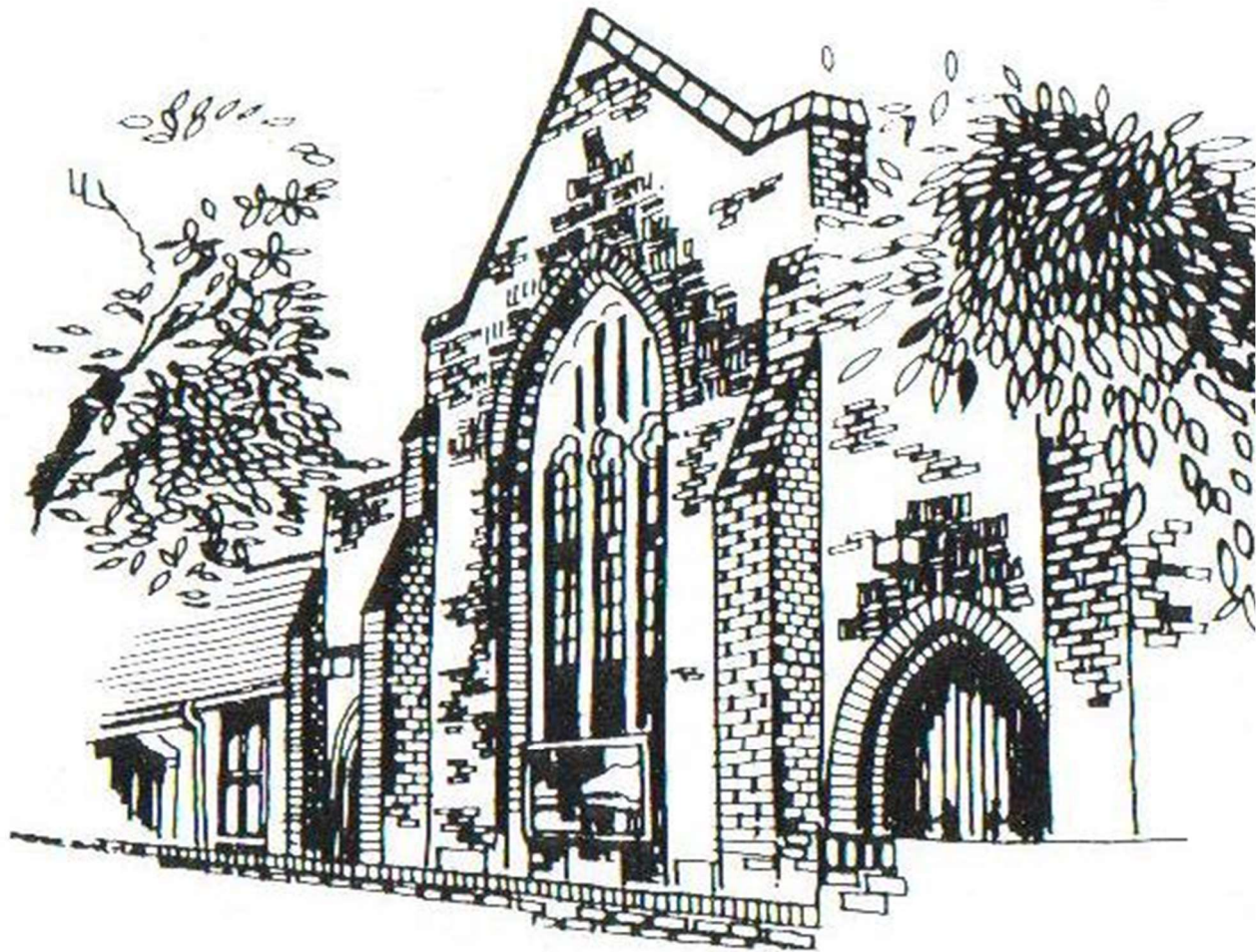




The Magazine
of
Highams Park Baptist Church

Cavendish Road, E.4.



2016 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

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 May 2016
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April / May 2016

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***Rev. Jonathan Boyce
21, Warboys Crescent,
Highams Park,
London, E4 9HR***

☎ 020 8531 0620

Church Secretary:

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

☎ 020 8524 6258

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you received any chocolate Easter eggs this year? If you received a Pot Noodle or Marmite Easter egg I would be interested to know how they tasted.

Unilever, the multi-national consumer goods company, formed a partnership with the confectionary firm Kinnerton to deliver these unusually flavoured chocolate eggs this Easter.

The official Pot Noodle twitter feed assured us that the egg didn't *actually* contain noodles, merely just tasted of them. So, if we've ever had a craving for noodle-flavoured chocolate.... .

According to Unilever, the eggs will 'broaden the appeal of Easter'.

In other chocolate egg related news, Cadbury were accused of 'hiding' the word 'Easter' from the front of their chocolate egg packaging this year. Apparently the company was 'inundated with furious comments from customers on Twitter, questioning why the Easter treats simply said 'milk chocolate egg' with no mention of the Christian festival'.

One tweet asked: 'Some of us want to know why Easter is hidden on the back now?' while another commented: 'Disgusting you've dropped the word 'EASTER''.

I understand that Cadbury sent 'endless' replies to 'irate' shoppers denying claims that they have a policy to remove the Easter slogan on packaging. The company wrote on its Twitter account: 'Easter's on the back of our packaging with the other product details'. 'It's not on the front as the seasonal design shows what it is'. 'As a seasonal treat the eggs will always be linked with Easter'.

The events that followers of Jesus particularly remember at Easter have been described as 'three days that changed the world'. It is in reference to what happened on what is known as 'Good Friday' through until Easter Sunday.

