temple worship and by adhering closely to the law given by God through Moses. Israel was to witness to the nations as 'my treasured possession out of all the nations' and was to be for the God of the whole earth 'a priestly kingdom and a holy nation' (Exodus 19:5-6). They were to be an example so that other nations would say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?' (Deuteronomy 4:7-8).



Jesus was born from the Jewish people and through him, the idea that there was a people set aside for God's purpose, spread to his followers in the Christian Church, both Jews and Gentiles. The apostle Peter could say to the churches, 'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

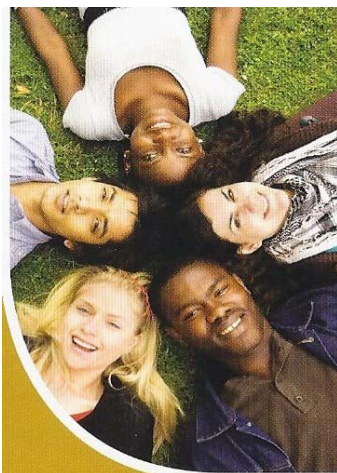


God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light' (1 Peter 2:9). The church, therefore, represents the continuation of what God began to do with the people of Israel. Through the church, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has come to be honoured and worshipped to the ends of the earth.

It exists to live out, under the reign of God, the way of life that came to be incarnated (or 'fleshed out'), not now in the book of the law, but in the life of Christ. Its practices now include those of baptism and communion, and its calling is to live as a holy nation scattered among all the nations, bearing its witness to Christ, worshipping God through him and serving the nations by living out the way that he taught.

Believing and belonging:

The Church is God's project. We can only become Christians and be baptised because the Church is already there exercising its witness. All Christians have the Church as their mother, as surely as they have God as their Father. We are indebted to it and to the people within it who have been committed enough to hand its benefits on to us. When we become Christians we enter into the Church's life and become a part of it. We are like the parts of a body that are intimately connected to each other and are directed by the head, which is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-21). None of us can say we have no need of it or of each other. By believing in Christ we have committed ourselves to belong to Christ's people and this deserves the best that we can bring. Church membership is about committed belonging to the Church in general and to a local congregation in particular. But it is impossible to belong to the Church in general without belonging to a particular congregation. Some years ago a Peanuts cartoon showed Charlie Brown saying, 'I love humanity. It's people I can't stand!' Just as you cannot love humanity without loving people so it is not possible to belong to the Church in abstract, but only in real and committed relationships.



The challenge of covenant relationship:

The word Christians use to describe the kind of relationship involved in belonging to the church is 'covenant'. God entered into a covenant with Abraham and with the people of Israel. Each church is a covenant community. When we share communion we refer to it as representing the 'new covenant' made through Christ's sacrifice. A covenant is a two-way commitment which is open-ended and unconditional. This is what we mean when we speak of the 'covenant of marriage', whereby marriage is meant to be a commitment of faithful love, one which endures and so, discovers new depths of love, not one that comes to an end when it becomes inconvenient. It involves both giving and receiving. Where there is covenant commitment, churches can become strong, they can endure through time and they can do good. Where this is lacking, churches are weakened. Just as marriage is designed to be a firm commitment which strengthens and supports a loving relationship between two people, so church



membership is designed to be a foundation for strengthening the relationships within a congregation.

When people commit themselves to a church in membership they are strengthening the inner life of the church in a way that will make it more effective in its mission.

There is no doubt that becoming a member in a local Baptist church is challenging. It involves commitment and this in turn requires sacrifice. This may mean the sacrifice of time and money and of emotional and physical energy. In return, there is the reward of belonging to a community of people who strongly believe in what they are doing and who are working cooperatively to achieve their goals.

Membership probably involves swimming against the tide of modern culture in which people have come to see themselves first and foremost as consumers rather than contributors. But this is a tide that needs to be resisted. If the role of the church is to offer alternative ways of living which arise from the covenant relationship we share with God, then committed church membership is worth entering into and commending to others.

