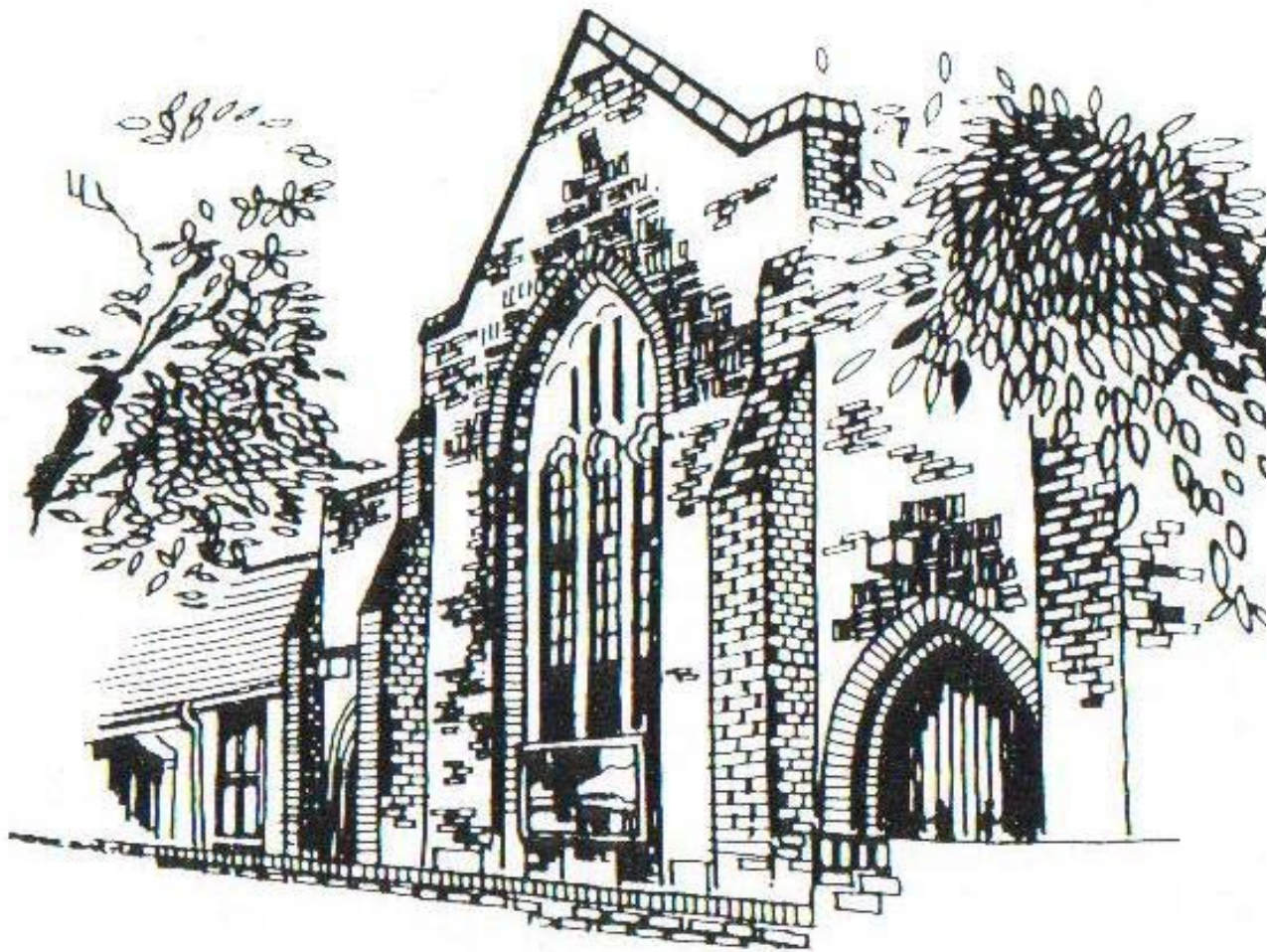




The Magazine
of
Highams Park Baptist Church

Cavendish Road, E.4.



2015 NUMBER FIVE

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 15th November 2015
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October / November 2015

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

Sometimes, as we look and see the way that the world is (and the way that we are as part of that world), we might wonder what can be done to bring about positive change.

It might be that we can help in practical ways to try to bring positive change. I understand that Baptist Minister Juliet Kilpin has so far co-ordinated over 250 offers from across the Baptist community of accommodation for Syrian refugees. If anyone were to feel able to make such an offer, or wanted to find out more, Juliet's e-mail address is julietkilpin@aol.com. Additionally there is a campaign for the establishment of a 'National Refugee Welcome and Resettlement Board' (NRWRB) that can properly and formally co-ordinate the task with regards to the receiving of refugees. Lynn Green, the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, is encouraging people to get behind this campaign. More information about this can be found at www.baptist.org.uk/refugees. It might be that we are able to give financially so as to aid the efforts of those looking to respond directly to the refugee crisis. Christian Aid, amongst others, has a Refugee Crisis Appeal, whereby you can give financially on-line at <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/refugees>. Not to divert attention from the need for a practical response, nor to make excuses for not doing so, for us as followers of Jesus, it's offered too that the words 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done' is a prayer that changes the world.

