



Peace
on
Earth



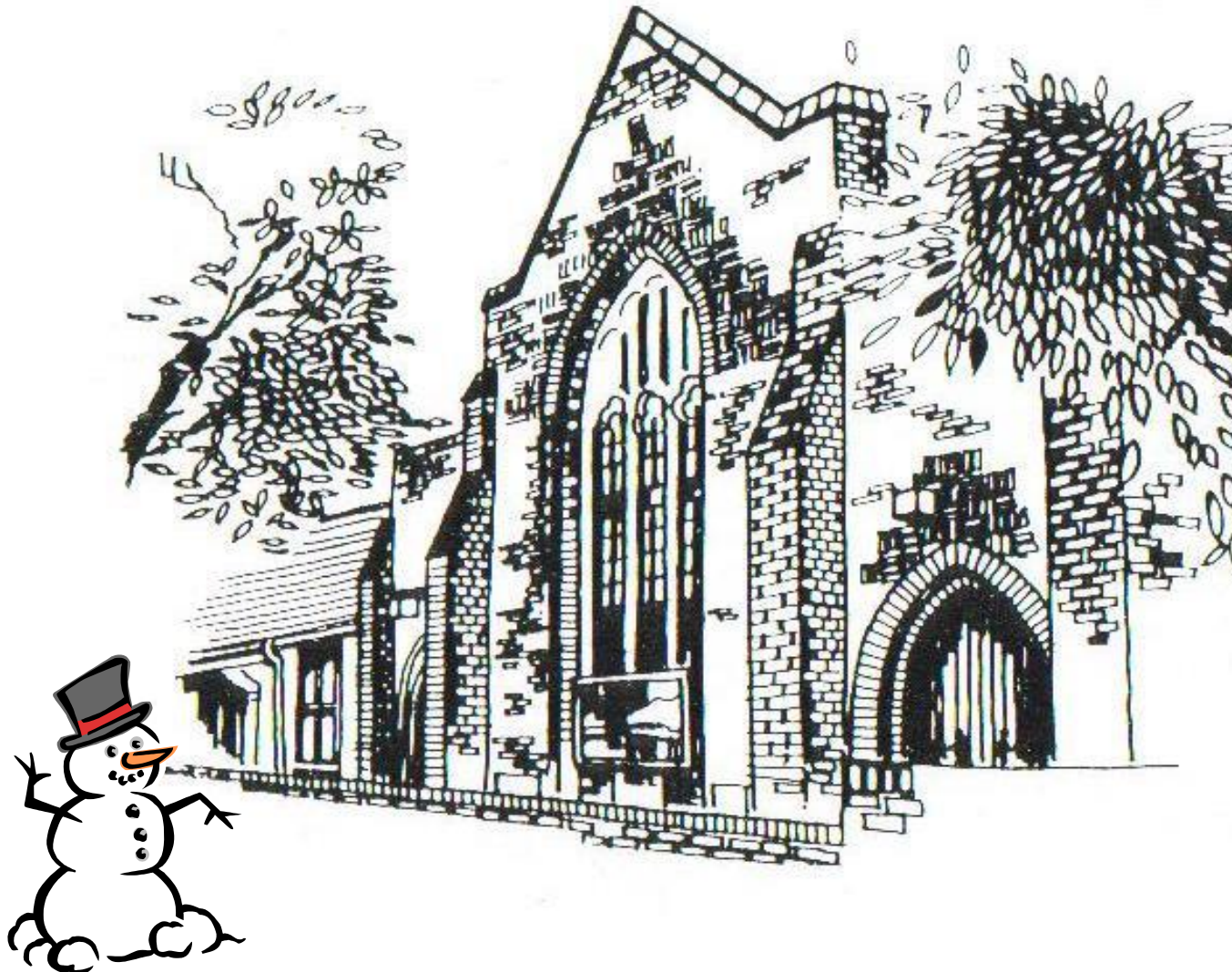
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THE MAGAZINE

OF

HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, E.4.



December 2020 / January 2021



CHURCH PROGRAMME

Sunday Services

It is hoped that from December 6th 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 17th January 2021
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 020 8527 1505 Email: magazine@hpbc.co.uk





Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG December 2020 / January 2021

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Our Minister writes;

Four prayer books and a rosary

2020 has been a most unusual year. A global pandemic and two lockdowns have turned our lives upside down. Churches have faced many challenges in the face of ever-changing Government advice and restrictions. Life as we knew it in the approach to Christmas last year seems a distant memory. In this year like no other, much has changed for us all.

Alongside the challenge of negotiating Covid-19 restrictions there have been other life events to manage. My mother's death at the beginning of May shaped the year. As many of you know from personal experience, there is much to be done at such moments. One early task was to remove personal items from my parents' bungalow in Somerset. Among the various boxes of photos, cards, and letters were several prayer books, each with a story to tell.



