



Peace  
on  
Earth



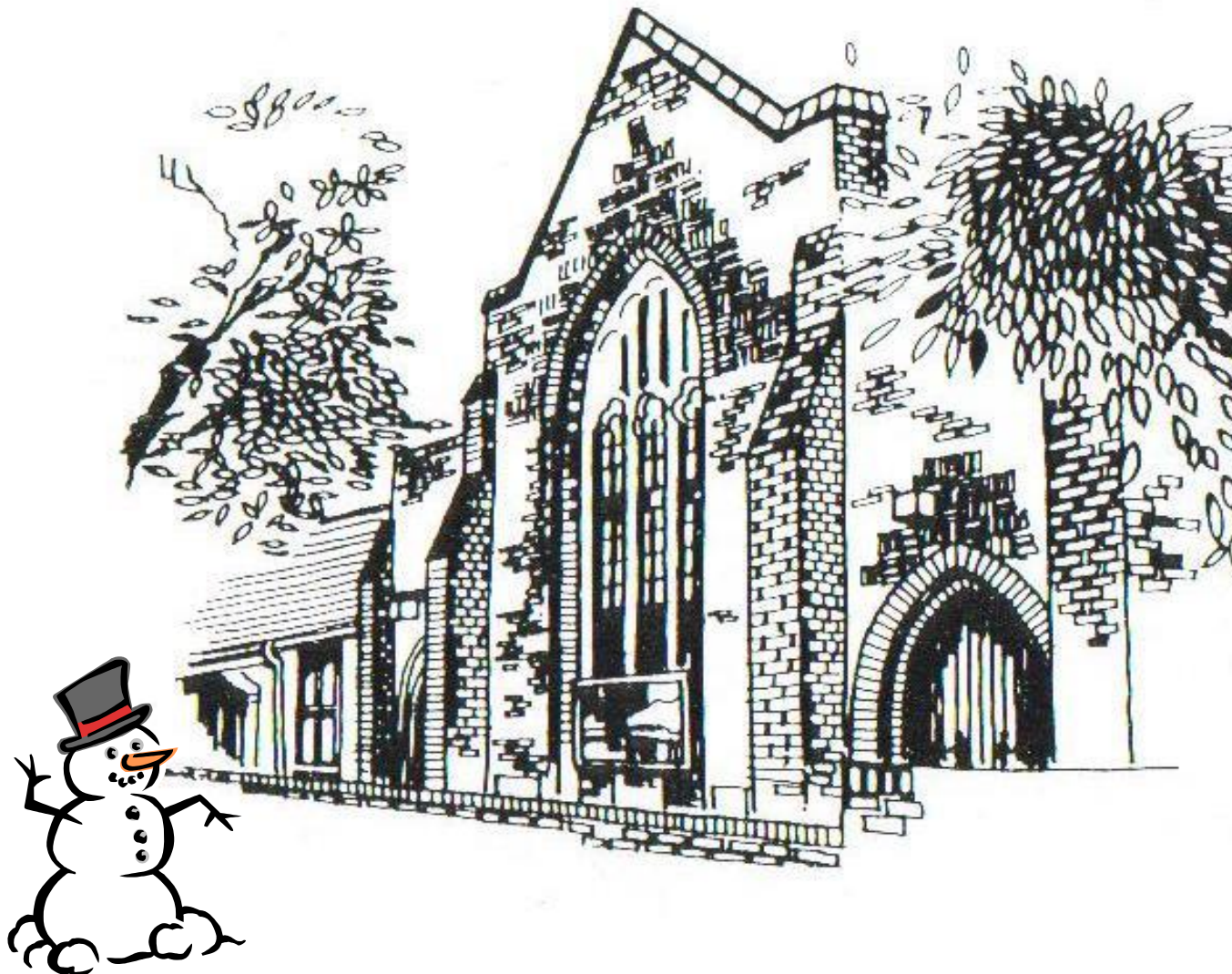
Peace  
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# THE MAGAZINE

## OF

# HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, E.4.



December 2019 / January 2020



## 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 11.00 – 12.00 am at the home of Margaret Norris.

An opportunity to pray for the life and work of the Church and for the local community.

### **Friday:**

Boys Brigade and Girls Association:  
Anchors (For boys and girls in school years 1-3)  
combined with  
Juniors (For boys and girls in school years 4-6)  
6.30 - 8:00 pm  
Company Section 6.30 - 8.30pm.