Reasons for membership:

The following reasons for church membership can be mentioned:

1. Church membership demonstrates that we have understood the importance of the church in the mission of God. The church is described in the Bible as the people of God (1 Peter 2:9), the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-30) and the temple of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22). Each of these images requires commitment from us as living parts of God's project. When you belong to a people, you take your identity from them. When you are part of a body, you are organically joined to it. When you are part of a temple, you are like a brick or a stone cemented together with others (1 Peter 2:4-5).
2. Church membership demonstrates the reality of our personal commitment as declared in baptism. It shows therefore, the sincerity of our commitment to Christ and to Christ's people because we are not holding back from people.
3. Church membership helps to build strong churches by making sure that each church is supported by a core of people who are prepared to commit time, energy, finance and their own Spiritual gifts and talents to the building up of the body of Christ.
4. Church membership means that once we have accepted the Christian way of life we have the support of other Christians in sustaining our discipleship and in enduring testing times of illness, bereavement and crisis when they come to us. It also means that we live out our lives under a degree of pastoral oversight that will enable others to correct and guide us should we begin to stray or deviate from a truly Christian lifestyle.
5. Church membership connects us to other church members in the local Christian community and more widely with other such communities. It is a solid bond that enables us to say that we belong to a movement and to take our place within the universal Church.
6. Church membership enables us to challenge the modern tendency to see ourselves as consumers rather than as contributors. Being a Christian is not a



spectator sport but requires our personal and dedicated involvement in the things of God and of the church.

Each church has its own ways of accepting people into committed church membership but there tend to be common elements. A person entering into membership is interviewed and a report is made to the Church Members' Meeting which makes a decision to receive the applicant into membership or to delay this. Once received into membership by the Church Members' Meeting, this is symbolised by a welcome with the 'right hand of fellowship' in a service of worship, often at a communion service. In some churches, the welcome will be given at the same time or shortly after a person has been baptised. When somebody asks to become a member of a local church, the interview gives a good opportunity to talk about how they might contribute to its life and find the best ways to use their gifts and opportunities in God's service.

Church membership is a practice which helps to build strong churches and so, is good for individuals and good for the church.



*Come and sing some Festive Carols
At The Community Room
Aldriche Way
For The Tenants and Residents Association
on 14th December between 4 and 6 pm*

*Put down your burden of care and listen to the
songs of angels!*



RAISING MONEY FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER UK



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 10th December 2014

9am to 12 noon

All Saints Church Hall,
Church Avenue, Highams Park, E4 9QD

- Tea, coffee and cold drinks
- Home-made cakes
- Kids' toy corner
- Raffle
- Warm, welcoming atmosphere
- Free entry



We are running the 2015 London Marathon to raise funds for Children with Cancer UK. Please come to our Christmas Coffee Morning, enjoy some delicious tea & cakes and help raise money for Children with Cancer.

Thank you,
Michelle and
Mary

www.justgiving.com/michelleandmary

If you can spare the time we are sure that you will find
this very worthwhile with coffee and cakes as well!



Son of Sam - 'Organ Music'

Hello Samson, we haven't heard from you lately - how are you?

Well Ed, I was fast asleep in the organ loft one Sunday when suddenly someone started playing the organ and woke me up from my hibernation!

Well Samson, that is what the organ is for - to help us to worship.

But I have just got used to hearing guitars instead of recorded music. I can't keep up with all the changes in this church. Where is the lady with white hair who sat three rows back?

You mean Auntie Gwlad, she's gone to take her place in heaven.

So won't we see her again?

Well we will in heaven.

How do you know spiders go to heaven?

Well every Sunday you will hear how to get into heaven when the Minister preaches the sermon.

Well I am usually asleep, but perhaps I should stay awake in case I miss what's really important!

P.T. Slaney - after the tradition of Sam the Spider by A.S. Fugler

Small wonder the star; small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God – no small wonder!
Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;
but God gives His life on a cross – no small wonder!
Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory, the light of His face;
but all to redeem my poor heart – no small wonder !

Paul Wigmore (1925 -)



Highams Park Update

There are a lot of changes happening in Highams Park at this time. This is an update perhaps more of interest to those of our readers who no longer live here! In a previous issue we told of the coming of Tesco's- this supermarket has become part of the scenery but the area around it continues to develop - the houses and flats are being tenanted and now there are a number of warehouse type buildings being built. As yet we have no idea what these will become - time will tell.



Perhaps more noticeable is the site next to the Regal cinema. This is now a building site. The space that was the County Grill and later Shelz restaurant is now to be an office for the Security business that already has a presence in

that block of buildings. It is understood that it will be constructed in sympathy with the Regal which will make it blend in better. I am sure it will be better than the boarded up site which it has been lately. As an aside Waltham Forest is now not the only borough in London without a cinema - no, the Regal has not risen like a phoenix - there is now a multi screen cinema on the corner of High Street and Hoe Street. This not a million miles from the site of the Granada cinema whose future is still not certain.

