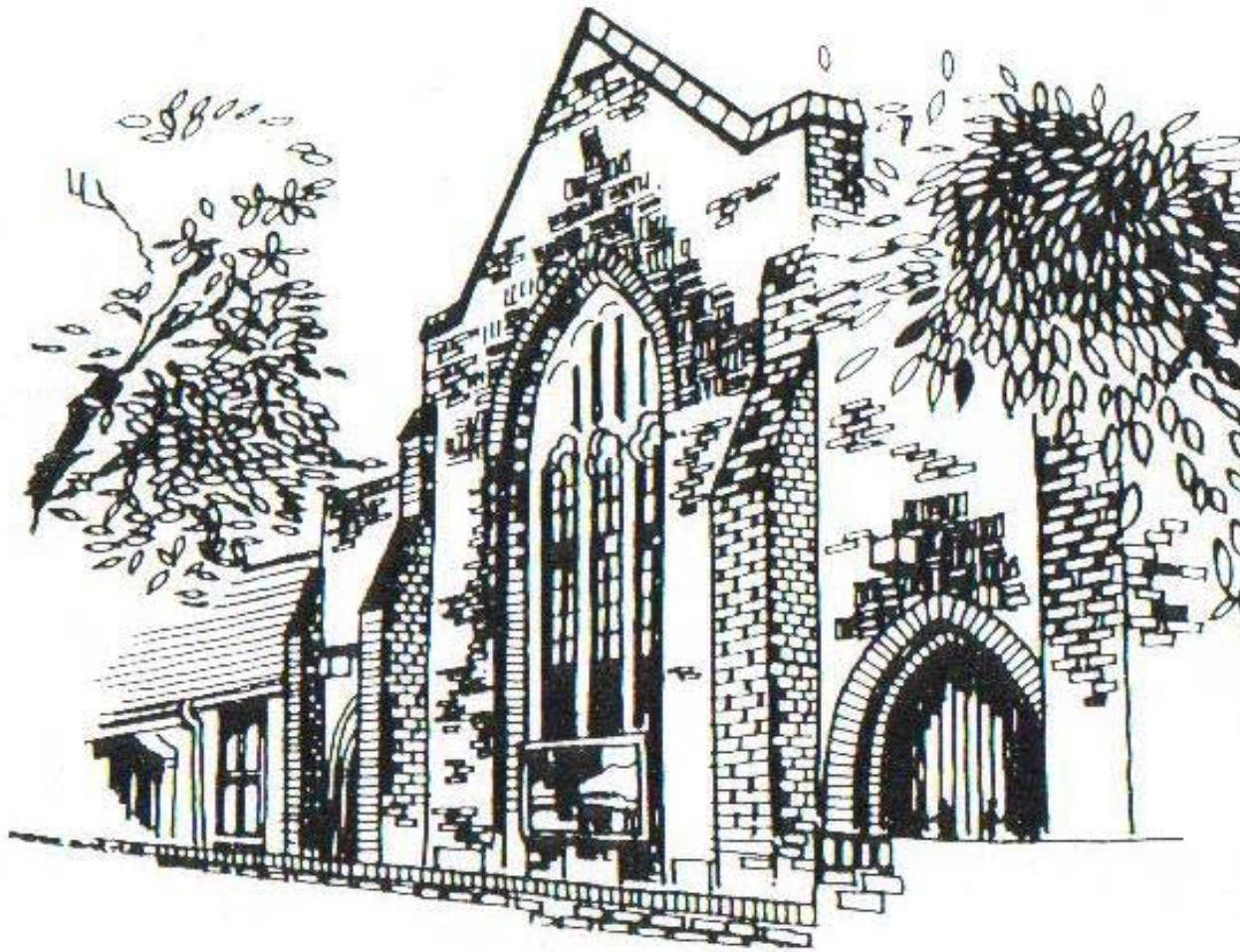




The Magazine
of
Highams Park Baptist Church

Cavendish Road, E.4.



2015 NUMBER TWO

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 17th May
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April / May 2015

<i>Minister:</i>	<i>Church Secretary:</i>
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Dear Friends,

The story is told of the Church Minister who stood before the congregation and said "I have some bad news, I have some good news and I have some more bad news." The congregation wondered what the Minister was going to say. "The bad news is that the church needs a new roof." The congregation groaned. "The good news is that we have enough money for the new roof." A sigh of relief was heard rippling through the gathered group. The Minister continued: "The bad news is that it's still in your pockets!"