Prayer book number one is part of a black leather presentation set. The inscription inside reads 'with best love from Arthur to May 28.2.98'. The books were a birthday gift to my great-grandmother from her future husband. May's only son, Eric, died on the Somme. My grandmother, Lilian, was the eldest of her seven daughters.

Prayer book number two is a 'Manual of Devotions' entitled 'Nearer to God'. A card inside the book indicates that it was given to my grandmother at her confirmation in February 1927. The service took place at an Anglican mission church in Canning Town just a few months before she married my grandfather

John.





Prayer book number three is part of another presentation set. The inscription reads 'Enid Ellson, Christmas 1939, from Nanna & Aunties Phyllis & Freda.' At the age of eight, in the year that war broke out, my mother received the gift of a prayer book from her grandmother.

Prayer book number four is a gilt-edged book bound in white leather with a simple cross embossed on the front cover. An inscription reads 'wishing you every happiness' for this prayer book was a gift to my mother from her work colleagues when she married my father. She carried it on her wedding day in 1959 and loaned it to me when Ray and I married in 1982.



I am intrigued by what the collection of prayer books suggest about the life and faith of the three generations of women to whom they belonged. I am puzzled by the presence of a rosary and a small devotional book entitled 'Bible Lilies' that were with them. Was great-grandmother May, who came to England from Ireland as a child, perhaps brought up a Catholic? My grandmother's confirmation at the rather late age of twenty-five is another mystery. These, and many other questions, will remain forever unanswered.

In this year when the world seems to have been turned upside down and inside out, the continuity of a faith handed down through the generations has been reassuring. I never met my great-grandmother and have few memories of my grandmother but am glad to have encountered them through the four prayer books and a rosary that are now in my keeping.

Our wider readership may be interested to follow one of Rosemary's Blog's from October:

Christmas Unplanned

Clocks change tonight. From tomorrow the evenings will be darker. Winter is on the way.

The countdown to Christmas is as usual underway. In our year of pandemic, media speculation and concerns about the impact of Coronavirus restrictions on celebrations are taking centre stage. Christmas Eve is just two months away but in 2020 no-one knows what this Christmas will look like.

Some two thousand years ago Mary and Joseph faced their own uncertainties. The first Christmas was unplanned in every sense. A government edict and an unexpected journey led to the birth of their son in a stable. With no family to share the event the new parents were dependent on the kindness of strangers.

The shape of Christmas 2020 is uncertain. Family celebrations may need rethinking at short notice. Church services and school nativity plays will take a different form. With planning next to impossible only one thing seems sure. Whatever the limitations and restrictions, the birth of the Christ Child will be celebrated by Christians across the world whether at home, in church or online.

Christmas Unplanned could turn out to be the Christmas we have all been waiting for.





C VENDOR SHOP CIRCULAR AD



In 'normal times' we would be looking forward to the traditional Advent and Christmas services which have been held at HPBC for so many years and which have added to our joy and wonder as we celebrate the birth of Christ. While our churches have remained closed at times and only allowed to open in a limited way occasionally, we cannot hold the traditional worship, or enjoy fellowship with each other. However, the truth remains that Christ was born and lives today, and

however we celebrate in 2020 we can be assured that He is with us, and in whatever way we are able to come together to worship at the manger we can rejoice in God's gift to mankind – the birth of His Son as a baby in a manger.

Dave and I were able to attend Church some weeks ago on a rare visit home. While the service was certainly conducted in a changed way, according to current restrictions: spaced seating, of shorter duration and without congregational singing, we found the experience very positive. Being able to listen to the hymns, played beautifully by Elise and Peter, together with the screened words, gave us the chance to focus on their meaning in a fresh, more profound way, and there was a feeling of peace and reflection throughout the service. We again thank all those who have continued to ensure that the Church is complying with the many and varied restrictions and kept our fellowship informed and supported during this year. We continue to remember all who are living alone or in especial need through ill health or frailty and thank those who have been supporting them by keeping in touch, visiting, shopping etc.

Our fellowship will be sad to hear of the death of Joan Gwilliams on 23rd November. Joan, together with husband, David, was a long-serving member of HPBC over many years, working in different areas most faithfully. David, who died some years ago, was an officer in the Boys Brigade and gave long service to that organisation. He was also Fabric Steward and Cashier for many years. He served on the Church Council and was a great support to the fellowship in many ways. Joan was a Deacon and performed a variety of tasks quietly and efficiently, not least as the leader of our large and popular playgroup which flourished for many years after being started in the seventies. My own children all enjoyed their time at the playgroup which she ran with Jean Durante. Joan's funeral will take place on Tuesday, 8th December at 12 midday, in Hitchin, Herts, where she moved to be near family some years ago. Further details are available from us. We give thanks for all Joan meant to this fellowship and remember her with great affection and gratitude, sending our loving condolences to her daughters Jackie and Christine and all the family. There will be a longer tribute to Joan in our next issue.