**Cell Groups:** The cell groups are small groups of people that meet together for friendship, support, Bible study / application. It would be great if you wanted to try one of the groups.

Friday 'Praise, Prayer and Worship'  
Monthly 7.00 -8.00pm at the Church.  
Contact Muneyi Antoniou or Peter Burke for details

Tuesdays, weekly at 8.00 pm  
at Sarah and Paul Raymond's House.

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 19th January 2020  
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 020 8527 1505 Email: [magazine@hpbc.co.uk](mailto:magazine@hpbc.co.uk)





## **Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG December 2019/ January 2020**

<p><b><i>Minister:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Rev. Rosemary Eaton 21, Warboys Crescent, Highams Park, London, E4 9HR</i></b></p> <p><b><i>☎ 020 8523 5056</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Church Secretary:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Ruth Underhay, 249, The Avenue, Highams Park, London E4 9SE</i></b></p> <p><b><i>☎ 07593 421214</i></b></p>
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### **Snow in Bethlehem**

Does it snow in Bethlehem? Yes, but it doesn't usually last very long. I remember a couple of years when there was enough snow for snowmen and snowball fights but to be honest it doesn't happen all that often. More's the pity, as far as the children are concerned, but the farmers and shepherds wouldn't agree. Their work is hard enough without snow to contend with.

I remember one year when it snowed. It was half a life time ago. My Seth was out on the hills that night with the other shepherds. It had been unusually warm for the time of year so the animals were still out. There were no signs that snow was on the way and the men had gone out as usual that morning.

As the daughter of a farmer and the wife of a shepherd I know a thing or two about weather watching. I learnt at an early age that there is a season for every activity on the farm. A sudden change in the weather means everything is turned upside down. I grew up used to uncertainty and changes of plan.

Unlike me, Seth wasn't born to the life. He came to live on the farm when we married and my father set him to work with the sheep. He took to it straight away. The life can be tough and sometimes lonely but Seth took it in his stride. He was good with the sheep and got on well with the other men.

On that night, snow came unexpectedly and something happened that changed Seth in ways I find it hard to explain. I was expecting our Abe and had gone to bed early knowing Seth would be late home. Little did I know just how late he would be! When he finally arrived home in the wee small hours he woke me. Full of the story, he was, all about the angels and the baby he'd been to see in Bethlehem.



At first I thought he was drunk, then I wondered if the hours spent alone on the hillside had finally got to him. It happens to shepherds sometimes.

After a while he became more coherent and the story came tumbling out. Although it seemed strange, I couldn't help but believe him. Seth was full of a light I had never seen in him before. Full of wonder that he had seen this tiny child in such an unlikely place. With me expecting I think the whole thing had touched him deeply. That poor woman and her husband, alone in a strange place and not even a proper room to stay in.

When Abe finally put in an appearance Seth was the best father you could imagine. Full of love and concern for me and the boy, he did what other fathers would consider 'women's work' and was always there when I was at my lowest. What happened that night in Bethlehem changed my husband and the way he saw life. The change was as unexpected and as gentle as the falling snow that came that night. But unlike the snow on the ground when we woke that morning, the change was a lasting one.

Strange that the birth of one small child on a night long ago could make such a difference.

*Rosemary*

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*The Magazine Team would like to thank  
you for your support throughout the  
year and wish you:*

*A Very Merry Christmas  
and a  
Blessed New Year*





# C VENDOR SH CIRCULAR AR



When I was a child Christmas always seemed an age away. As the dark days of December slowly passed each morning brought the same question to my family: "how many more days to Christmas Day?" Nowadays it is my grandchildren who ask "how many 'sleeps' are there?" to the great day and, as we join in with the excitement of School and Nursery events, we can once again share in that time of magical anticipation with them. At HPBC and in the wider community there are plenty of activities which will lead us into the wonder and joy of this season and you can read about some of them in the magazine. In the coming weeks our own Church will be decorated in the traditional way; we will sing the familiar much-loved carols, exchange Christmas cards and light the Advent Candles. There will be a special Advent 'Cafe-style' service to share; we can join in carol-singing with the other Churches in our community and enjoy a festive meal at a local restaurant. Through all these festivities may we remember the Christ-child at the centre of our celebrations and realise anew the wonder of God's gift to us as we worship the baby Jesus.

