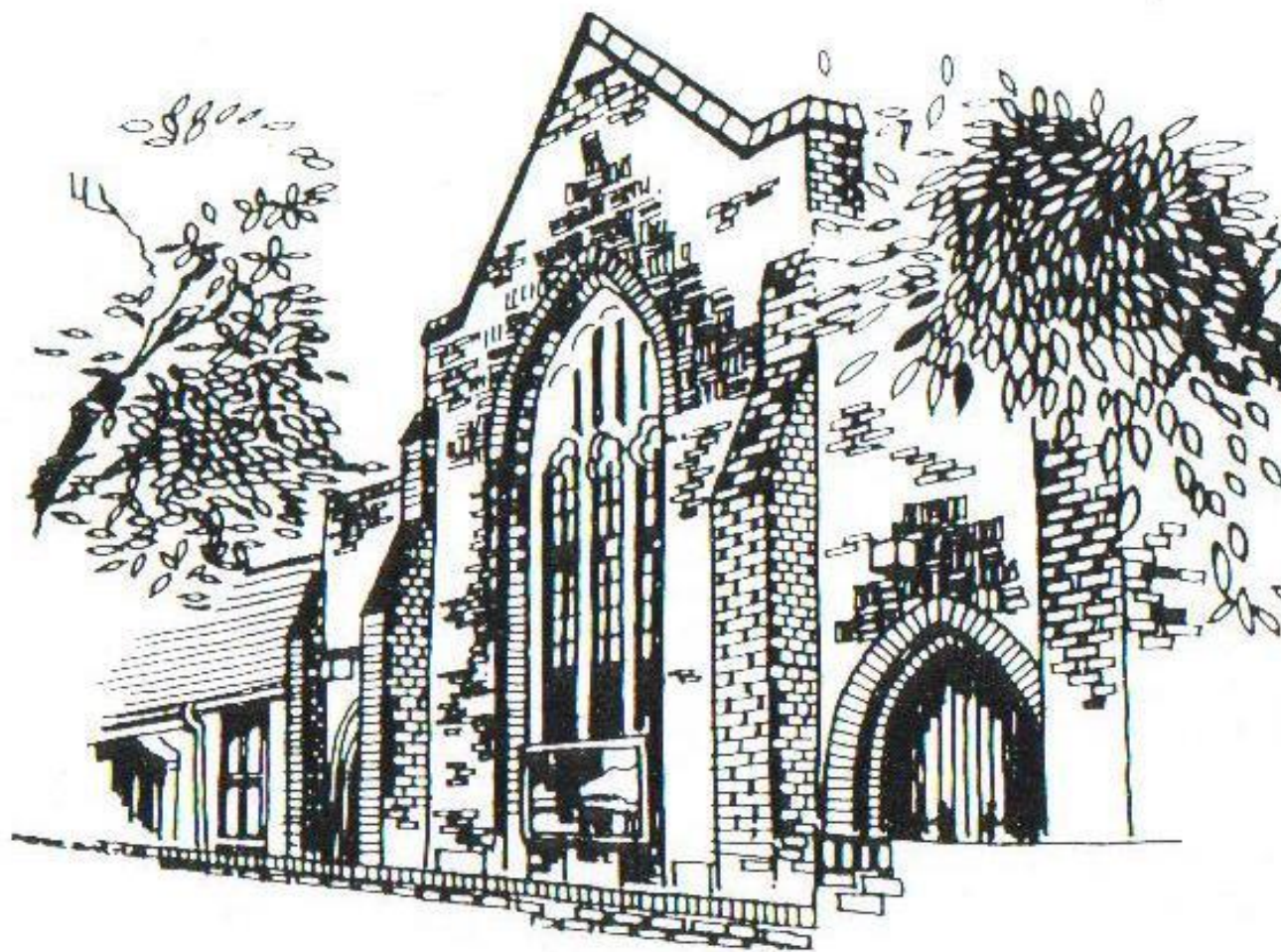




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



JUNE / JULY 2020



CHURCH PROGRAMME

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES OR GROUPS UNTIL THE COVID 19 (CORONA VIRUS) RESTRICTIONS ALLOW...

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 July 19th 2020
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 020 8527 1505 Email: magazine@hpbc.co.uk





Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
June / July 2020

<p><i>Minister:</i></p> <p><i>Rev. Rosemary Eaton</i> <i>21, Warboys Crescent,</i> <i>Highams Park,</i> <i>London, E4 9HR</i></p> <p>☎ 020 8523 5056</p>	<p><i>Church Secretary:</i></p> <p><i>Ruth Underhay,</i> <i>249, The Avenue,</i> <i>Highams Park,</i> <i>London E4 9SE</i></p> <p>☎ 07593 421214</p>
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Rosemary writes in a recent 'Sunday Supplement':

Ascension Day this year fell on Thursday 21st May. Forty days after Jesus had been raised from the dead, eleven of his closest friends watched as once again he was taken from them. On the slopes of the Mount of Olives they had received first comfort and then a commission. The task of continuing Jesus' mission and work now fell to the eleven men who were with him as he disappeared, hidden by a cloud.