In relation to the events of 'Good Friday', the Apostle Paul writes 'we preach Christ crucified' (1 Corinthians 1v23). He does also express that the message of Jesus sounds foolish to those who don't believe it. The Life Application Bible comments that 'the Good News of Jesus Christ still sounds foolish to many. Our society worships power, influence and wealth. Jesus came as a humble, poor servant and he offers his kingdom to those who have faith, not to those who do all kinds of good deeds to try to earn his gifts. This looks foolish to the world, but Christ is our power, the only way we can be saved. Knowing Jesus personally is the greatest wisdom anyone could have.'

With the events of Easter Sunday in mind, the Apostle Paul writes: 'If Christ has not been raised our preaching is useless and so is your faith' (1 Corinthians 15v14).

Jesus' resurrection was the ultimate sign that what he said about himself, about forgiveness and about new life with God was true. Without the resurrection we would have no reason to believe.

Henry Morris explains: "The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If the resurrection did not take place then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place then Christ is God and the Christian faith is absolute truth.'

As followers of Jesus we believe and trust in him, in his death on the cross and in his resurrection. As people of faith in Jesus we can celebrate the truth of Jesus not just at Easter but always because the message of Jesus is good news that wonderfully impacts upon our past, our present and our future.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Jonathan

Unless the eye catch fire,
The God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire
The God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire
The God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
The God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
The God will not be known.

William Blake (1757-1827) from *Pentecost*

Cavendish Circular



weeks time when we celebrate Whitsun (Pentecost), the birth of the Christian Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit

Once again we have celebrated with joy the Easter message of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and the hope of eternal life through His resurrection. The traditional Good Friday Walk of Witness through Highams Park was supported by a very good number from the local Churches and you can read a report from Phil Slaney about this further in the magazine. Our Easter Morning service proved a joyous occasion and the Sanctuary was decorated beautifully once again by Marilyn Robinson and her team of helpers. We now look forward to a few



At spring time it is always a particular joy to celebrate a new birth, reflecting the burgeoning growth all around us in nature. We are delighted to report the arrival of a grandson for Steve and Karon Jenkins. Max was born around five weeks prematurely weighing just 2lbs. 6oz. but was able to breathe independently from birth and is now thriving. We send heartiest congratulations to his parents, Rebecca and

Adam, and all the family.

Mavis Grint has been in hospital recently with breathing problems but is now home again and recovering well. Please remember her and all other friends who are undergoing health problems and treatment at present, that they may feel God's presence and healing touch in their lives.

We recently welcomed two new members into the fellowship at HPBC: Wonok Meakins and Kelly Daniel. We thank God for their commitment to the work of our Church and pray for God's loving guidance in all they do.

In our last issue we recorded with great sadness the death of Beryl Alvarez, our former Church Secretary and faithful member of many years. An act of committal, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving, took place in Frinton on 7th March when a good number of our present fellowship, augmented by past members and friends of HPBC, attended to give thanks for Beryl's life. Jonathan led the tributes from our fellowship which included many affectionate and inspiring memories from past and present members celebrating the vital role she played in the life of our Church over so many years. There are opportunities to remember Beryl further in the magazine. We send our loving condolences to her son Geoffrey, and to Joyce Stanborough, her close friend and our former Church Treasurer, who cared for Beryl throughout her illness.

Beryl Alvarez 1933 - 2016



Beryl is a very special part of the history of Highams Park Baptist Church.

Beryl grew up in HPB. She was part of the Girls' Brigade, Sunday School, Youth Group and the Church family more widely and so knew the HPB ways and traditions intimately. Hence, later, her memory of 'precedent' helped us tremendously in tackling the challenges of 'the now'.

Beryl was our Church Secretary for over twenty years. Her work in this role additionally encompassed 3 interregna or 'ministry transitions' as they are now called – a very key time in the life of any Church. During the Interregnums Beryl was a 'steady hand on the tiller' to use an old-fashioned phrase. Quietly and sensitively she would go about her duties, often helping out with other's tasks also. Her advice and support were extremely valuable and she was a safe, wise counsellor through good times and the more difficult periods too.

Beryl brought to the post of Church Secretary a highly organised, efficient and proactive approach. Her leadership and management skills were so manifest. Beryl did this with no fuss and exhibiting good deputation / good skills of delegation. There was her wisdom and discretion, she excelled as a meticulous observer, likewise as an excellent recorder and archivist, and to crown all these attributes, she was someone with a delightful sense of humour.

Although our appreciation of Beryl is for who she was rather than what she accomplished it is right to acknowledge her extra-ordinary gift of administration, her constitutional insight, the always appropriate manner of her contact with the Baptist Union on the Church's behalf, her ability to know when to speak and when to listen and when to say nothing.

When Beryl stepped down from the role Geoff expressed of her and of her contribution: What can one say about such a record of service, leadership, organisational skills and people management! The mind reels! Interregna, rotas, rosters, pulpit supplies, managing church councils, overseeing and often chairing the same, Church meetings, elections, relating to others outside of the Church, ensuring that we stuck to the Church Rules and Constitution, the keeping of the minutes, organising the use of the premises during the week, Beryl also serving as manager of the crises, and as the guardian of all that we cherish at HPB. In all this Beryl did not only cope but managed with aplomb, verve and quality!

Geoff also expresses how he felt so unworthy to try and follow her example some years ago when he became Church Secretary following on from Beryl. He suggests that fortunately he had the sense to appoint her (in his mind) as Church Secretary Emeritus and so he, and we, continued to benefit from Beryl's wise comments as and when they were needed.

I've heard over the recent weeks of Doris' memory of Beryl hosting an evening of music in her flat at Connaught Avenue in Chingford. About a dozen people from the Church would listen together to a selection of music chosen by Beryl and Joyce. The evening involved cups of tea and coffee and great fellowship with lots of conversation and a laugh or two or more.

Doris and Alf always looked forward to those evenings – it was a great time, everyone attending thoroughly enjoying themselves.