We continue to enjoy times of fun and fellowship at Church. A small but happy group recently shared in a 'Coffee and Cake' afternoon where some delicious bakery was supplied by Ray and plenty of laughter enjoyed (thank you Doris!). Later, a Family Activity Afternoon was held where around forty friends of all ages joined in various activities including craft-making and games; read more about this later on in the magazine.

We ask for your prayers for several in our fellowship who have been in especial need recently. Dorothy Tayler continues with chemotherapy, after a hospital stay being treated for an infection. We pray for Dorothy and Cliff and all the family as they support and care for her during this time. Rachel Jones has recently had another brief hospital stay but is happily recovered and back home again. It has been good to see her, together with baby Ariella and big brother Lucas, at Church.



Our more senior members will be sorry to learn of the death at the grand age of 105 years of our former member Vera Ames. Together with her late husband George she moved away from the area many years ago but maintained contact with our fellowship. Her later years were spent in residential care where she enjoyed good health and a great zest for life. We send our condolences to daughters Hilary and Vivienne as they and their families give thanks for Vera and remember all she meant to them.

Our prayers are asked for Perlita and Bob Jenkins who have suffered sadness and worry over the past few weeks. Jhaysen Varilla's father (Jhayden's grandfather) has been killed in the Philippines and members of the family have travelled out there to be with the family. We have also learnt that Bob Jenkins' brother has passed away after a long illness in France where he lived. We pray that both these families will be conscious of God's loving presence as they mourn their loved ones. Please also pray for Bob's niece who has recently been diagnosed with a serious illness, that she may receive all the necessary expertise and care from the medical staff treating her. As always, we remember also those who cannot worship with us week by week but are valued and loved members of our fellowship. These include Mavis Grint, June Tresarden and Joan Ashley who would welcome phone calls, letters and visits. *Jacquie*

### News from our extended family.



Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November marked a special day in the Dixon household and a cause for celebration. At St Marks Church, Reigate, Leona was confirmed. There were 33 people confirmed that day from several churches and it was lovely to go and see her make this profession of faith. May God continue to bless her richly and guide her way in life. This is a picture of her after the service with the Bishop.

*We are grateful to Mandy for bringing us news of Mark, Kerstin, Leona, Lara and Lukas, who moved away from our church and the area some years ago. We send our love and best wishes to the whole family on this very special occasion.*



## ADVANCE WARNING - 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, 1st December - EARLY BIRD DELIVERY**  
(no collection available)

**Sunday, 8th December - DELIVERY. COLLECTION**  
after Service only.

**Sunday, 15th December - LAST SUNDAY FOR DELIVERY**  
Collection available after Service only

**Sunday, 22nd 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!





## Remembrance Sunday



In commemoration of all those who have died in wars past and present, our children and young people worked together to make a poppy wreath as an act of remembrance. Emily explained what Remembrance Sunday meant and we discussed how children, as the future generation, need to work towards ensuring a peaceful, caring world. All present set about making our wreath. Toby coloured in the background before making a few poppies. Soon, many poppies had been carefully made and we began to stick them onto the wreath. When we thought we had finished Esme produced at least six more poppies she had hidden away and these were used to fill any remaining gaps.

Hazel came in to tell us that the Church was about to honour the two minutes silence. We were just in time. Our wreath was put in the middle of the table and I explained that the two minutes was to remember all those people who had lost their lives in wars. Tony used his watch to time the two minutes, during which you could hear a pin drop - every child was brilliant!





We finished with a prayer read by Esme:

"As bright red poppies grow from dark, brown earth

Help us, loving God, to go back to our homes -

Shining brightly with your love."

Even on sad days

Amen

Dianne

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## The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.  
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



**Rupert Brooke** (1887 - 1915) was already a famous writer when he enlisted within weeks of the outbreak of the First World War. Serving with the Royal Naval Division, he died of blood poisoning from an infected mosquito bite while travelling to Gallipoli in April 1915. Once described as "the handsomest young man in England", after his death Brooke became a national symbol of the tragic wartime loss of a promising generation. Brooke's most famous collection of poetry, *1914 & Other Poems*, contained all five of his war sonnets, including 'The Soldier', and was first published in May 1915. Winston

Churchill wrote Brooke's obituary in *The Times*.



## *FAMILY FUN AND ACTIVITY AFTERNOON SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2019*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> November dawned – it was a wet and windy start, a day when you just want to roll over in bed and hide under your duvet! However that was not an option because HPBC was putting on an afternoon of fun and activities for all the family.

