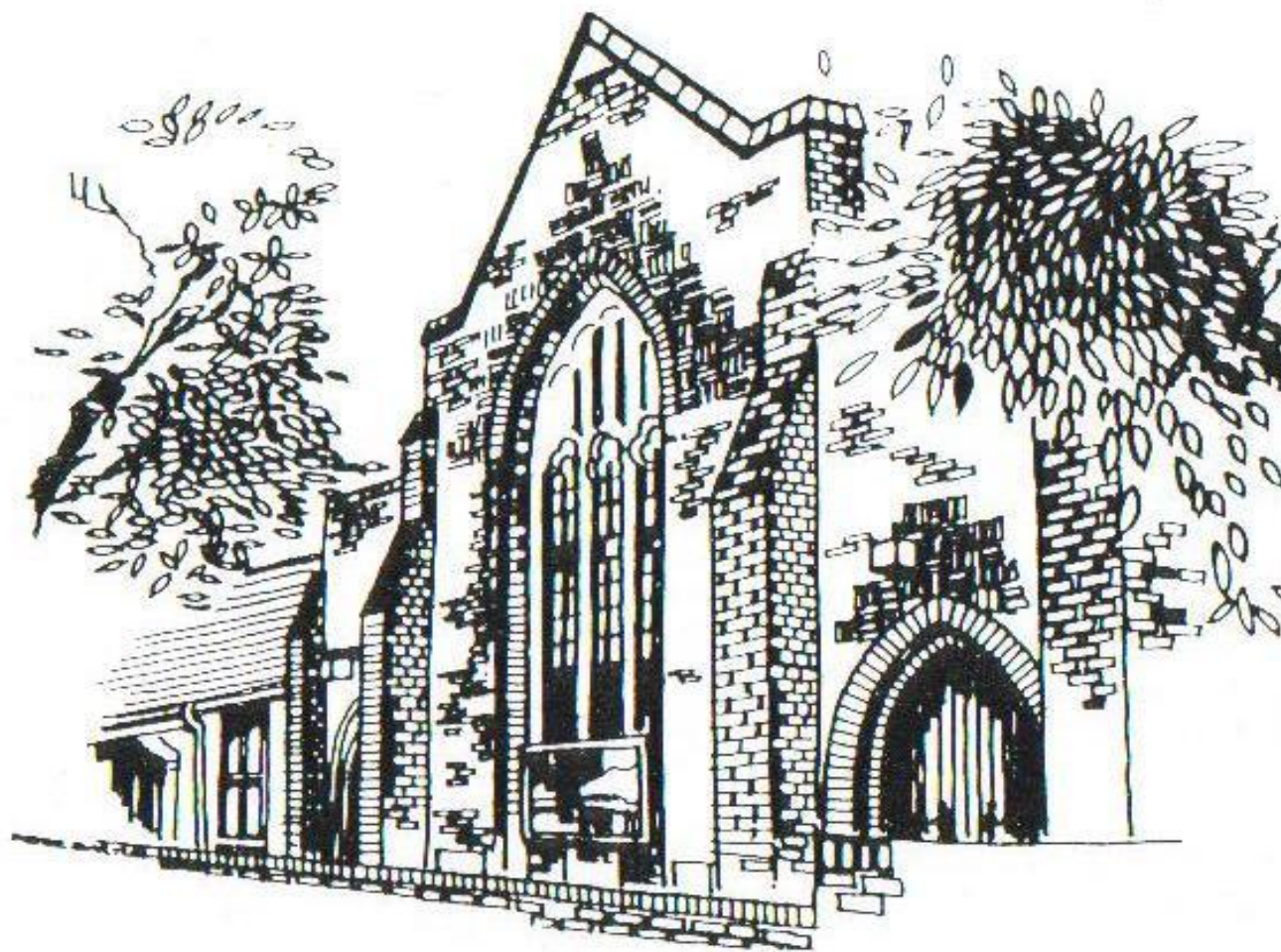




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2021

CHURCH PROGRAMME

Sunday Services : Following the lifting of restrictions by the Government and after discussion at the Church Meeting there are a few changes to inform you about with regard to Sunday mornings.

We would encourage you to continue to wear a face covering when moving around inside the church building. During the service the wearing of face coverings is now optional.

Congregational singing will resume. The chairs in the church have been rearranged but rows are spaced to allow appropriate distancing. We will continue to keep a list of attendees to assist with track and trace requirements.

Socialising in the garden following the service will continue (weather permitting!)

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

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.

Boys Brigade and Girls Association:
Anchors (For boys and girls in school years 1-3)
combined with

Juniors (For boys and girls in school years 4-6)
6.30 - 8:00 pm
Company Section 6.30 - 8.30pm.

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

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

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

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 19th September 2021
Editors: Dave & Jacquie Lyus, 020 8527 1505 Email: magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG

August / September 2021

<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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Out and about with Diddy

Expect the unexpected, Mum used to say. Strange the things you remember when life gets complicated. And things have been complicated just lately. Complicated and rather worrying from where I stand...or sit... Tom says that I worry too much. He reckons I spend too much time here on my own. Whose fault is that, I said to him? With you off with Jesus and the others, what I am supposed to do? After that he made an effort to get home most nights. I was glad of that, especially after we heard what had happened to John.

