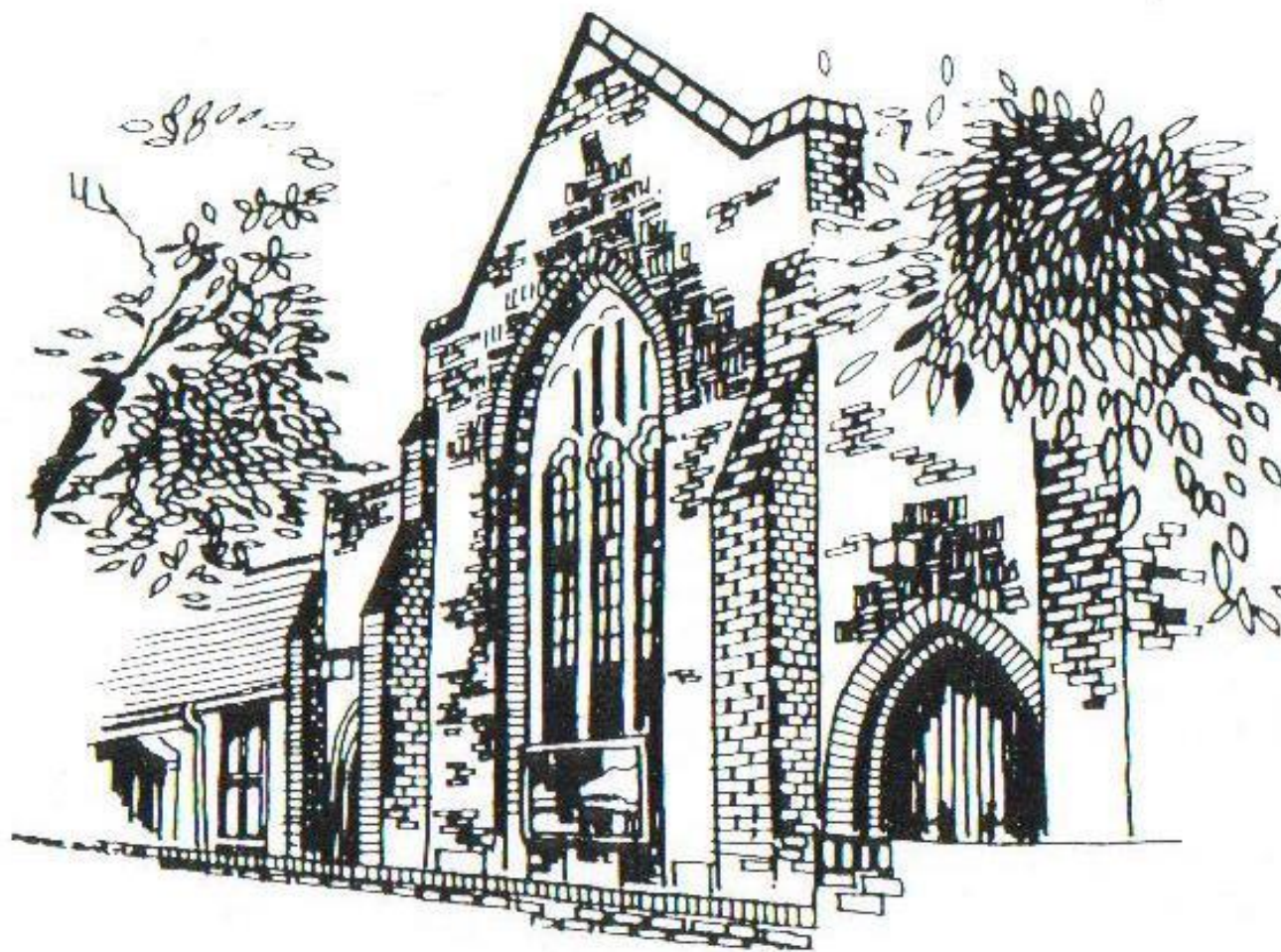




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2018

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 **(Suspended at present)**

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 - 8:30 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.

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 September 23rd 2018
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August /September 2018

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Summer Dreams

School holidays are underway and Parliament is now in recess. What some call the 'silly season' in the press and media has begun as the normal routines of school days and political posturing are suspended for a few weeks. The hottest weather we have known in many years has left the countryside parched. Not much to do in the garden now all around is dry and in need of the 'soft, refreshing rain' we sing of at harvest time.

With the arrival of August many will be looking forward to a relaxing summer break. Even for those not planning holidays the break from some of the usual routines seems to offer a chance to pause and reflect. Time for relaxation and rest is welcome at any time of year but especially when the weather is fine.

As Christians, we recognise that time spent in prayer is supposed to be a part of our daily lives. We read about Jesus taking himself off to quiet places on his own or with his closest friends in order to reflect and contemplate. The value of time spent in this way is obvious but making it a reality in our lives often seems no more than a dream. Taking time out so often seems impossible. Even in the summer, relaxing days in the sun can seem something of a dream. Parched and dry, we know our need of the soft refreshing rain. But our lives are full, our days taken up with work, family life, social events and all that is required to keep our homes running smoothly. So much to do, so little time.