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 – e.g. 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 likely most often 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, which is already under God's perfect, wonderful, loving rule.

The hope and prayer of the follower of Jesus is that sooner, rather than later, this perfect, wonderful, loving rule of God will be realised / achieved in the world. I read that some people might understandably feel unhappy with the language of 'rule', with thoughts of power, control and command foremost. The advice is to think instead in musical terms and to imagine that every created thing in heaven and on earth is a member of a choir or an orchestra – 'In heaven everybody is playing and singing harmoniously in tune under God's direction to create the most awesome and wonderful music. On earth however the sounds are very different. Here instruments play against instruments, voices sing and shout in different keys, and the resulting harsh inharmonious noise that is created almost totally drowns out the voices and instruments here on earth that are struggling to play heaven's great tune'.

Jesus agreed that of key importance is 'Loving the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Loving your neighbour as yourself' (where, through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we can conclude that Jesus has in mind anyone who is in need). Please God, by your Holy Spirit, help me to be better in both of these respects.

In addition to responding to God and to the world in the important ways as identified above, as followers of Jesus, we can pray too - a prayer that is described as one that 'changes the world' - 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'.

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

Jonathan

Cavendish Circular

It is many years since Highams Park and its' environs has enjoyed the status of a country location with any farming connections, although my parent's generation held childhood memories of Hitchman's Farm, situated somewhere in the area of what is now part of the North Circular and whose only trace could be found in the Hitchman's Dairy situated in Handsworth Avenue until some decades ago! Now that we live in a busy, multi-cultural suburb of London how can we celebrate Harvest when our food is obtained from local shops or Tesco's? Of course, many still work allotments or enjoy the fruits of garden produce, and at our home in Newark we are surrounded by farming country so witness harvest being gathered in. However, wherever we live we can rejoice in God's gifts to us, and give our time, talents or donations to ensure that others in this country and abroad can share in them. Our Harvest offering this year will be divided between **BMS World Mission** and **Operation Agri** and you can read more about their work further in this issue.

We celebrated Harvest amid a beautifully decorated Church and we do thank Marilyn and her team for giving their time and talents to enhance our Harvest worship. After morning service a time of fellowship was enjoyed at a Bring and Share Lunch, organised by Mandy, and we also thank her and all those who provided and served the delicious fare. An opportunity to purchase harvest gifts of food and flowers added to the morning's special offering.

Once more our fellowship has been saddened to learn of the death of one of its' longest serving members -Les Edwards. Les died in the early hours of 3rd September after a short illness; having recently enjoyed moving to live with his son Keith and daughter in law Kath at their home in Sheffield. Les was a Captain and President of the BB, faithfully working and giving a great deal of his time to its' work over many years, while also serving as a Deacon and Elder in our Church. On 25th September family and friends joined with the Church family in a Thanksgiving Service, when we were able to give thanks for his life and remember all that he meant to our fellowship. His family remembered Les during the service in a tribute spoken by his daughter Anne and you can read extracts from this in the magazine. We send our loving condolences to Rob, Mandy, Steven and all Les's family in their loss. There will be an opportunity for others to remember Les and give thanks for his great contribution to the BB and HPBC in our next issue.

During our Harvest service the BBGA Enrolment took place and we are grateful to Jason, who was once again enrolled as Captain, and all the Officers and staff helpers who work with our young people in this organisation.

At this time thanks were also given for the life of Les, together with Gwladys Taylor and Barry White who had all played such a large part in the work of the Boy's Brigade.

Also during this service Phil gave us a brief update on the London Baptist Association which this year celebrates 150 years of work. He particularly asked for our prayerful support as they deliberate on changes to their staffing in the coming weeks.

On the same morning we were visited by two representatives from Waltham Forest Youth For Christ: Ann Dunn and John Stacey. John gave a brief introduction to the work of WFYFC and asked for our prayers and support for their work within the local community. He also acknowledged the great support and work that Geoff Norris had given to the organisation over many years. Leaflets and information about WFYFC were available after the service when John and Ann were able to answer questions.

During the last month we bade farewell to Jan Smithers who has left to take up a position as Teaching Assistant in Ghana for four months. Our prayers and best wishes go with her as she undertakes this work and we look forward to hearing about it on her return.

Once again we ask for your prayers for those known to our fellowship who are unwell at the present time and/or receiving ongoing medical treatment. These include: Margaret and Geoff Norris, Beryl Alvarez, Jason Close's father Douglas, Michael Thorndyke, and Phil Slaney's brother Steve.

We remember the young people in our fellowship who have recently embarked on further education: Jason Sita who is undergoing a Culinary Arts Management Course at Birmingham University; Gemma Player, now studying Theology at King's College, London, and Elizabeth Mitchell who has begun studying Psychology at the University of Stirling. May they settle quickly into their new surroundings and be supported by God's loving presence at this new stage in their lives. JL

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SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS.....

