



Peace  
on  
Earth



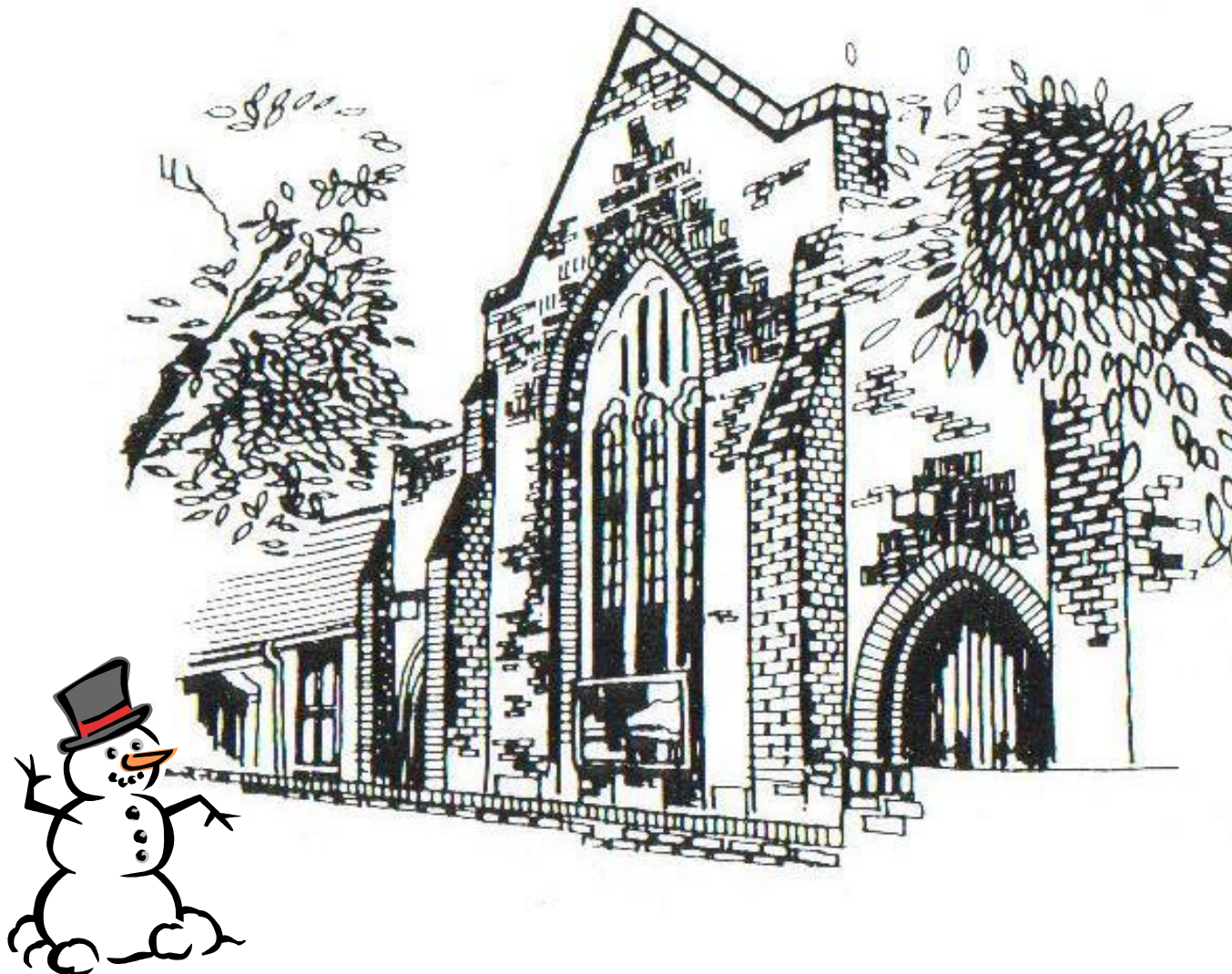
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# THE MAGAZINE

## OF

# HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, E.4.



December 2025 / January 2026





## CHURCH PROGRAMME

*Details of Services are given in the Church Diary at the back of the magazine.*



The Zoom Home Group is held on most Tuesday Evenings. Please see Cherie for details and how to join.