Sometimes in life someone suggests that they have some bad news and some good news to share with us. Often we are invited to decide which we would prefer to hear first (generally I choose to hear the bad news first hoping that it will, in some way, be counteracted by the good. What about you?). Did you know that the Bible contains 'bad news' and 'good news'? We were thinking about this in a Service recently and, while, actually, it is relevant every single day of our life, we may particularly associate it with Easter. The bad news is about us — what we are like. The good news is about God — what He is like and what He has done for us.

The Bible tells that the "bad news" is that we all fall short of God's perfect standards. The Bible way of putting it is that we all 'sin'. 'Sin' is a little word but a big problem for all of us. The Bible describes that our sins are all of the ways that we fail to follow God's perfect ways – whether that relates to our thoughts, the words that we say or the things that we do. All sins, whether we think of them as 'big' sins or 'small' sins cause us to fall short of God's standards. (In the Service I invited people to look sad and disappointed about this.)

The Bible tells that the "good news" is that God gave His Son to be our Saviour. (In the Service, upon hearing this, I accordingly invited people to look pleased and excited!)

The message of Easter is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

But the story doesn't end there. Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again on the third day – something that provides the proof for us that all that He said about Himself and about how to be right with God was true. Jesus rose from the dead to be our living Saviour and our Friend!

The message of Easter is that when we believe and trust in God's Son Jesus as our Saviour, God forgives us of all our sins and we are right with God even though we have failed to follow God's ways perfectly. I believe that that is really good news! As we believe and trust in Jesus and what He has done on the cross we can know forgiveness for what is past, God for us and with us in the present and we have so much to look forward to in the future.

It is because God loves us all so much that He gave His Son to be our Saviour. The Bible says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:16 & 17). *[With regards to God's promise of eternal life, we die physically as our bodies wear out or as we are subject to illness or fatal injury but life continues after physical death.]*

Have you ever wondered how Jesus got His name? God gave it to Him. The name "Jesus" means "Saviour." Jesus is the One who saves us from our sins. God said, "You shall call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus is the only One who could die for our sins because He never sinned. He was pure and holy. Jesus on the cross (on what we refer to as 'Good Friday') has been described as the saddest but most wonderful event that ever took place in the world.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins - it is even more wonderful knowing that we each can say (whether we believe and trust and follow Him yet or not): "Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for MY sins!"

It's been said that 'because of Good Friday you can look back and not be afraid. That 'because of Easter you can look ahead and not be afraid'. That 'because of Ascension Day (when Jesus 'ascended' / returned to heaven forty days after his resurrection) you can look up and not be afraid'. That 'because of Pentecost (when God's gift of His Holy Spirit was given to all followers of Jesus (fifty days after Jesus' resurrection) and it remains the case still today as the Holy Spirit helps us also, two thousand or so years later, to live our lives for our good and to God's glory) you can look in and not be afraid'.

God be with you in every way as is the need.

Jonathan

Cabendish Circular



As the days lengthen and our gardens begin to show the first signs of Spring we look forward to the coming months with all their activities, giving thanks for the period of Lenten reflection and Easter joy and secure in the knowledge that whatever lies ahead God is with us, guiding and supporting our fellowship at HPBC.

Our thanks go to Marilyn and her team for once again decorating the Church at Easter so beautifully, and to all those who supported this with their donations.

Congratulations to Olyvia Osei and Robert Shaw who were married at our church on Easter Saturday. Every happiness in their future life together.

Since the last issue a number of our fellowship have been unwell or in hospital: Sarah Caffell has been treated in hospital for stomach pain. At the time of writing she has returned home and is continuing to undergo tests.

June Tresarden has experienced a further fall but hopes to be recovered in time to attend Spring Harvest.

Joan Ashley has also suffered a fall and broken her hip. Currently she is in hospital recovering and receiving treatment.

Simon Jones recently had a motorbike accident and was hospitalised. Fortunately he is now home again where he continues his recovery.

Les Edwards is sadly less mobile now and has an ulcerated leg.

Others connected to our Church family are also in need of our prayers, these include: Pertlita Jenkins' father, Juanito, in the Philippines, who is very unwell, and Jean Owen's mother 'Nan', who has had a fall and fractured her hip. She is now home and continuing her recovery there. Muneyi Antoniou's father, Ignatious, is recovering from leg surgery.

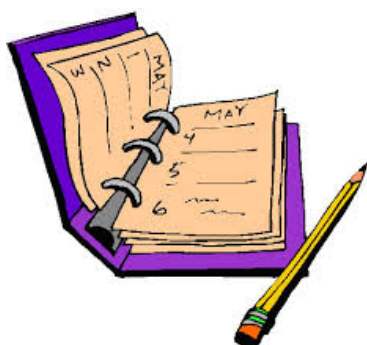
We remember those who cannot attend our services regularly due to ongoing health issues and frailty including Mavis Grint, Caron Kelly and Michele Henry.

