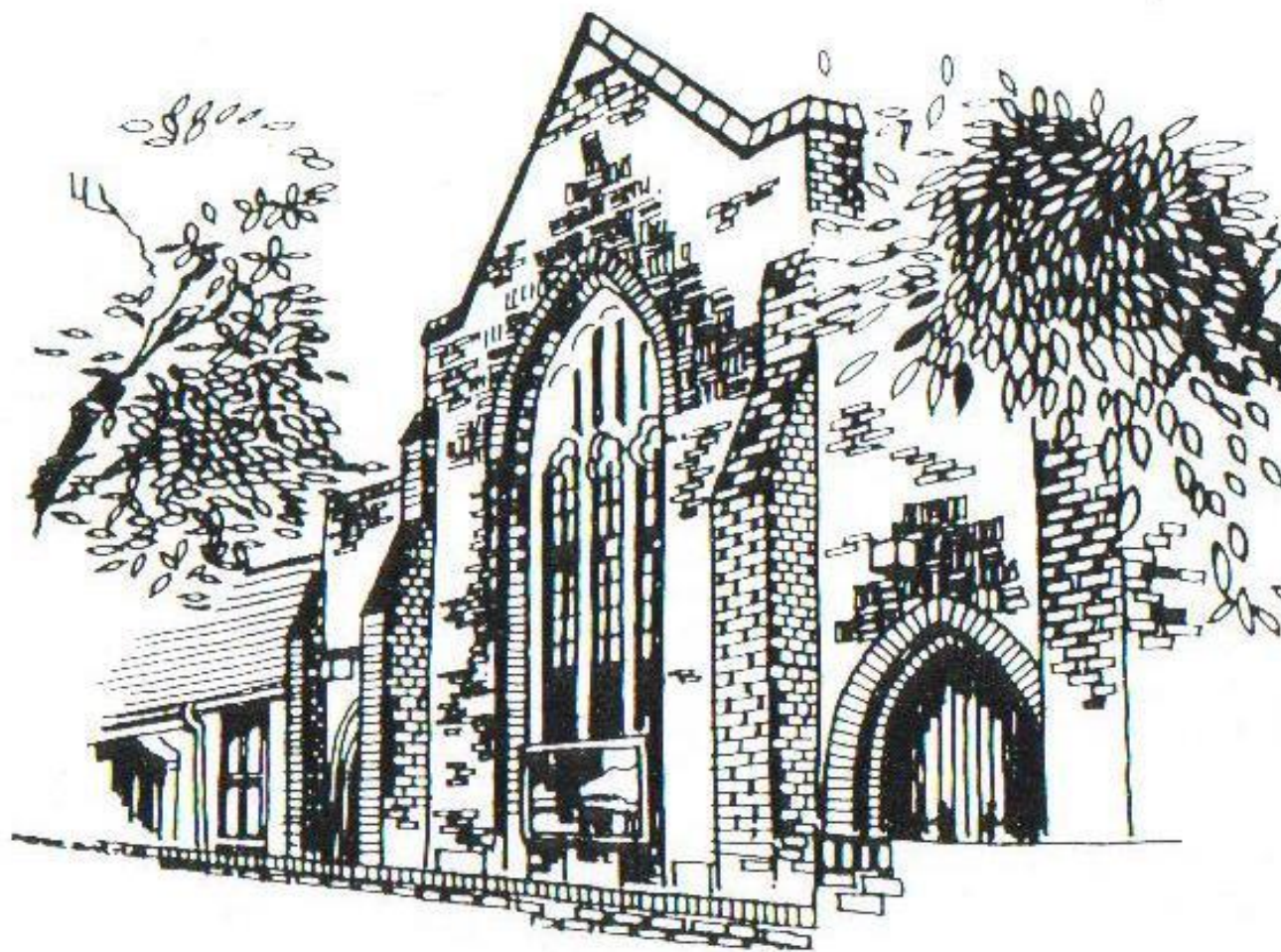




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



SUGGESTED DONATION £1

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2017

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

Thursday Boys Brigade and Girls Association:
Company Section (For boys in school years 7+) 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Friday: Boys Brigade and Girls Association:
Anchors (For boys and girls in school years 1-3)
combined with
Juniors (For boys and girls in school years 4-6) 6.30 - 8:00 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.

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 November 12th 2017
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 020 8527 1505 Email: davelys@yahoo.co.uk

Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
(☎ 020 8527 8993)
October / November 2017

Moderator:

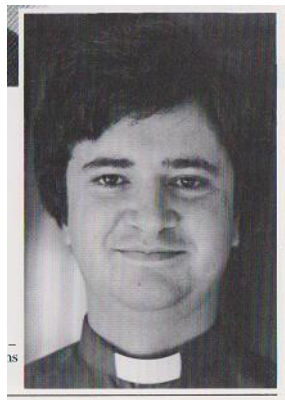
Rev. Gareth Wilde

Church Secretary:

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

☎ 020 8524 6258

In the last of our series of past Minister's introductory letters we reach Stuart Jenkins who was Inducted as our Minister on 15th November 1986:



There are several different senses of the word 'arrive'. There is for a start, the sense of getting to a place. Nikki, Thomas and I have arrived in Highams Park - and it's an arrival which has given us very great pleasure thanks to the very warm welcome which awaited us, and the happiness with which you all continue to greet us.

Then there's the sense of having made it to the top. You've arrived when you've made your first million, or when your name is listed in 'Who's Who'. And it's not just to do with fame and fortune; you could be said to have arrived when you have successfully mastered some particular obstacle.

There's a sense in which we are always seeking to arrive, in various different areas of our lives. We struggle to manage financially - to arrive at that happy time when we no longer have to worry about money. We struggle to overcome shyness, or a quick temper, or some other side of our personality that we don't like - to arrive at that happy state when we are at peace with ourselves and others. And we may struggle spiritually - to arrive at that happy state when faith is unshakeable, belief is easy, and love is as natural as breathing.