Around forty or more people came to join us for our Family Fun and Activity Afternoon. On offer was cookie making, decorating baubles and plaster ornaments, making Santa and angel decorations and colouring. If that wasn't enough and you didn't feel arty or crafty, then you could play snooker, table tennis, Jenga or draughts. The age range varied from about three years old to over seventy and anywhere in between but there was something for everyone.

The cookie making proved popular with the children – well they do like making a mess! Flour, butter, eggs, rolling, shaping, cooking, cooling and decorating. Who knew that it could be so exhausting! Hopefully the end results were tasty too.

The Santa and angel decorations were also very popular and you could see the young children laughing and smiling as they made them and talk was heard while making them of what Santa would be up to now, who the reindeers were and what they ate and how would Santa reach them if they didn't have a chimney!

There was also a chance to decorate baubles by pouring paint over them and carefully painting plastic decorations for the tree – concentration was needed for this but again it was an activity that was very much enjoyed and the finished decorations looked fabulous.

We had colouring for young and old – a more peaceful activity where you could lose yourself and just sit quietly and chat.

Fellowship Hall was buzzing with a hive of activity as ping pong balls were hit, snooker balls pounded into pockets and screams heard when the Jenga tower fell. Must have been hard to concentrate on a serious game of draughts.

And of course, HPBC tradition meant that refreshments were served with a wide variety of yummy biscuits.

Massive thanks go to Mandy and Rosemary for thinking up the ideas and for all their preparations in making them possible, to Jason for manning the non-craft activities, to Gemma, Marilyn, Michael, Dianne, Dave, Jenny, Robert and Ray for supervising the activities, providing refreshment, making sure the cookies didn't burn and setting up and clearing up – it could not have happened without you all.

It was an afternoon of fun and a chance to chat to people, not all who come to church on a Sunday but are in some way connected to the church whether family relations or part of the BBGA family. A great and worthwhile afternoon and a great way to show what HPBC is all about.

*Thanks to Ruth for the words and Rob for the pictures.*



*There was concentration - lots of concentration !*



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas...*





## 17<sup>th</sup> Pals' Battalion Band Costermonger's Harvest Festival

The 17<sup>th</sup> Pals' were very proud to recently participate in the Costermonger's Harvest Festival at the Guildhall in the City of London.

It was a very prestigious event, with the Mayors from many London Boroughs in attendance, as well as representatives from some of the City's livery companies.

The band performed a number of marches that were written around the time of the Great War, and also played – with just the accompaniment of a drum: 'Pack Up Your Troubles' and 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary', which encouraged everyone to sing along with the band.

After the performance, the band led the parade through the streets from the Guildhall Yard and past the Bank of England to St Mary-Le-Bow church, for the Harvest Festival Service.

It was a great performance which was very well received by all those present.

Footage of the bands' performance can be seen on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOKqDY\\_fYy0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOKqDY_fYy0)

[The 17<sup>th</sup> Pals' Battalion Band also has its own Facebook page](#)

Stephen Jenkins  
Bandmaster  
17<sup>th</sup> Pals' Battalion Band







## *Highams Park Snippets*



**Dr John Draper Raiman FRCGP**  
**21/5/34 - 20/10/19**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Dr John Raiman one of the founders, along with our own Dr. Geoff Norris, of Handsworth Avenue Health Centre. He had enjoyed an active and healthy retirement until his death following a stroke. Our prayers are with his family at this time. It is said that perhaps his favourite saying was : "family first".

A book of remembrance will be available at the Health Centre in coming weeks.

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### **'Dropping you a line;**