My prayer for us all this summer is that the dream may become a reality at least some of the time. I hope you are all able to find time not just for fun filled holidays but also for quieter times. Times to rest, to reflect and to be refreshed through prayer.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11: 28-30

Cavendish Circular

Although the unexpected heat wave shows little sign of abating at the time of writing the 'lazy, hazy days of summer' have not led to a let up in Church activities, both in our own fellowship and the wider community. While essential works to our Church fabric continue, efficiently organised by our superb team led by Sheila and assisted by Jason, our premises are still being used by groups from the local area. Elsewhere opportunities for fellowship have taken the form of social evenings, coffee get-togethers and a very enjoyable barbecue arranged by the BBGA team. The Highams Park Day held in Vincent Road in July proved a great success and was enjoyed by the wider community, with stalls run by local Churches and others who worked valiantly despite the high temperatures! And our summer social activities continue into August with a Games Afternoon at Highams Park Lake, an Afternoon Tea at the Church (complete with bouncy castle for adults and children alike!) and, looking further ahead, a Picnic in the Highams Park in early September, once again organised for the wider community. There are further details of these forthcoming events in this issue. Come along and enjoy the summer while it lasts!

We were saddened to hear recently of the sudden death of our former member Joyce Long on 11th August. Our more senior friends will remember Joyce with great affection who, together with husband Ron, served in this fellowship faithfully over many years both on the Diaconate and in many other areas before moving to Buckinghamshire. They were greatly missed and we have been delighted to see them when they have travelled back to Highams Park from time to time. A group from our Church was able to attend the service of Celebration for Joyce at Holmer Green Baptist Church on 19th July and you can read further tributes to her in the Magazine. We send our loving condolences to Ron and all the family in their loss.

A number of our fellowship continue to be in especial need of prayer at this time. We remember those who are housebound including Joan Ashley, Mavis Grint and June Tresarden. It has been good to see Dorothy and Cliff Tayler on Sundays recently although Cliff is still suffering dizzy spells after his fall and both continue to undergo outpatient treatment. Rob Edwards also awaits an operation shortly and at the time of writing Christine Close is very unwell in Whipps Cross Hospital.

We remember all these and others who are in frail or indifferent health, trusting that God's loving care will surround them in their every need.

We have recently heard that our former member Tanya Battams (née Bond) has had a baby daughter, Hunter. We send congratulations and best wishes to Tanya and her husband Mark on this happy event.

At this time of year we remember all those who are contemplating changes in their academic life. We think of the little ones who are about to enter School life for the first time, or those continuing their studies in a more senior arena; for some this will mean leaving home for the first time to go to College or University. May they feel the comforting strength of God's love and guidance as they enter this new phase in their life.

A degree of news....



Congratulations go to Gemma Player who has gained a 2:1 Degree in Theology. Well done and best wishes as you plan your future! A very happy Gemma is pictured here. Well done also to our Minister Rosemary who passed a recent Open University exam with distinction. One of our former 'GB Explorers' also gained a First with distinction in Classical Studies recently, namely our own daughter Kate, so we are sure all that G.B training helped! To all who have sat exams or completed their training, we pray that your future plans, whatever they are, may bring you fulfilment and success.

JL



*'O Lord who has done so much for me ...
Grant me one more thing...
A grateful heart.'*

*'Help me to remember Lord that nothing is
going to happen today that you and I can't
handle together'.*

The 17th BB Walking Weekend

The 17th BB Walking Weekend took place on Saturday June 9th. The following pictures were taken at The Church of the Holy Innocents at High Beach. The circular walk was led by John Francis over nine miles in Epping Forest with a lunch stop at the King's Oak pub at High Beech.



The Church is very
Inspiring!

Now, which way is it?
That way.
Are you sure?



OK - we will try that way.
But if you are wrong...

You may recall that over the last few months we have brought you the story of Ian Berry who was in the Boy's Brigade some years ago. The latest chapter brings news of his meeting up with old friends...

BB Walk and Reunion – 8th to 10th June

This was my first experience of the 17th BB reunion weekend after having left the old 17th some 45 years ago.

A great deal of organisation had gone on in the background to ensure that we all arrived at the Royal Oak on the Friday evening.

When I approached the doors to the pub on the Friday night, I was somewhat apprehensive - will I recognise anybody, what will we talk about, has it been too long since we met? - but all those fears were banished in minutes. Many people just came up and said how great it was to see me after so many years. It is difficult to describe my feelings and I was just overwhelmed with the warmth of the welcome from everybody, and was relieved that most people I had known recognised me because "names and faces" has never been one of my strong points.

After a couple of beers, we then enjoyed a fine Indian meal in Highams Park which had of course changed beyond all recognition since my last visit. It was good to see that the old fish and chip shop was still there - a regular haunt for us after Friday evening drill - although I could still recall the "unique" taste of their wallys!