Week by week we enjoy the beautiful floral arrangements that grace our Sanctuary and Welcome area. The flower rota is arranged and co-ordinated by Marilyn Robinson and we are grateful to her for this service. If you would like to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or the life of someone special in this way please speak to Marilyn who will be happy to arrange it. She would welcome any help in arranging flowers, or giving a donation towards the floral displays.

Leslie Ernest Edwards

Taken from the eulogy given by Les' daughter Anne at the Thanksgiving Service



Many of you will have your own memories of Dad through his membership of Church and Boys' Brigade, but we would like to share with you some of the events that have become part of our family story.

Dad was born in Walthamstow on 11th September 1922. Upon reaching the age for leaving school he did not really know what he wanted to do. His reasoning that people would always want to buy things and his decision to become a salesman was one that he never regretted. When Dad retired he was working for a bedding company called Sleeppezee. While he was working with them they were the only bedding company to hold the Royal Warrant for supplying beds to the Royal Household. Needless to say Dad was very successful in his role and worked his way up through the company to Area Sales Manager. Part of his contract when he received a company car was that it had to be kept immaculate and washed every week; this Dad did fastidiously and, along with the time spent in the RAF during the war, went a long way towards his regimental lifestyle.

One thing we were all aware of as children was the importance to Dad of his faith. We were left in no doubt of his respect for the Sabbath, to the extent that one Sunday he was desperate for some cigarettes but wouldn't allow any of us to get some from the machine as that would involve someone in filling it up.

He was a very keen gardener and spent many hours fussing over his grass and the plants in his garden. The lawn was manicured to a standard that the groundskeepers at Lords would have been envious of, and the plants were so precisely spaced that I am sure he used to practice his drill dressing on them. Even Tim the family dog knew that he was not allowed on the grass and would obediently follow the paths up and down the garden. One morning we were woken at about 6 a.m. by a commotion from the garden – some cows had broken down the back fence and were mid-way through eating Dad's rhododendrons. Dad was out there chasing them round the lawn, hitting them as hard as he could with a broom. The terrified cows couldn't find an escape route and so just kept leaping in every direction to avoid his wrath. Within about 5 minutes the manicured lawn had been turned into a scene from no-mans-land of World War 1, not a blade of grass in sight.

Another love was his pond. As strength and balance became more of a problem in later life this brought its own challenges and he fell in to join the fish on more than one occasion. In fact when deciding on a design for his 90th birthday cake we chose a pond with him climbing out.

He found it very hard when the time came for letting his children (who he regarded as rank amateurs) take over garden maintenance. There were many occasions when I would cut the grass or catch up on some weeding closely monitored to ensure that it was done to his satisfaction.

Dad was never a cat person because of the damage they would do to his garden by digging up the odd plant or bothering the fish in his garden pond, or the budgerigars and Zebra Finches that he kept in a walk-in aviary at the top of his garden. After a few years of being pet free, and putting a lot of energy into chasing every neighbourhood cat that looked as though it was thinking about coming into the garden, Mum and Dad came back from a holiday abroad to find a black cat curled up on their front door step. Being tired from the long journey home Dad just shooed it away and went inside. The following day the cat was back, curled up in the rose garden at the front of the house. Dad was just about to chase it away when he noticed how thin and weather beaten the poor thing looked. To everybody's surprise he went inside and came back out with a saucer of milk, which the cat drank readily. This continued for a few days until Dad discovered that it belonged to a new family who had moved in a few doors down the road. They had not only moved house but had also got a new cat and their existing one had decided to leave home. The next thing we knew Dad had brought the cat into the house and named her Tibbs. This was the start of a new love for cats that none of us thought possible. Tibbs was not a young cat but enjoyed several years of luxury living with Mum and Dad, wanting for nothing. After Tibbs passed away Tasha and Sam took up residence at number 7 as kittens and spent 18 years being well and truly spoilt. Tasha and Sam passed away a little while after Mum, and Dad became desperately lonely. Dad found Percy at a Blue Cross rescue centre, and it was as though they were made for each other - Percy rarely being found more than a few feet from Dad, wherever he was.

Dad was very involved in the life of HPBC being a member, Deacon, Elder and long serving Captain of the Boys Brigade as well as BB President for many years. He enjoyed taking services as that gave him the opportunity to deepen his knowledge and understanding of the Bible. His many years with the Boys' Brigade was also something of which he was very proud and we would often hear news of old boys. He was always very outspoken and this would often manifest itself on a Sunday morning after one of our previous ministers, The Rev. Alan Smith, left us. When the church had a new minister if the service ran past 11 O'Clock, by even a few minutes, he would be sure to take them to task because his Sunday Dinner would now be late. I must congratulate the current minister who, not only has extended the service to finish at around a quarter past 11 but also had Dad staying for coffee afterwards!

Unfortunately in Dad's later life his health started to deteriorate which meant an increased number of visits to the doctors and hospital. On several occasions Dad walked out because an appointment was running 15 minutes late. His tactics seemed to pay off though because, as his impatience became known at his local health centre, he was normally awarded the first appointment of the day and was often coming out before the appointment was even due to start!