John was a cousin of Jesus. Strange man...shouted a lot as I recall. John upset King Herod once too many times and lost his head. Rumour was that the king believed Jesus was John come back from the dead. That didn't bode well for Tom and the others. I was worried although I didn't let on to Tom. When he left in the morning I said a little prayer and held my breath until he came back in the evening.

Daytimes weren't too bad – always plenty of work to do around the place. Sometimes folk called by or I went to the market. On the evenings Tom made it home to eat life was fine. When he didn't, I sat here sewing... waiting... watching...wondering. But yesterday was different. *Yesterday* Tom suggested I go with him. It turned out to be a long day...an *interesting* day... and one I will never forget.

We were up early, as usual. We'd just finished breakfast when Tom said, out of the blue, 'Fancy a day out, Diddy?' Where to? I asked. Come and hear Jesus, says Tom. He couldn't say where, *exactly*. Jesus didn't plan ahead much but Tom always knew where to find him. No, we didn't need to take food, we'd just get what we could find when we needed it. So off we went, me and Tom, to find Jesus. It wasn't difficult...all we had to do was follow the crowds...and get across the lake, of course. Good job Tom knows the local fishermen.

Such a time we had. Thousands of people all hanging on Jesus' every word. Men...women... children...a real family event. Sadie was there with her two. Little Josh is walking now so she had her hands full. Miriam sat with me playing happily as the men moved closer to Jesus to hear better.

It was early evening before I thought about food. Just as I was wondering whether we should head home, Tom appeared with a huge basket of bread. He smiled at me as if to say, I told you so!

Tom explained as we walked home that what had happened was truly miraculous. Enough food for thousands from five small loaves and two tiny fish. Jesus is more than just another itinerant preacher. *Definitely* not cousin John back from the dead. John never fed people...could barely feed himself. Locusts and honey! I ask you. Not someone *I'd* trust with the catering.

This morning Tom was up early as usual. No-one was quite sure where Jesus had gone after the crowds left. He sent Tom and the others off home in Simon's boat and went off up the mountain on his own. Today Simon and Andrew plan to row back to collect him. So solid, dependable Tom is off to see if he can help. Think I might call over at Sadie's and tell her about the miracle of the loaves and the fish she ate for supper yesterday.

Mrs. Didymus is a character created by Abby Guinness. I first met her in The Word of the Wives, a book of monologues offering reflections on Bible stories as seen through the eyes of women. Last year Diddy, as she became affectionately known, appeared four times on the Sunday Supplement. As the (fictional) wife of Thomas, one the twelve closest companions of Jesus, she offered a personal perspective on the weekly bible readings.

Out and About was written and recorded for the Sunday Supplement on 2nd August 2020. This reflection was inspired by the account of Jesus feeding the five thousand that is found in Matthew 14:13-21. Diddy made her final appearance the following week when services in church resumed.



For those with internet access, a recording of the reflection is available via the link below.

<https://youtu.be/NRx8Db21v8Y>

Rosemary

Cavendish Circular



As we enter the time of year when we would normally be enjoying carefree holiday plans (and some hot weather!) we give thanks that, while life is not yet back to 'normal', small steps are being taken which mean that, with the aid of vaccinations and continuing vigilance, we can enjoy the return of regular worship (including

recently, refreshments afterwards!), limited travel plans and a welcome ability to socialise once again with family and friends. We give thanks for all those who have continued to keep our Church life active and growing during the pandemic, and our building and grounds in good order, so that we can once again have the joy of worshipping together.

Our Church life does not consist simply of attending Sunday services of course and we are also grateful to those who have maintained contact with our fellowship during the last eighteen months or so under difficult circumstances. Whether it has been by phone, calling by (at a safe distance!) letter or prayer, this has been a vital link for those who were isolated or in particular need, and this continues now that life hopefully returns to normal. We ask for your prayers:

for Joan Meunier, who is currently in Whipps Cross hospital undergoing treatment to her legs. Joan has been frail for some time while continuing to live independently at home. However, she was admitted to hospital a few weeks ago and while her legs are continuing to heal very slowly she is slightly confused and has been moved to three different wards which has not helped. She is currently in Sage Ward and will continue to be in hospital for the time being.

for Toby Player, who, at the end of August, will be moving into assisted living in Hale End road. He has begun his transition towards this move where he will spend a few hours at the home on his own. This will be a huge change for Toby and his family and we ask that you remember him, Wendy, Gary and Gemma as he is supported in this challenge; that he may settle happily in his new home. We give thanks that his recent removal of two wisdom teeth under general anaesthetic went very smoothly and that he is recovering well. His family are very thankful for your prayers at this time.

For our former member, Kerstin Dixon, whose father in Germany has been very ill. He is now quite frail and Kerstin has recently managed to fly out to her family where her mother is caring for him. We pray for God's loving presence and strength at this difficult time. Sadly she has also learnt that her sister Frauke's chemotherapy has not worked and the cancer is spreading again.

She is now being given immunotherapy treatment so please pray for courage, peace and healing for the whole family as they cannot provide the support and presence they would wish to do in the current circumstances.