These eleven apostles returned to the upper room in Jerusalem where they had been staying. Together with the other believers they united in prayer. In time, Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot. The eleven became twelve as they had been before. Leaders began to emerge. Simon Peter took on a central role. Something new was beginning to take shape. Slowly and cautiously the faithful few who had remained in Jerusalem began to look to the future.

Right now, in England, there is much debate and discussion about the future. Slowly and cautiously our political leaders are encouraging a return to work in some sectors. In the world of education, leaders are meeting to consider how to begin a limited reopening of schools. The country is beginning to look to the future. Something new is beginning to take shape.

But change is challenging. Rebuilding confidence after tragedy and loss is not easy. Those who had known Jesus well had suffered a dramatic loss. The time they had spent together since the resurrection had brought comfort. Praying together daily had strengthened them as a group. On the Mount of Olives, Jesus had prepared the apostles for the task ahead. The first step was to encourage the wider group to begin moving forward, but for the time being they continued to meet and to pray behind locked doors.

Everything changed at Pentecost. Soon, the Holy Spirit would move dramatically and decisively to empower the whole group. Others would join the new movement. Something new would soon begin. The waiting would finally be over. In the meantime, the believers, guided by their emerging leaders, stayed together and prayed together.



In 2020, Christians in Britain and in many other places are waiting for things to change. Our churches remain closed. We do not know when we might meet again. We experience anxiety and frustration. We have lost so much in the past months. We find comfort in prayer and in our connections with each other. For the time being we continue to meet and pray behind our own front doors. But something new is beginning. This week, like the early believers, we continue to wait and to trust that at the right time God will move us forward.

We Light A Candle

*We light a candle,
and enjoy the flickering light,
the fragrance and warmth it creates.
But without the spark that ignites,
there will be no flame.*

*Without the wax, the source of power,
the wick will not burn.*

*Without the flame,
there will be no fragrance,
no warmth, no light.*

*And so with us, Lord.
You are the catalyst that
ignites us,
and the fuel that sustains
us.*



*You fill us with your fragrance
as you enter our lives.*

*You empower us
to carry your flame in our hearts,
to be the fragrance, warmth,
and light of your love,
in this dark world.*



Cavendish Circular



As we continue to live in somewhat surreal and challenging times we are so grateful for the loving support we receive from our HPBC family. By phone, email, text, blogs, facebook, zoom and all other technology, we have tried to keep those loving links that are so vital to us when we can no longer meet together face to face. Gaining inspiration from the Sunday Supplement and Rosemary's

blogs, Zoom sessions from our two home groups, fellowship news and prayer requests from Ruth and Robert have all kept us together in God's loving care. We hope that you find the Church magazine another support at this time and look forward to hearing from our readers and, of course, welcome further articles if inspiration strikes! Our best wishes to all our readers, far and near and may we all meet up again one day soon!

We send our loving condolences to two of our fellowship who have lost family members during this time of lockdown. In April, Michael Stanton's sister died and, because of current restrictions, only a limited number of family members were able to attend the funeral. We think of Michael, Pauline and all the family as they mourn his loss. They are currently living in Frinton and managing to keep well and safe while isolating. It has been good to have occasional contact with them via Zoom and on the phone.

In early May we heard the sad news that our Minister, Rosemary's mother, Enid, had passed away. We remember Rosemary, Ray, her brother Steven and all the family as they mourn their loss. Rosemary was able to officiate at the funeral in Somerset and we assure her of our continuing prayerful support especially during these uncertain and challenging times.

During this time of lockdown the Player family heard the news that Toby's Day Centre funding has been agreed. However, the Centre is currently closed because of Covid 19 and we remember the family as they continue to care for Toby at home; you can see how energetically and inspiringly they are doing this later in the magazine. This has obviously been a challenging time for them all and we pray for God's faithful support in their daily lives. Gemma has recently started a new job and we send her our best wishes as she undertakes her duties under the current restrictions.

Another of our members has also commenced a new job recently. Sarah Raymond has new duties under challenging circumstances. We pray that she and Paul are strengthened and supported by God as they both work in the community while caring for their young family. We also thank them for hosting our twice-weekly Zoom sessions which have proved a real life-line to us personally while we are away from home.

Many of our fellowship are engaged in 'front-line' duties during this time, in hospitals and care homes, social services, transport, the Police, education, postal, delivery and all other vital services. We are so grateful to them for helping the nation at this time of unprecedented crisis and pray that they will be supported in all they do.



Two of our fellow 'Zoomers', Fiona and Michael Thorndyke, have recently managed to travel back to their home in the Netherlands after being in lockdown here. It has been great to still be able to see and speak with them despite their being in the Netherlands and we send them our best wishes as they settle back into their life there.