I've heard over the recent weeks of Wendy's memory of Beryl as 'Cookie' at Girls' Brigade Camp. Wendy expresses: 'I remember the food being good and the smiles from all the ladies in the kitchen. I also remember Beryl and the other members of staff sitting on deck chairs and watching the girls on the beach. Then I grew up and had my own children - Beryl asking how the children were and chatting to Gemma and smiling at Toby. What a nice lady!

Hazel recalls when she and her husband Mike met Beryl and Joyce while out and somehow the fact that Mike was having trouble with itchy skin on the back of his hands came up in the conversation. Not only did Beryl find a solution, she delivered it to them and would not let them pay for it. Hazel conveys: We will never forget that kindness. It worked too.

One of my particular, special, memories of Beryl relates actually to the very first time that she and I spoke. It was prior to me becoming Minister of Highams Park Baptist Church. September 2004 probably. I answered a phone call. The lady explained that she was Beryl, the Church Secretary from Highams Park Baptist Church in East London. By way of background to the phone call, my wife Michelle and I were looking to discern about what God had planned for us as a family after having lived on the south coast for some years, Highams Park Baptist Church were looking to discern about a new Minister. Hence the Church Council had received, along with the details of others candidates, my name and my profile from the Baptist Union. After the initial introductions, Beryl's very first question of me was to ask how our new baby was – in the profile – my Baptist Minister CV, compiled some time, before I had mentioned that my wife Michelle was pregnant and hence we were expecting the birth of a first child in August. Both Michelle and I were hugely impressed and pastorally blessed that Beryl had noted this small, but clearly very important to us detail from the profile and had, before any conversation about Ministry, had enquired as to our family situation.

In the latest edition of the Church Magazine are recorded some words sent to the Church by Rev. Douglas Sparkes, a former Moderator for the Church. The words were sent before Beryl's death and Douglas was very sad to subsequently learn the news about Beryl: 'Amongst our many blessings are the host of memories that we cherish, and very highly valued among them all are those of H.P. Every time you send us your Magazine those joyful memories are refreshed. Still there are names appearing in print so well remembered by us - notably, of course, Beryl Alvarez whose welcome was always accompanied by a cup of coffee'. When Rev. Sparkes and other visiting Ministers came to lead the Service, Beryl, recognising that it might be that a visiting Minister has needed to get up early and travel far to be present to lead the Service at HPB, would prepare a flask of coffee that would be ready and waiting for them on their arrival. Beryl was not only intelligent and wise (It's offered that the two don't always go together!) but practical too and this shows in the way she made a visiting Ministers so welcome - the proffered coffee/tea and biscuits she provided before the service were very welcome!

Raymond Vincent, who was the Church's Moderator in the nineties recently passed on his condolences with regards to Beryl's death. He described Beryl as a 'great encourager'.

I'm told that Beryl had a talent too for keeping in touch with the dispersed members of HPB all over the UK.

Margaret fondly relays that she and Beryl were little girls together and went through Sunday School, Y.P.F and beyond together and that they talked and shared together as you do at 9 years old & 10 & 11 and so on. Margaret conveys that Beryl had a clearly developing wisdom even back then although as a child and young person Margaret wouldn't necessarily have verbalised about Beryl's wisdom in those terms. Apparently one of the youth leaders expressed to Margaret how much they appreciated Beryl's reliability and common sense and her vision. On hearing the words, Margaret remembers first being surprised at such a statement given that Beryl was still so young – and then of realising how true they were of Beryl.

Beryl was also great fun – a terrible giggler and many a time we must have all have driven our youth leaders to despair, Margaret and Beryl giggling alongside one another. Beryl's giggles and sense of fun were infectious and great. Indeed Sylvia expressed to me just last week – wherever Beryl was, there was laughter.

Margaret also conveys: like so many others I have thanked God for Beryl's Godly steadfastness and wisdom and fun as the years went by but I wanted you to know that the adult Beryl grew from a lovely straightforward, questioning girl who never tantrumed or self- aggrandised – that is exaggerating about herself or boasting or building herself up - but rather, even then was someone who loved people with all their faults even when she did not always agree with them, who was never hurtful and who was always a joy to be with.

Some years ago at Highams Park Baptist Church a mnemonic was devised with regards to the letters of Beryl's name so as to helpfully express about her and remind us of her:

B - reminds us of how bold Beryl had to be at times - Beryl reminding her fellow deacons of the sins of omission and commission during the performance of their duties.

E – reminds us of Beryl's energy, enthusiasm, and on many occasions, her enigmatic look. Woe betide us if we caught Beryl looking enigmatic!! A quick conference of deacons and elders, alteration of attitudes and behaviour usually restored her expression of approval and benign presence.

R - reminds us of Beryl's, some would say, greatest asset - reliability. And 30 years to prove it - the agendas, the minutes, the Church Meetings , the elections of deacons, the pulpit supply during interregnum - we knew that there was nothing to fret about, it would happen, and it always did. One comment is that the problem with being such a stalwart is that people start to take it all for granted. Another comment - I do hope that we never did of Beryl rather that the Church always rightly appreciated her reliability.

Y - stands for Yearning because Beryl yearned over the Church - seeking unity peace and concord. So often she was responsible for the peace she yearned for. Her personal attributes of discretion, wisdom and silence rather than gossip, ensured that this was the case.

L – for 'loyalty' – HPBC owes a great deal to her faithful commitment coupled with her strong faith. The 'L' of Beryl's name has to stand for Beryl's loyalty to her Lord and of her loyalty to His Church.

This was taken from Jonathan's Tribute, on behalf of the HPBC Fellowship, given at Beryl's Service of Thanksgiving.