Funny that though trains arrive at platforms and people arrive in places, people rarely seem to arrive in the other senses. Being a person, and being a Christian are things which we never seem to do perfectly - we never quite arrive; we're always getting there. And no bad thing, so long as we realise this and don't put off really living until the imaginary day on which we arrive.

And so it is with Nikki and Thomas and me. We've arrived in one sense, but in another we've hardly begun. A whole journey stretches out before us. All our arrival really means is that we've got new companions to travel with. Let's look forward - not to arriving, but to getting there, and to getting there together.

Cavendish Circular



As a Church we have had a very busy Summer. Although this time of year is usually one of comparative quiet when many are relaxing on holiday or enjoying the longer days and (hopefully!) warmer weather at home, our fellowship has been

busy with plans for the future and the care and maintenance of our Church fabric. In our Sunday worship we have enjoyed a variety of speakers who have led our worship week by week and we do thank all those who have been willing to serve in this way, especially those of our own fellowship; not forgetting the time and energy given to arranging Sunday worship by our Church secretary, Phil Slaney. Our interregnum has been a time of blessing in many ways, although hard work for us all. So many in our fellowship have played an important role in ensuring our Church faithfully continues God's work, and we have been truly blessed by their support and encouragement along the way. Our time without a Minister has also been greatly helped by the wise support given by our Moderator Rev. Gareth Wilde from Broadmead Baptist Church and we continue to be grateful to him for all he does to guide us through this time of waiting and planning.

It is with joy that we can now look forward to welcoming a new Minister for HPBC next year. The Rev. Rosemary Eaton has accepted the invitation to our Pastorate and we look forward to working with her and her husband Ray when they join us, hopefully in February 2018. Please remember Rosemary and Ray in prayer as they plan their move from Devon, and also their present Church as they in turn begin the process of seeking a new Minister.

Meanwhile, we have to say goodbye to Chris Willis who has been our Youth Leader during the past year. Chris will now be continuing his work with young people at a Church in Ealing, while also furthering his studies to complete his youth work qualifications by commencing a Masters degree. There was a recent opportunity during Sunday morning worship to thank Chris for all his commitment and hard work with our young people over the past months and present him with a token of our appreciation. He received the laying on of hands as the fellowship prayed for him and his future work.

Once again our Church has been beautifully decorated for Harvest which was celebrated just a week or so ago. Our talented team of Jenny Cove, Marilyn Robinson, Sheila Humphrey and Dianne Kendrick worked hard to produce a lovely array of autumnal foliage and flowers which were then sold after the service – the proceeds going to the Harvest offering which is being divided between Christian Aid Emergency Appeal Fund and Haven House.

We do thank all who contributed in any way to the Harvest decorations; you can see some pictures of these further in the magazine. Each week our Sanctuary is enhanced by floral arrangements provided by members of our fellowship. This has been organised for many years by Marilyn Robinson and we are so grateful to her. Our special Festival arrangements such as Easter and Harvest are now organised by Jenny Cove and our thanks also go to her for undertaking this task, and to all those who assist Marilyn and Jenny.

It was good to see Emma and Craig Lewis-Azayear at Church recently and we are pleased to hear that they have now moved to Chingford. Please contact Phil, our Secretary, if you would like their new address. We wish them every blessing in their new home together.

Congratulations go to Tendai Antoniou who recently celebrated his 21st birthday with family and friends. We wish him God's blessing for the future.

Congratulations also go to Mandy Edwards who recently graduated and is now teaching in Waltham Abbey. Mandy writes further about this in the magazine. We wish her every happiness in her new career.

As always your prayers are asked for those of our fellowship who are unwell at present. Geoff Norris remains in Whipps Cross Hospital at the time of writing, undergoing tests. Both Margaret and Geoff have ongoing health issues and we uphold them both in God's loving care. We also remember those who find it difficult to worship with us regularly, including Lynda Lewis-Azayear who is still awaiting treatment, Joan Ashley, June Tresadern and Mavis Grint.

Later in the magazine Jason Close reports on the recent BBGA summer camp, together with important changes that will be taking place within the company this Autumn. We are so grateful to Jason for all his commitment and leadership in recent years to the company as captain. Jason has been part of the former B.B. and our fellowship since he was young (he makes those of us who knew him as a five year old feel very old!!) and has done so much to continue the work of the company while also taking on other roles within the Church such as Fabric co-ordinator and Deacon. Please pray for him and all the staff and helpers for the future work of the BBGA.

Jason also reports on the retirement, after many years of faithful service, of Jean Owen. Many of us who were once young parents have much to be thankful to Jean (and her late husband John) for in all their work with the young boys (and some girls!), for instance - in the Saturday morning football sessions in the field at the bottom of Cavendish Rd, and the Imps group. Jean also helped run the crèche on Sunday mornings with Marcia Fugler – another reason for us to be grateful for her childcare skills. Jason reports that there will be an opportunity to recognise her years of service at HPBC and to thank her on the first Sunday in November.

JL

HPB Men's Group Events

We have TWO Men's Breakfasts to invite you to:



Number One:

Guest Speaker: Rick Woodward

Theme: *The Time of your Life!*

Rick's professional background is in Human Resources. He is a Learning and Development Consultant who supports business leaders to improve business performance. Prior to this he was the Global Director of Learning and Development for Kimberly-Clark, working partly near Chicago in the USA and partly in Reigate, Surrey.

WHERE: [The Toby Carvery in Buckhurst Hill.](#)

DATE: Saturday 14 October 2017, **TIME:** 8.30am to 10.15am

BREAKFAST: £6.58ph, **ALL YOU CAN EAT** Full English Breakfast plus **UNLIMITED** tea and coffee (**Fruit juice is extra**)

Note: We are required to pay for breakfast on arrival so there may be a short queue as people pay. Please do bear with staff as they accommodate us. We are able to arrive slightly earlier from 8.15. Thank you.