We are pleased to welcome Jan Smithers home again from her lengthy stay in Ghana. Although we have not been able to see her face to face it has also been good to share in fellowship over Zoom. We look forward to hearing all her news very soon.

Margaret Enaholo continues to be settled back at home after her earlier hospital admission and we pray for her and Marina who is caring for her, that they may be aware of God's loving support in their daily lives.

We send our warmest congratulations to Dave Lewarne as we learn that he married Michelle earlier this year in South Africa. Friends will remember Dave who worshipped regularly with us for some years before his return home. We send the happy couple our warmest best wishes for their future together; you can hear more from him further in this issue.

Dorothy Tayler is to have a scan at North Middlesex Hospital this week prior to a possible commencement of Radiotherapy. We remember her and Cliff at this time, praying that the wisdom and care of the Hospital team will support them in this new phase of treatment.

As always we remember those of our HPBC family who are frail in health and isolating at home. Family and friends are supporting them in many ways, by getting shopping, calling by (at a distance!) and phoning for a chat as well as caring daily for them at home if possible. Our love and continuing prayerful support goes to them.

Jacquie



Liz Jones sent this to us...

Barry Brown, son of our late friend Beryl, sent us this recently. He made it on the beach on the Isle of Wight. He is working there at the moment as he cannot go to back to his family in the Philippines. He is working for farmers on the land and milking cows etc.

It is a great photo.



A Marriage Made in... South Africa

Many of you will remember Dave Lewarne who came to our Church for a number of years. A little time ago he returned to South Africa and, as we recently discovered he has married. He has been kind enough to write about how he met his wife and provide some pictures. We have, of course, sent our best wishes to the couple. He writes...

We've been in lockdown for over 52 days and the government is now thinking of opening up the economy at the end of this month. We hope to move to level 3 or hopefully 2 in our area.

I met Michelle at the small community church that I am attending in Plettenberg Bay. We belonged to the same Life Group and I got to know her fairly well as friend. Our Life Group eventually become too large and the leaders decided to divide and start a new group. I joined one of the leaders to form and lead the new group and Michelle moved to another LG closer to home. She eventually decided to leave the fellowship and joined the Vineyard church in Kynsna.



I didn't see her for a while, but we kept in communication via WhatsApp. One day I bumped into her in town and we decided to go for coffee and that's where we started seeing each other on a regular basis. We eventually decided to take things further and we started to worship together at Vineyard. I put us on a three month probation period as friends and in June 2019 we moved into a formal relationship, got engaged in September and married on the 29 February this year. She's a lovely

Christian girl and loves the Lord. We are blessed.

Please pass on my fondest regards to all in the church. I miss you folk and will always remember the lovely times I had at HBPC - as well as the fantastic friends that became a family to me.

Lots of love in the Lord,

David





A Blessing For A Meeting on Zoom by Martin Wroe.

In the place where eye contact is impossible
The silent lexicon of non-verbal cues extinct
May this not be the crowd without the wisdom
Despite our isolation, our social distance

May we give thanks for this awkward digital blessing
May we be admitted, may we be not muted
May our distorted sound and scrambled words
Finally align, may they catch up with our pixelated vision

May travelling this unfamiliar landscape
Neither lose us, nor completely exhaust us
And may our bandwidth always find room
For patience, gentleness and the peace
that bypasses misunderstanding

May every meeting open and close with a poem,
A joke or a steadying moment of silence
Some brief transfiguration in time, to remind us
Of who we were before all this,
And who we may be again

May our agenda always be kindness
The waving hands our ecstatic benediction
And may there never be any other business
For ever and ever
Amen.

Thanks to Sarah for providing this.

Fiona & Michael Thorndyke write...

Many of us have had to face challenges and difficulties in the current situation – and are likely to experience more of these as our world continues to change. But in the midst of all the uncertainty and fearful times, there have been blessings. We have been thankful for HPB and the church family. As we live primarily in the Netherlands, we enjoy our “visits” to the church when we are there. When Michael and I got stuck in London during the lockdown, we were so pleased for the Zoom church gatherings. Starting on Easter Sunday – what a joy to be able to celebrate this special day together with our fellow HPB’ers! Now we are back home and can still see our friends, share their news, support and pray for one another. Dodgy connections, noisy microphones, blurry faces, losing people (then finding them again!) – this has all become part of the Sunday morning get togethers. Thank you Sarah and Paul for initiating this – and though we cannot hope “long may it last” – we are certainly thankful that – for now - we can be present at HPB more regularly!



As part of what is now being referred to as 'The Elderly' we are fortunate to have been part of, and aware of, the growth in technology. From the excitement and annoyance at those early Spectrum computers, whose downloading from a tape machine always failed with seconds to go, to what is available now, must rank as one of the greatest changes in such a short time that man has experienced.