During the past weeks Sheila Humphreys' brother Bob has suffered a stroke and a lung infection and is currently undergoing hospital treatment. We pray for Bob, Sheila and all the family as they continue to support him in his recovery.

Congratulations go to Dianne and Dave Kendrick who celebrated their Ruby Wedding in October. While current restrictions meant that they were unable to celebrate this great occasion as planned we trust that they enjoyed their special day and send them our loving best wishes for the future.

Our congratulations go to Jan Smithers who became engaged to Allan Webb in New Zealand on November 20th. It's great to have some good news to share with Jan's many friends in our fellowship and we thank her for all she has done to support us in the past, not least using her considerable musical talents to augment our Sunday worship. She has also spent several lengthy periods in Ghana in recent years and we have enjoyed reading of her work there in schools. You can read more from Jan further in this issue. We send them our warmest congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness together.

Jacquie

Mandy's Lockdown thoughts...

I have been very up and down, like many of us, since Covid darkened our doors and our world was turned upside down. I have missed routines, seeing friends, sharing a meal, seeing people smile because faces are masked, how hard it is to recognise people now!

But these are my top 5 things that have helped me, in reverse order

5. Limiting watching the news! I found I was watching it on TV and online for ridiculous amounts of time and it just got overwhelming and my sole focus. Very bad when all the news was grim.
4. Building new routines, especially during lockdown times, when each day blurs into the next.
3. Singing, loudly and whole heartedly. I realised I had stopped singing and forced myself to start again, made me feel much better!
2. Getting out in the fresh air as much as possible.
1. "Chatting" with people much more than usual on Whatsapp, just short messages and touching base. They do say it's good to talk, and it really is!





Engagement Announcement



This year has been an unusual and often frustrating year for many people. For me, it has brought major life changes. During lockdown, I started communicating, on video, with a friend in New Zealand, who I have known for nearly 48 years. I had met Allan Webb in Christchurch in 1973, when he was doing his teacher training. We became friends, although he was engaged to Yvonne, who he subsequently married. The three of us became good friends and I used to stay with them on my trips back to NZ. Allan and Yvonne also stayed with me in London on two occasions. Sadly, Yvonne passed away in February, after a long battle with cancer. Allan and I became very close during our video calls, so the next move was for me to go to NZ to see how we would get on together.



I arrived in Auckland on 4th September, after several flight changes. I then spent 14 days in managed isolation at the Holiday Inn, Auckland. After managed isolation finished and I had had two negative Covid tests, Allan picked me up and drove me to Taupo. Since then, things have developed really well between us,



so that we are now engaged. This happened on my birthday, 20th November. It was really romantic. Allan took me out for breakfast, at a cafe on the shores of Lake Taupo. Afterwards, we went outside to have some photos taken by the lake and after the waitress had taken them, Allan proposed and I said yes! He gave me a beautiful ring. That evening, we celebrated by going out for dinner.



Allan is a lovely Christian man – very kind, loving and caring. He worships at the Baptist Church and is part of a Men’s Bible Study group. He enjoys cycling, gardening, taking his boat out on the lake and spending time with his three adult children and nine gorgeous grandchildren. Having been single all my life, I always knew that God had someone special for me eventually, but it was a matter of His timing and not mine. I have



trusted His leading on this interesting journey and I thank Him daily for this. I believe God has brought Allan into my life in a new way and we look forward to being able to serve Him together, here in NZ, after we marry next year.

Jan Smithers.





Remembrance in Highams Park

On a bright autumn morning of Saturday 7th November, a number of people gathered outside Hale End library at 10.45am to give thanks to those from the area who gave up their lives during World Wars 1 and 2.



Buglers from the 17th Pals Band were also present and this was the first time they had met together since March. That said, they were as good as ever !

The short service was led by Sandeep Christian and Sir Iain Duncan Smith was present as a guest of honour. Sandeep described how local men from the Xylonite – later named Halex – factory signed up to go to war and the names of those who didn't return were read out. Sir Iain Duncan Smith then read out this excerpt from the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon;

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

This was followed by two minutes silence.

Strangely, for these two minutes no traffic passed us on the nearby road so it really was silence !



Each poppy represents a man from the Xylonite (later Halex) Works who fell in the two world wars.

Dave Kendrick





Remembrance In The Wider World

Whilst we pay our respects to our local fallen, nationally we came together to remember the fallen from Britain and the wider world. In fact this year was special, not just for the restrictions placed on ceremonies by Covid19 but because there were two ceremonies...

On Remembrance Sunday there was the usual service and wreath laying at the Cenotaph and this was followed on Armistice Day the eleventh day of November by a service to commemorate the centenary of the laying to rest of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. These two places of memorial share similar histories in the fact that both were created with some reluctance.