Sadly we have received news of the recent deaths of two long-standing friends of our fellowship: Ivy McDonald and Bill Johns.

Older friends will remember Ivy faithfully attending our services over the years before age and increasing frailty made this difficult some time ago. Our prayers go to her family for God's loving presence in their loss. A Service of Thanksgiving and Committal was held on 2nd April at the City of London Crematorium.

Bill and Sylvia Johns, together with their children, have been good friends and supporters of HPBC over many years. Sadly, Bill had been seriously ill for several years and we send our love and condolences to Sylvia and all the family at his death. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Mon.13th April, 12.15pm at our Church, followed by a Service of Committal at 1.30pm at Chingford Mount Cemetery.

We will have an opportunity to remember both Ivy and Bill in our next issue, thanking God for their lives and upholding their loved ones in our prayers.



As the year progresses we look forward to events taking place. There will be a CARE Highams Park Afternoon Tea on Saturday April 25th, 2.30 – 4.30pm at our Church, with a Bring and Buy Sale, which includes cakes, chocolates, bric-a-brac and plants. If you have anything suitable for the latter please speak to Dianne Kendrick and Jenny Cove who are kindly hosting the Afternoon Tea.

The BBGA Awards and Display Evening takes place on Friday 8th May, when Melvin Dawson, the Battalion President will be guest of honour, accompanied by his wife Carol. We urge everyone to support the staff and helpers on this evening and you can read more about this event further. The annual camp will be from 27th July to 1st August in the New Forest.

Summer may still seem a long way away but we are already planning our Summer Evening Event to be held at our Church on Saturday 20th June. It is planned to have a Barbeque, Bouncy Castle, Music and a 'Variety Show', and table top quiz. The proceeds for this evening will go towards Christian Aid. Please do come along and support this event which we are sure will be an enjoyable time of fellowship and fun. We thank all those who are responsible for organising and helping at this event.

As we go to press: We have received the sad news that our member Sylvia Tomlinson died peacefully in Whipp's Cross hospital on April 6th following a stroke. More details and a chance to remember Sylvia in our next issue. We thank God for all she has meant to our Fellowship over so many years.

JL



I thought it would be good to give you all an update on the 17th Waltham Forest Company and BB in the UK. The Company has been moving along nicely with 16 to 20 children and young people across the sections most weeks.

The Anchors & Junior Section have been meeting as normal, doing their craft, games and badge work. They have taken part in a number of Battalion competitions, including Handball, Football; Figure Marching, Bible Competition and International games. We did not win but did very well as a young mixed group. The Company Section has been following the bible DVD each week which we are all enjoying, and had their normal activities and badge work including cooking and changing a car wheel, as well as clubroom. We took part in a number of competitions, in the Battalion, including Table Tennis, Bible Competition, Football, & PE Games. We did not win at any of these this year, but were 2nd or 3rd for most. We have also taken part in the PE games at London district and came 3rd out of 20 teams.

At the London District Boys Brigade Jack Petchy event this year, Gemma Player collected her Jack Petchy Medal at Kensington town hall, where her mum (Wendy) was there to watch. .

Our **Awards Evening** is on **Friday 8th May** at Highams Park Baptist Church starting at 7.30pm, Please do keep this date in your diary and support the children, young people and officers at this event.

As a training officer I have just completed a Youth Leader Training course, where five officers were trained up. Also at the end of February 10 young men completed the Building Skills day, so they are another step towards their President Badge award.

In March I ran, along with Michelle Boyce and three other staff, the London District Queens Badge completion course where 20 young men from London attended. Also in June the London District are holding a 24 hour event planned for 14 to 18 year olds with all sorts of activities. This summer we have lots planned, with our competitions and night out in both sections, and our weekend away at the end of May. We are also going on our summer camp at the end of July to the New Forest again for a week and looking forward to a time away as our company family.

The Boys Brigade UK has just appointed a Brigade Secretary Andrew Johnston and we wish him well in this role. I would like to finish by sending you our thoughts and prayers at this Easter time.