Number Two:

Can I also draw your attention to another Men's Breakfast, this time taking place on Saturday morning, 4 November at Mulberry House, Ongar, CM5 9NL when the speaker will be Paul Harcourt, who has led All Saints Woodford Wells, with his wife, Becky for over 20 years, and is 'New Wine's' national leader. Paul will be talking about his work in leadership training and also about his son, who has autism. 8.30am arrival for 9am start. cost £14, includes full English breakfast with tea or coffee. **Please let me know if you would like to attend and I will book it for you.**

Please contact Bob Jenkins for further details



17th Waltham Forest Boys Brigade & Girls Association

As the company has just started back after our summer break, I thought it would be good to give you an update on where we are and what we did in the summer session and camp.

Summer session - In the summer the Anchor and Junior Section met together and had their normal summer programme, including the Battalion Junior section 6-a-side football and Sports evening, with the normal fun and games. We also went to Quasar, Highams Park Lake and local park, plus, games and clubroom evening and finished the session with the Company section and all went bowling together. The Company Section had their normal summer programme too, going Skating and Golf, along with their other summer activities they do, also joining the Anchors and Juniors Section for the evening up the lake and bowling. They had the weekend away to Skreens Park, where we had good weather, went swimming, climbing and boating along the River Lea, the normal BBQ and bonfire. Fun was had by all.

Summer Camp – This year summer camp had a wide range of ages with the youngest two being Harrison and Finlay Dorrington at one end and the more mature officers at the other end. We also welcomed Toby and Wendy Player for the first time to Summer Camp, so along with the other officers and staff we had 18 people for this year's camp. We decided to go back to a Scouts site just outside of Bristol where we went in 2016. The weather was very mixed, from sunshine to rain and winds, but I know from other BB camps we were not as unlucky as some. We had the normal activities: bowling, a water sports day, including rowing. Swimming both indoors pool and outdoors, two days at Weston-Super-Mare beach and one day the van got stuck in the sand and had to be pushed out. Late night cinema, games in the camp and one evening we played rounders against the scouts camping on the other side of the field. We had our Bonfire evening and marshmallows with a sing song. The food was cooked by a team of Jean, Stephen C and Emma. My thanks go to the officers and staff who gave up their week to ensure that a small but loving camp took place and enjoyed by all. The staff were Jean Owen, Gemma Player, Stephen Close, Emma and Lee Dorrington, Stephen Edwards, Wendy Player and I.

Staffing - As you might already have heard, at the end of the summer we have had a few Staff changes. We have said goodbye to Jean Owen, who has retired after a long service in BBGA (we think 18 years). Before BB, Jean was Imps leader for many years with her late husband John Owen. She was doing this when I was 5 years old, so we are talking 40 years ago. Jean also for many years helped run the crèche section at the Church on a Sunday morning and Jean bought her own style and way and will be missed a lot by the children, young people and the officers. We will have a chance to say a proper farewell on the first Sunday in November. Emma and Lee Dorrington have also stepped down as leaders, due to them having moved away and family commitments. We thank them both for what they brought as leaders to the sections while they were officers in the company in the last five plus years. Chris Willis our paid youth worker will be leaving on the 1st October, as he will be moving onto a new job the other side of London and starting a Masters course in youth Work.

As for me, after 25 years as an Officer (including 18 as a Captain) and 13 years before that, as a boy in the company. I have decided it is time to step down as leader of the Company. We are currently looking for a new Captain and we will keep you informed of this, once we know more. I will still be about giving support but not as much as at present.

So what will the new session bring for 17th Waltham Forest BBGA at this church? We have a smaller team of Gemma Player, Mandy Edwards, Stephen Close, Stephen Edwards and Me when I can. BBGA section night has also changed. Anchor and Junior Section is meeting together again, on a Friday evening from 6.30pm to 8pm. Also with Toby Close helping as part of his Queen's Badge Award the Company Section is now meeting on a Thursday evening from, 7pm to 9pm. We hope this will bring more children and young people to the BBGA as well as helping the staff to run the sections. .

Please do continue to pray and support both the children, young people and officers of the company in all they do on their section nights and as a company.

Jason Close



Water sports



A Group picture



The Staff Show on the last night
Directed by Gemma

Mandy Edwards writes...

BBGA has a very different format this September. The company section has moved to meet on a Thursday night, whilst the Anchors and Juniors remain meeting on a Friday evening. Our leadership team is reduced in numbers at the moment so if you are able to be on a standby rota for helping on a Thursday or Friday please let one of us know. For safety reasons we have to have a certain number of adults in attendance and with lower leader numbers this becomes very challenging some evenings. Even though we are few in number we still have fun and the Anchors and Juniors have started the session well, making pancakes and no bake cakes and learning about the elements in the BBGA badge. The Company Section have enjoyed Clubroom and making fruit smoothies. We all have devotions to learn more about the bible and Christianity each week and this is a valuable way to spread the word to children in our local community. Please continue to pray for increased numbers of helpers and children.





Some of the Harvest Flowers -more to come!

A voice from the past...

A short time ago I received a message from an old Boy's Brigade member who asked if we had details of a friend he had made at the time. He has agreed to let me show you his request:

'May I introduce myself? I was associated with HPBC in about 1958 when I joined the "17th" as a very young lad. Moving rapidly forward to this year, my wife and I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary, and we were inevitably talking about old times.

We were wondering what had happened to our "Best Man" - Stephen Barklem - who was a great friend from Boys' Brigade days.