Beryl Alvarez - A tribute from Dr. Geoff Norris, our former Church Secretary

The Contact Details of HPBC were never far from my desk. At the top of 'Friends of Highams Park Baptist Church' was the name of Beryl Alvarez. It reassured me that she headed up the Friends list, as she had headed up our Church list for so many years as Secretary.

One contact I can never forget: Beryl was handing over to me all the Church papers for my safe keeping as a new (and nervous) Church Secretary. "I will pop up to Chingford and collect", I said. "No" said Beryl, "I want to discuss the meaning and importance of these documents - it will take more than one visit." Thus I visited 3 times for 45 minutes at least each visit as I learnt the organisation, filing, and deep awareness and insight of the history of our Church that was reflected in what was passed over. Her final message was: "look after our Minister and never forget the anniversary of his Induction!" After all the papers etc., Beryl focussed on relationship and the Secretary's important role of care. This she personally demonstrated to successive ministers over many years - and to her fellow Christians.

Then phone calls and, sadly, not many visits to Frinton. Last Autumn Margaret and I came down to see both Beryl and Joyce. How would she be? What would she say? We were aware of the diagnosis, the decision regarding treatment etc. Beryl was wonderfully the same; relaxed, interested in our lives, disinclined to talk about herself, but reminding us that every day of life is a gift from God. Beryl intended to enjoy each day. We heard about Frinton Free Church; and learnt of their love and pastoral ministry. We reminisced about friends. "We will come down again in a month" I said as, after prayer, we parted. Our health issues prevented this sadly.

Godly, trusting, caring to the last. A lady who gave so much to the Kingdom of God, and whose gifts I so admired and coveted: intelligent discrimination, emotional and spiritual intelligence, love, loyalty and one of integrity discernment and insight. Ability to know what to share and when to keep silent, and in the last weeks, still displaying her love for God as she acted out the Lords Prayer: 'Thy will be done'.

Thank you Lord for Beryl and all she meant to our Church and to her brothers and sisters therein. So often we miss the opportunity to thank our friends. That day in September we tried to express the inexpressible to both Beryl (and Joyce). Beryl: a Servant of God who blessed so many. We will meet again in Glory. Thank you Lord for the blessed privilege of knowing her at HPBC

Geoff Norris

A message from Joyce...

Thank you to all friends at Highams Park Baptist Church for their prayers, love, caring ways, letters, cards and telephone calls during Beryl's illness and particularly following her death on the 27th January 2016. The sadness of recent months was made easier by knowing friends were there for us in so many ways.

Her Thanksgiving Service on 7th March 2016 at Frinton Free Church will, I am sure, be long remembered by everyone present. Many tributes were paid - how fortunate we were to have such a friend.

Through 60 years of membership at HPB Beryl had many duties but most will remember her for her devotion to duty as Church Secretary for about 30 of those years. Her dedication to this role, always with love and compassion, endeared her to everyone.

Yes, we will miss her, but what a privilege to have known her.

Joyce Stanborough

Memories of Beryl



Mike and Marilyn Robinson kindly supplied this memory of past times.

Beryl is at the centre of the group.

How many of the others can you remember - and even more difficult - name?

Answers (as far as we know them !) in the next issue.



The Good Friday Walk of Witness took place in superb weather and about 60 people in total, including children, turned out from the churches in Highams Park. My friends Peter and Elizabeth from Christ the King Catholic Church at the Billet came as well.

We gave 108 cream eggs away to passers by and even to the driver of a 275 bus when he stopped to let us cross in the Avenue. We stopped at 5 places to sing and pray and remind everyone of the true meaning of Easter.

Some of us went afterwards to Winchester Rd MC for a short service and bread and soup lunch.

Phil



HPB Men's Group Events



*The next event is:
Men's Breakfast at Mulberry House,*

*Saturday 21st May 2016 at 9-11.30am (Meet 8am
at HPBC)*

*Full English Breakfast followed by short time of
Worship and guest speaker:*

*From Riches, to Rags, to Restoration with
Justin Larcombe.*

*He lost everything to an addiction to on-line
gambling, blowing three quarters of a million
pounds in three years. Realising he could fall no
further, he turned back to Christ and, in the
space of two years, found incredible restoration.*

*Cost: £14. If you want to join our table let Phil
Slaney know by Sunday 15th May 2016.*

RECEIVE CHILDREN, RECEIVE ME



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016 took place on 4th March, and was celebrated by an estimated 3 million people in 170 countries. In Britain alone around 6,000 services were held and the act of worship was translated

into over 60 languages and 1,000 dialects. With the first service being held as dawn arose over the island of Samoa a powerful wave of prayer flowed around the world until the sun set over American Samoa some 35 hours later. This year the service was organised by the Cuban WDP national committee, with the theme: '**Receive children, receive me**', reflecting St. Mark's Gospel, ch. 10., vv.13-16, which reminds us that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect.

Malvern Avenue URC was the venue for our local act of worship this year which was led by Rev. Ulrike Bell. With bright clothing worn, lively music played (accompanied by Rev. Bell's rich voice) and a Cuban flag displayed, the lively and diverse culture of this beautiful Caribbean island was brought to life in a small corner of our own island. On entering the service everyone was asked to write their name on a paper Jasmine flower. This delicate butterfly bloom is Cuba's national flower, and a symbol of the resistance and struggle for freedom shown by Cubans against Spanish colonialists. It now inspires us to be united in our commitment to building God's kingdom, giving beauty and fragrance to life.

Through readings and music the diverse gifts, life experiences and faith of Cuban women were vividly expressed. The struggle against poverty, dictatorship and discrimination throughout Cuba's history has led to women playing a more prominent role in today's society and, since the Revolution in 1959, they have been active in helping to improve education and professional training. In 1961 the Federation of Cuban Women was formed, working for the rights of women, children and the family. Cuban women have a deep desire to become a light in their children's future.