Cenotaph means 'empty tomb' and that in Whitehall was originally a plaster and wood structure created for the Allied Victory Parade in 1919. It was just one of several such structures along the route of the march. It perhaps came about when Lloyd George the

Prime Minister heard that the French were to use a similar edifice as a saluting base for their parade. It was found that many people laid wreaths at the base of this monument. There was a general feeling that there was a demand for a permanent non denominational place of focus for the Nation's memorial. Both the temporary and permanent structures were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Initially the Government did not want it placed in Whitehall but in Horse Guards Parade. They eventually bowed to public feeling and it was constructed from Portland Stone on its present site. There is no inscription save 'The Glorious Dead'.

The idea of such a burial seems first to have come to a chaplain at the Front, the Reverend David Railton (1884-1955), when he noticed in 1916 in a back garden at Armentières, a grave with a rough cross on which were pencilled the words "An Unknown British Soldier". In August 1920 he wrote to the Dean of Westminster, Herbert Ryle, through whose energies this memorial was carried into effect. There seems to have been concern expressed by King George the Fifth that such a tomb could become a focus for bereaved women. He was persuaded otherwise and plans were put into place.

The body was chosen from unknown British servicemen exhumed from four battle areas, the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres. The remains were brought to the chapel at St. Pol on the night of 7th November 1920. The General Officer in charge of troops in France and Flanders, Brigadier General L.J. Wyatt, with Colonel Gell, went into the chapel alone, where the bodies on stretchers were covered by Union Flags.





They had no idea from which area the bodies had come. General Wyatt selected one and the two officers placed it in a plain coffin and sealed it. The other three bodies were reburied. In the morning Chaplains of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and Non-Conformist churches held a service in the chapel before the body was escorted to Boulogne to rest overnight. The next day the coffin was placed inside another which had been sent over specially from England made of two-inch thick oak from a tree which had grown in Hampton Court Palace garden, lined with zinc. It was covered with the flag that David Railton had used as an altar cloth during the War (known as the Ypres or Padre's Flag, which now hangs in St George's Chapel). Within the wrought iron bands of this coffin had been placed a 16th century crusader's sword from the Tower of London collection. The coffin plate bore the inscription:

A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914-1918 for King and Country.

When the Tomb was completed it was filled with earth collected in France and when the coffin was placed inside it was covered by a sheet of Belgian marble. The inscription reads:

BENEATH THIS STONE RESTS THE BODY OF A BRITISH WARRIOR UNKNOWN BY NAME OR RANK BROUGHT FROM FRANCE TO LIE AMONG THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS OF THE LAND AND BURIED HERE ON ARMISTICE DAY 11 NOV: 1920, IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V HIS MINISTERS OF STATE THE CHIEFS OF HIS FORCES AND A VAST CONCOURSE OF THE NATION THUS ARE COMMEMORATED THE MANY MULTITUDES WHO DURING THE GREAT WAR OF 1914-1918 GAVE THE MOST THAT MAN CAN GIVE LIFE ITSELF FOR GOD FOR KING AND COUNTRY FOR LOVED ONES HOME AND EMPIRE FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD THEY BURIED HIM AMONG THE KINGS BECAUSE HE HAD DONE GOOD TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD HIS HOUSE



When the Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon in the Abbey in 1923 as she left she laid her wedding bouquet on the grave as a mark of respect (she had lost a brother during the war). All royal brides married in the Abbey since then have sent back their bouquets to be laid on the grave (as also have some royal brides who were married elsewhere).

After King George v had unveiled the newly finished Cenotaph he the moved on to the Abbey to complete then burial of the Unknown Warrior. The flag that had been

draped on the coffin during its burial service was kept and was placed on the Altar during the Centenary celebrations.

DL





Christmas Quiz

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in The Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions' names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

To see how well you did please turn to Page 26

The Editors are grateful to Dave Kendrick for supplying the Quiz and any groans should be directed to him...





Rabbi Lord Sacks



The charismatic Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks of the UK (1991-2013), who died on November 7th 2020 aged 72yrs., became possibly one of Britain's major reflective and articulate speakers on faith and a search for truth. He was the most well-known Chief Rabbi in the 255-year history of the office. He was able to make the most complicated philosophical arguments clear and easy to understand. "It's the people not like us that make us grow" and "science takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts things together to see what they mean." Tony Blair, when Prime Minister, described him as: "a towering figure in the

intellectual life of Britain today. "He ranges with extraordinary ease across different fields, making a contribution that is uniquely and distinctively his own. He relates the insights of religion to the modern world and retells the story of faith in a compelling way and that is a rare and remarkable achievement."

