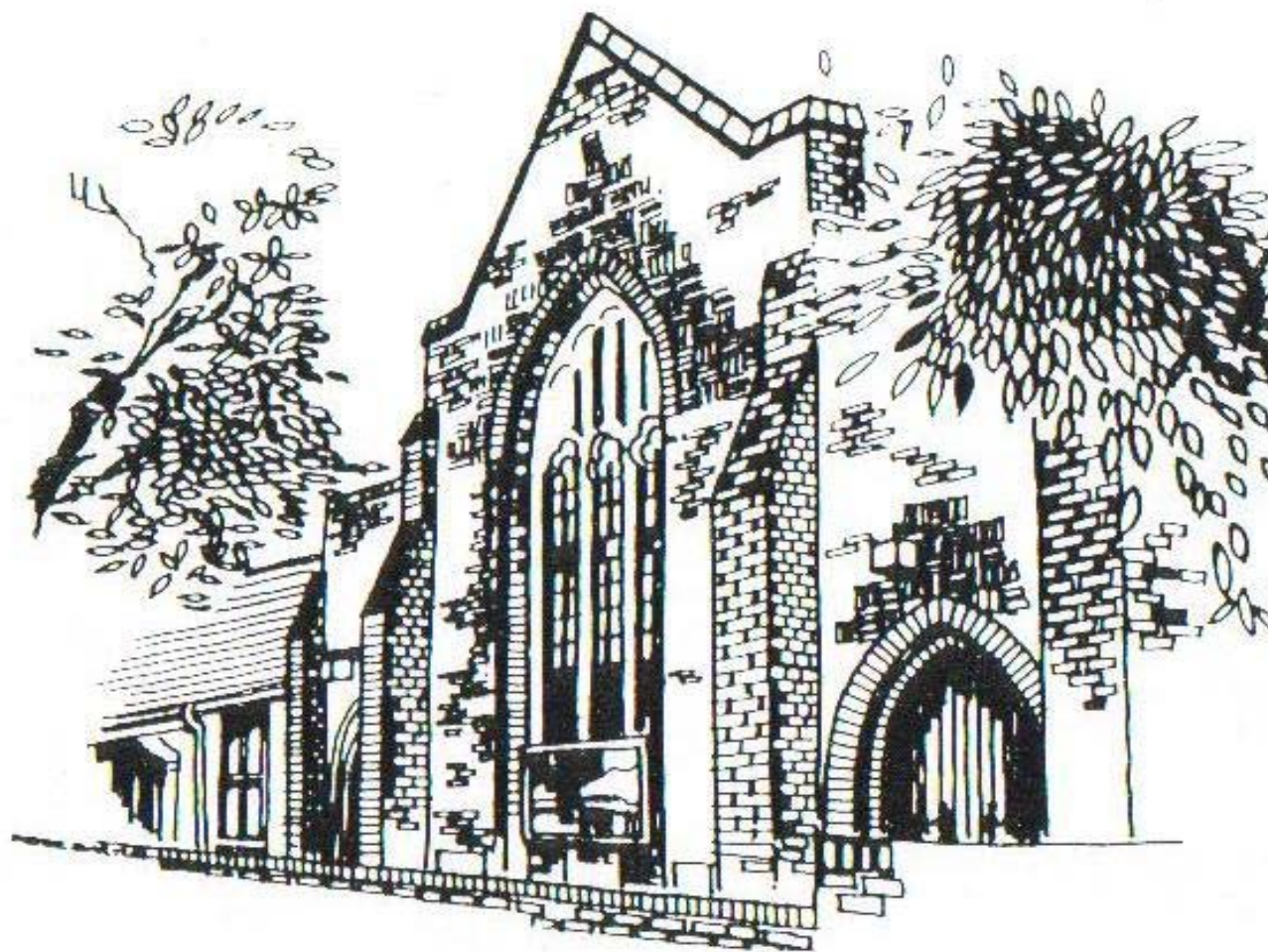




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2020

CHURCH PROGRAMME

Sunday Services

From August 9th Services are allowed to be held but with restrictions as laid out in the booklet that has been distributed to all worshippers. Please refer to this for all the necessary guidance and times. There will be no Sunday School or any groups at this time.