Dad loved holidays, especially in Cornwall, and Robert can remember when he was small being bundled into the car in his pyjamas in the middle of the night, wrapped up in blankets, in the hope he would sleep most of the way. Dad would always detour through Dartmoor to stop on the moors and set up his camping stove to cook a fry up for breakfast. This time he had woken Robert to get out of the car and help get breakfast ready. When he complained that it was too cold Dad dismissed it. It wasn't until Robert had been coaxed out that they discovered that what Dad had thought was mist on the grass was in fact a very thick, heavy frost. As a special concession breakfast was eaten in the car! On another holiday Dad forgot the alarm clock, and not wanting to oversleep and be late leaving their accommodation on the last morning, it was agreed that when Dad got up at around 6 a.m. he would wake Mum and Robert and they would set off. It was only when they had been travelling for some time and dawn still had not broken that they began to wonder just what time they had left. It turned out that Dad had actually woken around 1 a.m. They made it home by 7 a.m. and beat the milkman! Dad loved fish and chips especially if eaten by the sea – in recent years Keith and I had taken Mum and Dad to Cornwall and he was in heaven when we found a beach that he liked with a fish shop directly opposite the car park.

Dad was a very proud man, not of himself, but of his family. The walls of his house were adorned with photo's of all of his children and their families along with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Whenever anyone did anything for him they were always guaranteed a hug or a smile that lit his whole face, as a reward. Among these photo's also were the cards that he and Mum received from the Queen on their special wedding anniversaries, as they had been married for over 70 years, having grown up as neighbours and becoming childhood sweethearts.

When Dad first broke his hip a care package was put in place to offer any help that he may need in getting himself up, washed and dressed, and in preparing breakfast and also to offer assistance in preparing his midday meal. When the carers arrived in the morning to see if Dad needed any help, they would arrive to find him sitting in the living room having ensured that he completed everything before they arrived. When they came back at lunchtime he would tell them that they were just getting in the way as he had already prepared the vegetables and was half way through cooking his meal.

This was Dad all over as he faced every challenge head on and was very rarely defeated. After Dad broke his second hip he decided that he was not able to look after himself on his own anymore and accepted an offer to go and live in Sheffield with Keith and Kath.

Although he did feel frustrated as his ageing body allowed him to do less and less he still found his own unique way of dealing with the world. He enjoyed the, almost celebrity like, status that he was awarded by the variety of nurses and health professionals that came to see him because of his accent, or lack of it. We are all grateful to Keith and Kath for being willing and able to offer a new home to Dad to enable him to be surrounded by family right to the end as he wanted. We have been lucky to have our parents around for as many years as we have. It was very evident when Mum passed away that Dad had lost his soul mate and there is comfort in the knowledge that they are now back together again.

Les was very proud of the Boy's Brigade and he wrote the following for inclusion in the Book of Appreciation for the Church Centenary in 2013:

MEMORIES OF BOYS' BRIGADE

It was due to the initiative of the Rev Stephen Winward that the 17th South Essex (now the 17th Waltham Forest Company) of the Boys' Brigade was formed in 1942. It catered for boys between the ages of 12 and 17 whilst the Life Boys catered for lads between the ages of 8 and 12, and was referred to as the Junior Reserve of the BB. It was a very challenging time to start such an adventure in the middle of wartime, when most men were in the Armed Forces, but it survived those years and with the end of the war, 'old boys' of the 18th Company at Central Baptist Church, Walthamstow came to Highams Park to Staff the 17th Company. Gradually, company numbers increased and it began to produce it's own Staff. A trumpet band was formed in the late 40's and other activities started, resulting in overall numbers increasing to over 70 which enabled us to have a large BB band; there was also 30 lads in the Life Boys. Extra activities were started, Sunday - Bible Class, Monday – First Aid, Tuesday – Band, Thursday – Physical Training and Gymnastics, Friday – Company Parade, Drill and Clubroom, Saturday – Football or Cricket.

On Sunday mornings for the first twenty minutes, the organ side of the Church would be filled by BB before they filed out to Cowling hall for Bible Class. At the Evening Service, up to 30 boys and Officers would regularly attend.

The 17th had it's own Annual Display on two nights, in what was then Sidney Burnell School hall, and all seats were filled by parents, friends and Church members.