He became known in the public arena after delivering the BBC Reith Lectures in 1990 when he challenged the view that religion was in terminal decline in Europe, arguing with great eloquence and vigour. He was a student at Cambridge when the Six-Day War erupted onto the world stage in 1967 and it changed his life. "People who had never identified themselves as Jews before suddenly turned up at the university synagogue. It planted a seed in my mind that didn't go away for the next few years and which I returned to again and again." This seed grew into his becoming not only a distinguished scholar but a distinguished spiritual leader who was respected throughout the world as ambassador for the Jewish community in Britain.

He was born in 1948 in London, the eldest of four sons in a happy family and the services at his grandfather's own small synagogue (known as a shtiebel) were amongst his earliest memories. After attending a Church of England primary school and later, Christ's College Grammar School in Finchley, where he helped lead morning assemblies for the many Jewish pupils, he became the first of his family to attend University, winning a place at Cambridge. He was a regular debater at the Cambridge Union and in the summer of 1967 took a Greyhound bus around the US in a quest to speak to the leading Orthodox Rabbis. This journey taught him the importance of sharing the lessons of the Jewish faith with all humanity, not only Jews. The next year at Kings College he met a student radiographer, Elaine Taylor and they were engaged within three weeks, marrying in 1970. She survives him with their son and two daughters.

His academic achievements continued, graduating with a first class Honours in Philosophy, and for a time studied at a religious seminary in Israel. While studying for a Masters in Moral Philosophy he was appointed lecturer in Jewish Philosophy at Jews College, London in 1973 and made the decision to become a rabbi. Ordained in 1976 he quickly made an impression and was appointed as minister of Golders Green synagogue two years later, and then in 1983, to the Marble Arch congregation. By the late eighties he was being wooed by America, however the chief rabbinate at home became vacant and at 43yrs he became the youngest holder of the office and the sixth to bear the title: Chief Rabbi.





It was felt that his very 'Englishness' had made him different from his predecessors but he commented: " I grew up here and I love Britain. I think to be a Jew in the last 1,800 years is to learn how to be faithful to your Jewish heritage while interacting with another culture, in my case the English culture in which I grew up and to which I'm very attached". He became one of the first religious leaders to have a website encouraging all sections of the Anglo-Jewish communities to work together.

With declining congregations he began to revitalise and unify them with the "Decade of Renewal". While perceived to be supporting elements of the ultra-orthodox community he was often criticised for his secular education and zealous reforming. His views were seen as controversial and he suffered several attacks on them. He gave equal status to other faiths, claiming that they should be respected just as much as he and his congregants wanted their own to be. In strongly defending his own orthodoxy to conservative critics he stated: "I try very hard to understand and respect positions that are different from mine but that doesn't mean that I don't have an absolute conviction that there is truth and falsity, good and evil."

He produced his version of the daily Prayer book, providing his own commentary, and translating prayers from the original Hebrew, doing the same with the Haggadah, the book read by Jewish families on the first and second nights of the Passover. He was often faced with attempting to promote unity amongst the polarisation within Judaism. "Religion, or more precisely, religions, should have a voice in the public conversation within the societies of the West, as to how to live, how to construct a social order, how to enhance human dignity, honour human life, and indeed protect life as a whole". (2016)

His world stature led to his being knighted in 2005 and being granted a peerage four years later. By the time he retired in 2013 more Jewish schools had been built than in any other period of Anglo-Jewish history. Prayer services were enlivened and made more participative and engaging and he felt that Jews were now more confident and "prepared to be recognised as Jews". In retirement he was a regular contributor to Radio 4 and spent more time abroad, particularly in the US, becoming Professor at New York University and Yeshiva University. His 28th book: "*Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*" was published in 2015 and he continued writing up until his death. The Times obituary describes his final Credo column in 2013 as being 'a powerful statement of faith.':

"I believe faith is part of what makes us human. It is a basic attitude of trust that always goes beyond the available evidence, but without which we would do nothing great. Without faith in one another we could not risk the vulnerability of love. Without faith in the future we would not choose to have a child. Without faith in the intelligibility of the universe we would not do science. Without faith in our fellow citizens we would not have a free society".

Jacquie writes: The passing of such an influential and unifying Faith Leader was noted in the world wide press and we felt that it was therefore worthy of inclusion in this magazine.





Project Pond

Many of you will know that I am a Biologist by training and most of my career has been spent working with animals, particularly marine animals. I think my interest began as a result of summer holidays spent at my paternal Grandmother's house in Dovercourt Bay. It was only during my period working in Sweden that I actually lived very near to the ocean.



However, I have always liked to have a pond in my garden at home. This way I could feel close to water and experience the calming and soothing effect of the natural environment. Now that Fiona and I are happily settled in the North Netherlands, we finally have space for Rabbits AND a pond! I have spent the past couple of months designing and making our new pond! This involved digging out some old Cupressus roots and then digging even deeper to get the pond to a decent size. But what to do with all the earth I dug out? That was easily solved. Fiona and I had already decided to make a raised bed for growing vegetables so that was a perfect site for the soil I removed. I chose to

use a butyl liner as that could easily take the shape I wanted. Rob, a Dutch friend of ours who is also a pond owner, acted as my adviser and workmate when the time came to place the liner in position. He was also kind enough to bring a bucket of water and weed from his pond as a "starter" for ours. The pond is now completed, including some reeds "rescued" from the many waterways around us here.