Of course a very important link for all of us in those early days was Les Edwards, so I sought out the Church's website, and found your excellent "Church News" publication. I did not elicit any information about Stephen, but a little delving in the archived editions, confirmed that Les passed away a couple of years ago. I have some really precious memories of being a member of the company under his great leadership, and he helped me personally on several occasions for which I will always be grateful – he was certainly one person in my life who has earned my greatest respect. I was therefore so pleased and inspired to read the fantastic tributes that many people had expressed, and really regret that I was unable to attend the Thanksgiving Service that took place.

I was lucky enough to experience the really enjoyable days of the BB. I had a great group of friends - David Winwood (The Reverend Stephen's youngest son), Norman Coe, Terry Meade, Tom Smith, Barry Page and Stephen Barklem - along with many others. At the time the 17th was very strong with a great weekly calendar of events - Tuesday: band practice under the patient tutelage of the late Barry White (I still have my drum sticks!), Thursday: gym with Dave Gwilliams and Bill Atkinson showing us how to do it, Friday Drill and Club night, and Sunday: Church service and the monthly march through Highams Park. Looking back we really formed great camaraderie amongst ourselves, and most rose through the ranks, with several of us being baptised and becoming officers under the inspiring leadership of Les Edwards.

Inevitably there were many moments of great fun, especially when the company appeared at the annual BB Albert hall display.. We were putting on a performance of an adapted version of "Roman Holiday" which mainly featured a chariot race. Natural competition with Stephen leading one team and myself the other, ensured that the chariots tore around the circuit with the inevitable crash with bodies everywhere - fortunately no injuries. The audience thought it was fantastic but our officers at the time were not so amused!

Of course the annual Summer Camp was the highlight of the year. The build-up was great with tent members being chosen and all of the arrangements being carefully made - the forward party being the most important to ensure that everything was ready for the arrival of the main group. Meeting at the station at some unearthly hour was a challenge for some, but we enjoyed the train journey down to Portsmouth, onto the ferry, and then a march down Ryde pier (not in step to avoid the structure collapsing), on to the coach and arriving at St. Helens. We got ourselves sorted and marched up to the campsite to the wonderful tune, "Sussex by

the Sea" - as lead drummer is was a great tune to march to and really livened up the village! Early morning starts were normal and we had to endure Norman Coe "murdering" Reveille so that we had time to clean the kit, make the "beds" etc. for the daily competition – the winners received a tin of "Del Monte" peaches and all tent members signed the back of the label (which I also still cherish!). Some years later we got our own back on Norman – as he slept on a proper bed (for staff sergeants) we took the tent down and left him to sleep under the stars. When he woke up, clearly he thought he was dreaming and just turned over and went back to sleep – waking later on he was somewhat chilly and did not appreciate his alternative sleeping arrangements!

I could go on, but just wanted to say after far too many years, how much I really owed to the 17th and everybody involved with the wonderful organisation, the Boys' Brigade. It is difficult to put into adequate words how the BB had such a fantastic, positive and good influence on people's lives. Times change and things go out of fashion, and therefore I can now really appreciate how lucky I was to be at HPBC during those great years.

I am so pleased that other circumstances have made me think about my time in the 17th and have the opportunity to express this very short appreciation for such a wonderful experience.

Hopefully I will be able to return to the Church one day, although we now live in the depths of Dorset so Highams Park is not just around the corner! I am sure that God will continue to bless the work being done at HPBC.'

I contacted Bob Jenkins who was able to supply the details of Stephen and Ian replied thus...

'Many thanks. I have indeed made contact with Stephen - I definitely think that he was surprised! I am really pleased to say that all being well, I will meet up with Stephen and Norman Coe for what will definitely be a nostalgic and emotional reunion. Many thanks again for your help. I will look forward now to reading the HPBC Church News for years to come, and really hope to pay a visit to Church in the future. I also feel the need to make a nostalgic visit to St Helens on the Isle of Wight where the BB held its annual summer camp - not sure what will be left but hopefully a few reminders will still remain.'



More Harvest arrangements

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!



Dianne and David Kendrick are donning their postie costumes again this year - we are very grateful to them.

These are the delivery and collection dates:

Sunday, 3rd December - EARLY BIRD DELIVERY
(no collection available)

Sunday, 10th December - DELIVERY. COLLECTION
after Service only.

Sunday, 17th December - LAST SUNDAY FOR DELIVERY
Collection available after Service only

Sunday, 24th December - LAST MINUTE COLLECTION ONLY. Please DO NOT deliver cards to Church on this day as there will not be time to sort them for collection.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

PRINT names with Surnames clearly, and put your cards in **alphabetical Surname order**. This helps the organisers to quickly and easily sort the cards, while also enabling them to get to some of the Morning Service.

Please note that this service is for the exchange of cards that are for personal collection or that can be collected on behalf of somebody - it is not for cards that need posting on as normal mail.

Remember also that the money saved on postage by using this system can go to the Christmas offering!

Exciting news from Mandy...

It's been a long four years but my journey through higher education is complete. Many of you asked on a regular basis how things were going and so I thought I'd better share the final update with you. On 9th September I had my graduation ceremony at St Albans Cathedral, a beautiful setting.

It was an early start (Stephen's face was a picture when I told him what time he had to get up!) but everything went smoothly and no-one tripped up the steps -which we were all fearing.



We were naughty and threw our hats in the air, traditional I know but health and safety fears actually have the act banned these days. I can't say it was an easy four years, but I miss it more than I thought I would, although I am sure I will never miss writing essays. I am working in a small school in Waltham Abbey. I have a year 3 class this year, a few characters and chatter boxes for sure, but generally a nice bunch of kids. Whoever works in a school or has been the partner of a teacher knows how much hard work it is. Yes, the kids are only there 45 weeks of the year from 8:30 to 3 but I am working way more hours than I was in a "full time" job. If we were paid by the hour we would be rich! But, for the moment anyway, I wouldn't swap it for anything.