The next morning saw most of us meet up at Chingford for a "leisurely" route march under the control of the esteemed John Francis. The weather stayed fine and John provided excellent commentary about the various points of interest en route. It was so relaxing just speaking to so many people as we made our way to the High Beech for lunch. The pub had not improved since I was last there but the rest was very welcome.

The last few miles of the afternoon walk were somewhat tiring but really worthwhile, especially for one of our number who was able to replenish his golf ball stock from those abandoned off the course.

The evening saw us join together for a superb BBQ at Chris Thorndyke's home. He and his wife made us feel very welcome and again several hours were spent chatting with old friends and making new ones. .

The final and probably the most poignant event was the Church Service at HPBC on the Sunday morning. It is difficult to properly describe how I felt entering the Church again -

I had attended numerous services, Church parades, been baptised there and also married. Inevitably my personal reflections included the Revered Stephen Windward, as his son David has been my "best friend" since the age of about 4 and we went through the BB Company at the same time and also attended the same senior school. The presentation of the Colours was a special and very emotional moment, and of course brought back wonderful memories of the hugely respected Les Edwards, whose huge influence on so many of our lives at the time was so positive and supportive - a great man who will never be forgotten. Of course the wonderful singing of the BB hymn - "Will your anchor.." - was one of the weekend's highlights, and I know that Rosemary, the vicar, was very impressed. Of course any BB gathering would not be the same without a band. It was wonderful to see and listen to many of the old tunes being played with such enthusiasm and pride - I wished that I had brought my old "Premier" drum sticks along!

The weekend was then at a close, and we parted after our fond farewells. It had been fantastic to catch up again with so many old friends and to meet some new ones. It was a special time full of wonderful memories, fun, some sadness and lots of laughter and relaxed company.

We were all very lucky to have been around to enjoy the very special experiences that the 17th gave to us, and will always value the bond that clearly exists between us.

Many thanks again to everybody who made the weekend such a memorable success.

Best wishes
IAN BERRY

The service on Sunday 10th June was very well attended by former members of the Boy's Brigade. It was preceded by the Band marching down from Tesco's. Just the sound of drums and bugles in the distance takes you back to a time when this happened on a regular basis... The memories were stirred after the service too - the Band again formed up and marched around the block to arrive back at the Church for refreshments and a time to catch up with old friends.

There was, of course, a time to take some pictures for the family albums:



And just to show that the younger members of the BBGA enjoy themselves, a picture taken at the end of session BBQ (thanks to Phil Slaney)



You may remember Rev. Dave Gregory who spoke at Rosemary's Induction. He writes for the Baptists Together magazine:



Divine windows: glimpses of God in life, the universe... and everything

Incoming President Dave Gregory outlines his theme

I was on the phone recently to a young man about my car insurance. "If you don't mind me asking, what kind of Doctor are you?" he asked. "Not a medical one, so don't ask me about your bad elbow," I replied. "I'm a Doctor of weather". I explained that I had worked in research at the Met Office for over ten years, but that now I was a Baptist minister. We chatted for a while about his interest in science as well as his understanding of the Bible and faith. His response at the end was fairly typical: "I've never come across that combination before – someone who is interested in science and believes in God!"



I get a similar response from the parents who come along to 'Dr Dave's Science Lab' I run as part of our Messy Church each month at Croxley Green Baptist Church. Yet science is a creative activity as much as art and music, expressing and sharing in the creativity of God. It is a window to the wonder, complexity and the ordering of creation that no other generation has been able to gaze through as we do.

Yet too often when it comes to faith, the curtains are firmly drawn.

We try to keep the curtains open, often with arguments from the world of apologetics. We might point to the apparent coincidence that the universe seems just right for life such as ours to exist (a continuing enigma for scientists). But we become disturbed: the vastness of the cosmos, its ancient origins, the gradual development of life with all its ups and downs; all ask questions of our understanding of God as creator and redeemer, expressed long ago by the Psalmist: 'What are we that you are mindful of us'. We too are tempted to pull the curtains across and stick to the certainty of the faith that we think we know.

The curtains were firmly shut as I embarked on a degree in Physics and Astrophysics. The attraction of science eclipsed my connection with the idea of God. Yet, as I learnt more of the complexity and order of creation, from the smallest to the larger scales, I began to wonder, until one day walking along the street to my morning lectures, a thought popped into my head: 'Maybe there is a God'.

It was quickly followed by: 'But what has that to do with me?' The curtains had opened to a new way of seeing. My wondering would lead to a gradual re-discovery of faith as I encountered Jesus through worship, the word and the world.

While the ancients did not have science as we know it, they were acute observers of the world, with eyes that perceived the wonder of the material as pointing to an encounter with God. 'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.' Throughout the Bible, God is often visually encountered through creation: Noah in the rainbow; Moses in the burning bush; Job in the song of creation in the face of his incessant questioning. Jesus' parables and miracles often revealed the character and power of God through nature. And while often our own tradition of worship focuses upon words and music, encountering God through the window of creation has a long tradition within the life of the Church, maintained within Celtic and Franciscan spiritualities along with the Orthodox tradition.