Please continue to pray for Dorothy and Cliff Tayler as they stay at home. Cliff is recovering from emergency admission to hospital where he underwent surgery to insert a pacemaker and was also discovered to have Covid. Dorothy continues to care for him in his convalescence while she protects herself from the Covid infection while continuing with her own recovery. Their son, Andrew, also contracted Covid at this time and we ask for God's strength, praying that they may receive all the necessary treatment and care for a full recovery.

Please continue to pray for all those of our Church family who are unable to join in regular worship due to ill health, frailty or age-related issues. We think of Mavis Grint, Doris Thorndyke, Joan Meunier, Margaret Norris and Dorothy and Cliff Tayler. Although we do not get the chance to see them in our services they are valued members of our Church fellowship and we ask that they are kept in your thoughts and prayers. Any contact by phone, letter or email if appropriate, would be much appreciated. Please also remember Jharna Saha, who we are so pleased to see at Church despite being in pain and undergoing tests and treatment. If you know of anyone in need of prayer please contact either Rosemary, Ruth or Robert who will be happy to include them in emails, texts or a mention in the Sunday service.

NEW BEGINNINGS.....



It is at this time of year that we especially remember all those who are starting a new phase of life; whether it be the start of their formal education like Poppy (Hazel's Granddaughter) in our delightful picture, who has now left Nursery and is embarking on School for the first time, or those who are anticipating a move up to Primary or Senior schooling, College, Apprenticeship, University or Work. May they be aware of God's loving care as they meet the opportunities these moves will bring them, and may they grow and develop in a happy, secure and enriching environment so that they can accomplish all their plans, while learning to accept any setbacks or challenges with courage and positivity. We wish them well for the future they are helping to shape. *Jacquie*

Dear Lord, Today, I offer you myself. Come, breath your life into my working day. Cause me to awake, to embrace the moment, and to go in your name. Today, I thank you that I can run without fear, serve with kindness, and walk with you in this great adventure. Amen

(We thank Paula and Simon Ansell for permission to use Poppy's picture).



As the schools break up for the Summer holidays we who are part of the Home Zoom group have broken up too. We look back with pleasure at the weeks we have spent in fellowship on a Tuesday evening in the company of such an interesting group...

When Sarah and Paul suggested that their home group, which had to stop meeting due to Covid restrictions, should go on line it seemed such a good idea. The number of people who were welcomed to Warboys Crescent was variable for a number of reasons – some did not like coming out in the evening especially as the nights drew in, some were not physically in the area and others could not always commit to regular attendance. And then came Covid and then Zoom!

Sarah and Paul very kindly made the arrangements and sent out invitations and then waited to see what would happen – and what did happen was that a good number of people logged in for an hour of reflections, prayers and communication. At first Sarah and Paul ran the meetings but as time went on they asked if others could assist – and assist they did!

The meetings usually started with Sarah or Paul opening in prayer and then introducing the person / people who was / were to share their thoughts. Topics included fellowship and hymns as well as tales of Christian endeavours. There was always a time set aside to allow prayers often in support of people known to one or more of the group and this often generated further news of those we had prayed for. We also managed to find time to catch up on people's news a really helpful exercise especially when we joined from Newark and Mike and Fiona came through loud and clear from The Netherlands. Tendai even managed to appear to be calling from a desert island – generated electronically by Zoom - (not sure if he was allowed eight records). On a regular basis Communion was celebrated online with bread and a drink (not always grape juice – sometimes a soft drink) – this brought great comfort to the participants. Appropriate music was usually played to add to the experience and finally Paul closed with a reading from his book of Blessings which gave a new blessing for every day of the year.

We do hope that come September we may be able to set aside our Tuesday evening for the continuation of such a meaningful experience and we owe Sarah and Paul a huge debt of gratitude. *DL*

As it was...

With thanks to Rob Edwards for finding an Order of Service from 1982. He cannot remember how he came by it but it could be something to do with the fact that it was the occasion of his Baptism. To many of us 1982 is not long ago but when you realise that 39 years have passed!

Perhaps the most obvious change is the fact that there were morning and evening services, something which changed some time ago. There were also a few more things going on during the week including Women's Fellowship. If you look back over the years there always seemed to be some meetings for women (not sure if that would be allowed now...) but as time moves on these become fewer and finally disappear altogether – probably a sign of the social change when more women have careers or have other calls on their time.

The evening sermon was called 'St. Paul – a member of H.P.B?' – I wonder what the answer was – it is certainly an intriguing title.

One thing that has not changed is the reminder that items for the magazine are required – no change there!

I apologise for the poor quality of the copy of the Order sheet.