Well done Mandy - every success in the future!

Three Months in Ghana – Part 1

On 19th April, 2017, I returned to Ghana for another three months, this time primarily

in the Upper East Region, in the far north of the country, close to the Burkino Faso border.

I spent two months there, from mid - May to mid - July, living in the town of Bolgatanga (population approx. 66,000) with my friends Justice and Christiana Incoom, who are the Salvation Army District Officers for the



Northern, Upper West and Upper East Regions of Ghana. They had moved there just after I returned from my four months with them in the Eastern Region in 2015.

Once again, I was teaching in two very different schools. For three days a week, I was teaching at Great Victory Academy, a private school on the outskirts of the town, which Justice and Christiana's son Gideon, and Louis, his best friend from Nkawkaw, attended. about 15 kilometres from Bolga. There is no Salvation Army church or school in Bolga, just the Headquarters office for the North.



At Great Victory Academy, I was asked to teach English to three Primary 1 classes (UK Year 2) on Mondays, Science to four Primary 3 classes (UK Year 4) on Wednesdays and Maths to three Primary 2 classes (UK Year 3) on Fridays. Fortunately, with Science and Maths, I was able to more or less teach the same lesson to each class, which cut down on the preparation time. With classes of 40 to 45, all pupils were taught the same content and completed the

same work, but I was able to introduce the idea of setting a challenge for those who finished quickly, as well as supporting those who were struggling.

At the Salvation Army School in the village of Tongo, a very poor area, the classes were larger, with the younger pupils being less able to speak English. This presented some challenges for me with the kindergarten 1 and 2 classes especially, as there were 60+ in each class, so on the occasions when I had to look after one of these classes because their



teacher had not arrived, sign language and gestures were very much in use! My role generally in each of the Primary classes, up to Primary 6, (UK Year 7) was to assist the less able pupils, mark their work, or, more often than not, provide them with a pencil or pen to write with!

On the same site, there was a Junior High School (UK Years 8, 9 and 10). I only spent one day in Primary 8 and 9 classes, as the Primary 10s had sat their exams and left school by the beginning of June.

The classes I did visit were encouraged by their teacher to ask me questions, the most popular ones being: 'How old are you?' and 'Are you married?' I soon learnt that pupils asking a teacher, or any adult, how old they are, is perfectly acceptable in Ghana!

Unlike when I was in Nkawkaw, both schools were too far to walk to, so I didn't have the pleasure of walking home with pupils each day. However, on several occasions in Tongo, I did walk the short distance across the fields with some of the pupils and teachers to the village market, where I would meet Justice, who drove me to and from Tongo on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Great Victory Academy was closer to where we were living, but it would have meant walking for about half an hour each way in the heat (temperatures were up to 38 degrees each day), along the main road, used by lorries, tankers, cars, coaches, motorbikes (often carrying two or more people including children) and bicycles, as it was the main road from Accra in the south, to Burkino Faso and beyond. Add to this mix, the

Mohammed-Can-Do vehicles (Indian tuk-tuks), cows, pigs, goats, chickens, sheep, motorbikes with a pickup on the back (carrying everything from about fifteen people to bags of rice and charcoal to animals) and the occasional donkey and cart. So, Justice would drive me to school and a parent who lived near us, would drive me home.

My home in Bolga was at the Salvation Army headquarters where there were two houses on a gated property. There is no Salvation Army church in Bolga, the nearest being in the village of Tongo. Justice and Christiana lived in a house at the back of the property, but I had the living room and bathroom in the house at the front. I ate my meals in the main house with Justice and Christiana, once again enjoying delicious Ghanaian food.



The area we lived in was on the edge of town and was called Estate. This land had originally been farm land, but over the years, government housing had been built for workers at the water, electricity and gas companies, with many of the houses being sold on to landlords or private owners.

So it was a mix of concrete block houses of varying standards and states of repair, with some traditional mud houses still remaining. Apart from the gated properties, the rest were unfenced.



There was a mix of churches as well and a couple of schools, including a senior high boarding school. The roads, apart from the two main ones, were all unmade, so therefore potholed and dusty or muddy, depending on the season.

It wasn't unusual to see animals roaming freely around Estate. Cows, pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, guinea fowl, dogs and the occasional donkey were common sights. As the rainy

season began, the animals were tethered during the day, so that they didn't eat the growing crops. By dusk, the owners would be out rounding up their herds and flocks. One thing I enjoyed on Estate was the freedom to wander around on the unmade roads and the tracks between people's homes and land, following different routes, so on most evenings, I walked for an hour or so, usually around 5.30pm, when the sun was going down and it was marginally cooler. This really enabled me to experience life in the North and to meet my neighbours. Despite their poverty, everyone was so friendly and wanted to speak to me, so very quickly I learnt how to respond to people in the local language of fra-fra. They were delighted when I did this.

My walks were never boring. Sometimes I would be joined by local children, young people from the senior high school a couple of streets away or people just walking home at the end of the day.



Many kiosks selling food and drinks were open until dark, so there was always someone to talk to. During the day, there were a number of people operating their own businesses, such as hair dressing and weaving cloth, so I got to know several young ladies who made a living in this way, including Joyce, a weaver, who had her kiosk near our house. Usually by 7pm, it was dark, so I aimed to be home by this time, as there were no street lights, just the light from the houses (as long as there wasn't a power cut) and the moon.



As there was no Salvation Army church in Bolga, we worshipped in other villages, including Tongo, where there is a thriving church with many young people. One Sunday we drove out of Bolga to two other villages, where the walls of the church have been built, but the roofs are yet to be completed.