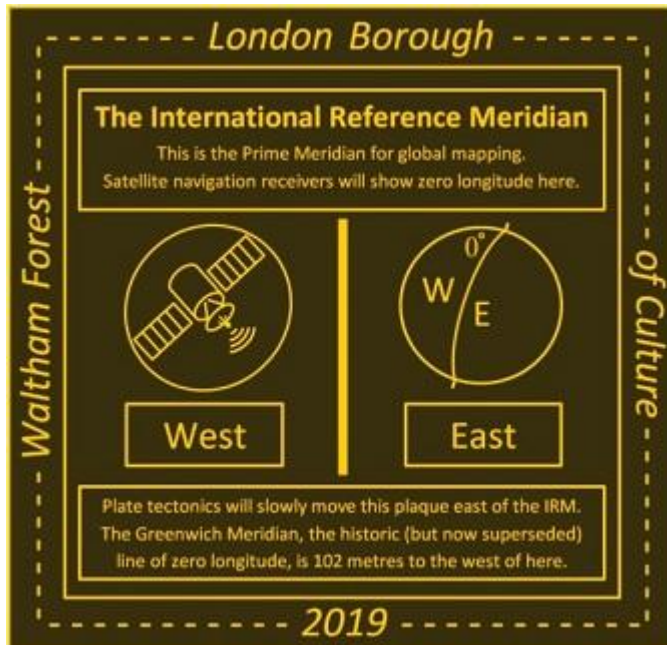
A new plaque has been installed in Highams Park celebrating the unusual position of our town centre in global mapping. The plaque marks the International Reference Meridian (IRM), the place where mobile phones and other sat nav devices will show zero longitude. This is not the Greenwich Meridian. The unveiling of the plaque was performed by the Mayor Chris Robbins on Tuesday 29th October.

A group of local residents from the Highams Park Planning Group and the Highams Park Forum decided that Highams Park should mark it. They have designed an elegant pavement plaque which was installed in the pavement near the corner of Hale End Road and Beech Hall Road. We are not aware of any other plaque (in the world) marking the IRM so Highams Park may be the first. The Greenwich Meridian and the International Reference Meridian (IRM) both pass through the centre of Highams Park.



The map below shows the level crossing at the centre with the two lines neatly framing it, one on either side of the level crossing.

The Greenwich Meridian was superseded in 1984 as the globally agreed



line of zero Longitude and the new standard is known as The International Reference Meridian<sup>1</sup> (or "IRM"). Sat nav devices (including mobile phones) will show zero longitude on the IRM. These two lines pass through only 8 countries of the world (including the UK) and framing a town centre as in Highams Park is very unusual, hence our desire to mark them. The Greenwich Meridian was marked in the centre of Highams Park in 1963; the

stone and brass marker is still there near the corner of Winchester Road and Selwyn Avenue. The new IRM plaque was installed in the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the pavement near the corner of Hale End Road and Beech Hall Road. We hope our new IRM marker will have a similar long life and interest residents for many years to come. After the IRM leaves the new plaque travelling north, it passes through the middle of the station garden in Highams Park Station. When people sit on the bench in the garden and then get up to board a train they unknowingly move across the IRM from the eastern hemisphere to the western hemisphere.

*Ed's note: We are grateful to the Highams Park Planning Group for permission to use this article. It is taken from the Highams Park Portal which gives a lot of useful and interesting information about things going on in Highams Park. The website is: [www.highamspark.london](http://www.highamspark.london)*

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You may think that you know about recycling and cheer the efforts of some supermarkets to introduce degradable bags for vegetables etc. However we hear that they are not necessarily an answer - biodegradable bags should not be put in the brown bins (for composting) because they break down too slowly compared to vegetable matter. The official view seems to be that they need to go in the black bin where they will either be burnt for energy or go to landfill where they will decay (in time). Ah well... DL



## I Stand By The Door

*The following poem was read by Rosemary in a recent Service as a lead in to our Advent reflections.*

I stand by the door.  
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,  
The door is the most important door in the world—  
It is the door through which people walk when they find God.  
There's no use my going way inside, and staying there,  
When so many are still outside, and they, as much as I,  
Crave to know where the door is.  
And all that so many ever find  
Is only the wall where a door ought to be.  
They creep along the wall like those who are blind.  
With outstretched, groping hands,  
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,  
Yet they never find it . . .  
So I stand by the door.

The most tremendous thing in the world  
Is for people to find that door—the door to God.  
The most important thing any one can do  
Is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands,  
And put it on the latch—the latch that only clicks  
And opens to one's own touch.  
People die outside that door, as starving beggars die  
On cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter—  
Die for want of what is within their grasp.  
They live, on the other side of it—live because they have found it.  
Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it,  
And open it, and walk in, and find Him . . .  
So I stand by the door.

Go in, great saints, go all the way in—  
Go way down into the cavernous cellars,  
And way up into the spacious attics—  
In a vast, roomy house, this house where God is.  
Go into the deepest of hidden casements,  
Of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood.  
Some must inhabit those inner rooms,  
And know the depths and heights of God,  
And call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.  
Sometimes I take a deeper look in,  
Sometimes venture a little farther;  
But my place seems closer to the opening . . .  
So I stand by the door.