Bonaventure, a 13th century Franciscan theologian, spoke of viewing creation through a Trinitarian lens; of how its origin, diversity and purpose revealed the power, creativity and sustaining work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I wonder what he would have made of the 'Hubble Deep Field', a favourite image of mine. This picture reveals a tiny part of the night sky just above the bowl of The Plough constellation.

A full moon would appear 100 times bigger than this patch, yet still it reveals 3000 galaxies of all sizes, shapes and colours, some as old as a few billion years after the Big Bang. Scale up the entire night sky and it is estimated there are 250 billion galaxies in the whole universe.

What does such wonder allow us to glimpse of God? Through Bonaventure's lens, for example, the vastness points to the power of God and the majesty of his creative vision. The diversity of forms speak of the Word by which all things are richly made and in whom all things hold together. The presence of the Spirit connects creation to divine being, shaping it according to his purpose; the forming, death and rising of stars allow a being to come forth that can look beyond the surface of creation to the wonder of God in whom, as Paul said to the philosophers in Athens, "we live, and move and have our being".

Of course, there are other windows within everyday life through which we encounter the wonder of life and God. For you, it may be music or art. It may be the beauty of mountains, or forests or valleys. Or the changing cycle of the seasons in your back garden, or the complexity of even the smallest plant growing from the tiniest seed, or in a 'chance' meeting with a friend, or a stranger, or in enjoying a meal with loved ones. Perhaps you too can be a window for others to gaze through and catch a glimpse of God and the hope that his presence brings.

Yet, wonder is a fragile thing. It is easily missed, and even when it embraces us, we can miss what it might reveal. For some, while it raises questions and evokes feelings that can be overwhelming, that's as far as it goes. For others, it draws them into deeper possibilities.

I don't know what that young man in the call centre will remember of our conversation. Perhaps it will fade away amid all the different voices that he hears each day. But when he next sees Brian Cox enthusing over the amazing things that science reveals about the cosmos we live in, or looks into the sky on a dark night to see myriads of stars, or just takes a good look at a leaf on



a tree as he walks through a wood, perhaps he will remember the strange person who has an interest in science and God and think 'maybe?'

Dave Gregory is Senior Minister of Croxley Green Baptist Church. He becomes Baptist Union President at the 2018 Baptist Assembly



It is hoped that we can form a party from the Church to attend this picnic

Joyce Phoebe Mary Long

3.7.1931 – 11.7.2018

Eulogy given by David Short, Joyce's son.



Writing this eulogy to my mother was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, but it was very important to me to say some words to honour my mom. In fact, this is a joint effort and I also speak for my sister Paula, Joyce's daughter. I realised as I set about this task, that a son sees his mother in a different context than those of you who are relatives or lifelong friends. It is even difficult to speak on behalf of my sister, but I will try to represent the shared feelings of love, devotion and admiration we felt towards our mother.

Our mother was a kind, warm and eminently sensible woman. A good woman and a wonderful mother. She was also very caring. She cared deeply about the things that happened in our lives both large and small. She was always there for a chat, a dinner or simply a hug. Somehow, she always seemed to give good advice, which, I have to say, was not always listened to. But I do not ever remember her ever saying 'I told you so'.

Joyce would be exceptionally pleased and privileged to see all of you here this morning to share in this celebration, as it was her family, her friends and unwavering faith that were the most important things in her life. She was very proud of her children, step-children and grandchildren and always happy to bring everyone up to date at a moment's notice!

I could talk for hours and provide many examples demonstrating her remarkable independence and inner strength. It is now some forty years since our father passed away suddenly. The first twenty years of this mum spent on her own, a single parent to all intents and purposes. A task that, while I'm sure was never easy, she appeared to take almost in her stride (with the possible exception of the many phone calls at 2:00 in the morning from all over the world). Then, of course, she met Ron, our wonderful step-father.

Mum also had an adventurous side, setting off for Africa in 1958 when there was no such thing as a scheduled flight and phone calls to the UK had to be booked a week in advance. She spent two weeks on a small cargo ship from Southampton to Cape Town followed by four days on a train to Harare, Zimbabwe. Not only did she go, she didn't come home for four years.

Right up until the end, mum was generous with her time and had surprising energy for someone fractionally the other side of eighty. Always happy to join in she seemed never happier that when her contribution was baking a cake - something that nobody ever seemed to complain about!

As a parent and friend, my mother had an extraordinary ability to make us feel stronger and more confident. She instilled in us a sense of values which have been assets throughout our lives.

Like many others, we will miss our good friend. She will live in our memories and our hearts forever and Paula and I will always be extremely proud to call ourselves the children of Joyce Long.

A tribute by Sarah Long, Ron's daughter...

I first met Joyce twenty years ago at my brother Dave's wedding to Liz. Dad had rung us all a couple of weeks beforehand to let us know, rather shyly I must say, that he was seeing somebody and Dave had said 'that's great Dad, you must bring her along'. Poor Joyce, it was a baptism by fire, as she had to meet all the Longs in one go. Needless to say, she handled it with her characteristic charm and poise and we were all delighted that Dad had shown his usual impeccable good taste in his choice of partner.