As an example the Church Magazine, when it was first started, was sent to a printers to produce - one assumes this was too expensive and so came the era of the typed stencil which had to be then run off on a Gestetner type machine. Woe betide the person creating the stencil making a mistake which was then painstakingly corrected. Then came the wonderful dawn of the personal computer age where mistakes could be easily put right. However even this brought problems as the finished files were to be sent to Newcastle to be printed. This usually took an age as bandwidth was limited and 'failure to send' was a regular message! Salvation came in the form of Rob Edwards (not a phrase that you see every day) in that he could print the magazine at home usually from a memory stick. Then came Dropbox and, joy of joys, pictures could be included - and in colour. And all this in a very few years.

Now of course we are able to send the magazine digitally as well as in hard copy. It is available on the Church Website - in earlier days this was just the domain of Sam the Spider!

We thank all those both within the Church and in the wider world who have brought about these changes especially in our present situation. We are able to take part in Zoom services and home group or read and listen to the Sunday Supplement.

To (mis) quote Star Trek: ' it is Fellowship Jim, but not as we know it'. We do so look forward to the day when we can all meet together in person and chat and take coffee. They haven't really been able to digitise that...

Dave L



A screen shot of a Sunday Morning Zoom Meeting from Fiona.

At present, we find that about thirty people join in the meeting.



The following is a reflection given by Dave and Dianne Kendrick at a recent Zoom meeting.

Reading from: Matthew 5v16

'Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

During this period of lockdown, it has been a time of reflection I'm sure for many people. Previous happy times when freedom wasn't curtailed and we could hop onto public transport or drive to places which have stayed in our memories and been cherished for many times to come. One of these times was a visit that Dave and I had made to Winchester.

In Winchester there is a wonderful Cathedral steeped in history. One part of that Cathedral has stayed in my mind and come back to me again during this time that we are living in, because this wonderful building would be closed for the foreseeable future as are many churches and Cathedrals.

I shall call this visit 'Light through broken glass'.

Dave and I visited as the last visitors of the day when the light was fading outside and candles were being lit inside. Stepping back looking above the main entrance we saw a window so completely different to what we were used to seeing in ancient cathedrals.

300 years ago, this window was a thing of beauty depicting prophets and saints but the Civil War took place and there was no regard for religion and places of worship. In battle this window was smashed to pieces, the shards of glass falling on the stone floor. Sometime later local lovers of art collected the pieces of glass from the rubble and hid them. It was not possible to recreate what had been sadly. What now remains is a collage or mosaic of the pieces with an occasional part of a figure interwoven within it. Light falls through the window onto the floor in a special way.

There is no original picture but it is up to those who look at it to imagine how it once was. It led me on to think then about God's original picture of the world that He had created. Especially His beautiful garden. His garden called Eden was so precious to him. He placed two people in His garden to tend it and enjoy its beauty. This was a great privilege to be entrusted with such a place as this. Sadly, these two people destroyed His garden and from this point He had to recreate His people through whom the light and love of God shone through and He is still renewing. If anyone is in Christ the new creation has come. The old has gone and the new is here.



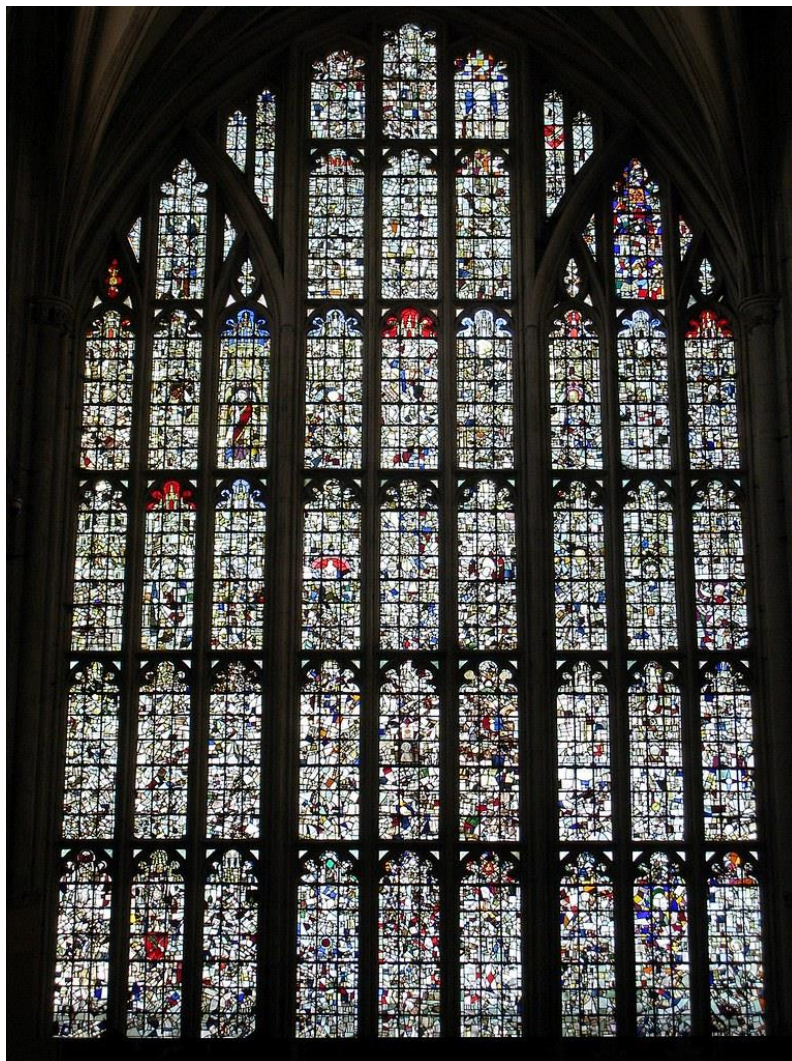
In our Zoom group we went on to share thoughts as to how we are recreating this world to make it a better place. We agreed that many people are turning more towards Him in the ways in which we are behaving towards each other. Zoom helps us to reach out further to people.