Prayer, praise, song and dance (enthusiastically led by Ulrike) added to the joy of our own participation in this act of worship. It inspired us to learn from children how not to discriminate, to seek reconciliation in our communities and celebrate God's generosity in the rich diversity of His creation. A time of fellowship followed the service when traditional Cuban

biscuits were served along with lemonade, coffee and tea, again reflecting 'Cuban-style' fare. As everyone left each took one of the paper Jasmine flowers, with an invitation to pray for the person named on it.

Thanking the Cuban committee Rosangel Liviera, WWDP's international director, wrote: *'You gave us an invitation to learn from each generation their own gift, to put children at the centre of God's kingdom, and to hear Jesus' call to be that child.'*

Jacquie Lyus (with thanks for additional information to Hazel Ansell),.



As you read this, we will have just celebrated Easter, and for our BBGA Company, April and the summer session lies ahead and there is a lot going on.

The winter session has been a good and eventful one. The Anchors and Juniors have had a fun time. They took part in the Battalion Football, Handball and Figure Marching, and won the Battalion Bible Challenge. As I write this they will be taking part this Saturday in the London District International Games and Bible competition which we run in the Battalion and send to London HQ. They have also enjoyed Friday evening badge work, with craft, stories, games and cooking. One Friday evening we were visited by three policemen from Chingford Station who gave a talk and showed the kids part of their uniform.

The Company Section took part in the Battalion Football and Physical Recreation Games and even though we did not win it was good to see the Company represented. They did win the Battalion Colour Competition and hold the Battalion Colour.

On Friday nights we have been learning First Aid and Cooking, and watched a youth DVD that Geoff & Margaret showed to '14 plus' in 1990. We also took part in the London Physical Recreation Games and Bible Competition and have yet to hear where we came. We have also had our games evening and physical activities. Simon Silver collected his Jack Petchy Medal at a London District event in February.

We are currently collecting Sainsbury Vouchers: if you get any please put them in the box at church. Every voucher helps us to get sports equipment and other items for the young people.

Our **Annual Awards Evening / Display** is on **Friday 22nd April**, starting at 7.30pm at HPBC. It would be really good to see as many of you from the church as possible supporting the children, young people and Officers.

Then on **Sunday 24th April** we will be holding a Parade, marching from TESCO's store in Highams Park at 9.40am., as part of the St. George's Day celebrations. Why don't you join us for the march and all-age service?

Over the summer we have lots of different events planned along with our Friday activities. These include games at church and in the park, bowling, skating, quasar and more. If you would like to help on a Friday night please do contact me directly to talk further. The Anchors and Junior Section have the Battalion 5-aside football & sports day. The company section has its' weekend fun camp in Essex. Then in June we have the London District 'Life to Max' fun event.

Other events that you might like to pop along to are:

Sat 25th June - Armed Forces Day Parade and Fun day at North Chingford, starting at 11am.

Sat 16th July - Highams Park Day 12pm to 4pm.

Sat 30th July to Sat 6th Aug – Summer Camp – If you can make cakes for the camp that would be great.

Please do continue to pray and think of the young people and children at the events above and also remember the Officer: Jean Owen, Gemma Player, Stephen Close, Sandeep Christian, Lee Dorrington and Jonathan Boyce.

Jason Close – BBGA Captain

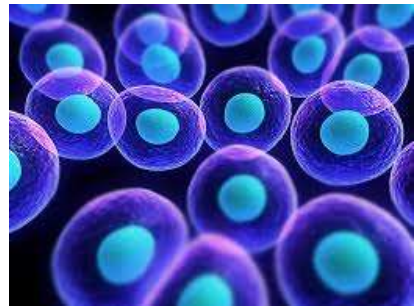
Greetings from May Lines

Thank you so much for continuing to send me the magazine. I do enjoy reading it and finding out what is happening in the Church and Highams Park. It is 35 years since I left the district and the Girls Brigade, and having lived in Dorset for 15 years and a very small village in West Sussex for 20 years I have now settled in Aldeburgh, Suffolk to be near my son. I have very many happy memories of my time at Highams Park and my 42 years with the Girls Life Brigade, later Girls Brigade. Not all these years were at Highams Park but they were all in the Waltham Forest Division. It's good to recognise some of the names of people I knew but it's also good to read of new members and activities. I would like to wish you all a rather belated Happy New Year, and I continue to pray for your work in Highams Park. May God bless you all and the work you do for Him.

What is a cell group?



Is it this?



or this?

No, it is this:



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

If enough people are interested a new group could be formed.....



Christian Aid Week: the week we love every neighbour

Picture a young mother of four. Her husband has left. She has no land. No assets. No savings. And the only work she can get is backbreaking manual labour for as little as 74p a day. Her home has been flooded several times, and last August it flooded again. This is Morsheda. She's our neighbour, and she desperately needs our help.

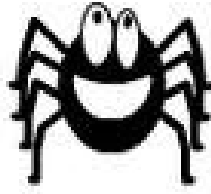
From 15-21 May, our church will join with more than 20,000 others across the country for the sake of people like Morsheda. Across the UK and Ireland we will deliver 7 million envelopes to our local neighbours to raise money for our global neighbours in need. It's an opportunity to reach out to our community, and to make sure some of the world's poorest people have enough to eat and a safe place to live.

A Home Safety Package from Christian Aid could raise Morsheda's home on an earth plinth, safe from the flood plain, and give her resources to invest in things like farm animals, seeds and a composting kit – giving her the tools she needs to build a better future. A new chance at life for Morsheda costs as little as £250.



We believe in life before death

UK registered charity no. 1105851 Company no. 5171525 Scot charity no. SC039150
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Hello Samson, we haven't heard from you lately - what's up?

Well Ed, I'm a bit confused cause I've been in this church for years and my father Sam was here for years before me and things keep slipping.

What things keep slipping Samson?