A couple of months later, we all gathered again for the joyful occasion of Dad and Joyce's wedding, where we had the pleasure of meeting David and Paula and the rest of Joyce's family under a marquee in the garden of Henrys Avenue. Some of you here will remember that Jackie Free's jazz band provided the entertainment and there was a superb cake which Joyce made herself, baking being one of her many talents. There was no long engagement for this couple, Dad said at the time that there was no point in hanging around, they needed to get on with it as who knew how long they had left. In fact it was the beginning of two decades of what we have all seen was the happiest of unions.

It's appropriate that we are here now in a Baptist church, as it was at another Baptist church, Highams Park, where Dad and Joyce got to know each other. As far as I can make out, their eyes met across a church council meeting, not exactly the most obvious breeding ground for a romance. Dad was soon undertaking, with great willingness, the task of running Joyce home after the service. Then they were having lunches together, and the rest is history. It was a real love match, Dad was so starry eyed. 'I never thought this would happen to me at my age', he said.

A few years into their marriage, they moved back here to Holmer Green where Joyce had happy memories of raising her children, and where she once again embraced village life in quite a competitive way - Dad tells me she once won the prize for the best Victoria sponge. For her 70th birthday, Joyce held a family party in the beautiful garden they created at Mulberry Court. By the time of her 80th birthday, she and Ron were installed in their bijou flat at Hughenden Court. With typical consideration, neither wanted the other to be left alone with a house to worry about 'when one of us goes,' as they put it. Joyce and Ron both loved gadgets, their ultimate gadgets being the customised armchairs they installed side by side in the flat, with all manner of buttons to lift and lower their various body parts.

It's very encouraging for all of us entering the autumn of our lives that Joyce and Dad showed how this can be such a full and rewarding time. They did a lot of voluntary work, as you would expect from two good people. But free of the constraints of earning a living and bringing up children, and following sadness and loss on both sides, they had a whale of a time.

No continent was unexplored as they jetted off to Canada, Africa and New Zealand, where they managed to survive the tail of their plane catching fire. Unperturbed, they also visited the nearer shores of Europe: St Petersburg, the Rhine, Provence, and wherever the caravan took them in England and Scotland. Their enthusiasm was just as great for nearer pleasures: watching rhubarb grow in Yorkshire, the Chichester theatre festival, oysters in Whitstable, the BBC headquarters where Joyce practised reading the news in a studio. I remember Joyce describing in detail the beauty of a London mosque they recently visited on a U3A coach trip.. Their gypsy ways were only curtailed a few years ago when Dad was taken ill on a Mediterranean cruise and he ended up in hospital in Italy. We are so grateful to Joyce for how she looked after him, it must have been very frightening for her, alone in a strange country, but they returned triumphantly for more modest adventures close to home, where they remained devoted to each other.

If shared interests are the basis of a successful relationship, then Joyce and Ron were on a very firm footing. The church, gardening, singing 'Happy Birthday To You' down the phone and the Telegraph crossword, to name a few. Then there was their love of music, especially jazz. We went with them a few times, and I can see Joyce now, eyes closed, waving her foot in time to the music. Her joie de vivre went hand in hand with a grounded attitude and calm good sense which I always admired. Unfazed and accepting of everything, Joyce was the diametric opposite of a drama queen.

I've noticed that a lot of older people have the tendency to talk about nothing except their health, yet Joyce and Ron always made light of their ailments. Joyce was more interested in hearing about what everyone else was up to, rather than dwelling on counting out her tablets. I used to tell her she looked younger every time I saw her, always elegant and freshly turned out, with the complexion of a young woman. She wore old age so lightly.

Probably the most important thing that Joyce had in common with Ron was their love of their families. In the same way that Ron has been a grandpa to Katie, Charlie, Beth, Verity Honor and Rosie, so Joyce has been a grandmother to Tom, Ben and Beth, Jack, Rosie and Oliver, all of them so saddened by her loss. My son Ben told Grandpa this week that it was impossible for him to think of them apart, as he always thinks of them as inseparable. Our families have been brought close together over the past week, it has been great for us all to have seen so much of David and Paula, and I'm sure we will continue to be in close touch.

Joyce was well loved and unsurprisingly there have been many cards of condolence. They speak of her laughter, her smile, her sense of fun and quiet dignity. She was 'serious when she needed to be.' Many refer to her as a 'lovely lady'. 'She was so kind,' said one, 'she always had time to talk and listen.' 'An inspiration to us,' said another, 'she lived life to the full.'

Dad told me a couple of days ago that whenever he rang Joyce, he would always sign off by saying 'Toodle-oo.' And she would reply 'Toodle-pip, old fruit': so typical of their light hearted and joyful approach to life. I'm sure I speak for us all today when I say 'Toodle-pip, dear Joyce. We will all miss you very much.'