God is there in Spirit to help and guide us, such as showing gratitude on Thursday evenings through clapping for those who have dedicated themselves on the frontline through an array of jobs, often putting their lives in danger. We care and appreciate what they do. Spirits are lifted through doing this. Jesus' approach was to share responsibly His highest standards of love for those around us. We are showing an understanding of this.

We closed with a prayer read by Dave:

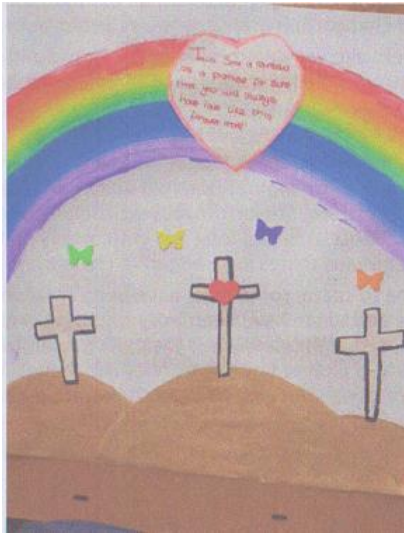
'Father please help us to be still in our everyday life and know that you are God. Thank you for taking care of us and for doing what we can't do on our own. To be there in Spirit in all new things we have to face.

In Jesus name,
Amen.'





The HPB Art Gallery



A reminder, with help from Toby, that Easter was not long ago

Hazel's granddaughter Poppy creating a rainbow



Toby made this excellent seagull to help raise our spirits



From Sarah,
Here is a banner we did as a family to say thank you to The NHS and essential workers using a sheet! sadly the paint isn't waterproof so it's only out on dry days!



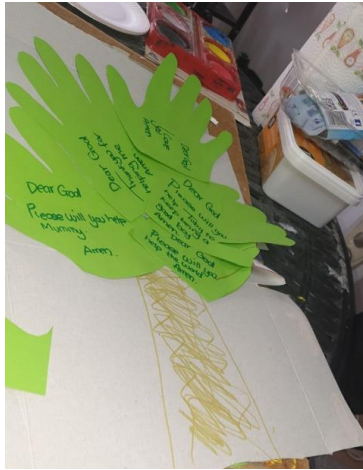
Our Grandchildren Thea and Raif collected lots of pine cones and painted them in rainbow colours.

Our favourite seagull maker has been very busy lately as the following from Wendy and Gemma shows. Hopefully he will be able to get along to his day centre soon - in the meantime we are happy to show more of his work....:

Wendy and Gemma write : Over the last couple of weeks, we have had Toby at home as his day centre is shut. He has found this very difficult so we are extremely grateful for your prayers.

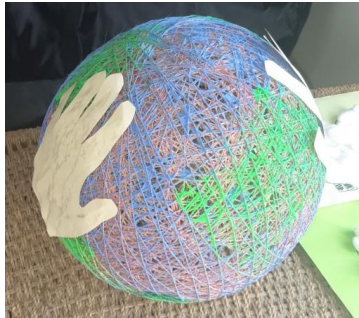


But this has meant that our house has been very busy and this means that none of us have been bored. I just thought that I would share with you some of the art work that Toby has been doing. Last week our topic was the bible and here are some of the things that we made.



Toby's Prayer Tree

1



He's got the whole world in his hands

2



Toby's crown which helped us think about Jesus as King

3



1 We thought about Joseph and his Technicolor Dream coat



2 We thought about walking with Jesus



3 We thought about Adam and Eve and made a snake puppet



Keeping mummy and Gemma busy in lockdown!



It really is good to see Toby having so much fun and being so artistic.