<p>Monday 6.00 p.m. Girls' Brigade 7.30 p.m. Bible Study at 21 East View</p> <p>Tuesday 2.45 p.m. Women's Fellowship: Rev. Eric Norton 9.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting at 21 Falmouth Av.</p> <p>Wednesday 12 noon Lunch at All Saints; Rev. F. Frost-Mee "Visiting America" 5.00 p.m. G.B. Explorers 8.00 p.m. Women's Group: "Puppet Workshop"</p> <p>Thursday 6.30 p.m. Concert for Senior Citizens in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Friday 7.00 p.m. The Boys' Brigade</p> <p>Saturday 7.30 p.m. RECEPTION to meet Dr. David Charley</p> <p><u>Next</u> 10.00 a.m. COMMUNION SERVICE: <u>Sunday</u> Dr. David Charley</p> <p>6.30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP: Interview with Dr. Charley</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Our offerings last week - £44.21 for the Kingdom Fund; £150.29 for the Church; £5.95 for the Building Fund; £122.85 for the Poland appeal.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NICHOLAS PARK SUNDAY BAPTIST CHURCH 21st FEBRUARY LONDON, E.4. 1982</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minister: Rev. H. Alan Smith, M.A.</p> <p>We warmly welcome all who worship with us today.</p> <p>We rejoice with our friends Mazel Collins, Elizabeth Norris and Robert Edwards, who will be baptised and received into the membership of our Church tonight.</p> <p>All items for the March NEWS should be given to Arthur Fugler today.</p> <p>Retiring offerings will be taken again today towards the Christian Aid appeal to help the Polish people with gifts of food and medicines.</p> <p>Full details of the visit of Dr. David Charley next week-end are on separate leaflets.</p> <p>Please remember in your prayers Mary Hough in Whippe Cross and Mrs. Pickett again in Chingford Hospital (Larkshall Ward).</p>
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10.00 a.m. Family Worship

Call to worship
Hymn 29
Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Hymn 288
(The young people leave us now)
Offering
Readings Hymn Book No. 853
St. Mark 4 vv.35-41
Hymn 129
Sermon: 'Jesus, Worker of Miracles'
Hymn P.F.T. 72
Prayers
Hymn 219
Blessing

6.30 p.m. Service of Baptism
and Communion

Call to worship
Hymn 33
Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Offering

Readings Hymn Book No. 874
Acts 22 vv.6-21

Hymn 244
Sermon: 'St. Paul
- a member of H.P.E.?'

Hymn 296 (verse 1)

THE BAPTISMS

Hymn 298 (a verse will be sung
after each baptism)

Declaration of Faith
Hymn Book No. 882

Prayers: Mr. John Humphrey

Hymn 193

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND
RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

Hymn 327

THE LORD'S SUPPER (All who confess
that Jesus is Lord, of whatever
Church they are members, are
invited to be our Lord's guests
with us at His Table)

Hymn 132

Blessing

Dave Lyus



Our Church Council have just been able to meet again face to face and we are grateful for their continued service to our Fellowship. Readers may be interested to see a recently found picture of the Church Council at some time after 1986.

*From Left to right - back row: Laurie Tomlinson, Andy Bowles, Les Edwards, Geoff Norris, Steve Curtis, Ron Long, John Humphrey, Dave Evans
Front row: Doreen Chandler, Beryl Briggs, Joyce Short (later Long!) Beryl Alvarez, Stuart Jenkins (Minister), Jacquie Lyus, Joyce Stanbrough, Marjorie Perry*

To Be A Pilgrim

On a recent edition of 'Songs of Praise' the presenter The Rev. Kate Bottley took part in a pilgrimage to Durham. It was felt that Durham had missed out on being a place of pilgrimage unlike the better known sites such as Canterbury and Iona. To rectify this situation six new routes have been created – they are called the 'Northern Saints Trail'. The routes all end at the shrine of St Cuthbert at Durham Cathedral. The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, walked 29 miles over two days with his wife, Rosemary, was joined by others for two days of walking along the route, named the Way of Life, from Gainford to Durham. The other routes that make up the North Saints Trail have been created by David Pott, who has previously created other trails including Two Saints Way between Chester and Lichfield. While the routes are new, they include parts of ancient tracks. Two routes — the Angel's Way and the Way of the Sea — provide links to give pilgrims continuous pilgrimage routes between Lindisfarne and Durham.

The Bishop said that it was hoped that the new routes would encourage people to "discover more about themselves and more about God" as they walked the pilgrim ways.

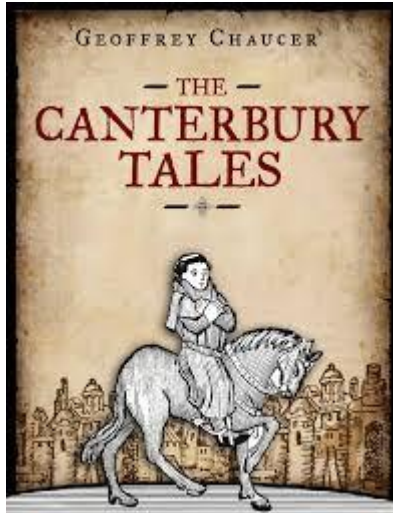
Christian pilgrimage was first made to sites connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. ... Pilgrimages were, and are, also made to Rome and other sites associated with the apostles, saints and Christian martyrs, as well as to places where there have been apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

One definition of a pilgrimage is: A journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about their self, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to their daily life. It could be said that, in some ways, we have been on our own pilgrimage due to the pandemic – it would surely qualify by being a journey into the unknown and we may well have searched for new meanings about ourselves and others...

Pilgrimages are not confined to Christians – most religions have a special place to which followers go to visit. Perhaps one of the best known examples is The Hajj pilgrimage". It is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims. Hajj is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey, and of supporting their family during their absence from home. Very unfortunately this has sometimes led to the deaths of some of the pilgrims as they take part in the ceremonies which are an integral part of the rites attached to the pilgrimage.

Although steps have been taken to try to increase crowd control many more people are now attending as part of their faith and accidents do still occur.