I have always let ponds develop naturally, the best way, in my opinion. No Goldfish or Carp. Just wait and see what arrives. I was pleased to get it finished now, in November, so it can mature over winter and be ready to explode into life come Spring! I find a pond a great boon for mental health and well-being, watching, being still with your thoughts while close to water. Just to sit, with whatever your favourite beverage might be, and see what passes by! The work involved in making the pond has been a great blessing for us, simply seeing the result of our labours!



Already we have been rewarded by an early visitor, as you can see in the accompanying photograph. When I showed this to a friend his comment was "how lovely, but be careful not to let Fiona kiss it, it might turn into a Prince"!!!

Mike Thorndyke





Ed's note: We are also introduced to two characters who seem to be guarding the raised bed - perhaps to keep rampaging creatures away... or perhaps to lookout for the WereRabbit.!



And on the subject of rabbits:

Something About Rabbits.....

At a recent Zoom meeting, Jacquie asked for contributions to the magazine.....specifically requesting anything uplifting. This may not be quite what she had in mind but perhaps something different in terms of bringing a bit of joy in these challenging times.

I thought I would share a little about two new additions to our household – Peter and Evie, our rabbits.





They came from the local pet shop (which is a converted windmill) late summer and have been keeping us busy and entertained ever since.

I confess to being something of a rabbit aficionado having kept rabbits as a child, and later being Head of the Rabbit Quad at my secondary school. And when my children were younger, I could renew my passion for bunnies on the pretext that they were the “family” pets. Now I am (much) older and I admit to

wanting to keep rabbits outside in the garden and enjoy watching them hop and skip about! Just for my own pleasure!

I had not realised though quite how much work was involved in ‘bonding’ rabbits. Peter is a neutered male rabbit, Evie a female – from different families. I had wrongly assumed that they would easily get along from the outset. No. It has been a very gradual process, there have been fights, tantrums, scuffles, nipping and more. Not easy to watch at times. These two – who on their own are sweet natured and affable – when put together seem intent on NOT getting on and finding fault (with each other!).



We have experienced many ups and downs – one day good tolerant progress, the next, a setback with fur flying and the odd bloody ear. Now there finally seems to be something of a truce. They share the same outdoor run and get on...but are far from best friends! At least the fighting has stopped and there is no more “scuffling” – they seem to enjoy being near each other but not too near. It is certainly true that rabbits have their very own individual personalities. Peter is very much like “Peter Rabbit” – very curious, he has already jumped in a bucket of water and got soaked through!

But he happily lops around and is generally very passive. Evie – her name is actually E V (after Eustacia Vye, a feisty character from Thomas Hardy’s *Return of the Native* – described as a raven-haired beauty!) It is a bit of a mouthful – so shortened to EV (Evie) and she does live up to her name. She is the smaller of the two but makes her presence known. She thumps (with her back legs) Not because she is afraid or scared – but to make sure you (and Peter) know she is there. Needless to say, she is in charge.

So...what uplifting message to be found here in my tale (tails???) of two rabbits?

Perhaps just as a reminder to:

Be patient and persevere. You are not in control. It might take longer than you think, but you will get there. Pray.

(Carrots help!) *Fiona Thorndyke*





For a recent Zoom Home Group meeting Phil Slaney prepared a reflection on, as he puts it, 'the unusual and difficult times we are experiencing' . We felt this should be shared with a wider audience:

How can we find peace, hope and love?

In such unusual and difficult times as we are experiencing with the Covid 19 pandemic and facing another lock down this week where can we find peace, hope and love?



I found myself going to scripture and found some verses that did bring me some comfort. But more than that it was teaching me to trust God at all times and in all things. So, I would like to share these verses with you and hope that you will find some comfort too.

The first reading is from Paul's letter to the Philippians 4 v4-9

'Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace be with you'.



The second reading is from Paul's letter to the Romans 5 v1-5

'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we know stand. And we rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us'.





The third reading is from John 14 v25-27 and the fourth reading is from John 16 v33 where Jesus comforts his disciples.

*'All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid'.
'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world'.*



The final reading is from 1 John 4 v7-21 and reminds us of God's love and ours.

'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother'.

I hope these readings will help you find peace, hope and love in these difficult times.