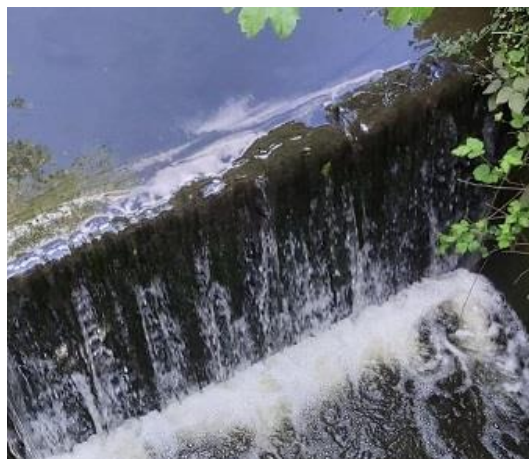
VE Day Celebrations

As we remember VE Day, we hear memories of this very special time from Doris Thorndyke. On the actual day Doris was not in London but in Dovercourt staying with her future sister-in-law. Doris and husband-to-be Alf were due to marry on the thirtieth of June but he was still serving abroad. He had spent over three years in North Africa and Jerusalem in his important role as a Pay Clerk – a vital position for all the troops who needed paying! This meant that whilst troops were being repatriated from Malta and Gibraltar Alf was amongst the last to leave. Meanwhile back in Dovercourt the wedding day drew nearer and Doris and Alf's sister were left to make all the arrangements not really knowing if Alf was going to be back in time! They did not know until the last minute but fortunately he made it – and the rest as we know is history, and we continue to remember Alf with great affection.

We understand that Doris is writing her wartime memoirs for her family and we look forward to more exciting episodes...

Jacquie

What is it, and where is it?



Read more later in the magazine...



Not just Table Tennis Balls

Sandeep Christian writes in a Facebook article for the Highams Park Society:



It is a little known fact that Highams Park was a German bombing target in World War Two. The late Mary Dunhill, who wrote a 'History of Highams Park and Hale End', once showed

me a copy of the map and instructions given to Luftwaffe pilots before they set off from Germany. Many of the missions of German pilots were to bomb specific targets such as the Hallex Works.

In the Second World War, spying devices and minor munitions were manufactured at the Hallex. Local people kept this a secret in Highams Park during the war and it was only about ten years ago that we learned details of what was being manufactured there. It is incredible to think that the Germans had this knowledge. There is a map of all the bombs that fell locally in Ross Wyld's book 'War over Walthamstow'.

Highams Park was hit many times from 1940 to 1945. Some of the bombs landed at night and were the result of direct bombing raids. We were easy to find, especially on a clear night. German bombers would fly up the Thames and if they found Highams Park Lake (easy to see by moonlight) their target of the Hallex Works was nearby. Ironically the factory avoided a direct hit but many of the bombs that missed the factory fell in our streets. Some bombs also fell in the daytime. German bombers returning from the London docks would jettison bombs on their way back and a number of these fell in Highams Park, one killing a nurse crossing Falmouth Avenue at the corner of Castle Avenue and Sheredan Road (the air raid warning often did not sound for such a bombing). Finally there were the V1 and V2 rockets, one of which fell on Gordon Avenue.

Some of you will remember how you felt when Churchill declared Victory in Europe, Others of us can only imagine people's relief after six long years of war.

Ed's note: As a result of the rocket that fell in Gordon Avenue we have a large amount of rubble and glass under the floorboards of our house!



The Highams Park Society

As with so much else these days the Society is unable to hold its usual selection of events. However, they are using technology to keep members in touch. Sandeep Christian has kindly allowed us to use some of the material seen on the Society's Facebook pages - and very interesting I found them. Hopefully you will too...

The answer to the 'What is it, where is it?' is probably known to many people from an early age. It is, of course, the 'waterfall' where the River Ching crosses The Charter Road. I know our children and grandchildren enjoy watching the water either trickle or rush over the fall. But why is it there?



The river originally flowed where the north bank of the lake now lies. In the hot summer of one year in the 1800's the river became very polluted due to sewage from houses in Buckhurst Hill. Because, at that time, the river ran through the lake many of the ornamental fish were killed by the pollution. It has to be remembered that the lake at that time was part of the pleasure grounds of The Highams. It was decided that the Ching should be diverted to run alongside the lake and not through it. The excavation took the bed of the river low in comparison to the lake in order to have it as a feature. Since the area to be changed was part of the garden of The Highams no difficulty was experienced in getting the work done! However, since the bed of the river was not natural it did not match the expected level and the 'waterfall' was created to allow free running of the river.

(adapted from The Highams Park Society Facebook article)



Marilyn Robinson has kindly sent some pictures of the VE Day celebrations, She writes:

The attached pictures are of a street party in Hollywood Way. My father is leading the little children, my sister being third behind and Jill Scrutton, an old church member is fifth.