Jason

Object – The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys & Girls, and the promotion of Habits of Obedience, reverence, Discipline, Self-respect & all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

A Summer Evening Event

Saturday 20th June 2015

6pm – 9:30pm

Highams Park Baptist Church

Barbeque Table Top Quiz

Bouncy Castle

‘Open Mic’ entertainment

...and more

A fun event for all ages

Details about the cost (we are looking to raise money for Christian Aid) will be published in due course in the Church Bulletin and on the Church website (www.hpbc.co.uk)



Although believers' baptism will often be identified as the primary distinctive of Baptists, it is more accurate to say that a distinctive identity comes from a blend of beliefs and practices which together create a kind of Baptist genetic code. Amongst these is the way the church governs itself under the Lordship of Christ. Baptist churches practise *congregational government*. This means that they are not *episcopal* (externally governed by bishops) nor are they *Presbyterian* (internally governed by ministers or elders) or *connexional* (governed by a central council or conference). Rather, congregations are self-governing in that the whole congregation is invited to seek the mind and will of God for the good of the church. This is one reason why a church needs a body of identifiable members. It is these people, who have declared their commitment to the local congregation and have demonstrated their Christian discipleship, who are qualified to share in the task of discerning God's will. This is not to say that churches should dispense with ministers within the church or others beyond it, such as regional ministers. All these people exercise necessary and valuable ministries on behalf of the church in keeping with the early church where certain gifted people were set aside for prayer and the ministry of word (Acts 6:3-4). But it does mean that the members gather together in the name of Christ to make the most important decisions, such as receiving new members, caring for property and the calling and appointing of leaders, including ministers. It is the members who will work together to sustain the church in its life and mission. No-one therefore is in a position to impose something upon a church that it has not freely chosen for itself. In this way Baptists show their rejection of compulsion in matters of faith and insist upon the free nature of religious conviction.

Discerning the mind of Christ - For practical and spiritual reasons, congregational government usually takes place through meetings, specially convened for the purpose and known as 'Church Members' Meetings'. These should be times of worship and prayer, and it is in this context that the members will consider the life and work of the church, through a process of discussion and conversation. Most churches hold members' meetings monthly or quarterly, but they can also be convened for special purposes from time to time. Churches will have a Governing Document (sometimes also called a Constitution) that will guide the church as to how to govern their local work and activities. This document will lay down helpful procedures for calling and organising a Church Members' Meeting. The purpose of these is to ensure that a church conducts itself legally and transparently and that any attempt to misuse its assets or depart from its objectives are prevented. Since 'God is a God not of disorder but of peace', it is important that 'all things be done decently and in order' (1 Corinthians 14:33 and 40). A well-ordered church is in a good position to respond to the guidance of the Spirit, both to attempt and to achieve things for God.

Although the form of a Church Members' Meeting appears democratic, it is important to see that the intention is greater than that of allowing majority opinion to rule. Christ is Lord of the church and the head of the body. Our responsibility is to hold fast to him (Colossians 1:18, 2:19). This means that a church is better described as a 'Christocracy', a community in which Christ rules.

Put differently, it is a 'guided democracy', led by the Spirit. This is why people come together for Church Members' Meetings and why, when voting is necessary, it normally takes place within the discussion at the meeting. Some churches do make provision for a ballot of members in specific circumstances (often for making appointments), but the normal process of decision making is by consensus within a meeting. Being present to share in the discussion is important. In this way the mind of Christ may be discerned through arriving at a consensus of agreement through the expression of considered opinion. If people approach a meeting with the intention of getting their own way and triumphing over others of a different opinion, they have missed the point. In this sense, working together in a Church Members' Meeting is more demanding than in most other contexts and requires different kinds of skills. Among these are the ability to listen with care, both to others and to God, and to argue for one's own thoughts assertively but not aggressively. Although meetings always have the option of voting, the more important task is to discern the 'mind of the meeting' in the belief that this ought to reflect the mind of Christ.

The Gathered Church - The Church Members' Meeting is based on the promise of Christ to be in the midst of those who gather in his name (Matthew 18:20). This is true when churches gather to worship and when they gather in their Church Members' Meeting, where Christ is among them to guide them as they consider the life and work of the church. To gather 'in the name' of Jesus means to come consciously together as those who believe in him and seek to live under his Lordship. It implies being empowered by Christ. Jesus himself said, 'Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19). This is a remarkable promise and highlights the importance of spiritual agreement among the followers of Jesus. Christ imparts to the congregation an authority to know what is pleasing to God and to act in regard to God's will. But it is important always to remember that this is only the case in so far as a church can truly claim to be acting 'in the name' of Jesus, that is, in communion with his will and Spirit. This is why a Church Members' Meeting that neglects worship and prayer is likely to do its work only in human strength and not in God's. The authority of Christians is based upon belief in the priesthood of all believers, that is to say that through Christ all believers have the freedom to draw near to God and to receive from God. Christ mediates this to us because he is our great high priest (Hebrews 2:17, 8:1). But Christ is prophet, priest and king so it also makes sense to speak of both the prophethood and kingship of all believers. As they have access to God, so all believers are able to speak for God, as prophets do. And sharing in the kingship of Christ means they are able to take responsibility for their own lives and the lives of the congregation. This is why Baptists have wanted to encourage freedom of conscience, in the belief that believers continue to become spiritually minded and have the mind of Christ' (1 Corinthians 2:14-16).