Both these eulogies were given at the Service of Celebration for Joyce, held at Holmer Baptist Church on 19th July 2018



Firstly on Saturday 11th August between 2 pm and 5 pm, there will be an afternoon tea at the church. Entertainment will be a bouncy castle and conversation! The bouncy castle is for ALL - you don't have to be a child!!! If you are coming, it would be much appreciated if you could contribute to the tea side of things with either a delicious homemade or shop bought cake, sandwiches or anything that you think would go down well.

If you could let me know that you are coming and what you are willing to bring, that would be brilliant. Also I would be extremely grateful if I could have volunteers to man the kitchen in order to make tea and coffee and wash up and clear up during the afternoon - the more who volunteer, the better as that means that no one person has to spend the whole afternoon in the kitchen.

Please let me know if you would be willing to help out in this way and I will put a rota together.



Secondly, on Bank Holiday Monday 27th August from 2 pm, we will be having an afternoon up at Highams Park Lake to play rounders or something of the sort.

If you don't or can't play rounders, you are still very much welcome to come and watch, chat and enjoy our time together. Both events are open to all young, not so young and those of us a little older! It is good that we can get together and share time together this way and it would be fabulous if you are able to come to one or both of these events.

Please see Ruth Underhay for details OR TO VOLUNTEER!

17th Pals' Battalion Band – O's Somme Tour 2018, Haven House and The Royal Hospital Chelsea

Over two hundred Leyton Orient supporters and friends of the Club, including members of the 17th Pals' Battalion Band, travelled over to the battlefields of northern France in June, to pay their respects to the fallen of the Great War and in particular the players, staff and supporters of Clapton Orient who enlisted en masse into the 17th Bn Middlesex Regiment – The Footballers' Battalion, during the Great War, particularly remembering William Jonas, George Scott and Richard McFadden who all made the ultimate sacrifice during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.



Whilst the story is now well documented, it was also good to be able to visit for the very first time the resting place of a former 'O', Lieutenant Colonel Alan Roderick Haig-Brown, who was awarded the DSO for his bravery. Visits were also made to the Vimy Ridge Memorial and trench network and the Arras Memorial, where one hundred and ninety-two soldiers from the 17th Middlesex are commemorated – including Walter Tull, who was the first black outfield footballer and the first black officer. During the memorial ceremony, Steve had arranged for the names of all the soldiers from the 17th Middlesex who are commemorated on the Memorial to be read out – quite possibly for the first time in over a century.

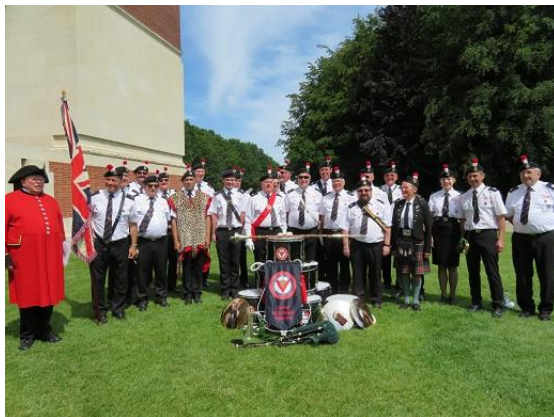
During the commemoration service to William Jonas at the Thiepval Memorial, Steve announced that a school teacher had come up to him and enquired as to why there was so many Leyton Orient supporters present. Steve informed him that they had come to pay their respects and particularly to William Jonas, to which the teacher replied that he was amazed as the name of one of the schoolchildren in his group that morning at the Memorial was William Jonas!



The 17th Pals' Battalion Band performed before and after each commemoration service that was held. It also put on a special performance in Arras Town Square on the Friday evening which was very well received, during which Steve spoke to the gathered crowd about the O's proud service in the Great War.



During the visit to Vimy Ridge, the band had its new Colour dedicated by Alan Comfort – former O's footballer and now chaplain of Leyton Orient. This was a very special ceremony as the 17th Middlesex saw heavy action in the vicinity in 1917. It was so good that Pat and Mark Smith were able to travel with the group. Pat is the Great, Great Granddaughter of George Scott whilst Mark is her son. As well as laying wreaths at both George Scott's grave and the O's Memorial in Flers, they were also invited to plant a small cherry tree adjacent to the memorial during the commemoration service held there on the Sunday. During the commemoration service for Richard McFadden, Steve displayed the medals awarded to the late O's striker, having recently acquired them. The medals had been lost for many years so it was very apt that they were shown for the very first time since their acquisition at Richard's grave. Without doubt, this was one of the most successful tours Steve has organised to the Somme and it was good that so many O's supporters and friends had made the trip on this special year, commemorating the centenary of the end of the Great War.



On Sunday 1st July – 'Battle of the Somme Day', the 17th Pals' performed at the Haven House Summer Fair, in recognition of the sterling work undertaken by the centre in Woodford Green and in particular the help and support given to Steve Jenkins' family following the loss of his grandson Max last Year. In incredibly hot and uncomfortable conditions the band performed for an hour with Steve once again talking every so often about the O's service and sacrifice in the Great War.