At one church, the people were



meeting on the verandah of the local council building and at another, under a tree, in the middle of farmland. The journey to both churches was on unmade dirt roads for a couple of hours. The people were so happy and ready to praise and thank God for all He had done for them and their families, even though they were very poor and life was a struggle. It was very moving to be part of their worship and humbling to be asked to speak on both occasions. On the same Sunday, we visited an established church in another town, where the people particularly loved to dance as they praised the Lord.



Another visit was to the SA church at Tamale, a two hour drive south of Bolga, where there is a thriving congregation and a fantastic group of young people. It was really encouraging to see so many young people attending and participating in leadership at these SA churches.

We also visited the

Methodist church in Bolga on a couple of occasions, where there was a large congregation with a wonderful minister who quickly became a friend. His wife had a food and drink kiosk on Estate, so I knew her as well. I will never forget the enthusiastic singing and dancing of the Methodist church. Justice is often asked to share the preaching, which is appropriate, as the Salvation Army grew out of the Methodist church!



Most of the teachers I worked with were Christians, so one Sunday I was invited to attend the Assemblies of God church in Bolga, with my friend Sarah. It was too far to walk, and Justice had gone to another town, so Sarah picked me up and took me on her motorbike. Riding on the back of a motorbike was a new experience for me, as I had not been on one since I was a teenager and it had not been a good experience then. So I was adamant that I was not going on one in Bolga. But, as they say, when



in Rome... and with the motorbike being the main form of transport, I really had no choice!

By the time I travelled to church with Sarah, I had been on a motorbike a couple of times and it wasn't as scary as I expected. In fact, I had enjoyed the experience. Very few people wear helmets and I have to confess to not wearing one either! The downside on our journey to church was that it started to rain, so by the time

we arrived fifteen minutes later, we were soaked, particularly Sarah. The three hour service was lively, with several hundred people worshipping, praising and praying. Sarah's father was the pastor and I managed to follow his sermon, which was in a mixture of English and the local language Fra-fra.

As was the case with each church I attended, the young people wanted to have their photo taken with me after the service, so this was a great way of meeting them. Phone numbers were usually exchanged as well!

When attending the SA churches, I soon learnt to be ready to speak, as it was often sprung on me during the service. God always gave me the words to say – relying on inspiration from Him was all I could do. Usually I spoke through an interpreter, so using short phrases and sentences was important.

Jan Smithers.





*Now autumn strews on every plain,
His mellow fruits and fertile grain;
And laughing plenty, crown'd with sheaves,
With purple grapes, and spreading leaves.
In rich profusion pours around
Her flowing treasures on the ground.
Oh! mark the great, the liberal hand,
That scatters blessings o'er the land;
And to the God of nature raise
The grateful song, the hymn of praise.*

Highams Park Snippets

Dear all,

Just a quick note to let you know the good news that the Council has decided to leave Hale End Library in its current location and it is expected that this recommendation will be ratified by the Council's Cabinet in December. The text of the Council's statement is copied below.



"Last July, the council took proposals to Cabinet setting out its vision and people's aspirations for libraries and the potential for community involvement in the future. Following feedback from the local community and users of Hale End library it was agreed last year that plans to move Hale End library would not be considered in the consultation, which

began in September 2016 and ran to January 2017.

Councillor Ahsan Khan, who became the new Cabinet member for Libraries in May, said: "I can say that my position remains that Hale End Library will not be moved and this will be confirmed in the report due to be presented to Cabinet in December. We remain committed to continuing work with the local community to build on their involvement in the development of the existing library, and to maintaining the current level of service."

Well done to all the local residents and our local Councillors who worked very hard to make a case for keeping the library in its existing location and thank you to Waltham Forest Council for listening.

Phil Slaney

As ever (as if he did not have enough to do as Church Secretary Phil has been out and about armed with his trusty phone/camera. We are very grateful to him for the following:

These are some photos taken at Stadium Place on Monday morning 18th September when I joined my friend Peter Robson and members of Christ the King Catholic Church on an early morning prayer walk of the new housing development on what was previously the Walthamstow Greyhound Stadium. We started at 7am and stopped at various places on the new housing estate to pray for God's blessing on the people living and working there.



Here are some photos taken at the Picnic in the Park on Sunday 10th September 2017 1-5pm we had great afternoon which included dog shows, tug of war, live entertainment, food and refreshments. We had thousands of local families enjoy a relaxing afternoon in our beautiful park next to Highams Park lake. Next year we hope to have a new cafe open with toilet facilities so that people can stay for longer when visiting the park.



O's Ypres Tour



Complementing the article on O's Ypres Tour by the Highams Park Society in the previous edition, I now wish to give you an insight to other aspects of our special and historic trip to Belgium in June.

Having organized six previous trips to the Somme on behalf of Leyton Orient Supporters' Club and taking in excess of twelve hundred people in the process, it was felt that a visit this year to the battlefields of Flanders and in particular the Ypres Salient would make a nice change and at the same time coincide with the centenary of the third Battle of Ypres in 1917 - otherwise known as the Battle of Passchendaele.

During our stay in Belgium our band, the 17th Pals' Battalion Band, was given the honour of taking part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. This, along with visiting Tyne Cot British Cemetery, were highlights of a very special and thought-provoking tour. However, there is still so much to tell...

After boarding the ferry at Dover and arriving in Calais, two coaches full of O's supporters and friends of the Club, made their way north along the coast crossing into Belgium before heading inland to the first commemoration on the tour which was at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. This cemetery is the resting place of former Clapton Orient player private James Greechan 17740 who served with the 12th (Service) Battalion Highland Light Infantry and was killed on 25th August in Langemark near Ypres.

Whilst the story of the three Orient lads lost on the Somme William Jonas, Richard McFadden and George Scott is now well documented, for James Greechan, his records – both football as well as military had only come to light further to much investigation during the past twelve months or so. Greechan had already left Clapton Orient to play for several other clubs prior to joining-up, unlike the Orient lads on the Somme who were still with the east London side when they enlisted en masse. For us all it was a special moment when we paraded with the band to his grave and then held a service of remembrance - complete with the laying of a wreath and the playing of *Last Post* and *Reveille*.