Well, for one thing the time the service starts on Sundays.

We always start our Sunday Service at 10am.

I'm not sure everybody knows it starts at 10am cause I've seen them arriving as late as 20 minutes past 10!

Well Samson, we will be putting our clocks forward 1 hour on Sunday so people shouldn't be late.

Well Ed, I'm not sure that those who come late will ever be at church on time?

What makes you say that Samson?

Cause they have got into bad habits and will always be late even if you put the clocks forward each week!

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

Ed's note: This was written just before the clocks went forward.....



Perhaps Samson might like to know that the idea of putting clocks forward to give British Summer Time is celebrating its centenary this year. Although Benjamin Franklin mentioned the idea in a humorous article of 1784 it was a builder called William Willet who ran a campaign in favour of the idea in 1915. His idea was to put the clock forwards by 20 minutes on each of the 4 weekends in April. This was not thought practical and the fact that the Germans adopted a similar plan in 1916 prompted the British Government to introduce an Act of Parliament defining the use of British Summer Time - and so it has remained (with some short term exceptions) for evermore.

You are warmly invited to a special
REUNION
of members and leaders of the Highams Park Baptist
YOUTH GROUP (from 1969 - 1980)
on SATURDAY 11th June 2016 at 3pm – 10pm



at Highams Park Baptist Church, Cavendish Rd, E4 9NG

Dress code: 1970s (Optional)

Admission fee: £5 per person

Programme :

- 3pm : Arrival and refreshments, displays of Youth Group photos, tickets, programmes, table-tennis, snooker, darts etc.
5pm : Food and Fellowship
7pm : Youth Group memories and Pastoral Plug
8.30pm: Disco and Dancing
10pm : Depart
- RSVP : Phil Slaney (President) - pslaney@gmail.com
Bob Jenkins - robertjenkins 625@gmail.com
Dave Lange - David.Lange@Hackney.gov.uk

Highams Park Snippets

The Highams Park Society

Film Club

Saturday 23rd April – 'Quartet'

Saint George's Day special - light buffet for all attendees

Highams Park Baptist Church. Lunch at 1pm, film at 2pm
£2 for members, £3 for non-members, children are free



Saint George's Parade

Highams Park Baptist Church – Sunday
24th April



The 17th Pals' Battalion Band will be marching from Cavendish Road to Signal Walk at 11.30 where they will perform some of the music that they will be playing at the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in France this July.

Gardening Club

We meet on the station platform from 10am to midday.

9 April

14 May

11 June

Free tea, coffee and bacon rolls to all volunteers!



Spring Talk – Friday 29th April

Penelope Freestone, a local author who grew up in Highams Park in the 1950s and 60s and will talk about her books and Highams Park in the post war years.

7pm for 7.30 - All Saints' Church Hall - £3 for members and £4 for non-members



Guided Walks

1st May – Beating of the Bounds

A guided walk around the boundaries of the Parish of All Saints' Highams Park: history, trivia, local stories. Meet outside V&A Books and Gifts at 11am.

29th May – Hale End – A Forest Hamlet

A guided walk around the ancient Saxon Hamlet of Hale End. Meet outside V&A Books and Gifts at 11am.

HOBSON
Property Sales and Lettings

CELEBRATING THE PAST - ENJOYING THE PRESENT - LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

This is the latest programme list from the Highams Park Society. You will see that HPB is playing a leading role in some of the events. Please support as many as you can....

12 Lifestyle

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

The goal of the Christian life is to become like Christ (Romans 8:29). The Holy Spirit is given to enable us progressively to undergo this transformation (2 Corinthians 3: 12-18). To become Christians is to deny ourselves, take up a cross and follow Jesus (Mark 8.34). It is a demanding way of life in which we can no longer do just as we please but have committed ourselves, by our own decision, to living lives pleasing to God (1 John 3:22). Believers' baptism dramatically portrays this radical change by symbolising death to the old life and the beginning of the new. It is like stripping off the old self and putting on a new one (Colossians 3:9-11). We have been crucified with Christ, but strangely we still live, although now this new life is lived with Christ in us (Galatians 2:20). Being a Christian then means living a new life with a new lifestyle.

A contrast society - In fact, we are called to be what God's people have always been called to be. From the beginning of God's purpose for Israel, they were called to be different from the nations that surrounded them. They were to be 'a priestly kingdom and a holy nation' (Exodus 19:6). All the laws that God gave to Israel were given so that they would nurture a distinctive way of life that would then act as an example for other nations. This way of life would be lived out of gratitude to God for having brought them out of slavery in Egypt. The laws given to them were very advanced for their day, requiring them to respect the land on which they lived and where they were God's stewards (Leviticus 25:23), to show compassion and consideration to the poor, the aged, the disabled and the stranger (Leviticus 19:9-10, 14, 32-34; Deuteronomy 5:11) and to deal with people justly and righteously. The Israelites may not have succeeded in doing all this, but God's intention was plain: to have a society of believing people whose lives were so significantly different from the values and practices of the surrounding nations that they could be like a light to those nations. It was to achieve this that Jesus came and taught his disciples. It is for this purpose that the church has been called out of nowhere to become a people of light (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Living in community - One of the first things a Christian has to learn is to live within, and respect, the Christian community. Although Baptists have placed an important emphasis on freedom of conscience and the right of personal judgement, they have understood this as something fostered by Christian communities. In other words, it should not be understood as isolated individualism, the insistence on doing our own thing and going our own way, but as a freedom fostered in mutual fellowship. Because the community helps us grow in wisdom and maturity, we can be trusted to become discerning and responsible in making decisions. Christian congregations enable us to resist the pressure to conform that is so much an expectation of modern society. They live by a different story, which they remember and reflect upon each time they meet, the story of the self-giving Christ whom they are called to imitate (1 Peter 2:18-25).