With no let-up for the band, the following Saturday saw the 17th Pals' travel over to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea to perform and entertain the Chelsea Pensioners and their family and friends. Once again, the band performed for around an hour and as at Haven House, Steve gave a detailed talk during the performance about Clapton Orient major contribution to the Footballers' Battalion during the Great War. Towards the end of the performance Steve showed everyone present Richard McFadden's medals and spoke at length about the bravery of the man.

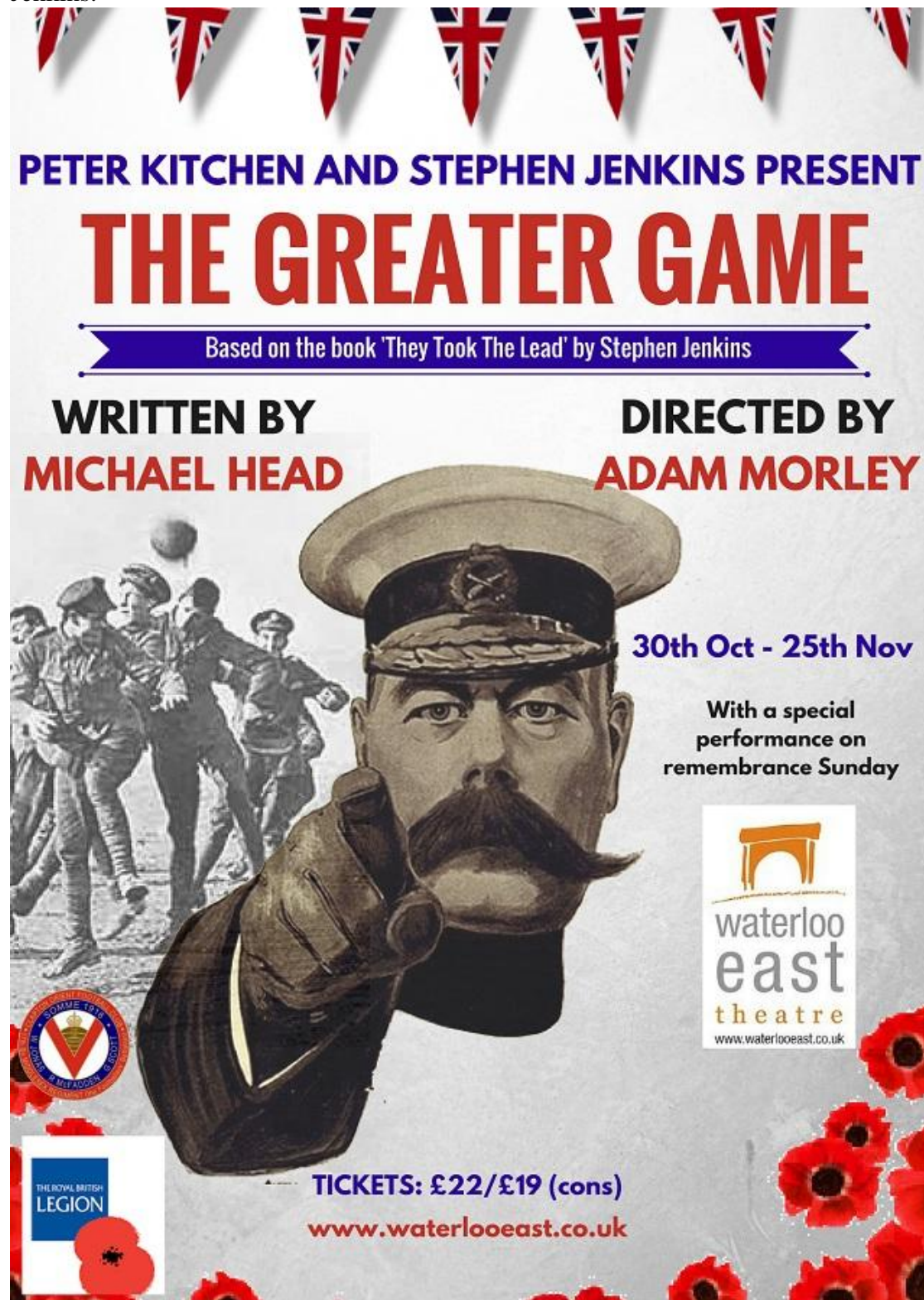


Both Haven House and the Royal Hospital have since thanked the 17th Pals Battalion Band for their excellent performances and have confirmed that they intend to invite the band back at a future date.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Several people from the Church went to see the original presentation of the play and all enjoyed it greatly. It gives an excellent evocation of how people of the time saw the War and can be greatly recommended. More details will be available from Steve Jenkins.