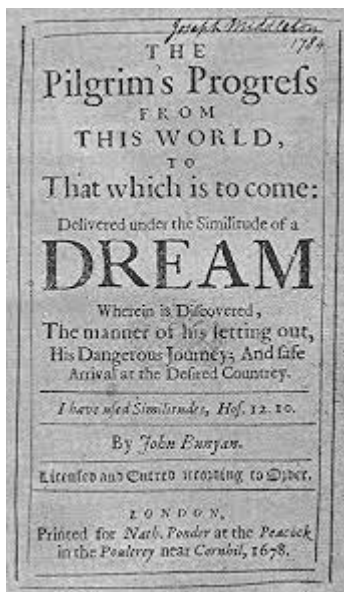
Pilgrimages have taken place for many centuries and perhaps we know about them from two books – 'The Canterbury Tales' and 'The Pilgrims Progress' - both staples of British literature.



The Canterbury Tales is a collection of 24 stories written at some length in Middle English by Geoffrey Chaucer between 1387 and 1400. In 1386, Chaucer had become Controller of Customs and Justice of the Peace and, in 1389, Clerk of the King's Works. He obviously managed to find the time to begin working on The Canterbury Tales. They are mostly written in verse, although some are in prose and are presented as part of a story-telling contest by a group of pilgrims as they travel together from London to Canterbury to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury

Cathedral. The prize for this contest is a free meal at the Tabard Inn at Southwark on their return. It is generally thought that Chaucer died before he completed the story Chaucer's life. In the 'General Prologue' some 30 pilgrims are introduced. According to the Prologue, Chaucer's intention was to write four stories from each pilgrim, two each on the way to and from their ultimate destination, St. Thomas Becket's shrine which would have made some hundred and twenty stories. Although perhaps incomplete, The Canterbury Tales is revered as one of the most important works in English literature.

'The Pilgrim's Progress from This World, to That Which Is to Come' is a Christian allegory written in 1678 by John Bunyan. It is regarded as one of the most significant works of religious, theological fiction in English literature. It has been cited as the first novel written in English.



Bunyan began his work while in the Bedfordshire county prison for violations of the Conventicle Act of 1664, which prohibited the holding of religious services outside the auspices of the established Church of England. Theories exist as to when Bunyan began writing his masterpiece but recent scholars such believe that it was begun during Bunyan's first more lengthy imprisonment from 1660 to 1672 right after he had written his spiritual autobiography 'Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners'.

The English text comprises 108,260 words and is divided into two parts, each reading as a continuous narrative with no chapter divisions. The first part was completed in 1677 but was listed on 18 February 1678, which is looked upon as the date of first publication. After the first edition of the first part in 1678, an expanded edition, with additions written after Bunyan was freed, appeared in 1679. The Second Part appeared in 1684. Bunyan's words were used to write the well-known hymn 'To Be A Pilgrim' although some of the original words were changed in the 'English Hymnal' of 1906.

I started by giving news of the setting up of new pilgrimage routes around Durham – I have also recently found out that changes have been made to Iona – one of our ancient pilgrimage sites – they have just opened new comprehensively refurbished community and living spaces at the Abbey.

The opening ceremony was performed by Princess Anne who said she was pleased to be at the Abbey "to celebrate that the life of work and worship in this ancient place has been secured for many years to come."

She continued: "Access is vital because the people who come to stay at the Abbey are the life of the building, forming a community committed to justice and peace. Fifteen-hundred years since St Columba's birth, and almost a century since Iona Abbey was rebuilt in the shadow of the Great Depression, now, in the shadow of a world pandemic, the Iona community is standing once again on its ancient foundations to meet another moment of historic crisis and deep need."

Because of its location building work on Iona has many difficulties but with a massive appeal raised £3.75 million from 2,500 donations coming from people in 22 different countries. Donations ranged from £2 to £900,000.

He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
with dismal stories
do but themselves confound
his strength the more is
No foes shall stay his might
though he with giants fight
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end,
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

The Act of Pilgrimage would seem to be alive and well even after all those hundreds of years... DL

Highams Park Snippets



Many of you will remember the opening of the signal box as La Boîte as a Crêperie a few years ago. You may equally remember that due to Network Rail, in 2018, they closed. They have been trying to resolve the problem but with, as yet, no success.

They report that they have enlisted the help of our MP and hope that they may be allowed to return sometime soon. In the meantime they say:

'Nevertheless, it's not all doom and gloom. We have just secured another location in a beautiful historic building in Saffron Walden. Whilst it's not local to Highams Park, Saffron Walden is a picturesque market town and well worth the trip for a day out (to visit us). But fear not, we are still doing everything we can and will continue pushing forward to re-open The Signal Box. We miss you, and we hope it's not too long now until we see you all again'.

In recent times you will probably have seen pictures of the incredible flooding that occurred in Europe and also parts of Britain. The image of a caravan being squashed under a bridge will remain in the memory for some time...

A few years ago when work was carried out at Highams Park Lake we found that some of the adjoining roads could be considered as possible areas of flooding - so far we have existed without adverse consequences.

However our house in Gordon Avenue is sited at the low point of the road in that the road rises to both left and right - not by much but enough to mean that rainwater flows towards the drains from both ends of the road. Unfortunately the drains have insufficient capacity to deal with very heavy rain - this means that the road floods! This happened on Sunday 25th July when the water lapped over the pavement and into our garden - but help was at hand.