Something that has also changed, although not so much on the surface, is the signal box. As previously described a local building company has undertaken to renovate it. The broken



windows have been replaced and a new internal staircase has been constructed - it would have been difficult accessing it via the track. There have been a couple of opportunities to visit the box which were taken up by a good few people. All the railway equipment has been

removed although it is hoped to obtain some replacements to give an idea of how it worked.



You do get a different view of Highams Park from the windows of the box - it is a great pity there are no more steam trains!

We have news of the work going on at Highams Park Lake from Phil Slaney:
These are some photos I took recently of the lake and boathouse showing the barges carrying the silt from the smelly end to be loaded onto lorries and carried away along the Charter road. The work is to ensure that, in the event of a flood, the lake will not overspill and put homes at risk in Highams Park. The work will cost £1.8 million and is paid for by the Corporation of the City of London as it forms part of Epping Forest. The existing boathouse will be retained but a new flood wall will be built in front to protect it from flooding. There will be a new bridge beside the boathouse but the Car Park will be removed and replaced with a grassed slope. The work is due to be completed early spring 2015.

DL



Pictures by Phil Slaney and Dave Lyus



CuttingEdge
Men with Purpose



As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. *Proverbs 27:17*

9 PLACES STILL AVAILABLE
***10% Early Bird Discount until**
16 DECEMBER 2014*
BOOK HERE

'ESCAPE 4' - MEN'S WEEKEND AWAY ON 16-18 JANUARY 2015

[Rock UK The Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire](#)

THEME: *LIVING CONFIDENTLY*

Guest Speaker: Kevin Appleton

Kevin is an experienced business leader – currently Managing Director of Yusen Logistics UK (a subsidiary of the Japanese NYK Lines group) and a non-executive director of three other organisations. He has worked in leadership positions for a number of well known companies both in the UK and abroad for a period of over twenty years.



He professed the Christian faith for the first time in 1984 although, by his own admission, the fruits of this profession were very slow in growing into evidence. In recent years he has been in lay leadership in a large evangelical church in Oxford and currently seeks to serve his local village church in rural Northamptonshire – leading bible studies and family services. He has talked to a number of groups around the general theme of clinging firmly and confidently to faith in a world which increasingly sees this as bizarre, delusional or dangerous.

Kevin has been married to Claire for thirty years. They have two grown up children. He is a keen supporter of Northampton Saints rugby, a slow, bike-riding MAMIL (middle-aged man in Lycra) and an appalling but enthusiastic occasional golfer.

****If you are going to act on this information, [please email us here](#) to let us know you are booking your place.**

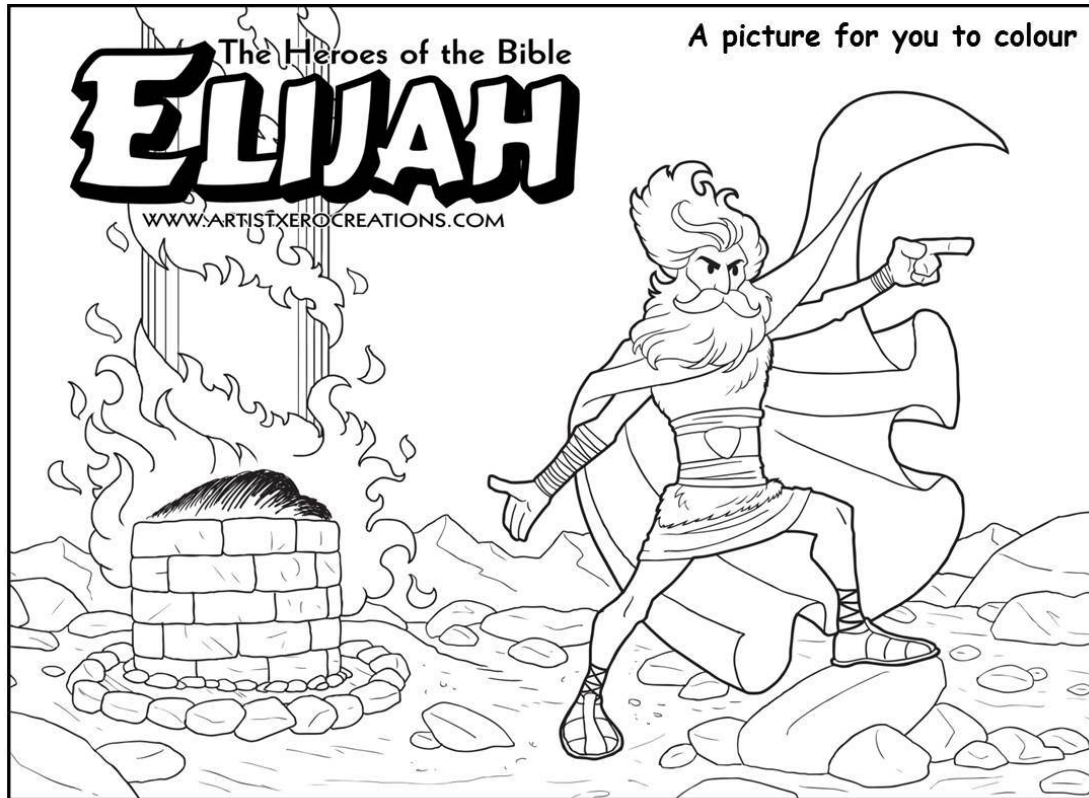
If you are interested in attending, or want more details, please see Phil Slaney