PETER KITCHEN AND STEPHEN JENKINS PRESENT

THE GREATER GAME


Based on the book 'They Took The Lead' by Stephen Jenkins


WRITTEN BY
MICHAEL HEAD

DIRECTED BY
ADAM MORLEY

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LEGION

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A Visit To Christ Church Spitalfields

Dave and I have visited Spitalfields on many occasions, mainly because it's so easy to reach. It is a trip to Liverpool Street Station and a short walk to an area of market stalls and eating places. Our favourite eating place is Poppies fish and chip restaurant. The waitresses are dressed in 1950's clothing, the food is freshly cooked, the service is quick and with a smile. It is however, extremely busy and vibrant so not for those who crave peace and quiet.



It was from one of our visits that we decided to go into Christ Church Anglican Church which is well in evidence from different aspects of the area. It stands tall with a spire of 202ft. so is hard to miss. It doesn't look particularly inviting from the outside as pollution from the busy road, which it stands on, makes the stonework look a little jaded.

Large stone steps lead up to wooden doors which gives the impression that the church is closed but I think it's to keep out the noise from the road.

This church was built between 1714 -1729 on a plague pit. It was designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor and was altered in 1836 due to a fire and rebuilding. In 1960 it was almost derelict, and the roof became unsafe. It was saved from demolition through a large donation given by The Hawkswood Committee. The roof was rebuilt and from 1960 -2000 the Crypt became a rehabilitation centre for homeless, alcoholic men. In 1976 Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields was formed to raise money and project manage its full restoration. Services returned in part of it in 1987. The Crypt was fully restored in 2004 - 2015 and now serves as a café, meeting rooms and toilet facilities. The Crypt still has some of the original walls from Hawksmoor's design. The main church no longer has pews but has chairs which can be added to, to fill the vast space for recitals.

The church's guide, a lady called Eva Bose, takes delight in talking about her life, particularly when she shared the podium with the late Billy Graham at his last rally in Victoria Park 1996. There she sang in Bengali, Urdu and English. Eva grew up in Calcutta and her father was ostracized for his Christian beliefs.

Eva only handed out literature upon entering the church to read and return to her when finished. It was interesting to hear her talk about her life and we experienced her singing the hymn The Old Rugged Cross in Bengali.



Looking ahead from the main door was a well preserved Victorian stained-glass window rising above the altar, but what has brought me back to this church is some modern artwork which is beneath this window and at the back of the altar, with the middle panel of it connecting visually to the altar cross. I normally dislike

modern art in Cathedrals and churches as I feel it somehow detracts from the history of the place, but in this case my breath was taken away by the beauty and holiness of it. It was called Scintilla and was created in 2010 by the artist Rebecca Hind - who was revered globally and by The Royal Family. To me, the artwork was quite simple but so powerful. It depicts the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

Sadly, Rebecca died on 10th August 2017 aged 59 years after a short illness. It is a privilege to be able to continue to see this piece of her work in Christ Church. The other imposing object in the church is the organ which was installed in 1785 by Richard Bridge. It was the largest in England at the time with over 2,000 pipes and no lesser person than the composer Handel once played on this organ. The pipes were all removed during the restoration of the church for safe keeping and the organ was restored in 2014 by William Blake. Organ Recitals regularly take place in the church and most include the Works of Handel.



If anyone goes to Spitalfields for any reason I fully recommend a short visit to Christ Church. After your visit you can rest your weary bones in the Crypt for coffee, tea, cake or a light lunch. It is rarely busy and wonderfully quiet.

Dianne Kendrick

The Worship Team



The worship team would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to share in preparing and practicing music for Sunday



worship. Practices last about an hour and are arranged to suit those involved. As well as rehearsing the music selected for the following Sunday the group contribute ideas for songs we might use at a later date.

Please talk to Rosemary, Ray, Mandy or Ruth if you would like to know more.

Samson and the Web



Hello Samson, how are you coping with all this hot weather?

Well Ed, it's all too much for spiders and so I've decided to curl up in my web and hibernate.

So does that mean you have missed out on all the Sunday services recently?

I'm sorry to say that it's all gone over my head.

So what could we do to improve things in future?

Maybe you could get someone to look at the Church's website?

What do you think that would do Samson?

It might help people know what happens on Sundays before they turn up.

Do you really think we should rely on a website to draw people in?

Why not - I do all the time - that's what spiders call spin!

In the tradition of Sam the Spider by A S Fugler.

CHURCH DIARY

August

Sunday 5th	10 am	Morning Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Saturday 11th	2 pm	Afternoon tea at the Church
Sunday 12th	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 19th	10 am	Morning Service led by Phil Slaney
Sunday 26th	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Monday 27th	2 pm	Afternoon at Highams Park Lake

September

Sunday 2nd	10 am	All Age Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Thursday 6th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 9th	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 9th	1.- 5 pm	Picnic in the Park
Sunday 16th	10 am	Morning Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 23rd	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
followed at	11.30 am	Church Members meeting
Sunday 30th	10 am	Harvest Festival Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton

October

Sunday 7th	10 am	All Age BBGA Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 14th	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by TBA

Note that details are subject to change.

All services and events take place at the Church unless noted.

Refreshments are served after the Morning Service every Sunday.