They are not therefore slavishly dependent on being told what to do by some higher authority, either political or religious, but are able to make reasonable and righteous decisions for themselves (Romans 12:1-2). They are also able to do this because the congregations to which they belong have affirmed trust in them and empowered them to think in mature ways. Freedom of conscience is fostered therefore in discerning communities of faith.

Good practice - It follows from what has been said, that Church Members' Meetings should be conducted with a conscious awareness of the presence of Christ, with opportunity for worship and prayer and with the overall intention of being guided by God.

Meetings should be conducted in an orderly and transparent way, avoiding all forms of manipulation and with opportunity for all members of the church to share whatever they have to say. Members should listen respectfully to each other and should avoid stating their own point of view aggressively, although there is nothing wrong with passion. The aim of speaking should be to help all the church members be aware of the issues and to understand together how the work of the church could be advanced. They should also always be concerned to make 'every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3). It is the duty of all church members to watch over one another in love as a covenant community and to give all due respect to those who are 'watching over your souls' (Hebrews 13:17). The Church Members' Meeting should be considering the reception and welcome of new members, matters of church discipline, calling of ministers, appointment of leaders, and decisions about property. There should also be discussion and sharing of ideas concerning the church's overall life and mission. While it is in law, the responsibility of charity trustees (usually the deacons, ministers and elders within a Baptist church) to deal with legal and financial matters, it would be normal for the church members to receive information and accounts and other important practical issues. Sometimes Church Members' Meetings are asked to make comments on public affairs and respond to denominational enquiries. Running a church well can be an excellent demonstration of how a diverse group of people can work together, so that the way the church operates becomes part of the church's witness.

Misunderstandings and distortions - It is helpful to understand what the congregational governance of the church does not mean, alongside what it does:

- Church Members' Meetings do not always get things right. Since we are all limited, seeking the mind of Christ does not guarantee infallibility. We only ever operate within the light that we have, and that means we can be wrong. Due humility and realism is required.

- The competence of local churches does not mean they are omni-competent, All churches have their limitations, just as human beings do. There comes a point when all churches need advice, resources and assistance from outside themselves. It is wise to seek these things when we need them since God has made provision in the wider church.

- The freedom of the local congregation does not mean it is entitled to cut itself off from other churches. Two words are often used in this context: independence and autonomy. To talk about the 'independence' of the local church does not mean it has no need of other churches.

Together, we form the whole body of Christ. Likewise, to speak of 'autonomy' refers to self-government but should never be used to mean that churches are a law unto themselves. They are accountable to God, to each other as members, to the churches at large and to the faith that has been entrusted to them (Jude 3). - Churches should give to their appointed offices, whether ministers, elders or deacons all proper respect and should listen to their guidance with all due attention. Similarly with regional ministers from outside the local church, their advice, counsel and warnings should be given all respect. Neither church officers nor regional ministers have authority to command a church to act against its considered judgement but the experience and advice they bring are of immense importance and should be honoured.

The potential and the challenge of the Church Members' Meeting - The fact is that in Church Members' Meetings, Baptists can be at their worst or at their best. They are at their worst when they allow meetings to become places of divisive argument, or when they are used by some people to get their own way, to exercise power or to resist legitimate change. They are at their best when people realise that all of us together are wiser than any of us on our own. When God's people gather together in spiritual agreement to seek God's will, to build up the church and to serve God's kingdom they are capable of great achievements.

God of Peace

*Relax the tensions
of my body....*

*Still the anxieties
of my mind....*

*Calm the storms
of my heart....*

*Give me courage
to wait....*

*Let peace flow
in me
through me
from me*

*The deep deep
peace of God*

Taking the Rubbish out of the Park

The Litter Pick was a great success on Sunday 22nd March 2015 at The Highams Park. We had 25 local residents turn out for 2 hours and they collected 27 bags of litter from around the park which included a bike wheel and some bed springs!

The LBWF supplied litter picks, gloves and bags as part of the Waltham Forest Great Spring Clean-up weekend.

The Friends of the Highams Park are very pleased with the enthusiasm and commitment of local people who turned out to keep this much loved park clean and tidy. *Phil Slaney - The Friends of Highams Park.*





Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Brian Wren. 1975

For those in peril on the seas....

I would hazard a guess that few of our readers would know much about the Ushakov medal or that the name Jim Miller rings many bells. Please let me enlighten you...

In 2014 we remembered the centenary of the start of World War 1, in 2015 we remember the end of World War 2, seventy years ago. One facet of the Second World War that is sometimes overlooked is the assistance that we gave to the Russian people especially by way of the Arctic convoys. The seamen that crewed the boats that endured immense hardship both from U Boats and, perhaps more especially, the appalling weather conditions. These



ships were taking supplies to Northern Russian ports - altogether 1400 merchant ships were involved as well as many Naval vessels acting as escorts. Altogether 85 merchant vessels and 16 Royal Navy vessels were lost but about four million tons of supplies got through.