Several of the neighbours equipped with wellingtons, raincoats and brooms and sticks joined together to clear leaves from the drains. A great example of community spirit - and it worked (after a little time) and the road was clear for traffic again...

Still on a watery theme there is a potted history of Larks Wood to be found on the Highams Park Portal website. It tells of the history and lists the types of tree to be found in this remnant of an ancient woodland. It is a very pleasant wood to take a walk in as we did with our dog some years ago. The wood is part of the greater Larkswood Park originally owned in 1920 by Charles Roper who was a dairy farmer. He obviously liked open spaces as he also owned Highams Park and Hale End Cricket Grounds. The Park was created by the local Council in 1936. Now for the watery bit...



an open air pool 'with accommodation for 2,500 bathers' was built on the site of Larks Farm at a cost of £24,000. It was considered one of the finest

open-air pools in the country. It provided a meeting place at the same time as allowing exercise - it was, of course Larkswood Outdoor Swimming Pool. However, in 1987 the pool was finally closed.

More Prefab Tales.

In the last issue we told of Phil Slaney's memories of living in one of the prefabs in The Highams Park. He mentioned that he had been asked to write about this time by Mark Dine of The Epping Forest Forum website as part of a history of Highams Park. There were also similar stories from three other people. I contacted Mark and he kindly agreed to allow me to use these stories – I have also sought permission from the authors of these stories.

The complete work is highly readable and gives much more detail of the history of The Park.- it is available at:

<https://eppingforestforum.com/2021/06/25/highams-park/>

Over the next issues I will bring you the stories about this important part of our local history... Firstly In her own words, are the memories of Trish Gardiner:

I was born 3rd May, 1948, in Walthamstow, we moved to Highams Park prefabs in 1951, when I was 3. Living in the prefabs was a wonderful experience, some of the happiest days of my life.

Our prefab had two bedrooms, mum and dads and the other I shared with my three brothers. There was a fire in the living room and although we had a bathroom, in the winter us kids would have a bath in a tin tub in front of the fire, the fire was the only form of heating apart from the cooker in the kitchen. In the winter I used to grab my clothes from the bottom of the bed and run to the kitchen, put my clothes under the grill for a few moments to warm up before getting dressed. My brothers and I used to surround the cooker for warmth before going to school. The windows would have ice on the insides and the curtains used to stick to them but it was still heaven to live there. We had so much space and freedom, such a large playground, all the trees to climb, the open fields and the lake.

The cows used to roam freely often coming into our gardens and peering through the windows, sometimes we had the odd horse coming round, one of the horses 'Sally' gave birth to a foal at the end of Troubridge Road, the road in front of our prefab. My mum was the one who everyone came to with sick or injured animals and this particular day mum came to help Sally deliver her foal. There were many little animals that we helped, once we had a baby thrush, we called it 'Brownie'. It had broken its wing or something, anyway mum did all she could for it, giving it food and water, it got better and learnt to fly again, so we released it back into the wild, it came back every day after that to see us.

We had an Anderson shelter in the garden. One day my brother Peter had put a horse in there, dad asked where it came from and Peter said it was one Dan Burgess (the forest ranger) said he could have as it had no mark on it and didn't know who it belonged to. Needless to say we had to give the horse back. Behind the shelter we had a little graveyard that we used to bury all the little animals that sadly didn't make it.

My dad also had an aviary in the garden where he kept his canaries; it measured about 10' x 6'. When dad gave up the birds he transformed it into a playhouse for me, it had two rooms, I had a table and chairs and a little cupboard. I spent a lot of time with my friends playing in it. Dad also made us jiggers (soap box carts), which we used to take up to the top of the hill at Navestock Road and ride all the way to the bottom by the Air Raid Shelters, gathering speed all the time, it was great fun. Another game we all loved to play was at the end of our path, Warrens Avenue, marbles and that was the official marble pitch, several games used to be going on at the same time.

The Sunday school was at the bottom of Troubridge Road, I suppose it was a community hall as well but that's where my Sunday school was. Next to that was the communal Air Raid Shelters leading down to Tamworth Avenue, they were good fun for children to explore and play on, we obviously wasn't allowed to but that made it more exciting. There were public toilets near them, just by the lake and the attendant used to shout at us to get away from them; we couldn't see what the dangers were, although I do remember one of the boys getting stuck inside the dark, dank place, which was really scary even when there were a few of us together.

At the lake in front of the prefabs was a place we used to call the beach, us children used to paddle and the mums and dads used to picnic on the grass. There was an older boy, Martin Murray, from Henry's Avenue, that played in a group; often they would play their music as everyone sat there. The boat house used to sell tea, cakes and ice cream and also rent out the boats, there were canoes, skiffs and family boats, all were well used and enjoyed.