Congregations should therefore be understood as communities of resistance that offer an alternative to the ways of the world, subvert them by living out a different set of values, and equip their members to make a difference wherever they are. This can only work, however, if each Christian takes seriously the commitments involved in church

membership and sees their church as something to refer to for teaching, guidance and support. Equally, local churches have to match up to their responsibilities in providing pastoral and moral support and being faithful to the way and teaching of Jesus.

The way of Christ - What does it mean to walk in the way of Christ and what does a Christian lifestyle look like? First of all, it means taking **God** seriously. Jesus taught that the most important of all commandments is the command to love God: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment.' (Matthew 22:34). This could hardly have been put more strongly. The primary goal of the Christian is to grow in love for God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This love should embrace every part of the person - heart, soul, mind and strength. When this happens the reality is that every other part of a Christian lifestyle will follow on since those who love God live out the Christian way from the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34). To love God means taking him seriously and giving time to a growing relationship with God the Father, through Christ the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is fostered through prayer and bible study as well as through worship in the Christian community. Each Christian needs to find the best ways of making time for these activities, and there is a huge range of material available to help them.

Secondly, the way of Christ means taking the **Christian community** seriously. The church is given that we might find faith through it and having done, so that we might be supported in continuing in the faith with its help. Especially important in this, is the regular rhythm of common worship and within that, the celebration of the sacraments. Christians should regularly participate in the Lord's Supper and they should open themselves to hearing the scriptures read and interpreted. The discipline of worship means that we are able to refocus our lives on God, confessing sins that we may have committed and renewing the inward intention of living a godly life. We can do this in community as a reminder that we are not on our own, but are surrounded by a great company of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1-2). Fellowship with other Christians is a great stimulus to faith, as we realise that we are part of a greater enterprise, and as we are encouraged by other people's faith to hold fast to God.

Thirdly, the way of Christ means taking **Christian integrity** seriously. This has to do with whether the words we speak are matched by the lives we live. Faith without works, according to James, is not living faith (James 2:14-26). We are known, according to Jesus, by the fruit that we bear (Matthew 7:16-20). Questions are appropriate therefore about the extent to which we are living the transformed life. It is notable that when Paul contrasts the 'desires of the flesh' with the 'fruit of the Spirit' he becomes very specific (Galatians 5:16-26). It helps us to break free of our sins when we become specific about naming them. Likewise it helps to foster the virtues if we reflect upon what they might look like in our own behaviour.

The fact that Christians are put right with God through faith and not by works (Romans 5:1-5) does not in any way mean that they are unconcerned to work out their faith in their transformed lives (Philippians 2:12-13). Quite the reverse. They are concerned to embrace whatever is true, honourable, worthy and excellent (Philippians 4:8-9).

Fourthly, the way of Christ means taking ***Christian mission*** seriously. Jesus has sent his disciples out into the world with an overriding purpose, which is to serve the coming of God's kingdom. His promise is that when we strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, everything else we need will be provided along the way (Matthew 6:33). This can be done when we bear our witness to Christ faithfully and order our lives so that they reflect the priority of the divine kingdom. Serving the kingdom means seeking to relate all aspects of life to God's ultimate purpose of transforming heaven and earth into the kingdom of the Messiah and doing all that we can to add to the Spirit's work of bringing creation to that final point of salvation.

Contemporary challenges - In the light of the way of Christ to which we are called, are there any contemporary challenges that should be identified? The following are suggestions:

The challenge of simplicity. Our economic culture is based on a continual sense of dissatisfaction with what we have and the drive to acquire more. This runs directly counter to Jesus' teaching that life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions (Luke 12:15). There is little evidence that once we have enough having more than enough increases our quotient of happiness. Adopting a more simple lifestyle means that we do not claim for ourselves more than a fair share of the world's resources. It helps to keep us free of greed

The challenge of faithfulness. It should be the Christian's intention to be faithful to Christ and to the teaching of the New Testament. This means that we see ourselves seeking to follow Christ, to act like Christ, and to be living in all things, in a way that is consistent with Jesus himself (1 Peter 2:18-25). Part of this is also being faithful to the teachings of, and about, Christ that is given in the New Testament and staying clear of anything that strays away from this.

The challenge of generosity. The world's resources are extremely unequally apportioned and those living in the Northern and Western hemispheres have disproportionately more than others. There is a Christian principle at stake here: 'it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance' (2 Corinthians 8:13-14). Sharing resources more fairly is a vast global and economic issue that needs working on. But each person is able to, adopt a more generous lifestyle by setting aside some of their resources for the help of others. Agencies exist to enable this to happen.

The challenge of justice. Christians who believe in a just and merciful God, the God of holy love, should be concerned for any situation that denies to human beings respect or just and fair treatment. This applies within their own societies and in other places. Baptists in particular believe in a free church and a free society, so will feel particular concern for those who are persecuted for their faith or discriminated against because of it. They will argue that it is fundamental to a Christian way of thinking that people's dignity and liberty should be upheld, and will want to put whatever weight they have behind those who argue this cause.

The challenge of peace. Jesus came as one who made peace between humankind and God (Acts 10:36). When he was opposed, he refused to take up the sword or to give legitimacy to violent action in his name (Matthew 26:51-52).

He is known as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Christians are told to seek peace and pursue it (1 Peter 3:11) and Jesus pronounced peacemakers to be blessed (Matthew 5:9). He radically extended love of neighbour to include love of enemy (Matthew 5:43-44). This makes a sturdy agenda for peace which Christians cannot overlook.