One of the escort vessels was HMS Anson a King George V class battleship, and one of the crew was Able Seaman Jim Miller. He tells of the hardships that the voyages entailed. He was a sight setter on one of the 5.25inch guns - the moving parts were covered in 2 inches of anti freeze grease and the guns had to be run for 10 minutes in every half hour to ensure they were ready for action when needed. When the waves reached 30 feet in height nobody was allowed on deck! The bravery of the men involved in these convoys has been almost overlooked.

The Russians however had not forgotten, and in 2012 decreed that the Ushakov medal was to be awarded to those men who had help support the Russian war effort so much. The medal is named after Admiral Fyodor Ushakov who never lost a battle, a fact for which he was named as Patron Saint of the Russian Navy.

The offer to accept the Russian gesture was taken up by Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA; however, Britain declined, citing the rule that medals must be awarded within 5 years of the action that earned it. This caused an uproar and an e-petition was started.

The government eventually changed the rule (on a one off basis) to allow the medal to be presented - possibly to avoid any form of diplomatic difficulty....



The change in the rule coincided with a visit to London of President Putin and the decision to present a British medal to acknowledge the bravery of the men on the Arctic convoys. This medal, the Arctic Star, was also presented some 70 years after the events that earned it. Strangely there seemed to be no problem with doing this! Both medals were presented to the first group of recipients at 10, Downing Street by President Putin and David Cameron.

Later recipients, including Jim Miller, were presented with their medals by the Russian Ambassador on September 14th 2014. Making the presentation he said:

'Dear Veterans of the Arctic Convoys,

Dear friends,

It is a huge privilege for me to thank you on behalf of the Russian Government for the invaluable contribution you and your comrades-in-arms made to the defeat of the Nazi Germany.

What you did 70 years ago, taking part in what Sir Winston Churchill rightly called the worst journey in the world, was extraordinary even amongst what is considered to be beyond the call of duty.

Thousands of Allied seamen lost their lives as the British ships sailed in the unwelcoming, stormy waters of the Arctic ocean under a constant threat of being attacked by German U-boats and aircraft.

Your heroism will always be remembered in Russia and Britain. Your deeds will continue to serve as the supreme expression of bravery and a high point in human spirit.

I am confident that it was not by accident that our nations found themselves on the right side of history, which the followers of the ideology of hatred wanted to stop, while depriving nations of their inalienable right to decide their destiny, The allied effort required all the best in the national spirit of the British and the peoples of the Soviet Union, the very strength of character that we are rightfully proud of.

The comradeship-in-arms, which was born at the truly critical juncture of history will forever remain an important part of the European spiritual heritage and our bilateral relationship, including the ties between the two navies.

On the instructions of President Vladimir Putin I have the honour of presenting to you the Ushakov medal.'

....and who is Jim Miller? He is the brother of our very own Doris Thorndyke!



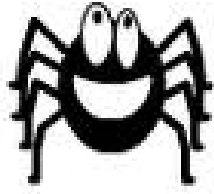
Jim Miller then



and now - with granddaughter



HMS Anson



Son of Sam gets organ(ised!)

Hello Samson you look very sad what's up?

Well Ed I overslept!

So why did you oversleep Samson?

I think the organ has stopped.

How did you know it had stopped?

Because the lady who plays it couldn't pull out the stops.

How did you know it had stopped if you were asleep?

Well I just like to wake up to the hymn, 'Awake my soul. And with the sun..'

So you mean you overslept after your winter hibernation?

Yes I couldn't stop sleeping.

So why did you oversleep Samson?

Because I couldn't stop sleeping because the lady couldn't pull out the stops.

Thanks Samson I think we will stop there.

P T Slaney - in the tradition of Sam the Spider by A S Fuglar

Putting the Park into Highams Park!

The Friends of the Highams Park have over the past two years since its formation been active in ensuring the enjoyment of the park for the many park users which has the third highest footfall of all parks in Waltham Forest.

In September 2014 the FOHP held a very successful Picnic in the Park which attracted more than 500 visitors who enjoyed live jazz, children's face painting, treasure hunt and welly wanging!

Future events for 2015: On **Easter Monday 6th April 2-4pm we are organising an Easter Egg Hunt** for children and families where we will have some hidden eggs throughout the park for children to find. There will be some Golden Tickets in the Easter Egg Hunt including a family day out at Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne.