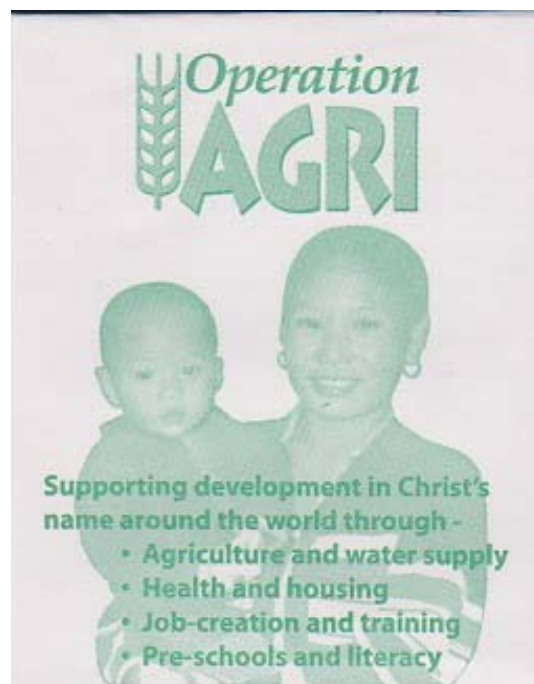
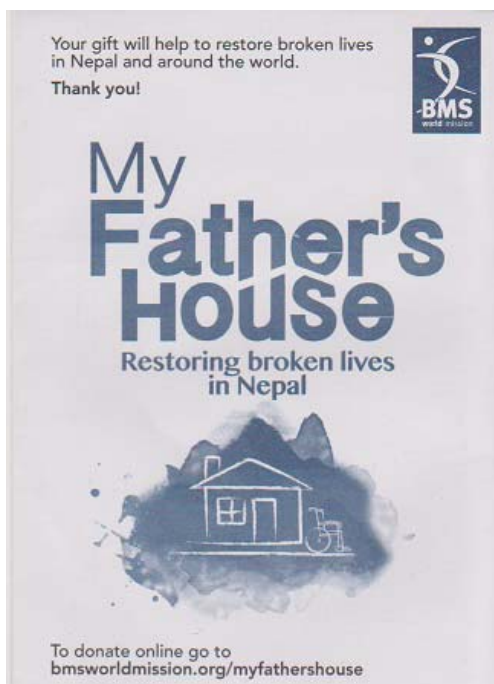
At the Parade Service, on the first Sunday of each month, the majority of the central part of the Church would be filled by members of the Girls' Brigade and the BB. After the Service, they would all form up and march around the local streets, led by the Band. The highlight of the year was without doubt, the Annual ten day camp (under canvas) with the 6th Company from the Leytonstone Methodist Church, to St Helens on the Isle of Wight.

Each year, between 100 and 130 officers and boys regularly attended. Sadly, in 2013, the Girls' Brigade no longer exists and the BB now meets only one day a week and includes girls under the heading of 'The Girls Association'.

Television, computer games, and extra school activities have all been blamed for the fall in numbers. The real trouble is that as a nation, we have lost our faith and love in God. As a footnote, it is worth mentioning that in 2013, five of our present Church Council members are 'old boys' of the BB.

Les Edwards (25 years as BB Captain)

Our Harvest Offering this year is being divided between BMS World Mission and Operation Agri. We are grateful to all who gave so generously to the offering thereby supporting vital work being carried out in this country and abroad.



Harvest 2015

On Sunday 27th of September the Church celebrated the Harvest Festival. The church had, as ever, been wonderfully dressed with flowers. Our thanks go to Marilyn Robinson and her band of helpers.



After the service a Bring and Share lunch was enjoyed by a good number of people. The food was excellent and in large amounts. One of the items was a celebration cake baked by Kelly Daniel - the question heard from many people was 'how do you bake a cake that size' - it was not only of generous proportions but tasted great! Again the thanks of all who enjoyed the meal to Mandy and all who helped by supplying food and with cooking and serving.



HPB Men's Group Events

Dear Men,

Our next event is a Men's Breakfast at Mulberry House on Saturday October 17th 2015 at 9.00am - 11.30am (Doors open at 8.30am. Meet at HPBC at 8.00am for lifts or go direct).

Full English Breakfast followed by a time of worship and guest speaker,

'Christians in Business' with Nigel Richardson. Nigel will be sharing his testimony of the difference knowing Christ can make in the competitive world of business. He has over 30 years experience in Lloyds banking group in Senior Management positions. Nigel left banking 2 years ago to undertake training for full-time Christian ministry and is now on the leadership team at Danbury Mission.

Cost: £13 including breakfast and drinks on arrival. If you want a place at our table please let Phil Slaney know with £13 Sunday 11th October.

Future events include:-

Film and Pizza Evening on Thursday 19th November 2015 at 7.30pm showing feature film: Selma about Martin Luther King at HPBC. Cost: tbc

Christmas Dinner for Men and women on Tuesday 15th December 2015 at 7.30pm. Cost and venue tbc.

Phil Slaney

Church Council Elections - Thinking about Church Leadership:

The only two local Church 'offices' mentioned in the New Testament are those of elder ('overseer') and deacon ('servant').

The Apostle Paul gives criteria as to people suitable for the roles. Implicit in these qualities is a person's heartfelt desire for the care and oversight of God's people. The verses of the Bible that address both the roles of deacon and elder clearly speak of selfless Christian servants who desire to humbly and sacrificially care for the people Jesus died to save.

The Greek word for deacon is 'diakonos'. In its pre-technical usage, this word simply meant "one who serves." The seven men chosen to serve in this capacity in Acts 6:1-6 were likely the first deacons ever to be appointed in the Church. Generally, their attention to the physical needs of the early Church was to allow 'the Twelve' (the 11 original disciples plus Matthias, also referred to as 'the apostles' in v6) to give full attention to prayer and the teaching of the word of God (Acts 6:2,4). However, Acts 6:8-8:1 clearly shows that gifted deacons may preach and teach boldly at times!

The criteria explained in these verses as to those who were chosen is that they were known to be 'full of the Spirit and wisdom' (v3). Stephen is particularly mentioned as being a man 'full of faith and of the Holy Spirit' (v5).