In 1953 we had a street party to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II coronation, we had long tables with benches and seats from the hall and people's homes, flags were flying everywhere and everyone joined in. There was a fancy dress parade for the children;

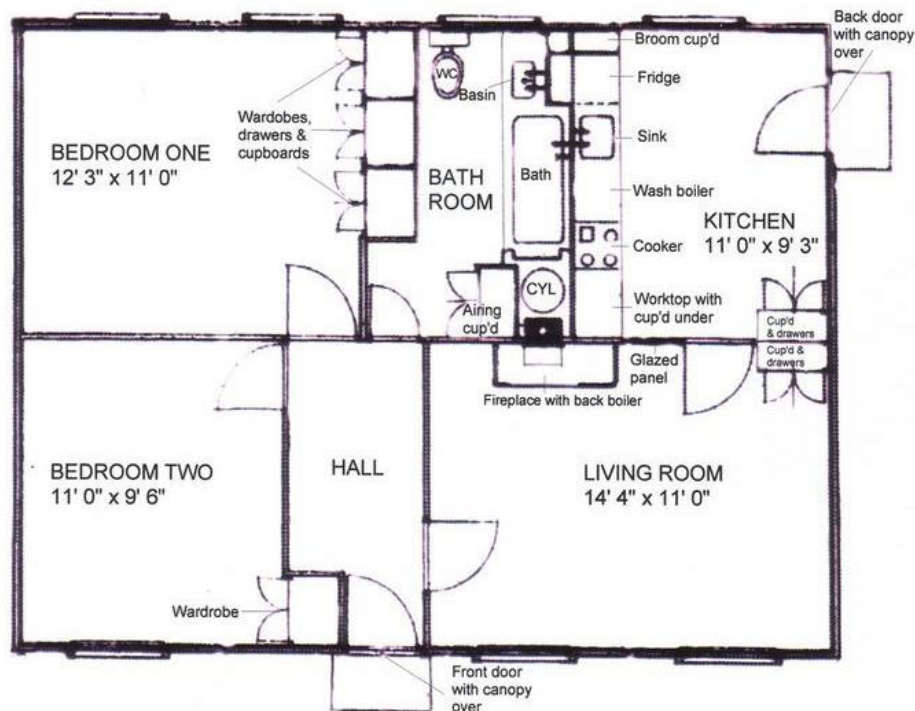
I was dressed as a Salad Queen. Mum made a green shift dress for me and decorated it with real salad, lettuce and spring onions, I had a necklace of tomatoes and bracelets of cucumber, tomato and I think radish as well, which I did eat as the day progressed. It was a lovely day which was well remembered.

I can't remember anyone having cars on the estate, I can only remember the coalman in his coal lorry and we also had a greengrocer van come round. Other than that it was a long walk to either Woodford High Road or Highams Park Village to get the groceries.

Unfortunately, the prefabs were only meant for temporary housing and after so many happy years we were forced to move out in 1960. In 1961 the last family, the Tomlins, moved away from the 176 prefabs and they were pulled down. Like many people I still have my happy memories.

The lake is still there and the Sunday school is now a store for the council, our estate is now green fields with a park on it, which I take my grandchildren to and show them where my home used to be, I tell them all the stories from my childhood.

Ed's note; Trish does not appear to know that Humphry's has taken over where the Sunday School was sited.



How a prefab was laid out.

One door closes – hopefully another will open...

Some of our readers will be aware that we spend some time in Newark in Nottinghamshire. It is a busy market town and, as a site of Civil War battles, it is home to the National Civil War Museum.

It came as somewhat of a surprise recently to notice a 'For Sale' sign on the local Baptist Church. We have become used in these troubled times to find pubs and shops closing but, hopefully, not too many churches. It may be that they are themselves moving to other premises but there is no indication on their website of either a move or closure...

The church itself is positioned right on a busy main road – it is next to a five way junction. I made contact with Sara an ex-teacher who is acting as the Minister at present. She confirmed that the church was for sale but that she hoped that this would lead to greater things...

The present congregation is small – about fifteen in number – and the building is not really fit for purpose. There is no outdoor space and the attached hall space is large and with very high ceilings and as ever they have been hit hard by Covid. This is not to say that there is no outreach or pastoral care – they make use of The Churches Together in Newark network and they fund and provide volunteers for an 'Open Kitchen' – it is described on their website thus:

The vision of Open Kitchen is to demonstrate Christ's love practically by offering food, warmth, an opportunity to socialise and a nutritious meal. We serve people struggling with a variety of difficulties from homelessness, mental health issues or loneliness through to people who find it hard to cook for themselves.

Because the church funds the food it is free, but there is a donation box available for anyone who wishes to contribute. Our thanks also go to local shops and well-wishers from the community who contribute often very generously, especially at Christmas.

They also have very close ties to The Salvation Army and are able to run a Night Shelter – their vision, I think, deserves closer inspection:

In 2019 the Baptist Church has worked with the Salvation Army and the District Council and with the backing of Churches Together to set up Newark's first winter shelter, hosted in the upstairs rooms of our coffee lounge.

The shelter offered accommodation for rough sleepers and sofa surfers throughout the coldest months of winter. It opened from 9:30pm (last admission 11pm) until 8:30am next morning. A warm meal was offered in the evening, then breakfast was available in the morning. Guests could have a shower and their laundry done.