Junior Church



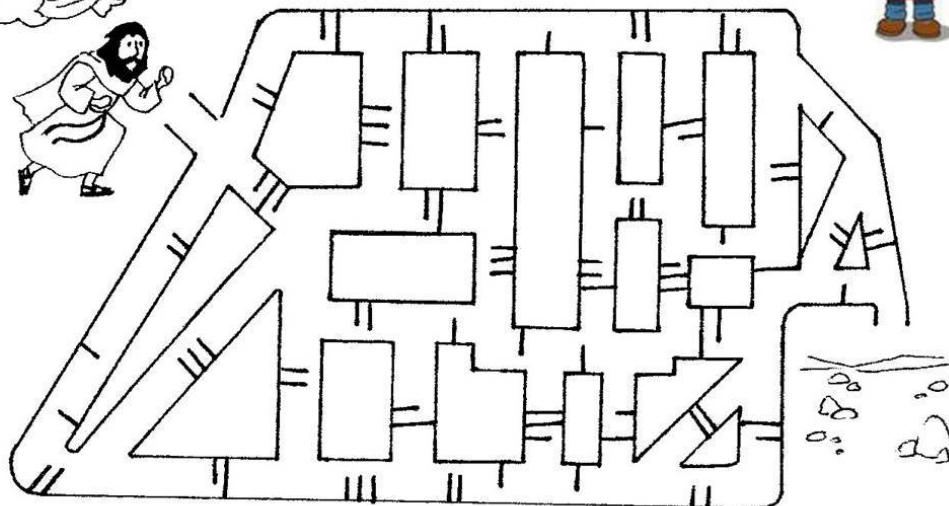
Colour the picture, then each day colour one star, beginning with number 1. (You could also use star stickers instead of colouring the stars.)



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- **Elijah's story** is told in 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 2:11 (Old Testament) - **Where:** Gilead
- **Occupation:** Prophet - **Other people at the same time as him:** Ahab, Jezebel, Ahaziah, Obadiah, Jehu, Hazael - **Lesson from his life:** We are never as alone as we feel; God is always there.

Elijah fled to the desert to get away from wicked Queen Jezebel.
Can you help him find his way across the desert?
Read the story in 1 Kings 19:1-9





CHURCH DIARY

December 2014

Sunday 7 th	10 am	2 nd Sunday in Advent: Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	3 pm	Churches Together Bereavement Service at Winchester Road Methodist Church
	7 pm - 8 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Sunday 14 th	10 am	3 rd Sunday in Advent: All Age Service: Children's and young people's Christmas Presentation
	4 pm	Carol Singing Event on Aldriche Way
Sunday 21 st	10 am	4 th Sunday in Advent Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	6 pm	Carols by Candlelight Service led by Jonathan
Wednesday 24 th	11:30 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service led by Jonathan
Thursday 25 th	10 am	All Age Service: Christmas Day Celebration led by Jonathan
Sunday 28 th	10 am	All Age Service: 'Songs of Praise' led by Jonathan





January 2015

Sunday 4 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion (with Dedication of the Church & Council Members) led by Jonathan
Thursday 8 th	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting at 21 Warboys Crescent
Sunday 11 th	10 am	Morning Service: Church Text for 2015 led by Jonathan
Sunday 18 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	11:30 am approx.	Church Members' Meeting
Sunday 25 th	10 am	All Age Service led by Jonathan

February 2015

Sunday 1 st	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	7 pm - 8 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Sunday 8 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Jonathan

Refreshments are served after the Morning Service every Sunday