In Paul's letter first letter to Timothy, a young leader in the Church at Ephesus, Paul doesn't write about the roles of elder and deacon but rather the criteria / 'qualities' that someone should meet in order to be considered for the role: *(v8) Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. (v9) They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. (v10) They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. (v11) In the same way, (their) wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. (1 Timothy 3v8-13)*

Apparently the Greek word translated as 'wives' (v11) can also refer to 'women helpers' or 'deaconesses'. Hence Paul could either be writing about 'wives of deacons' or 'female leaders of the Church' (such as Phoebe, the deaconess mentioned in Romans 16v1). In either case, Paul expected the behaviour of prominent women in the Church to be just as responsible and blameless as that of prominent men.

The lists of qualities in the New Testament for Church office show that living a pure and blameless life requires effort and self-discipline. All believers, even if they don't plan to be Church leaders, should strive to follow these guidelines because they are consistent with what God says is true and right.

For Highams Park Baptist Church the elected leadership is referred to as the 'Church Council'. Individual members of the Council are referred to as 'deacons' but serve together with oversight and responsibility for both 'practical' and 'spiritual' matters within the life and work of the Church (involvement with 'spiritual' matters is often more associated with the role of elder).

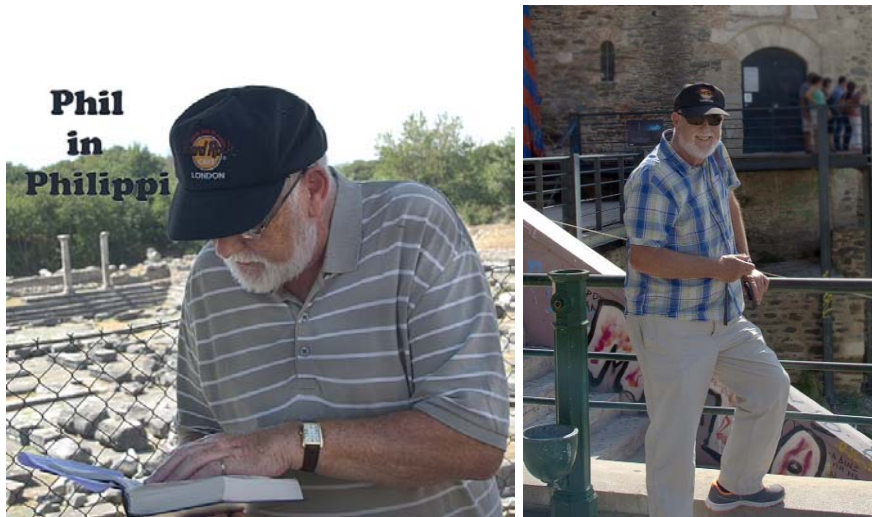
The Biblical material that speaks about deacons and elders hence serves as a helpful guide with regards to those potentially entrusted with leadership responsibility at the Church: Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Finally '...it is important to understand that they [*those elected to serve as leaders*] always serve with the agreement of the local congregation. The only Lord in the congregation is Christ himself'.

Ed's note: The Church AGM (including Church Council Elections will take place on Sunday 29th November at approx. 11.30am.

Walking In Their Footsteps

Phil Slaney has recently been on his travels, following in the footsteps of the Apostles, and has sent some pictures:



Phil in Thessalonica

He also visited Patmos and Ephesus -we hope to bring a full report in the next issue.

As we have just seen Phil has recently taken a trip covering the path of the early Christians but did you realise that he follows in a line of 'tourists' that goes back many years and has a very firm Baptist grounding?

In the early 19th century the only people that could afford to make long journeys were the rich, and such journeys were likely to take some considerable time, be uncomfortable and be transported by means of horse power. Then came the railways!



One man had the vision to create what would now be called 'a package deal'. This idea came whilst he was walking from Market Harborough to Leicester to attend a Temperance Society meeting. He decided to see if it were possible to contract with The Midland Counties Railway, one of the many railway companies then in existence, to hire a train to transport about 500 delegates from Leicester to a Temperance meeting in Loughborough at a cost of one shilling to include travel and food. It was the first privately chartered train journey that was open to the general public. From this beginning the company that he formed

was able to provide more package deals to visit the 1851 Great Exhibition in London. His name went on to be a byword for travel.

And who was this man? - it was Thomas Cook who was a devout Baptist. He was born in Derbyshire in 1808 and joined his local temperance society. In February 1826, Cook became a preacher, and toured the region as a village evangelist, distributing pamphlets and occasionally working as a cabinet maker to earn money. After working as a part-time publisher of Baptist and Temperance pamphlets, he became a Baptist minister in 1828.

He was perhaps a better organiser than businessman as at one point he became bankrupt. However, his persistence paid off and he later joined with his son John to create the company of Thomas Cook and Son.