For any further information please contact the Church Minister or Secretary.

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 November 22nd 2020
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 020 8527 1505 Email: magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG

October / November 2020

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

Jesus said "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."

2020 has been a year like no other. In January COVID-19 seemed to be a strange new disease happening in far away places. By Easter it was an ever-present threat to our daily lives here in Britain. Our church buildings were closed, most children were being home-schooled and many working people had become either home-workers or were on furlough. In the midst of the anxiety, stress and fear it was often hard to believe the familiar words of Jesus. *"Come to me. I will give you rest."*

As summer arrived, the crisis appeared to be abating. Shops, restaurants, hotels and eventually churches all reopened. Becoming 'COVID-safe' was a challenge for businesses and places of worship alike. As we waded through endless guidance from the Government and our own 'Baptists Together' we often felt we were attempting the impossible. At risk of being overwhelmed, we struggled to hold onto the promise of Jesus. *"Come to me. My yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

In August, children and young people were at the centre of a series of storms. Exam results were issued and then reissued due to the unreliable grades allocated to some students by a mysterious algorithm. Questions were raised about safety as schools, colleges and universities reopened in September. Opposing views were forcefully stated as educationalists and politicians struggled to find common ground. As tensions rose, we longed to know the reality of the words of Jesus. *"Come to me. I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."*

Now, with concerns that a 'second wave' of infections and illness has already begun, further restrictions on daily life are becoming a wearying reality. As autumn gets underway, the grim realisation that COVID-19 will be part of our lives for some time yet seems a burden almost beyond bearing. Perhaps now, more than ever, we yearn to know the reality of the familiar words of Jesus just not in our own lives but also in our schools, workplaces, hospitals and churches.

"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."

Rosemary

Gratitude

At a recent Zoom Home Group led by Sarah and Paul discussion turned to the topic of gratitude. In these difficult times there have been many instances of kindness and good neighbourliness which have resulted in gratitude. One prime example of this was the Thursday evening clapping in support of the NHS . Gratitude occurs normally as a result of the receipt of something worthy of thanks and can be seen in something as simple as words of thanks or the raising of money for a good cause. as in the case of Captain Sir Tom Moore with his 32 million pounds collected for the NHS. As a nation in general we have much to be grateful for - Paul read the following about why we might be luckier than many:

'You can read - so you are luckier than over 1 billion people who cannot read at all.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness -then you are luckier than the million who will not survive this week, and even luckier because you have a health system that guarantees you will have care in case of illness.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation - then you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend any meeting you want - political, religious, social - then you are luckier than 3 billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep - then you are richer than 75 per cent of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace - then you are among the top 8 per cent of the world's wealthy.'

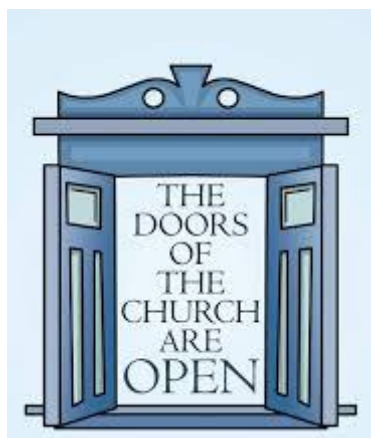
Even with all these facts there are some people who are in need or fall through the net with regard to State help. We must remember these people and do what we can, when we can, to help them. Not to feel their gratitude but because we should. As it says in Matthew 25. v40:

'as you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'

When we pray it is often because we are seeking help in some manner from God. Perhaps we should remember His goodness and send a prayer of thanks in gratitude...

DL

Cavendish Circular



Our Church building has recently reopened on Sunday mornings for worship and, although it is for a shorter time and with necessary restrictions, it has been an inspiration to listen to God's word, hear the Scriptures and join in fellowship - albeit briefly and in the fresh air! For those of us who have watched the services via streaming it has proved a vital link when we can no longer worship together and, along with zoom sessions, news and prayer requests, our fellowship is alive and continuing to witness. Weekday activities are

also meeting again on our premises and we are so grateful to those who have helped to facilitate this, and ensure that all activities are conducted in adherence with the Covid-19 guidelines- not an easy task! We thank those who have continued to maintain and clean and care for our buildings and grounds, and monitored the finances during this challenging year in readiness for the re-opening. We are also thankful that we have a strong core of Church members who regularly support those of our fellowship who are unable to get out and about; with shopping, gardening and visiting or telephoning. We also have a powerful 'prayer army' who, day by day ask for God's strength to support those in particular need. We remember all who have been recently bereaved or whose loved ones are unwell and undergoing treatment, or are in hospital or care homes, at a time when visiting is curtailed. We think also of those in front line work, that they may be kept safe as they go about their daily routine, and students of all ages and staff in schools and higher education.