There is a box just inside the main church door collecting food contributions for The Hub. If you are able, please put an extra item or two in your shopping to add to this for those who are struggling in the current financial climate.

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
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**Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG**  
**December 2025 / January 2026**

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**Letter from your Minister**

The season of Advent is here again, and this year I was drawn to the image of travelling. The Bible is filled with travellers, from Abraham stepping into the unknown, the Israelites journeying through the wilderness, Mary and Joseph making their way to Bethlehem, shepherds hurrying to the manger, Magi following a distant star.

Advent is traditionally a season of *waiting*, but as I have reflected, I realised that even within the waiting there is movement and journeying, taking small steps in faith (sometimes steady, sometimes stumbling) toward the promise of Christ's coming. This year, I invite us to consider the theme of *Travelling* over Advent and Christmas.

All of us know what it means to travel. Some journeys are planned with excitement; others are thrust upon us. Some feel full of purpose; others feel marked by detours, delays, and disappointments – and all of these can be found in the Christmas story. Advent holds space for the whole range of our travellings - hopeful beginnings, unexpected news, hard stretches of road, and the surprising joy that greets us along the way.





Hope is a travelling companion that looks honestly at reality and still walks forward. When Mary receives the angel's message, she doesn't pretend she understands everything, nor does she deny the fear that must have surged in her heart. Yet she makes a choice: "Let it be with me according to your word."

Her journey begins not with certainty but with trust. Advent reminds us that hope is rarely a brightly lit motorway; more often it is a narrow path lit just enough light for the next faithful step.

Many of us begin this Advent season carrying hopes that feel fragile: the hope for healing, for reconciliation, for clarity in a time of confusion, for rest in a season of exhaustion. If that is you, may you hear the gentle promise of Advent: you don't have to run; you only have to keep travelling. Christ walks with you. Some of us enter Advent with unanswered prayers or unfulfilled expectations. Some are grieving. Some feel worn down by a world that seems to be unravelling. Advent does not ask us to hide our disappointment; instead, it teaches us that God works through it. Jesus was born *in the midst* of inconvenience, mess, and vulnerability. Our disappointments do not disqualify us from God's presence. Often, they become the place where Christ meets us most tenderly.

I hope and pray that your Advent journey will also know joy, celebration and fun, as we gather at church to worship God, as we socialise together and spend time with family and friends.

Sometimes when we least expect it, joy breaks in. Joy may show up in small ways as we travel - a shared meal, a reconciled relationship, a moment of peace in a busy day, a sense of God's nearness in worship. My prayer is that you will recognise joy when it appears and allow it to strengthen you for the journey ahead.

Like the shepherds on the hillside, we too are invited to travel *because* of good news. "I bring you good news of great joy for all people." Good news is meant to move us—out of isolation, out of fear, out of cynicism, and toward lives that reflect God's love. So, I also pray that we might ourselves be bearers of joy to others.

How might you travel with good news this season? Perhaps by offering compassion to someone who feels forgotten.





Perhaps by reaching out to a neighbour or a family member from whom you've drifted. Perhaps by giving generously of your time, your listening, your presence.

Good news isn't only proclaimed from church buildings; it is lived in homes, workplaces, schools, hospitals and throughout the ordinary paths we walk each day.

The church has always been a people on the move—a pilgrim community walking together toward the fullness of God's kingdom. This Advent, may we walk with renewed purpose. May we travel lightly, letting go of what weighs us down. May we travel together, supporting one another with prayer, kindness, and grace. And may we travel faithfully, remembering that every step toward Christ is a step toward life.

At Christmas we celebrate that Christ is coming. Christ is already here. And Christ travels with us, guiding our steps with hope, sustaining us with good news, carrying us through disappointment, and surprising us with joy.

Blessings on every mile of your Advent journey.

Cherie

**We Wish all our readers a**  
**Joyous Christmas**  
**and a**  
**Wonderful New Year**  
**From the Magazine Team**





# C VEND SH C RCUL AR



I found it very interesting that whilst searching for an image to use at the opening of the Circular that 'Happy Christmas' was dwarfed by the options for 'Merry Christmas'. 'Happy' is defined as 'Feeling or showing pleasure or contentment' as opposed to 'Merry' meaning cheerful and lively. Perhaps both are true but whichever is best suited to you, I trust that it is Joyous and enjoyable.