The crater made by a bomb which fell in our garden luckily on soft soil. I was eight months old so fortunately have no memory of this!



Highams Park is a 'changin' (possibly!)

There was a recent chance for Highams Park residents to provide their feelings about the proposed development in Highams Park. The plan is for the offices alongside the railway to be demolished and a mix of shops and apartments to be put in their place. There would also be a new entrance to the station.



This could change the character of Highams Park - but for the better or worse? You can see more details at:

[Virtual Consultation – Larkshall Road, Highams Park](#)



The Other Side of the Tracks...

In a recent letter sent to Highams Park Society members Sandeep Christian refers to the fact that any proposed celebrations to mark the end of the war in Europe on the 8th May 1945 would have to be curtailed due to the Corona Virus lockdown. With his permission I have included part of the letter:

'The Second World War is an event that we, as a nation, make many references to, and which in many ways can act as a point of comparison and inspiration during a time of crisis like the present.

Kathleen Hewitt, who lived in Falmouth Avenue from 1925 to 2011 and who only passed away in 2013 told me that the Second World War actually broke down many social barriers in Highams Park. She explained how even though Falmouth Avenue was on the 'right' side of the railway lines, that until the war, people were very aware of minor social differences. However, with the war, came a gradual loosening of these barriers and people met and got to know others during a time of adversity - these newly forged bonds were often maintained during the post war years.

There is an incredible amount of community activity taking place in Highams Park at the moment. As in the Second World War, this is happening during a difficult time, although our current crisis is nothing like a world war. However, this time, the things that people do will in fact enhance the wonderful community spirit that already exists in Highams Park.'

What I find interesting is the part where Kathleen Hewitt (Kath, as she was usually referred to was part of the HPB congregation for many years) makes note of the 'right side' of the railway lines. If there is a 'right side' it must follow that there is a 'wrong' side too. In this case the 'right' side would be around Hale End Road and the 'wrong' around Winchester Road. Strangely this almost follows the line of the Greenwich Meridian whose presence is noted by plaques inset into the pavement. Perhaps this was an early case of 'social distancing' (or more correctly 'antisocial distancing'!).

I have to admit that growing up in Highams Park , as I did in the 1950's, I was unaware of the divide. Only latterly did I become aware that some people still remarked on roads being in the 'better' part of Highams Park. I am sure most people will now be unaware of this past distinction and this surely how it should be...

DL





Some of our older friends will remember with great affection the Rev. Ron Messenger who died last year and who was connected with HPB for many years. The following is taken from his obituary by the Rev Tricia Troughton in The Baptist Times.



The Revd Ronald Messenger: 1923–2019

'Many of us owe the deepening of faith, and the encouragement of ministerial calling to Ron's ministry; and still others, their healing and ability to establish a life for themselves beyond psychiatric illness and social or emotional breakdown'

Ron was born and brought up in the Barnsbury area of Islington, one of a family of six children. He went to Highbury School, just up the road from the Arsenal stadium, where his dad took him on Saturday afternoons from an early age. Ron sang in the local Anglican church choir – including a solo on the BBC in the 1930s.

At the outbreak of war, he and his youngest brother were evacuated to Huntingdonshire and then Somerset. Leaving school in late 1940, Ron worked for a time at India House in Aldwych, at the same time studying for a degree at Birkbeck College. In early 1942 he joined the Fleet Air Arm. After training in Trinidad and the USA, and qualifying as Navigator/Observer, he travelled widely on various combat missions, including action in support of the D-Day landings and with the British Pacific Fleet, ending up in Australia in 1945. He recorded his war-time experiences in a wonderful book *Pathway through War* which he dictated in his 80s. By this time he was completely blind and his dictation was recorded and transcribed by his faithful amanuensis, Lyn Bracci.

When Ron returned from the war he trained for ministry at St Luke's College, London, was ordained in 1948, and married Xenia in 1949. Ron worked with the Revd Stephen Winward at Highams Park Baptist Church, before moving to Claybury Park Baptist Church in Ilford, where he also took up the post of Free Church Chaplain at the nearby Claybury psychiatric hospital. Here he was influenced by, and worked closely with, the psychiatrist, Dr Denis Martin, who was a leading light in the post-war modernisation of psychiatric care, including the development of group therapy and the move towards care in the community as an alternative to long-term in-patient psychiatric care. Ron told many moving stories of the work there: of the therapeutic effectiveness of allowing even long-term institutionalised patients to recount their personal experiences and express long held feelings, and of how church members were encouraged to welcome patients into their homes on a regular basis.

In 1965, Ron received a call from West Ham Central Mission, to become the Resident Minister (Director) of Greenwoods, its country centre, in the lovely village of Stock, Essex. Ron accepted this call, with mixed feelings because of his involvement in the developing ministry at Claybury Park Church and the hospital, and together with Xenia and their four sons, moved into Greenwoods.