November is normally the time when we hold our Annual General Church Meeting and Church Council elections take place. Please pray for our Church Council as they prepare for the AGM in whatever form it may take and in the nominations for Deacons and Officers, that they may be guided by God in all their decision making.

Congratulations go to Doris Thorndyke who recently celebrated her 99th birthday! We thank her for her lifetime of faithful service to the Church and wish her good health and happiness for the coming year.

Older friends may remember Eileen and Paul Underhay, long time members of our Fellowship before moving to Hertfordshire many years ago. We were sorry to hear recently of the death of Paul after a long period of ill health. We send our loving condolences to Eileen and the family as they give thanks for his life and all he meant to them.

Jacquie

The Sower

Luke 8 verses 1 -15

The Parable of the Sower is well known to all. Of course, in biblical times the sowing of seeds were more likely to fall in a variety of ways, as the seeds were strewn by hand with less precision, whereas today on farms we have machinery which can aid the planting with less seed falling by the wayside.

In the bible the parable is told to illustrate how we listen and react to God's word. The seed fell on the paths, on rocks and among thorns but some did reach the good soil where they were able to thrive. Some people listened to the word but weren't interested; others listened but many distractions prevented the perseverance in the understanding of the word, but the good ground represented the strength of the roots being laid down and the retention and understanding of the word and trying to demonstrate this in their lives.

Dave and I have experienced the growing of seeds on our allotment with many challenges this year. When things grow well the sheer joy of producing flowers, fruit and vegetables gives such satisfaction but when things fail there is a feeling of such disappointment.

Our allotment has been a wonderful escape to find peace, fresh air and freedom during the Lockdown period and beyond. The fruit trees produced like never before. In fact, we were about to cut them down!!! We managed to plan better and introduce boxes onto the plot to make life easier. The beans grew well and we had courgettes in abundance but catching them at the right time was paramount otherwise they became marrows.

We battled stifling heat and heavy rain. I would say that on the whole, the seeds fell on good ground and, with nurturing, continued to flourish. Sadly, however, blight struck the tomatoes on many plots including ours which was our first taste of failure.

It all demonstrates the fine line between good growth and loss. Today we have better tools and products but the problems remain the same. Weeds in abundance, nettles and thorns and soil needing to be griddled and raked to remove the stones.

Good growth relies on the weather and hard work in order to achieve the best crops. Even so setbacks can occur but you begin again and don't give up and you build on what you have learnt.

Listening to advice from those more knowledgeable is a good thing too. We listen, we learn and move forward. God's earth is a thing of beauty. We have it on loan. We need to cherish it. God's word is there for us to learn from. We need to persevere and cherish it too.

A child's way of thinking.

Four little sunflowers planted just for fun
To begin a race for the tallest one
As children make their choice from the beginning -
Was the tallest plant already winning?
The plants were late going into the ground
But it was nice to see they were really sound
The winds battered and the rain stormed
The sun blazed and the plants were warmed
They grew and grew, then the day came
Golden smiley sunflowers all looking the same
Except one was taller than all the rest
Granddaughter Abbigail's was the best.
Being the tallest from the start,
Her method of choosing set hers apart.

Dianne Kendrick



As you will have seen in the last issue of the magazine our friend Roger Parmenter died recently. Roger was in the Boy's Brigade and Arnold Coe, who was a contemporary, has written this eulogy for Roger:

Anyone who knew Roger will recognise him as a friendly, warm hearted man who always took an interest in people.

I have known Roger for almost 70 years, particularly since a Boys' Brigade Camp on the Isle of Wight in 1953. At Company drill parade Roger was immaculately turned out in uniform and carried his tall frame with dignity. He was very good at football and took a leading role in the Company team.