Rev Neil Kinghorn, the Chaplain of Leyton Orient, conducted the service and Orient supporter Alan Medley then gave a brief talk on the life and football career of James Greechan.

Upon conclusion of the service, we made our way back to the coaches and then onto Ypres where we were booked in at the well-equipped Novotel Hotel which is literally just around the corner from the Menin Gate.

The following day saw us head towards Vancouver Corner where we stopped at the large and imposing memorial known as *The Brooding Soldier*. We had with us our Dutch friend and O's supporter Alex Hup, who is quite an expert on the Great War, particularly the area around Ypres. Alex was to give a range of excellent talks at all the locations we visited during our stay that weekend, and he commenced his talks at this memorial. We only spent a short time at Vancouver Corner before making the short journey to Langemark German Cemetery.

This was the very first time we had visited a German cemetery in all the trips that have taken place since the inaugural visit in 2006 - when we arrived the difference in atmosphere could not have been more noticeable. Whilst all the British and Commonwealth cemeteries are well kept, both in terms of the headstones and memorial, as well as the lawns and flowers at each grave, this cemetery seemed so stark, foreboding and so very sad – everything appeared grey and downcast. However, we were determined to put on a full parade, lay a wreath and hold a wreath-laying service, particularly as one of the supporters who had travelled over, Lottie Gatward, is German. It was Lottie who presented the wreath ensuring the German lads were remembered. As a footnote to our visit to Langemark, I made a return visit three weeks later and found that all traces of our visit, the wreath, small crosses and tributes had been removed – how sad it was to be told that the Belgium authorities do not allow anything to be left at the German cemeteries – everything is disposed of after any commemoration has been held.

Having boarded our coaches, we made our way to the small village of Passchendaele and to the Canadian war memorial at the site of Crest Farm. Alex gave another detailed talk and was assisted by Kristien Vandenaweele, a Belgian friend who is a resident of Passchendaele. A detailed description of the now world-renown and bloody Battle of Passchendaele was described to all those present before a wreath ceremony took place, followed by the 17th Pals' Battalion Band proudly leading the parade up into the village where lunch was waiting for us! During informal talks over lunch, Kristien explained to us how disappointed she was that Passchendaele village is now generally overlooked for major commemorations, in favour of Zonnebeke, which is a town only three miles down the road and is home to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917.

Having enjoyed a nice lunch in very good company, we then made our way to – yes, you've guessed it, the town of Zonnebeke and the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917! The museum is certainly worth visiting, it is set in wonderful grounds with a large lake and has a labyrinth of underground tunnels within its complex. It was planned for us to return to Ypres mid-afternoon so that people had some free time in the town, it was good that this had been arranged as the temperature was so, so hot - it felt like the hottest day of the year!



Events on the Friday evening were very special for the band - eighteen months prior to the Ypres Tour I had contacted the local authorities, requesting permission for the band to perform in the main square outside the famous Cloth Hall. I had also contacted the Last Post Association about the possibility of our band taking part in the world-famous Last Post Ceremony. I was so very pleased to hear from the LPA that our application had been successful. Permission was also granted for us to play in the square and to 'Beat Retreat' beforehand.

At 5:30pm a large crowd had gathered as the band arrived in the square and then struck up some stirring marching music, most of which was written around the time of the Great War – indeed a couple of the marches; *Ypres* and *Marne*, were composed to commemorate two big battles of the war. The band also had piper Jenny Barrow amongst its numbers over the weekend - during the performance in the square Jenny played her bagpipes to complement the drums as well as playing a lament at each of the wreath-laying services.



Upon completion of our performance we then had a wait of forty-five minutes or so before we were due to parade up the main street to the Menin Gate. We couldn't believe how many people had

assembled up the street to watch as we marched up the hill to the Gate playing some of our most dynamic music – it was fantastic! We halted as we came up to the Menin Gate but continued playing. As soon as we had finished we received a huge round of applause from all those present, this is something that is not encouraged by the organizers due to the solemnity of the occasion - but what could we do about that!

Our buglers made their way forward to the prescribed position and waited for the buglers from the local fire station who represent the Last Post Association as they marched into position. When the appropriate signal was given, the LPA buglers played 'Last Post' which was then followed by the Exhortation and then the laying of wreaths by the various people who had registered their wish to take part. I was extremely pleased that my daughter Katherine was representing the O's that evening. Unknown to myself Katherine had taken the opportunity before the ceremony started to write a loving tribute to our little Max who we had lost only six weeks prior to the trip on the back of the memorial card attached to the wreath. As Katherine came forward to lay our wreath she gave the card a tender kiss in remembrance of not only the lads who had given everything for the cause but also her beloved nephew.

Once the wreath-laying was completed it was then the turn of our buglers to come to the 'ready' position and play 'Long Reveille' which we did with much feeling.

Once completed, the buglers marched back into position in the band and upon the command marched through to the far end of the Menin Gate with just the tap of a single side drum, before counter-marching back to the front of the Gate (the playing of music inside the Menin Gate is generally frowned upon). As we made our way out of the Gate I once again gave the command 'ready' and the band then struck up with another powerful march and marched back down the hill - once again receiving tremendous applause (footage of this ceremony can be seen on YouTube). Words fail me to describe how proud we all felt that evening, it was an occasion we shall never forget – it was the best!

The next morning, we set off to another world-famous location – Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing. Within a short distance of Passchendaele, Tyne Cot gained significance after the Armistice in 1918 from being a relatively small cemetery holding only 343 graves to being greatly enlarged to ultimately hold a total of 11,956 burials of which 8,369 are unnamed.