There Ron developed a ground-breaking Christian therapeutic community where staff and guests lived and worked together, supported by Social Services, the NHS and some churches and individuals.

The community was founded on a deep, but unsentimental understanding of the power of the love of God, supported by Ron's experiences at Claybury Hospital and the dedication of staff including qualified nurses and social workers as well as others who were gaining valuable experience prior to undertaking professional training. There were many joyful, tragic and hair-raising experiences during the nearly 20 years of Ron's leadership. Ron wrote an account of the work of Greenwoods published as *The Greenwoods Years*. During those years Ron and Xenia's fifth son was born and the family moved to a newly-built house next to Greenwoods. Ron's influence extended beyond the community into the village, and particularly to the Congregational Chapel. There, he and his Greenwoods colleague, the Revd Russell Warden, as joint pastors challenged the church to live out the gospel, to engage with the needs of some of the Greenwoods guests, and to modernise its approach to its buildings and worship style. It became Christ Church, the Free Church in Stock, affiliated to the then Essex Baptist Association. Ron forged long-lasting relationships with the Anglican Church (All Saints') and with the Roman Catholic Church in the village. Ron's initiative extended to the formation of a counselling service which began in a Greenwoods outbuilding, and developed into the centres in Chelmsford, Basildon and Witham known subsequently as WHCM, and then Renew Counselling, which is still in existence and highly esteemed.

In 1989, Ron and Xenia 'retired' to Saffron Walden, where they joined the Baptist church – Xenia, now 99, remains a member to this day. Ron was still preaching and leading church conferences, and was involved in the setting up of a counselling agency at St. Andrew's Street Baptist Church in Cambridge. This agency is still working effectively as 'Cogwheel'. His sight was beginning to fail through macular degeneration when he took up the temporary pastorate of Ashdon Baptist Church, then without a minister. When he had become totally blind he led services and preached without notes, and continued to provide 1:1 counselling from his home. He learnt to touch type and use JAWS software for the blind so that he could write and email.

Ron's life and ministry was infused with the love of Christ and expressed in an ability to 'rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep'. Many of us owe the deepening of faith, and the encouragement of ministerial calling to Ron's ministry; and still others, their healing and ability to establish a life for themselves beyond psychiatric illness and social or emotional breakdown. Ron walked alongside many people in the strength and love of Christ. He himself was supported and upheld by the faithful love of his wife of 70 years, Xenia, and their five sons and their wives, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ron's final years were spent in a care home in Saffron Walden where he, Xenia, his family and friends bore his blindness, immobility and often total deafness, with enormous love and courage. Ron's funeral, at Saffron Walden Baptist Church, was attended by over 250 folk and the final blessing was given by Rt. Revd Thomas McMahon, R.C. Bishop of Brentwood, formerly the parish priest in Stock. It was a service of Thanksgiving and Celebration involving folk from every part of Ron's life and ministry.



Thank You – from Ghana

A huge thank you to everyone at Highams Park Baptist Church for the generous donation received from your Christmas offering. It was a wonderful and timely surprise. At the time, I was having conversations as to why the two poly-tanks at my school, Asokore Salvation Army School in Koforidua, were not being used.



Each day, pupils were walking to a well, about 15 minutes



away, to fill buckets with water. They were using class time to do this. I was told that the tanks needed repairs, but there was no money to pay for the work or necessary parts. It was, therefore, wonderful to be able to tell the school that money was available to pay for this and within a few days, the work was underway.

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A plumber came and cleaned one of the tanks, then did the necessary repairs to both. Some



of the Year 9 boys helped as well!



So, from the pupils, teachers and the PTA of Asokore Salvation Army School, 'thank you so much for helping us to repair our polytanks.



May God richly bless you all.'

The rest of the money was sent to my previous school at Tongo, in the North of Ghana to pay for more desks, but as yet, I have not had photos of the work – hopefully I can share these at a later date. *Jan Smithers*



STOPPING THE SPREAD OF COVID 19

New Guidelines have been issued as follows:

- 1) Contact the nearest beef or dairy farmer.
- 2) Request a supply of cow dung.
- 3) On receipt of the cow dung immerse your hand in it for at least 20 seconds ensuring complete hand coverage.
- 4) This will have the effect of deterring you from touching face, eyes, mouth or ears.
- 5) It will also stop people wanting to shake hands with you.
- 6) As a side effect nobody will wish to come closer than the two metres thereby ensuring social distancing.



Please note that neither the Government or Amazon are able to arrange supplies of the required bovine produce.

The above information was provided by Marilyn Robinson who we know as a reliable source. We thank her for bringing a touch of humour to a difficult situation.



Some Friends of HPBC

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ROBERT
ROSEMARY
RUTH
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TARIKWA
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TOBY
TONY
VINDA
WENDY

With Many Thanks to Dave Kendrick - Can you find your name here?