The people too far in do not see how near these are  
To leaving—preoccupied with the wonder of it all.  
Somebody must watch for those who have entered the door,  
But would like to run away. So for them, too,  
I stand by the door.

I admire the people who go way in.  
But I wish they would not forget how it was  
Before they got in. Then they would be able to help  
The people who have not even found the door,  
Or the people who want to run away again from God.  
You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long,  
And forget the people outside the door.  
As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,  
Near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there,  
But not so far from people as not to hear them,  
And remember they are there too.  
Where? Outside the door—  
Thousands of them, millions of them.  
But—more important for me—  
One of them, two of them, ten of them,  
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch,  
So I shall stand by the door and wait  
For those who seek it.  
'I had rather be a door-keeper . . .'  
So I stand by the door.



**Sam Shoemaker** (1893-1963) served as a pastor in New York City and Pittsburgh. He was instrumental in establishing the spiritual foundation for Alcoholics Anonymous, particularly the need to turn to God as a way of coming out of alcoholism.

Rev. Shoemaker, toward the end of his life, wrote "I Stand by the Door" (aka "I Stay Near the Door") as an apology for his ministry. I first heard the poem in 1983 during a devotional time at the beginning of Church History class at Eastern Nazarene College, taught by Joseph Seaborn. The

poem struck me that day and ever since by its simplicity and vision; what's more, I've found it crosses cultures.

**Samuel Moor Shoemaker III** DD, STD (December 27, 1893 – October 31, 1963) was a priest of the Episcopal Church. He was considered one of the best preachers of his era whose sermons were syndicated for distribution by tape and radio networks for decades. His interdenominational focus and the Oxford Group were significant influences for the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Shoemaker's contributions and service to Alcoholics Anonymous had a worldwide effect. The philosophy that Shoemaker codified, in conjunction with the co-founder, Bill Wilson, is used in almost every country around the world to treat alcoholism.





# The Highams Park Christmas Fayre

Sunday 15th December  
11am - 5pm

*organised by the  
Highams Park  
Planning Group*



This year the Highams Park Christmas Fayre will consist of a Food Market in the Station Car Park and a Craft Market in Signal Walk (by Tesco Highams Park). There will be the usual Torchlit Bicycle Ride at 3:00 pm and Massed Carol Singing in Signal Walk at 4:00 pm. Don't forget to check out both markets when you come along.

The Craft Market in Signal Walk will have a wide range of Arts & Craft/gift stalls, mulled wine, mince pies and live entertainments.

The Food Market in Highams Park Station Car Park will have a wide range of artisan food stalls serving hot and cold food as well as fresh and cooked meats, breads, cheeses, wines and treats. There will also be free entertainments, including live music.



## Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.

### Introduction

On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer.

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28).

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January)**

#### **Services in Highams Park**

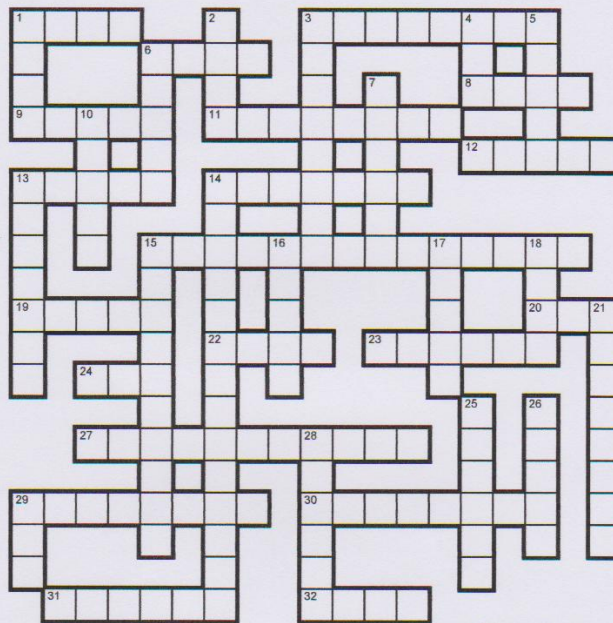
- Monday- HPBC at 11.00
- Tuesday – WRMC at 10.30
- Wednesday – All Saints [TBC](#)
- Friday – Christ the King at 10.00 [TBC](#)



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 \_\_\_ log; traditonally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

### Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

Just the thing for after that Christmas Meal (and the Queen's Speech of course).