After leaving the coaches we made our way into the visitor centre before making our way down the side of the cemetery to the main entrance where the band formed up and then marched up the centre lawn to the converted pillbox which is now the central memorial in the cemetery. Everyone then gathered by a row of headstones, most of which were at the graves of soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment, it was felt very apt to hold the remembrance ceremony at this location remembering that the Clapton Orient lads were all in the 17th Middlesex. As at all the other locations where we held an act of remembrance, we played 'Last

Post' and 'Reveille' and laid a wreath.

Once the service was complete everyone had the chance to walk amongst the headstones and the walls that had thousands of names of the soldiers lost but without a known grave.

A couple of weeks before the tour, Phil Slaney asked if Karon and I could locate the Memorial Wall where his uncle – Private Philip Jenkins is commemorated and take a photo of the wall showing his name for him. This we did and it was amazingly easy to find! It was almost as if we had been guided to where Philip's name was inscribed.

A feeling of calm and quietness enveloped us as we made our way back the coaches before we headed to Hooze Crater Museum which had kindly arranged a special group price to visit both the museum and have lunch. We knew we were nearing the completion of our tour but before we made our way to Calais we had to two other places to visit, the first of which was the short journey to the Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing which is a short distance outside the town of Mesen. Two large granite lions guard the memorial as you come up to it – one snarling and looking fierce with the other looking calm and having a closed mouth. The blazing sun had once again made things very uncomfortable for us all, particularly when we stood inside the

imposing circular memorial listening to historical talks from both Alex Hup and Tony Evans. It was fortunate that as we returned to the coaches a gathering of clouds obscured the sun to give us some respite, but it made me realise how uncomfortable it must have been for the soldiers having to operate in extremes of temperature.

We departed Ploegsteert and made our way the half-mile or so to the tiny hamlet of St Yvon where a memorial has been erected by FIFA to commemorate the Christmas Truce of 1914. Apart from the memorial, all that you initially see when you arrive is a farm and a small number of houses and a narrow country road winding across the fields. As we got off the coaches, I led the group along the road to where we could now see a large wooden cross on the left-hand side of the road and planted on the verge by a field.

The cross had been erected in 1999 to commemorate one of the most-poignant events in human history, when sworn enemies dropped their weapons, clambered out of trenches and crossed the shell-blasted mud of no-man's land to shake hands, sing carols and exchange gifts. The British brought Bully beef, rum and cigarettes to the party. In exchange, the Germans traded sausages, coffee and cognac. Then famously, a football match was played. To be precise, a small number of football matches were played, up and down the length of the 500-mile front line that Christmas.

However, it was here though that the most famous international football match took place. Alex once again gave a detailed talk about the events of Christmas Eve 1914, after which we made way back to near where the coaches were parked and the FIFA Memorial where we held a final wreath-laying service.

Yet again the sun was blazing down on us, and this time there was no shelter or protection from the clouds. We grabbed the bottles of water that were being handed to us and almost eagerly made our way back to the coaches. It was time to go back to 'Blighty' - full of memories of our wonderful and special weekend. There was not much talking as we headed for Calais - what we had seen, experienced and heard over the past few days, along with what the band had achieved and how well it had performed kept everyone's minds busy. However, our main thoughts were of those brave and somewhat innocent lads who did what they thought was right at a time of great need a century ago.

Prior to the Ypres Tour plans were already being put in place for our return to the Somme in June 2018, consequently, should anyone be interested in joining-up for this very special centenary tour, please do not hesitate to contact me as I will be extremely pleased to provide you with details of the trip. At time of writing all single and double rooms are now allocated. However, I do have a limited number of twin rooms available. I urge you to consider experiencing a trip of a lifetime - one like no-other!

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Steve Jenkins
Deputy Chairman Leyton Orient
Supporters' Club
O's WW1 Historian
www.theytookthelead.com
stevejenkins1881@btinternet.com
[07971 146502](tel:07971146502)

Peter Burke writes about his work with the public....

Public service is a specialist job. Driving London's buses comes with many challenges but to know God is with you and working with us during a tough day on the roads means we can be confident.

Public service is about caring for the things that come our way. It's more than being a delivery driver. We carry live people on our routes.

Some struggle with buggies, luggage or restricted movements. We must find a way to make their journey easier.

Others come with a lot on their mind and clearly struggling in life. So part of our service to the public is to be welcoming, patient and gentle, trying to put a smile on their face.

I wrote a poem to sum up the attitude of a public service driver.

Dear Passengers

The care we give to one another can change a person's day.

Noticing the small but important needs around us means that people don't have to struggle getting from A to B.

My journey and your journey becomes our journey.

When we look out for each other, we change our environment.

We change people's mind. We change people's attitude.

We show that people are important.

Putting value back into our wonderful city will make living, working and travelling that little bit easier.

My hope is that all will feel the benefit that care can bring.

Your driver.



Also learning from mistakes builds character. I've inserted a picture from my unfortunate accident that happened in my first couple of weeks by myself.

CHURCH DIARY

October

Sunday 1st	10 am	All Age BBGA Service and Young People's Commissioning Service led by Jason Close.
Sunday 8th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Bob Jenkins.
Sunday 15th	10 am	Morning Service led by John Grant LBA Moderator.
Sunday 22nd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Phil Slaney.
Sunday 29th	10 am	Morning Service led by Sheila Humphrey.

November

Sunday 5th	10 am	All Age Service led by Gemma Player.
Sunday 12th	10 am	Remembrance Service with Communion led by Phil Slaney.
Sunday 19th	10 am	Morning Service led by Revd. Anthony Gill.
Sunday 26th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Paul and Sarah Raymond followed by Church Members Annual General Meeting.

December

Sunday 3rd	10 am	All Age Service led by Jason Close.
Sunday 10th	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by TBA

Note all services and events take place at the Church unless noted.

Refreshments are served after the Morning Service every Sunday.