He started work at Lloyds in the City and always turned out like a city gent complete with a copy of 'The Times' with which he aimed to complete the crossword!

Roger encouraged Linda and me to some memorable holidays and has been a regular source of encouragement and advice, regularly visiting me at home, even helping repair and stock the fish pond in the front garden!

I have been impressed by Roger's fortitude over the several years of his suffering. He remains a memorable and much missed friend.

Arnold has also sent a picture of the Boys on a visit to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway - can you recognise any of them?





Legend

1. Reg Draper (Leader in charge)
2. Miriam Cater (sister of Gwladys Litchfield)
3. Gwladys Litchfield (Assistant Leader)- later to become Taylor
4. Bob
5. Arnold Coe
6. ?
7. ?
8. ?
9. Terry Wright
10. ?
11. Roger Parmenter
12. Brian Gordon
13. John Heywood

Please let us know if you recognise any of the unknown Brigaders.

Friendship

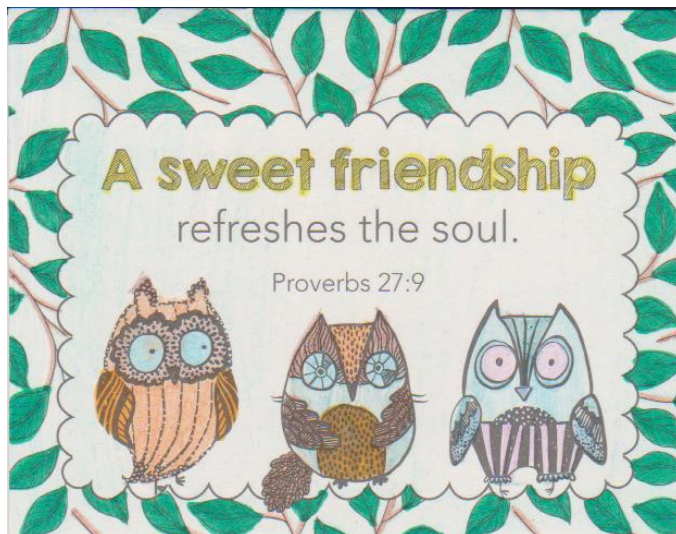
In the last issue of the magazine we looked at Fellowship which we may define as:

'friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests'.

To take this one step further is to look at friendship which, in turn, is defined as:

'Friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between people. It is a stronger form of interpersonal bond than an association, and has been studied in academic fields such as communication, sociology, social psychology, anthropology, and philosophy'.

It would seem that Friendship is a step further on than Fellowship. It is more than just a sharing of interests in being a feeling of attraction one to another, not necessarily in a non platonic loving way. Friendship can, and does, last a lifetime. Many people will know the situation whereby you meet a friend that you have not seen for some while but just carry on speaking to each other as if you saw them yesterday. The word is mentioned some fifty times in the Bible, one is shown below which is taken from a card sent out from HPB



Proverbs 27.9 says:
Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

Many years ago a group called 'The Highams Park Christian Youth Council' was formed from the 'young' people from the fellowships in the various churches in Highams Park. Although they never managed to change the world as they thought they would, many firm friendships were started then - and continue to this day.

At times such as we are experiencing now friends are really important. They can provide support, they understand and they are there for you when you need them.

With modern methods of communication it is easy to keep in touch with friends but there is a concern that young people today may be 'followers' of somebody on social media but have few real friends - perhaps 'antisocial' media is more correct! There is still nothing so good as being able to see as well as speak to a friend. They know you well and can pick up tiny nuances in the things you say. You may say that all is fine but they can tell it is not and can hopefully help.