DL

9 Children in the Church

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

Jesus showed an exceptional love and regard for children. On one occasion a disciple asked him, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'. In reply, he placed a child in their midst. He then said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me' (Matthew 18:1-5). If Jesus is the revelation of the Father (John 14:8-9), we are bound to believe that this is how the Father views them. A child can act as an example for life in the kingdom of God. It is not the innocence of children that Jesus has in mind but their humble and lowly status in the ancient world. Whereas the disciples were concerned with who would be great, a child was an example of humility and lack of concern for status. God has always been against the proud and for the humble (Luke 1:51- 52). He is the God who defends the widows and the orphans because they are humble and vulnerable (Deuteronomy 24:17-22). Children are of great significance to God, and also to the church.



Children in the Bible - In the Bible, children are regarded as a blessing from God. God gave the command in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it' (Genesis 1:28). Sons were a heritage from the Lord (Psalm 127:3-5).

Daughters gave birth to and nurtured the next generation (Psalm 1:8; Ruth 4:11-12). Survival and security depended upon children being born, which is why the inability to have children was regarded as a tragedy. It was the duty of parents to pass on their faith and its ways to the next generation, and this was done by a process of story-telling and instruction (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Children were regarded in Israel as belonging to the covenant people by virtue of their birth into the nation. In the New Testament, the promise of salvation is clearly understood to be inclusive of all nations and people, not just Israel. It is 'for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him' (Acts 2:39). The church is therefore open to all people, young and old, and the benefits of God's salvation are offered to all, not least to children.



Children and the church - In keeping with the attitude and actions of Jesus, the church welcomes children. It takes seriously his invitation, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me' (Matthew 18:5). To receive a child in his name, is to do honour to Jesus and to receive his grace through the child. It could be said that how we treat children is a sign of our true devotion to Jesus. Jesus'

invitation is immediately accompanied by the warning, 'If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea' (Matthew 18:6).

To hinder or damage a child is identified here as a very grievous sin. A child is in the process of formation and to distort this is to leave a trail of damage that will last into adulthood and produce great unhappiness. Churches therefore should be places where children are safe from harm, welcomed, supported, guided and loved in a secure and wholesome environment.

There are ways in which churches set about the task of providing such a hospitable community for children, both in how they are welcomed and in how they are protected. But the most important concern is our mentality, how we think of children. Children should not be considered less important than adults but as equally valuable. They are partners with adults in the life of the church, should participate according to their growing faith in its worship, learning, fellowship and service and even in its evangelism. It should be remembered that the Holy Spirit can speak through children, that they have gifts that need to be discovered and developed and that they can be included in the idea of 'the priesthood of all believers'. Churches should do as much as they can to include children in their whole life.

Welcoming children - Baptist churches do not baptise infants because they believe



that the decision to be a disciple of Jesus is one that can only properly be made at a later stage of spiritual development. However they do welcome children into the community by means of a special service known as 'Infant Presentation' or 'the blessing of children and the dedication of parents'. For most people, the process of becoming a Christian is one that takes place over time as we become aware of the call of God and then fully committed in response. This process is sometimes called 'a journey of initiation' and there is every reason why it should begin early in life as people are introduced to the way of Christ.

The presentation of children is a practice rooted in biblical example. It celebrates the gift of children, their presence within the Christian community and the hope of the Gospel that is offered to them and to all. This is based upon a further incident in the life of Jesus that is worth quoting in full: 'People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them' (Mark 10:13-16).

The presentation of children is based on this passage and involves both thanksgiving and blessing. Although churches and ministers have their own ways of doing this, it usually takes place in a regular service of worship and has the following pattern: When a child is brought by their parent or parents they are welcomed and introduced by name to the congregation. The service itself is explained as one of thanksgiving, dedication and blessing. Selected Bible readings are read, such as Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 18:1-7, Acts 2:37-39 and usually end with Mark 10:13-16. A prayer of thanksgiving for the child is offered. The parent or parents are asked to dedicate themselves to bringing up the child in a loving way and teaching them the Christian faith.

The congregation is asked to stand, as a way of indicating its support and its own willingness to play its part through prayer and nurture in the child's upbringing. The minister leading the service blesses the child by name with words from Numbers 6:24-26, 'The Lord bless you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace'. Further prayers are offered for the child and parents, expressing the hope that the child will, in time, come to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and confess him as such in the waters of baptism. If the child is still a baby they will often be taken around the congregation to be welcomed before being returned to the parents. A Bible or some other gift will then be presented. Churches are sensitive to the varying circumstances in which people come to them whether as single parents, cohabiting couples, or those of, as yet, uncertain faith. They will be anxious to uphold the integrity of the service. They are often more than willing to adapt it so that it fits people's situations in the belief that the child's welfare and blessing is the most important thing. They will also be concerned that no-one is asked to make promises that they are unable or unwilling to fulfil.

Infant presentation does not claim to make the child a Christian. This can only happen as the Spirit of God awakens faith and the response of repentance and faith is given (Acts 2:38). This can happen in early childhood or in later years. But the service celebrates the fact that children belong within, and are embraced by, the Christian community. It provides an opportunity to speak genuine and powerful words of blessing over them in Jesus' name and so assists in their healthy growth.