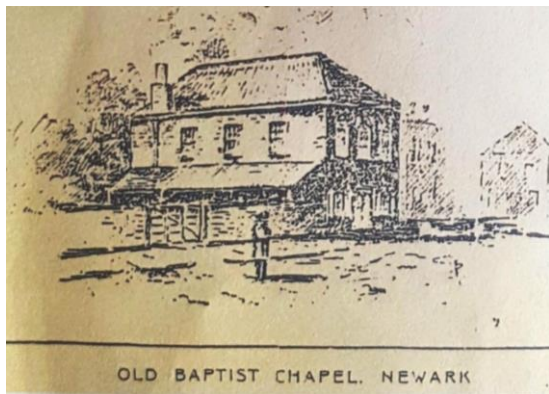
In 2020 we were unable to do this because of Covid, so the Well ran a daily drop in session, 3:30pm to 4:30pm for those who are sofa surfing, sleeping rough or in temporary accommodation. There were hot drinks and a warm meal available. We also offered laundry, donated clothes, coats and shoes, access to a hot shower and referrals to other organisations such as the emergency housing team at the council.

This was made possible by the incredible generosity of people in the town, not to mention a small army of dedicated volunteers, to whom we are incredibly grateful.

On the last point Sara did tell me that their hope for the future was to find a building, such as an old hotel, where they, together with the Salvation Army, could continue to provide these facilities for the needy but also have room for a worship area. She said that she would appreciate any prayers that were forthcoming! She is a true believer in the power of prayer – when they were looking to set up the night shelter it was a lack of funds that was the difficulty – but their prayers were answered literally when they were approached by someone who said that they had some funds that they wished to put to a good purpose – these funds were over twenty thousand pounds – all of which was well spent...

We do hope that the church and congregation manage to find their dream property in the near future. For the present I felt that a look at their interesting history would be useful:

In 1670 or even earlier, a Baptist Church was formed in what is now called Baptist Lane, Collingham, a nearby village. That church was one of the earliest Baptist churches in Britain and the first in Nottinghamshire. At the time many restrictions were placed on forming independent chapels near main parish churches. Over a century and a quarter later Collingham Baptist Church sought to form a Baptist Church in Newark, most of the restrictions having been removed. They acquired a single story building in Hawton Lane, much later renamed Albert Street. It had been built in 1783 as a nonconformist chapel.



It is unclear when the Collingham Baptists bought the chapel, but in 1807 a Sunday School was formed in the building. The church was started with 7 members on May 1810; the note in the Church Records documents this, then lists the members, followed by the order of service and the beliefs of the "Particular Baptists". In July of 1810 Thomas Jarvis became their first pastor having come from London.

The church varied in size over the following years but gradually grew in numbers. In view of the increase in numbers in the 1830s the chapel was extended at the back and a second storey added with a gallery. In 1840 the Rev Charles Kirtland became pastor and by the summer of 1841 the membership was 103. In September 1841 a successful six week mission was started, and soon after there were 201 members. After the 1841 mission more space was needed so the Duke of Newcastle was asked if he would sell the land next to the church situated on the London Road side of the church. The Duke said, "No".

In the 1870s the then Duke (son of the one asked in 1841) was asked to sell the land but still the answer was still no. A few years later Lord Middleton offered various lots of property for sale by auction. The Baptists bought a plot adjoining the east corner of the Parish Church-yard. When this was known it caused the people of the Parish Church no little uneasiness.

The vicar took the matter in hand requesting the Duke to sell the smallholding next to the Baptist Church to the Baptists. At last the Duke of Newcastle agreed to this. At the time a local hotel-keeper was using the land as a pig farm.

On 4th November 1875 the foundations stones of the New Baptist Chapel, Newark were laid and the chapel completed in 1876. This is now our main church building. The old chapel was pulled down. A few years later, on the site of the old chapel, the schoolrooms were built, being completed in 1889.

The original organ in the 1876 church was brought into use in July 1877. In our centenary year Rev E W Godfrey became pastor. In 1912 a new organ was installed and the internal space in the church rearranged to produce a bigger area for the congregation. In 1929 electric lighting was installed. In the early 1920s a young gentleman called Harold Waite became organist and remained for more than 50 years.

Later a false ceiling was installed and the pews taken out. Since then the two original entrances have been converted into ladies and gents toilets on one side and a toilet for the disabled on the other side. The main alteration at the front of the building has been a new entrance with ramped access. The Sunday school was refurbished as the coffee lounge and a new kitchen installed. Since then the coffee lounge area has been used for a variety of purposes from a creche to meals for the elderly. While the main church is used predominantly for the worship of our own congregation, the coffee lounge continues to serve the community in a wide range of ways'.



Do you want to buy a Church?

Ed's note: I am very grateful to Sara for her information and in allowing us to use the Church history.

Dave L

Never again at that price!



Whilst looking through the excellent pictures on the Highams Park Society website I came across an advertisement for a new house to be built in the Highams Park Village in 1904. 'From £275.00' seems very low even for that time - I wonder what the upper total reached? Checking on what £275.00 in 1904 would be worth today comes up with a figure of about £35,000.00

The caption to go with the picture on the website reads as follows:

'This was a development of Arts and Crafts-style houses (in Clivedon and Sheredan Roads) - mostly detached (apart from the houses on the corner of Clivedon and Sheredan). Each detached house was a unique design - the best examples are behind the curved shrubbery bed on Sheredan Road'.



By 1920 the area looked like this.

The average price now for a house in Clivedon Road is listed at around three quarters of a million pounds - it seems that buying in 1904 would have been an excellent investment... DL