Phil Slaney





Highams Park Snippets

Whilst looking through some old papers recently I came across a small collection of memories entitled 'Bits and Pieces'. It was created in 1990 from the random thoughts of six ladies during afternoon tea. They were: Frances Bowler, Joan Hewett, Kathleen Hewitt, Kathleen Howell, Mary Rampton and Ivy Reynolds - not 'Ladies who lunch' but 'Ladies who take tea'

We hope to include some more of their ruminations in forthcoming issues but will start with their thoughts on shops which once were part of the Highams Park scene. As noted in another article in this magazine we rarely see the complete loss of a shop site but they do change name and use: How many of this selection do you remember? (What is not known is how far back the ladies memories went!):

Bakers: Cakebreads, Hellingmans, Molls, Sapsfords and Sheanings.

Butchers: Chowns, Daflons, Gibbons, Laws, Ham & Beef Sandwich Shop.

Coal Merchants: Charringtons, Masons and Warrens.

Confectioners: Cosy Corner Sweetshop, Hurrys and Meophams

Corn Chandlers: Gibsons, Hunts and Perrins

Drapers & Haberdashers: Gills, Inces and Rootes

Grocers: Harrisons, Home & Colonial, Iversons, Knights, Pearkes, Steeles, Stevensons and Trent & Grundy.

Ladies wear: Bon Marche, Squires and Mimi Temple

Oil Shops: Batsons, Murrays and Watlings.

Papers & Toys: Chainey's and Edwards (2 Shops)

Shoe Shops: Evenless, Greenless, Lily's. Pruims, Quelches and Spencers.

Wool Shops: Evelyn and Maybelles.

How many (if any) did you remember? - More memories soon...

DL





The times they are a' changing

When Bob Dylan wrote these words in 1963 he would have needed a very powerful crystal ball to look to 2020 and see how our times have changed beyond anything we could have imagined. The changing has taken place worldwide and has already (and will, no doubt, continue to) made great differences to our lives of the world's populations.

One of the immediate and obvious effects has been on the retail sector. We have all heard of job losses and closures of companies. On a more local level this will include shops closing down. As far as I am aware we have not heard of many closing in Highams Park - in fact quite the opposite. As we mentioned in the last magazine we have a new vegan food outlet and a Bridal outfit shop. But there is more... We now have Choice Cards & Missy Boutique which is a card and gift shop including the "Missy" ladies clothes boutique situated at 28, The Avenue.

Some of our readers may remember a short sketch performed by Phil Slaney and myself at the Centenary celebrations in which we tried to remember some of the shops which were once part of the local scene. Some of these shops had an almost legendary quality. People of a certain age still rue the day that Pamphilon's, Batson's, and Pruiim's Shoe shop closed down. The 'repurposing' of shops continues, and this has left a vastly different mix of outlets than was the case in earlier years.





This has probably left our urban village meeting the needs of the changing population. Few shops have remained that I can recall being in existence since my younger days (admittedly some time ago) - Heales cycles, the Post Office and the Co Op chemist come to mind. There is probably little call for two coal merchants as there once were, but apparently there is for a number of coffee shops and restaurants. It is to be hoped that few if any of our local shops are forced to close.



As we mentioned in the last issue we spend some of our time in a country village in Nottinghamshire called Farndon. The local residents group produces a very well presented quarterly magazine. In the latest issue there is an article on the changing of shops in the village. Currently there are a general stores including Post Office, A ladies hairdressers, two public houses (plus two restaurant/bars) a farm shop and garden centre and a ceramic tile shop. This last used to be separate butchers and grocers shop and many other places have closed over the years. There seems to have been several grocery stores, a confectionery shop which was part of a private house, another butchers and five public houses. We still have a church but there is little sign of the three Chapels which once served the local populous. Farndon has a current population of some two thousand four hundred. In times past there were probably far fewer so they certainly had a large choice of grocery shops! Perhaps it was the advent of a good bus service that convinced people to travel into Newark to shop.

Nowadays we have several options - supermarkets will deliver (if you can get a delivery slot !), a large percentage of us have cars to travel to the nearest town and many goods are easily accessed via the internet.

Several people, including Napoleon, are credited with the phrase that Britain is 'A nation of shopkeepers'. It is to be hoped that we remain a nation of open shops...

DL





5 Minute food craft

We made these a few years ago at BBGA they are really easy

Melted snowman biscuits

Ingredients

Your favourite plain biscuits (rich tea, digestives, ginger anything you like)

Icing sugar

Water

White Marshmallows (not mini ones)

Little tubes of coloured icing



Instructions

1. Mix up some white Icing by putting some icing sugar in a bowl with a small amount of water, you want it quite thick.
2. Place biscuits on a cooling rack with paper underneath to catch icing drips
3. Spoon a blob of icing on the biscuit and spread it about. You do not need to cover the whole biscuit. While the icing is still wet push in a marshmallow for the snowman's head. Repeat with all the biscuits and allow them to set a little
4. Use the coloured icing to give the snowman a face, scarf and buttons. It doesn't need to be straight or accurate after all he is melted! Leave for a few hours to set completely then eat 😊

Ideas for extras -

Make the snowman a hat with a giant chocolate button and a Rolo, stick together with icing

Make the scarf out of a strawberry shoelace or other sweet

Cover the marshmallow with white icing too and allow to set before decorating

With thanks to Mandy





With thanks to Mandy.. Answers on page 26

Can you complete the next line of these worship songs/hymns. They get more difficult as you go on, can you get them all?