Later this year on **Sunday 6th September 3-6pm we will be holding another Picnic in the Park.**

Future plans include upgrading the children's Play Park using the £80,000 grant funding from LBWF. The FOHP will be using the results of the recent consultation survey to help design a suitable play area which we hope will include both younger and older children.

The Highams Park covers some 20 acres and is adjacent to Epping Forest and Highams Park Lake. Originally this was part of parkland designed by Humphry Repton in 1793 for Highams House (now Woodford High School for Girls).

The park is a popular place for many dog owners, walkers and families with children and in winter time was one of the parks used for the popular LBWF New Year Fireworks displays.

For more information and to leave a message go to:
www.friendsofparkswf.org

*Phil Slaney - Friends of The Highams Park

News from China

Some of you will remember Rachel who spent some time with us before returning to China and who has kept in touch with Margaret and Geoff. They felt it would be good to give her updates as to progress.

Saturday, 7 February 2015, 15:40

Dear Geoff and Margaret,

I have been home for almost a week and have been busy meeting friends and relatives. I am sorry for this late email. So far, everything has been fine except the air pollution (the whole city can be considered a construction project) and the national firewall (which blocks a lot of information).

I will go to a new church tomorrow. Hope it would be as brilliant as HPBC :)

Best wishes to your family and you.

3 March 2015, 6:41

Dear Geoff and Margaret,

I have been travelling with mom during the spring festival holidays. It was a nice trip and I will send you pics soon :) It is getting warm in my hometown and I hope weather in London is also getting better.

The new church is very good although it takes about 1 hour to go. Recently, I am trying to participate in more church activities.

As the holiday is finished and all the companies are getting ready for the new business year, there are a lot of employment chances. I have been provided with some good opportunity.

I feel guilty that my Bible reading plan ceases because of the travelling :(I will try to make it up.

Hope everything is going well and miss you all.

24 March 2015, 15:38

Dear Margaret and Geoff,

I am so pleased to tell you I found a job last Thur! It is mainly about plan and develop tourist attractions. Sounds interesting?



The wage is much higher than the average and the office is not far away from home. Thank God for preparing this job for me. It is challenging too as every case require a plenty of reading.

The new church is very brilliant and I joined a Tuesday group to learn bible. I also participate in some systematic learning class on Sunday. In a word, work and church take huge percentage of my time.

The photo attached was taken at Wuhan University. Cherry blossoms.

Hope everything is going well and wish u a nice week.

Signs seen outside Churches

Are you wrinkled with burdens? Come inside for a faith-lift.

This Church is prayer-conditioned.

Give your troubles to God, He's up all night anyway.

Prayer gives you a calm-plex.

Get an after-life!

Let's meet Sunday...faith-to-faith. God.

Professionals built the Titanic. Amateurs built the Ark.

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

In the dark? Follow the Son.

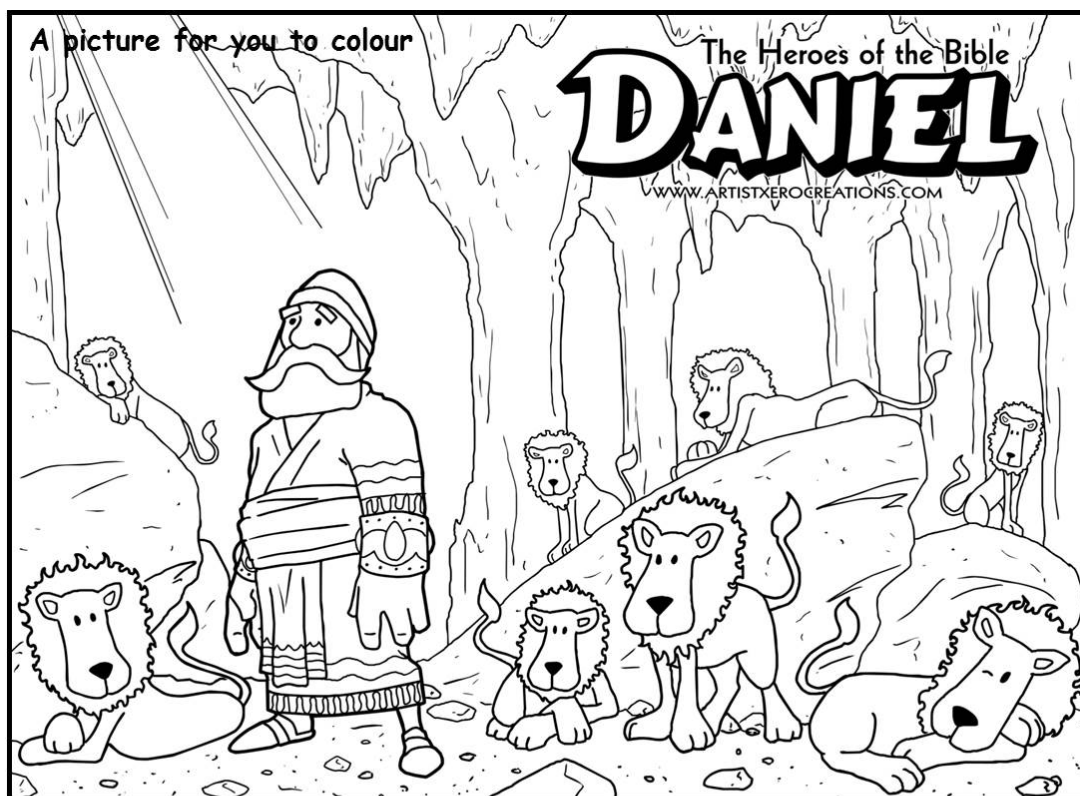
The village it is a changin'