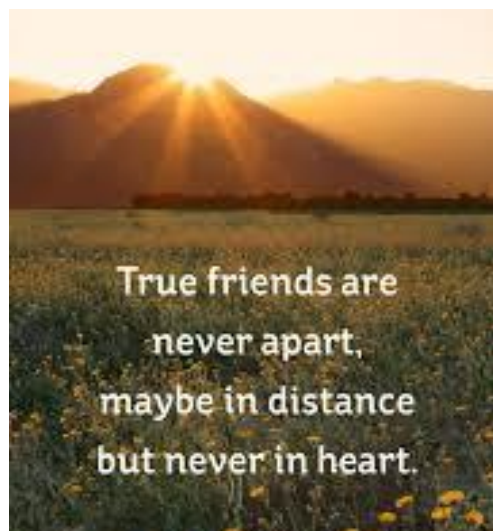
There is of course one who wants to be a friend and provide support to each and every one of us. He does not criticise or judge but leads us down the right path. As Joseph Scriven wrote in 1855:

*What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer*

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit
Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer*



The First Day at School..

The last of our grandchildren started school at the beginning of September under the somewhat strange conditions required by the pandemic. He has become very used to the school as his sister already goes there (and the school has become very used to him!). It is a fairly small country village school but even though you know he will be fine there is always the worry that things will not go smoothly. In fact, it is probably the parent that needs comforting! However, the school sent the following poem together with a picture of their child to each parent. We thought that it might help parents in the future or, indeed, get the memories flowing...

*The first day of school
Can be hard for mum and dad
Part of you feels excited
The other part feels sad
For many years you've held their hand
And have been their loving guide
Now you know the time has come
To leave them by my side
As your child will learn and grow
And at the end of every day,
They will share with you all they know.
So as you walk away
Don't worry anymore
We'll take care of your precious gift
When you leave them at our door*



Did you know?

About Jelly Babies...



Bassetts are probably the best known maker of Jelly Babies which, apparently, were known as 'Peace babies' to mark the end of the First World War. They have been known as Jelly Babies since 1953. But did you know that they all have names? The listing is shown below:

Colour	Flavour	Name
Red	Strawberry	Brilliant
Yellow	Lemon	Bubbles
Pink	Raspberry	Baby Bonny
Green	Lime	Boofuls
Purple	Blackcurrant	Bigheart
Orange	Orange	Bumper

About 'COBRA'



When there is some form of National Emergency we are told that there is to be a meeting of COBRA. This sounds somewhat James Bondish but in fact refers to where the meeting takes place - it is held in:

Cabinet Office Briefing Room 'A'

Not nearly so exciting is it?

DL

Highams Park Snippets

Highams Park has two new shops. The first, selling Organic, Natural and Vegan food in Hale End Road, is situated near to the level crossing. Close by is a new Bridal wear shop called 'Best Dress 2 Impress'. We wish them both well.

The Highams Park Society

Taken from their recent newsletter:

Late March and the start of the Covid19 'lockdown' now seem a long time ago. The Committee was left with no option but to cancel all of our events including Highams Park Day. With the relaxation of certain aspects of the 'lockdown' we have met and planned parts of the 2020/21 season paying close attention to all of the government guidelines. Their current plans are as follows:

Saturday Afternoon Cinema

This was planned to start (on 26th September) before the magazine was issued but we have been told that it went very well (and they were even able to provide cakes and tea!).

Future presentations are:

24th October Dancing Years

28th November. Make Me An Offer



If you are attending please bring the fee in an envelope on the day - £3.00 for members and £5.00 for non-members

Guided Walk - The History of Highams Park (in one hour and thirty minutes)

We can accept up to 12 people on each walk. The walk will cover the history of Highams Park and will stop at various places in Highams Park and Hale End. We will meet at the Millennium Clock at 10 am, and at either The Royal Oak or Humphreys at 11 am. The first walk will have taken place but the second is on Saturday 17th October. Please contact Sandeep Christian 07414 810013 for details and to book tickets.

Remembrance Ceremony

The Society will be holding their annual Remembrance Ceremony at Hale End Library on Saturday 7th November. They are discussing with the local council and police to ensure all requirements are met. Details will be available later.

We are grateful to the Society to bring an element of normality back to us. It is to be hoped that no further restrictions will have to take place to change any of the planned events. Please check before attending any of the above.

Highams Park station is an important part of the local scene as it has been for many years. Over this time it has seen many changes, not least in who runs the rail service. Currently this is London Overground and they have introduced some new trains - the Class 710 as shown below.



Very modern in look

Not very good for looking out of the windows! But surely designed to give more room for standing...

What went before?





The London North Eastern Railway N7 on the 'Jazz' Service to Liverpool Street

The replacement was the Class 304 Electric Multiple Unit.