As well as pointing to a peaceful individual lifestyle that seeks to defuse or mediate in conflict situations, this agenda encourages Christians to work for arms reduction and for the resolution of national conflicts through negotiation

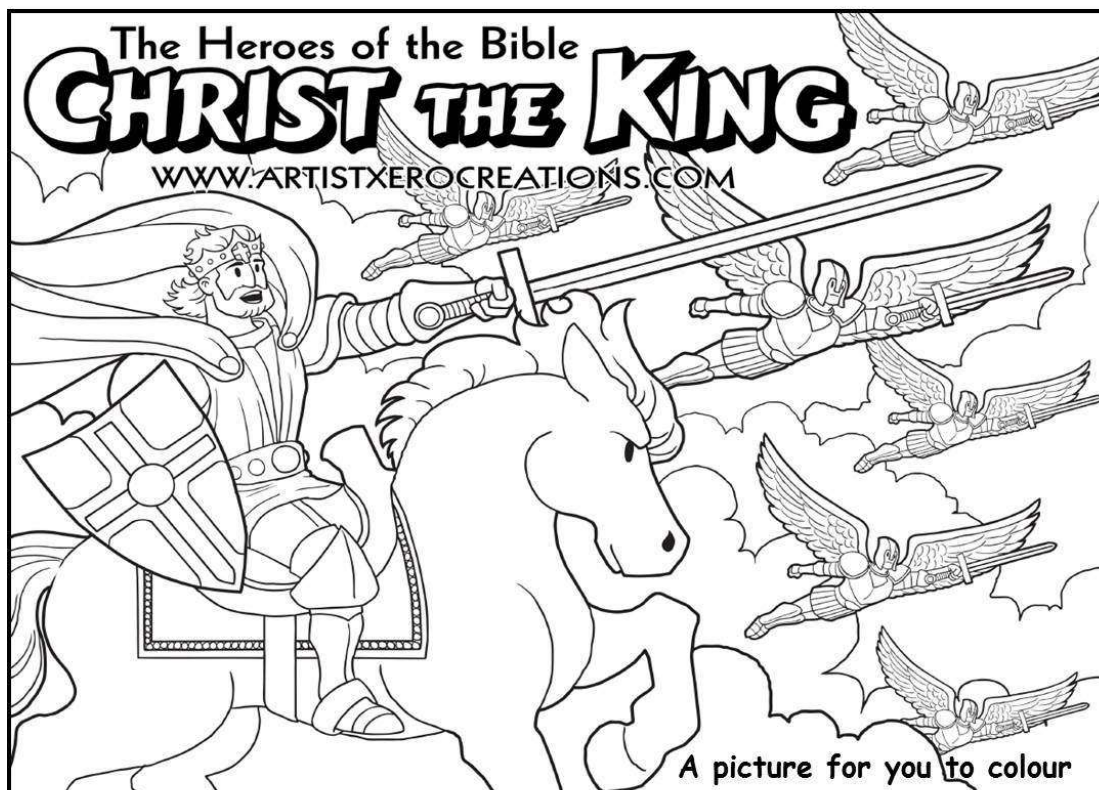
The challenge of civility. Civility is the ability to represent one's views in the public realm with respect, integrity and courtesy. It particularly involves avoiding distorting people's arguments or demonising them because of their opinions. Religion is often and sadly associated with bigotry and inflammatory language. When representing Christian perspectives publicly it is important to do so intelligently, incisively and yet attractively and respectfully. Civility is a way of fulfilling the command of Jesus, 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this sums up the law and the prophets' (Matthew 7:12).

The challenge of citizenship. When the Jews were in captivity in Babylon, Jeremiah wrote to them, 'But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare' (Jeremiah 29:7). These words hold good for those who see themselves both as citizens of the kingdom of heaven and of the earthly city. It is a command to pray and seek the welfare of whichever society we belong to. As we prove ourselves to be exemplary citizens, so Christians commend the way of Christ to their community and fellow-citizens.

The challenge of compassion. There can be no doubt that Jesus, reflecting the Father from whom he came, was deeply compassionate towards people, especially those who were afflicted or vulnerable (Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 20:34). He was known as 'a friend of tax collectors and sinners' (Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34). Uniquely in his day he insisted that his followers should not only love their neighbours as themselves, but even their very enemies (Matthew 5:34). Jesus both taught this and lived it out (Luke 23:34). We are to do the same, in the strength that God supplies (Romans 12:14-21).

A transformed life is the outcome of sincere devotion to God. By presenting ourselves as living sacrifices to God we can respond to the invitation of the apostle Paul, 'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you may discern the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect' (Romans 12:1-3).

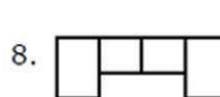
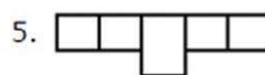
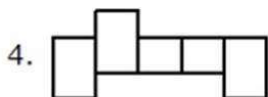
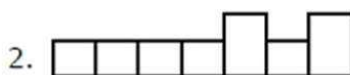
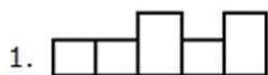
Junior Church



Jesus is coming again:

'People will see the Son of Man [Jesus] coming in a cloud with power and great glory.' (Luke 21v27)

Can you put the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters?



signs
lift
heads
clouds
glory
careful
watch
pray

CHURCH DIARY

April

Sunday 3 rd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	approx. 11:30 am	Church Members' Meeting
Sunday 10 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Gemma
Sunday 17 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Friday 22 nd	7:30 pm	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association Awards and Display Evening
Sunday 24 th	10 am	All Age Service with BBGA Parade led by Jonathan
	7 pm - 8 pm	'New Songs' Worship

May

Sunday 1 st	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
Thursday 5 th	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting at 21 Warboys Crescent
Sunday 8 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Jonathan
Sunday 15 th	10 am	Whitsun. Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan
	7 pm - 8 pm	'New Songs' Worship
Sunday 22 nd	10 am	All Age Service with BBGA Parade led by Bob
Sunday 29 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan

June

Sunday 5 th	10 am	Morning Service led by t.b.c
Sunday 12 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Jonathan