In recent issues we have included news of some of the changes that are affecting Highams Park. We make no apology for this; many of our readers no longer collect their magazine from the church as they have moved away or are unable to get to church on a Sunday. They share a common bond of being 'Highams Parkers' and are interested in what is going on here.

In the last issue we wrote that Geoff Colinese had told us of plans to close signal boxes between Kings Cross and Doncaster. We were wrong - what it is intended to close are level crossings. I seem to remember being told that there are few level crossings in the London area and thinking that this might add a touch of uniqueness to Highams Park I checked - there are still some 40 such crossings in London - not all on the public highway or having gates - so we are not unique. But then I thought again to the work being carried out by the Lake and realised that there cannot be too many villages or towns in London that have a dam! Put the two together and Highams Park's individuality shines out.... DL

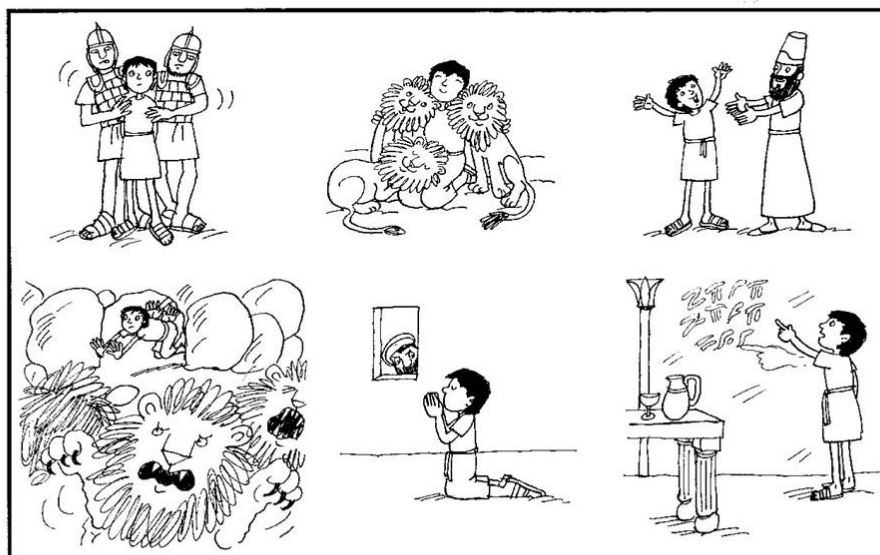


Our level crossing - new and old.



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- **Daniel's story** is told in the book of Daniel (Old Testament) - **Where:** Judah and the courts of both Babylon and Persia - **Occupation:** A captive from Israel who became an adviser of Kings - **Other people at the same time as him:** Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus - **Lesson from his life:** God can use people wherever they are



Here are 6 pictures from the story of Daniel - but they are in the wrong order. Number them in the right order. Look in Daniel chapters 5 & 6 to help you.

CHURCH DIARY

April

Sunday 5 th	10 am	Easter Sunday: All Age Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Sunday 12 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Paul Davis
Sunday 19 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Saturday 25 th	2:30 pm	Care Highams Park Afternoon Tea hosted by HPB
Sunday 26 th	10 am	All Age Service with BBGA Parade led by Jonathan

May

Sunday 3 rd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	7 pm - 8 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Thursday 7 th	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting at 21 Warboys Crescent
Friday 8 th	7:30 pm	BBGA Awards and Display Evening
Sunday 10 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Jonathan
Sunday 17 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Sunday 24 th	10 am	All Age Service with BBGA Parade led by Jonathan
Sunday 31 st	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Kerstin

June

Sunday 7 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Jonathan
	7 pm – 8 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Sunday 14 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	approx. 11:30 am	Church Members' Meeting

Refreshments are served after the Morning Service every Sunday.