1. With my whole heart I will praise you, holding nothing back, Halleluiah!
2. O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
3. Jubilate, everybody, serve the Lord in all your ways and
4. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
5. O what a foretaste of glory divine, Heir of salvation, purchase of God
6. The angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around
7. And the rain came tumbling down. The rain came down
8. Gold I bring to crown him again. King forever, ceasing never, over us all to rein
9. Morning by morning new mercies I see;
10. O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him

We asked the Fellowship to let us know of a poem, reading, a piece of music or anything that has brought peace of mind and comfort to them during this difficult time. You will have read Mandy's lockdown thoughts and Fiona and Mike's Great Garden Challenge (plus rabbits!).



Hazel Ansell writes:
Although not actually religious, Mike Oldfield's Tubular Bells does it for me. My imagination has no limits when I play it. Especially the loud sections.





Christmas Past, Present and Future...

Since Christmas 2020 is likely to be different (to say the least!) I thought we could borrow Charles Dicken's title to allow us to look at Christmas Celebrations in **The Past...**

You cannot have Christmas without a Nativity, or a tree, or a Carol Service so here a few reminders:





Hopefully gave a few memories - and as for *Christmas Present?*

At the time of writing we have no idea what we are likely be allowed to do but we are hopeful that there will be the opportunity to Celebrate the birth of Jesus in an appropriate manner.

And *for Christmas future?* We have to hope that a working vaccine is found and that life can return to a new and better normality.

We leave you with the words of Tiny Tim from a Christmas Carol:

And so, as Tiny Tim said, "A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, every one!"

A wish repeated by all the magazine team





Another of Rosemary's Blog - this time from November - focuses on grace, courage and forgiveness:

All Human Life is There

News this week has been the usual mix of the good, the bad, and the ugly. On the positive side, hopes were high that a COVID-19 vaccine might soon be available. When we humans put our minds to it and work together much is achieved. By contrast, infighting at Downing Street led to the resignation of two Government advisors. In the volatile world of politics, working together is always a challenge! Towards the end of the week the death in prison of serial killer Peter Sutcliffe was announced. Old memories were stirred for the families of Sutcliffe's victims. The stories of those who chose to speak to the press when the news broke of the death of the man known as the Yorkshire Ripper were a reminder of dark and very ugly time in Britain's history.

On the day Sutcliffe's death was announced, the son of the killer's first victim gave a compelling interview. In response to the questions asked he agreed that the news of the death would bring some kind of closure. In quiet, measured tones, McCann explained that he had taken a decision some years ago to let go of his anger towards Sutcliffe and took no pleasure in hearing the news of his death. He went on to ask West Yorkshire Police to apologise to the families of victims for the way their loved ones had been described by officers at the time. In response to an official apology later that day McCann tweeted 'Now that's worth celebrating. Thank you.'

All human life was there in the news this week. One man's grace and courage showed something of the best of which we humans are capable. Thank you, Richard McCann.

Peter Burke would like to share this poem that he has recited recently on this link.:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-goBfU1fa_8

The Weaver

*My life is but a weaving between my God and me,
I cannot choose the colours He worketh steadily.
Oft times He chooses sorrow and I in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper and I the underside.*

*Not til the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly will God unroll the
canvas and reveal the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful in the weavers skilful hands,
As the threads of Gold and Silver, in the pattern he has planned.*

*He knows, He loves, He cares. Nothing this truth shall dim.
He gives the very best to those who leave the choice to him.*





Song Quiz

1. You have made me glad and now I come with open arms to thank you
2. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
3. Come before his presence singing, enter now His courts with praise
4. But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
5. Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood
6. "Fear not," he said – for might dread had seized their troubled mind
7. And the floods came up, the rain came down and the floods came up
8. Oh Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright
9. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me
10. Born the Kings of Angels. O come let us adore him etc etc 😊

Christmas Quiz answers

1. Advent
2. More than one, the Bible doesn't say how many!
3. Deep pan, crisp and even!
4. Elizabeth
5. St. Nicholas
6. 25; 'no el'!!!
7. Bethlehem
8. 364
9. 1840s - 1843 by Sir Henry Cole
10. Egypt
11. Three - Dasher, Dancer and Donner
12. Germany - it was Latvia but it was part of German then!
13. King Herod
14. Just like the ones I used to know
15. Carpenter
16. The Anglo Saxons - it means 'good health'
17. Shepherds
18. A six pence
19. Gabriel
20. In a manger