Thanks to Dave Kendrick for this Crossword. Answers at the end of the magazine.





## Christmassy Facts

It has become somewhat of a tradition that we include some Christmassy facts in this issue of the magazine. Since traditions must carry on we have included some that we have noted before together with some new. Now, did you know that...

The idea of decorating a tree is not terribly old but in order to bring light to the world we have tried to illuminate the tree. Originally candles were used - perhaps not best when there is flammable material around! But in 1882 an American inventor named Edward Hibberd Johnson decided to use the new fangled electricity and festooned a six foot tree with 120 bulbs. If that was not enough he managed to get the tree to rotate as well. A man ahead of his time!

A man who changed time, or at least how we counted the days, was Pope Gregory XIII, who, in 1582, decreed that October of that year would lose 10 days to clear the anomalies in the Roman Julian calendar. This edict was taken up by those countries which were Roman Catholic but of course the Protestant countries, almost as a matter of principle, ignored the change. It was not until 1752 that Britain changed and by that time another day was needed to be lost. This meant that in 1752 September ran 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>...All this caused great confusion as to when Christmas was celebrated - it obviously still had to be on December 25<sup>th</sup> but if you now used the Gregorian calendar this meant that it should be on the 6<sup>th</sup> January under the Julian system. Some people still clung to the 'Old Style or Julian Calendar' whilst others used the 'New Style or Gregorian Calendar'. Dependant on which you used defined when you celebrated Christmas. Hopefully all your family used the same system!

The Twelve Days of Christmas is also a well known song that seems to have many meanings and its origins are very unclear - even the wording changes in different versions. As an example on the eighth day there can be: 8 Ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, or 8 hounds a running. There is also the theory that it could have French origins. An early 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish version has completely different objects on the twelve days. Every year somebody takes time and energy to work out what buying all these items would cost. One set of figures for 2018 (nobody has worked out the cost for 2019 - perhaps Brexit has played a part!) gives the cost to buy one set of each of the items mentioned as £14,272.96. However if you were to buy every item mentioned the cost rises (considerably) to £43,070.80.





One other version allocates a more religious tone to the gifts;

<b>"Twelve Days of Christmas" as a Catechism Song</b>	
<b>Gift</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>

A partridge in a pear tree	Jesus
Two turtle doves	The Old and New Testaments
Three French hens	The three kings bearing gifts
Four calling [sic] birds	The four Gospels
Five gold rings	The Torah or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament
Six geese a-laying	The six days of Creation
Seven swans a-swimming	Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
Eight maids a-milking	The eight Beatitudes
Nine ladies dancing	Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten lords a-leaping	The Ten Commandments
Eleven pipers piping	The eleven faithful Apostles
Twelve drummers drumming	The twelve points of the Apostles' Creed



Whatever version you use, sing it with gusto...

The 1551 Law of the Holy Days and Fasting Days Act means that every citizen must attend a Christian church service on Christmas Day - a little difficult in this multi faith society - and do not forget you cannot drive to church as this is banned too. In fact the vehicle could be confiscated, sold and the proceeds given to the poor. An amendment to this Act in 1847 allowed for the roads around a church to be closed and any vehicle approaching the church had to be re-routed. What it does not say is how far you have to walk and with parking difficult these days you may have to walk at least part of the journey - does this count I wonder?



### **Samson and the Election**



'Hello Samson, we haven't heard from our long standing church spider for ages and we would like to know if you have any words of wisdom for our church congregation before your winter hibernation?'

*'Well Ed, I have been hearing a lot about the forthcoming General Election on the 12<sup>th</sup> December and that they will be using our church hall for a Polling Station.'*

'So what have you heard that people have been saying?'

*'I've heard them say things like, 'Let's get Brexit done! and 'We could end up with a hung parliament!' Someone else said, 'We've got to save the planet!'*

'So Samson, having heard what people in the church are saying what words of wisdom do you have for our church?'

*'I have only words from the apostle Paul to help us.....'We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.'*

*1 Corinthians 2 v6-8*

*P T Slaney – in the tradition of Sam the Spider by A S Fugler*

*Ed's note: With Samson's Biblical knowledge perhaps he could be persuaded to take a Service!*

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*'When we discover that the joy we give to others is joy given back to us, then we have discovered the true Christmas spirit.'*

*Anon*



## What is it?

What is it that has 142 pages?