Without the railway Highams Park probably would not have developed as it has, so we should be grateful that it is still running...

Upgrading of paths at Highams Park Lake

(from the Highams Park Planning Group)

We have been in discussions with the Epping Forest Conservators and they have agreed to upgrade some of the paths at Highams Park Lake in the next few weeks.



The main part of the works will be the stretch of path between The Charter Road and the new viewing platform, as this was badly flooded last year when the drains under the path collapsed.

They will also improve the stretch of path on the west side of the lake from the landing stage down to the island and a 25 metre stretch of path on the Forest Glade side of the Ching running from Falmouth Avenue (beside the weir).

This was taken from 'It's a Highams Park Thing' on Facebook - it contains much interesting information of a local nature - well worth a look.

We Will Remember Them!

At this time of year we probably start seeing flag sellers for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. I am not sure if this will happen during the pandemic but that is no reason not to remember...

This year especially we are seeing much more news about those men and women not from Britain who fought for and with us against the foe. Many of these were from the Commonwealth countries -

The British Empire and Dominions raised a total of 8,586,000 men for military service

- More than 5,000,000 came from the British Isles
- 1,440,500 hailed from India, while 136,000 came from South Africa
- Of those who fought 629,000 were Canadians
- 413,000 came from Australia and 128,500 from New Zealand
- More than 134,000 travelled from other colonies, including some 10,000 from the Caribbean

It has come to light that Britain paid its soldiers not only according to their rank and length of service but also their ethnicity, with black troops receiving a third of the pay of their white contemporaries of the same rank. It is said that some Africans were forcibly and secretly conscripted, while others were beaten by their superiors. The matter has been referred to the Government but, as yet, no outcome is apparent.

Another group of people who came to join the fight with us were those from Poland. In Newark there is a graveyard which includes a special section for the burials of 397 Polish soldiers that served in World War II, mainly in the air force, who either died in the U.K. or whose bodies were returned here. There were 14 Polish air squadrons in Britain and several based out of Newark. Polish pilots would fly over the Newark Cemetery during the war to honour their fellow soldiers who had died in the fighting.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM
(BUT LET IT BE EQUALLY)

A Hidden Asset

Perhaps not strictly true as it is far from being hidden but the lake in the Highams Park is very much an asset to the community, and perhaps, because we are so used to it, do not give it the thought that it deserves . It has been in existence since the early nineteenth century as part of the grounds of the Manor of Highams Estate which were developed by the well known landscape gardener Humphrey Repton. The lake was dedicated to public use late in the nineteenth century.

So why write about it now? Since the arrival of Covid19 it seems to have become more popular. Living in Gordon Avenue we are in a good position to see people walking past our house (and parking!) on their way to the park. Since people were advised (and allowed) to take exercise the numbers built up. We are really very lucky to have not only the lake but the adjoining park to use for recreation.

I would have to admit that we have not made as much use of the park as we could for some years. When we had a dog it was there for the daily walk. Since then we have ventured only infrequently in the direction of The Park. Sadly, this year we will not be having a Picnic in the Park - but all is not lost...

On occasion we have been fortunate enough to spend some time with, (please see the article on Friendship!) Dianne and Dave Kendrick and have, with them, ventured forth to take a snack at Humphry's and then walked by and around the lake. On such an adventure recently we noticed yellow signs on some trees. These were part of The Poetry Trail, a series of twelve poems by local poets spread around the Park and lake. Unfortunately this will only be present until the end of September so if you haven't yet seen it you are probably too late!

One of the poems is shown below:

Forest Time

Shhh! Shhh! Hunters in the forest,
Shhh! Shhh!. Track, Track,
Twigs go - CRACK!
Quick, let's go back!

Blip, Blop, wellies in the forest.
Blip, Blop, Splish, Splosh,
Puddles go - SPLASH,
Falling with a Crash!

SHHH! Shhh! Creeping in the forest,
Shhh! Shhh! Soft, Soft,
Forests go - SHHWACK
It's a bracken attack.

Ha! Ha! Laughter in the forest,
Ha! Ha! Squelch, Squelch,
Landed with a THUD!!
Puddles full of Mud!