Protecting children - Having welcomed children, it is the church's duty to ensure that they are kept physically and emotionally safe when in church. The Baptist Union of Great Britain has developed guidelines known as 'Safe To Grow', to assist churches with setting in place the necessary processes, checks and balances to ensure both best practice in this area, as well as the fulfilment of government legislative requirements. These processes will include ensuring that children are only ever in the care of adults who are fully aware of their responsibilities and have a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure (*Update: now this is a 'DBS' Disclosure*) or other relevant legal clearance. The Union offers expert safeguarding, guidance and training in this area.

Infant presentation and infant baptism - Infant baptism is sometimes justified on the basis that the children should be brought to Jesus for baptism and not hindered, as in Mark 10:13-16. But when the children were brought on this occasion Jesus did not baptise them but blessed them, and this was enough. It is also argued that baptism occupies the same place as circumcision in the Old Testament and should be administered shortly after birth. But in the new covenant we do not become members of God's people through birth but through new birth (John 3:3).

This should be the occasion for baptism therefore, not when we are born but when we are born again as believers in Christ. For children to be in the Christian community is a privilege both ways. The community has the blessing of young lives growing in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52). Children have the benefit of being surrounded by a worshipping community, hearing of Christ and being in an atmosphere of faith. Whether or not they continue in the faith, and many will, this should be a legacy that

influences them for good for the rest of their lives. This is indeed a blessing. Baptists have found it hard to believe that children who die before they are able to come to a responsible decision of faith are lost to God. They have found it even more difficult to believe that their eternal salvation depends upon what has been done to them (or not) in infant baptism. Most Baptists would believe that children who die are in a special category as far as God is concerned and that as Christ died for them also it is entirely right to be totally confident about their place in the love of the Christ-like God.

Blood Donating



I have just donated my 84th pint of blood (10 bodies full as Tony Hancock might have said!). I am not telling this to say how great I am but, on the contrary, I am saying that if a wimp like me can do this, just think what some of you may be able to do....

Hazel

For further details or to donate contact: blood.co.uk or 0300 123 23 23

Highams Park Snippets

The proposed Controlled Parking Zone mentioned in the last issue was turned down by overwhelming public response - the Council is now trying to make most of Highams Park a 20 mile per hour area - watch this space for news!

The Council is also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Borough of Waltham Forest - a number of talks are being given covering the four constituent parts of the Borough accompanied by books on the topic. Details can be had from : www.wfculture.eventbrite.com or from local libraries.



"THANK GOD for all the opportunities we have had to speak words of truth to young people over the past year and for the staff whom God has used to open doors for us."

Waltham Forest Youth For Christ ...

- works with local young people through a programme of events including: 'Ultrasound', 'Connect Cafe', and 'Soul Survivor'
- works in Chingford Foundation School, Rushcroft School, Holy Family Technology College, Connaught School for Girls and Leyton Sixth Form College, through lessons, assemblies and mentoring.
- Works with local Churches through special services and events.

PLEASE PRAY.....

- *that Young Christians will not be ashamed of the gospel and will seek to bring their friends along to events. That the programme will engage and meet the spiritual needs of young people. That the young people we have had the opportunity to share the gospel with will continue to hunger after God and share their faith with their peers. That young people of the borough will learn of the Father's love and respond to the Gospel.*

Taken from WFYFC information leaflets. If you want to know more about WFYFC email: contact@wfyfc.org.uk; tel: 020 8518 7707. Follow on: @WFYFCTEAM



- Peter's story is told in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) and the book of Acts (New Testament)
 - Occupation: Fisherman, Disciple - Relatives: Father - John, Brother - Andrew - Also at the same time as Peter: Jesus, Pilate, Herod - Lesson from his life: It is better to be a follower who fails than one who fails to follow.

- Peter is also referred to as 'Simon' and 'Simon Peter' in the Bible.



Fishing for People:
 Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' (Luke 5:10)
 Can you find all of the Peter related words in the box below in the word search?

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PETER	PEOPLE
DEEP	WASHING
FISHING	SHORE
BOATS	PREACHING
NETS	JESUS
SEA	FISHERMEN
AFRAID	SINKING
GALILEE	

CHURCH DIARY

October

Sunday 4 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	7 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Sunday 11 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Jonathan
Sunday 18 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Sunday 25 th	10 am	All Age Service led by Jonathan

November

Sunday 1 st	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jason
	7 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Thursday 5 th	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting at 21 Warboys Crescent
Sunday 8 th	10 am	Remembrance Sunday: Morning Service led by Jonathan
Sunday 15 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Sunday 22 nd	10 am	Morning Service led by Jonathan
Sunday 29 th	10 am	1 st Sunday in Advent: Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	11:30 am approx.	Church Members' Meeting
	6:00 pm	Churches Together United Service for Advent at HPBC

December

Sunday 6 th	10 am	2 nd Sunday in Advent: Morning Service with Communion
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led by Jonathan

Timing t.b.c Churches Together Bereavement Service
at Highams Park United Reformed Church,
Malvern Avenue

7 pm - 8 pm 'New Songs' Worship

Sunday 13th 10 am 3rd Sunday in Advent:
All Age Service: Children's and Young People's
Christmas Presentation

Refreshments are served after the Morning Service every Sunday