Gives you recipes for : Bread Pudding, Blueberry Muffins, Banana Loaf, Never Fail Cake and Haddock and Leek Risotto?

Has over two hundred pictures, photographs or other visual representations?

Tells you about the 'Old Pal's Band'?

Describes Church Social events?

Appears six times a year?

Can be printed or accessed by the internet?

Is sent to Members and Friends who have moved away?

Uses seven different colour papers?

Tells you about Police boxes in Trafalgar Square?

Tells you what happens when a bus gets lost and is put back on the right track?

Updates you on the BBGA?

Lets you know about happenings in Highams Park?

Sometimes misses pictures out due to lack of space or amnesia? (See below!).



Our very own 'geyser' in Larkshall Road opposite Tesco's.  
Pictured by Dave Kendrick earlier in the year.

*Ed's note: Sorry Dave, but I did promise to use the picture...*

Well , the answer is, of course, a year's worth of the Church Magazine. We hope that you enjoy it...



## It was Christmas Eve and the world stood still

A poem by Tim Carter

It was Christmas Eve  
And the world stood still  
Just for a moment

Waiting  
Wondering  
Hoping

Might it be that this time  
This time of all times  
The promise would be fulfilled  
And the wars would end  
And the crying cease  
And the people join hands in unity?

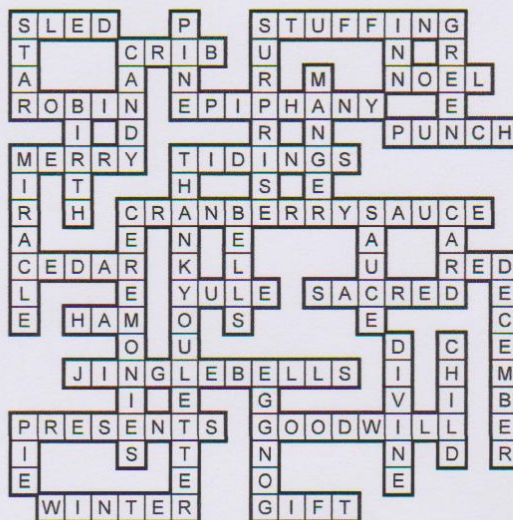
Waiting  
Wondering  
Hoping

Might it be this time  
This time of all times?



\*\*\*\*\*

### CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Sled, 3 Stuffing, 6 Crib, 8 Noel, 9 Robin, 11 Epiphany, 12 Punch, 13 Merry, 14 Tidings, 15 Cranberry sauce, 19 Cedar, 20 Red, 22 Yule, 23 Sacred, 24 Ham, 27 Jingle Bells, 29 Presents, 30 Goodwill, 31 Winter, 32 Gift.

Down: 1 Star, 2 Pine, 3 Surprise, 4 Inn, 5 Green, 6 Candy, 7 Manger, 10 Birth, 13 Miracle, 14 Thank you letter, 15 Ceremonies, 16 Bells, 17 Sauce, 18 Card, 21 December, 25 Divine, 26 Child, 28 Eggnog, 29 Pie.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk





## **CHURCH DIARY**

### **December**

Sunday 1st	10.00am	1st Sunday in Advent All Age Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 8th	10.00 am	2nd Sunday in Advent Morning Service with Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
	3.00 pm	Churches Together in Highams Park Bereavement Service at HPBC
Wednesday 11th	7.00 pm	Christmas Meal
Sunday 15th	10.00 am	3rd Sunday in Advent Café Style All Age Advent Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Wednesday 18th	5.30 pm	Carol Singing in Tesco's
Sunday 22nd	10.00 am	4th Sunday in Advent Morning Nativity Service with Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
	6.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Tuesday 24th	11:30 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service
Wednesday 25th	10:00 am	All Age Service: Christmas Day Celebration
Sunday 29th	10.00 am	Morning Service led by Mandy Edwards





# Happy New Year

## January

Sunday 5th	10.00am	Morning Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Thursday 9th	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting at the Church
Sunday 12th	10.00 am	Morning Covenant Service with Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
18th to 25th	TBA	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 19th	10.00 am	Morning Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Monday 20th	11.00 am	Week of Prayer meeting at the Church
followed by	11.30 am	Church Members Meeting
Sunday 26th	10.00 am	Morning Service with Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton

## February

Sunday 2nd	10.00am	Morning Service led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 9th	10.00 am	Morning Service with Communion led d by Rev. Rosemary Eaton

*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.*