Shhh! Shhh! Hiding in the forest,
Shhh! Shhh! Crawl, Crawl,
Friends go BOO!!
We can see you.

Shhh!, Shhh! Tired in the forest,
Shhh!, Shhh!, Slow! Slow!
Starting to YAWN!
Time to go!

Gill Poulter

We never managed to find them all but it is a great idea to make you look again with fresh eyes. We noticed that much of the scrub had been removed giving a clearer sight of the lake which seems much cleaner than in days past (especially at the far end which had an aroma all of its own!).



A good place to be!

A quiet moment!



An area to view our asset from! Take the opportunity...

Dave L

A CHURCH IN ACTION

It was with a sense of shock that I realised recently that it is now over six months since I have been able to get to Church. For someone who was brought up to regularly attend Sunday worship twice (sometimes three times!) each week as a child and to engage fully with Church activities this state of affairs has been difficult for me to cope with and, as Dave and I are having to spend most of our time away from Highams Park at present, it has made our sense of isolation much worse. However, during this time, when we have worshipped at a distance and in unfamiliar ways, my thoughts have often turned to how the early Church met together and worshipped, and I have tried to compare the experience of these early Christians who, like us, were living in a time of incredible change and fear - albeit for very different reasons.

Although the birth of the Christian Church is regarded as having begun at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the gathered Apostles, I want to start earlier, immediately after the Ascension of Christ into heaven. At this time the Apostles must have been in a state of stunned disorientation after the escalating events leading to the trial of Jesus and the drama of the crucifixion and resurrection, compounded by their fears for the future. Their lives had been turned upside down; all their plans seemed to be in tatters and they were fearful for their lives as they knew that they had enemies all around. It must have been so difficult for them to hold on to all that Jesus had taught them during His ministry and focus on the promise He had given them that He would always be with them and send the Holy Spirit to them. They must have wondered how they could join together to worship in safety and go on to fulfil the command to spread His word throughout the world. We have spent many months feeling fearful and disorientated as the world as we knew it has altered so dramatically leaving us wondering what we should do; who we should believe, where we should turn to for advice, and, although we are not fearing known enemies as the Apostles did, we are facing an unseen enemy nonetheless. However, Acts 1: 12-14 tells us that after Christ's Ascension the Apostles did not return to their own homes to grieve and face their worries on their own:

'Then the Apostles went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is about a kilometre away from the city. They entered the city and went up to the room where they were staying. Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Patriot and Judas, son of James. They gathered frequently to pray as a group, together with the women and with Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers.'

After the transfiguration the Apostles gathered together, to pray and support each other and wait, as Jesus had instructed, for His guidance and support through the Holy Spirit. They needed to be together and this is how I think we have felt during these past few months. Although we were unable to meet together in lockdown as the Apostles could we have had the modern technology to be in touch with each other and very soon our Church communities began to communicate, finding other ways of sharing in worship and gathering strength from each other. The early Christian church had a rich fellowship and interactive practice. Christians walked closely with each other and shared their lives in Christ together just as we do. While we have to meet in restricted gatherings we can continue to visit or phone the housebound, or those in particular need, supporting them in various ways.

For the first three hundred years early Christians met secretly in private homes as described in Acts of Apostles, partly because of persecution (they were viewed as atheists and heretics) and also, because until Christianity was accepted, the erection of public church buildings was banned. The early Church was able to take part in religious activities while meeting in private houses or even sometimes in the catacombs. Baptism by immersion of new converts could take place if water was available and prayers, preaching and the celebration of communion formed a regular part of their worship. Also included were hymns and spiritual songs, teaching, scripture readings, instruction, correction, encouragement and use of spiritual gifts. Paul and other prominent leaders would write letters of instruction and encouragement and worship was gradually formulated around these documents.

We, too, have read the Bible, listened to the word, prayed and praised using different means to worship together. Through the Sunday Supplement, Zoom meetings, televised services and, more recently, streamed live Church worship, we have continued to worship and witness the Christian faith. Although Church buildings closed, and even now – while most have re-opened - are not functioning normally, the Christian Church is alive and growing, albeit not necessarily within brick walls. Recently the home group zoom session heard of Peter Burke’s contact with a group of boys he got talking to while out locally, and how he was able to witness to them about the Christian faith. The Church is alive outside walls!

Forms of worship changed and developed considerably during the first four centuries of the early Christian church, becoming increasingly standardized in practice and, as the persecution of Christians ceased, standard religious practices in language, imagery, and religious terminology were increasingly adopted, coinciding with a shift from largely group action to one where the Minister carried out the liturgy on behalf of the people, as is often the case in church services today. The eventual adoption of the New Testament as the Christian scripture and the emergence of the church into public life early in the fourth century was a major factor in the standardization of the early church. In 313 AD Emperor Constantine issued the ‘edict of Milan’ which accepted Christianity. Ten years later it had become the official religion of the Roman empire. Christians then began to meet in larger buildings as today.

And now to the future.....we do not know yet how long we will have to worship in this new and restricted way. Already harvest festivals have largely been abandoned; the annual remembrance Sunday will be observed in more limited circumstances, and our traditional joyful Christmas celebrations are under threat. Hopefully, one day soon we will be able to gather once again to give praise, worship, listen to the word, and share in celebrating Communion, as well as joining one with another after our Sunday service in Fellowship Hall over coffee or tea. Until that time we can be confident that today's Church is still in action, witnessing outside walls and without fear. It may be different, it is certainly challenging, but Christ promised that He would walk by our side at all times and, as the early Church knew, we can be confident that He will be a very real presence with us always.

JL

A Tale of Two Villages

This is not a shortened version of a Dickens novel but our experience of living in two places. As some of you will know we spend some time in Highams Park and some in a village called Farndon near Newark in Nottinghamshire. This situation came about due to our daughter and her husband moving to Newark to work and study. Their two children gave us another reason to be here.

As we were in Farndon when the lockdown started we had to stay there for nearly four months - probably the longest time we have ever been away from Highams Park. When we went for our allowed exercise in the early lockdown days we took a walk in part of the village. We thought how different (and how the same were) the two villages. Highams Park, whilst not totally the idea of a village, is still considered as such by many of its residents. I would guess that most of our readers know about Highams Park at some time in their lives but few will have even heard of Farndon...please read on:

Farndon is a small village with less than three thousand residents and is bordered on one side by the River Trent and on the other The Fosse Way - this used to be the A46 but, fortunately, this was diverted soon after we arrived. It seems likely that due to archaeological finds that a settlement has been here since prehistoric times. There have also been indications that there was a Roman fort called Ad Pontem or "the place by the bridges." nearby. The parish church of St. Peter was built in Elizabethan times, and thought to be the third such church built on the same site since Saxon times. All this indicates that Farndon is probably older than Highams Park. Researching Highams Park seems to indicate that there was a Saxon settlement where pigs and cows were kept in part of what is now Epping Forest. Highams Park really took off as a residential area with the coming of the railway in the late 1800's.

Farndon is much more compact than Highams Park and can only be entered by two roads branching off of the Fosse Way There are only a village store, hairdressers and a public house within the village with a farm shop including a butcher and nursery on the other side of the Fosse Way. There are also two excellent restaurants situated next door to each other on the banks of the Trent. There is a primary/junior school with links to St. Peter's Church and a village hall sited next to a sports field used for cricket and football matches. There are no railway stations - for that you have to travel into Newark which has two; basically one serving north/south and the other east/west services. How does this compare to Highams Park? Well, this can be reached by number of routes, has a reasonable selection of shops and public houses, not too many farm shops. It has schools at all levels and our very own railway station.



We probably all know our Church Manse and may recognise the Vicarage of All Saints but in Farndon we have two Vicarages - one a fairly modern box and the other a large rambling building with a gated drive probably 18th Century. I will leave it to you to guess which one is for the Vicar and which is now a private home!

How do the two villages compare?

Highams Park



Farndon



So which do we like best? Well during the lockdown we experienced Farndon and we certainly found that nearly everybody we passed (at a safe distance) waves or says hallo. Whether this situation was the same in Highams Park we do not know. Walking around Farndon is a tranquil experience but, if the wind is in the wrong direction, traffic noise can be heard. There are no speed bumps in Farndon but none of our friends are close at hand, but then, our daughter and some of our grandchildren are.

I think we will call it a draw...

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