With this issue, I have reached twenty two years as first, joint editor with my much missed wife Jacquie, and for the last 3 years as editor. We took over from David and Barbara Young. Sadly, Barbara passed away a few weeks ago. The statistics for this year (from the December/January 2024 issue to that of October/November 2025 show that we have included 33,938 words and 163 pictures all in 133 pages. I do hope that you have found some/much/all interesting! A look back at the magazine of 2004 is later in this issue.

It is great news that the Baptistry was put to its designed use recently with the Baptism of Stephen Edwards. You can read a full report later.

It is good to know that the Christmas Post Box is going to open for business as usual with Dave and Di in their regular garb as post persons. With the current price of postage stamps I predict that they might be very busy. It also indicates that Dave is making a fuller return to health which is excellent news.

You know that Christmas is imminent when the Diary includes 'Carol singing at Aldriche Way' and Christmas Service Invitations delivery to our neighbours. You are, of course, invited to participate... And please note that there will be **no Morning service** on December 21<sup>st</sup> but you can all sing heartily in the afternoon.

## Hazel's Homespun Humour

A woman is like a teabag, you never know how strong she is until she gets into hot water.

Ivana Trump





## Early Days as Editors...'

As I have mentioned Jacquie and I took over the editorship of the magazine in 2004. I thought I would look back to then to see what the magazine was like. Of course, I have not yet managed to find the February /March copy as yet – I am sure I have put it away somewhere safe – which is never a good idea! But I have found the April/May issue, so what did it contain?



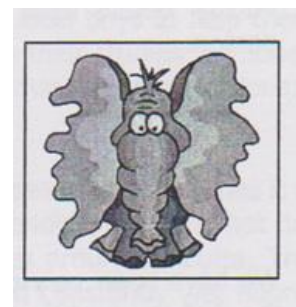
At first glance it looks just the same as at present but the picture on the cover is different. It looks as the front of the church from the left whilst the present cover looks from the right. It has only 12 pages and few images and certainly no colour. There was no minister at the time and our moderator was the Rev Peter Clarke with Beryl Alvarez as Church secretary. The church programme lists Boy's and Girl's Brigade meetings on separate nights and on Thursday the was

the Fellowship Club. The Cavendish Circular as usual contained recent news including the facts that Kelly Davey was sitting her final exams at Medical School and Nichole (Niki) Smith the daughter of Alan and Margaret was to be married. The final entry explains how we were looking forward to the induction of Jonathan Boyce as our minister in August.

There was an article about a Church outing to St. Paul's Cathedral written by Paul Webster and a reminder that our Open Gardens Day was to take place at the end of June. News of the Boy's Brigade from Jason followed. Beth Aggus was asking if people had memories of Selwyn School which was holding an open day to celebrate its centenary. There was to be a Plant/Cake and Jam Sale on May 8<sup>th</sup> and another Church outing was being arranged by Joyce Stanborough to Polshill Garden Centre and thence to Penshurst Place and all for £15 per person. Doris Thorndyke had written an excellent article about Jan Sah's missionary work in India. The upcoming (terrible word!) Christian Aid Week was noted as was the new address for Dave and Barbara Young the previous editors on their move to Norfolk.

We were asking for items to be sold on the White Elephant Stall by Joyce and Beryl on the Open Gardens Day. This became a running joke over the years that we had the Gardens Day. It is sadly missed.

The Diary told that a 'Walk of Witness' would take place on Good Friday which would finish at Handsworth Avenue Methodist Church – alas both are no more...There was certainly a lot happening back then – a little bit of a different world. DL







## POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!



The Christmas Post Box is back again - Dave and Di Kendrick are donning the postie costumes this year - we are very grateful to them. These are the delivery and collection dates:

**Sunday, 7th December - EARLY BIRD DELIVERY**  
(no collection available)

**Sunday, 14th December - DELIVERY. COLLECTION**  
after Service only.

**Sunday, 21st December - LAST SUNDAY FOR DELIVERY**  
Collection available after Service only

**Thursday 25 December - LAST MINUTE COLLECTION ONLY.** Please DO NOT deliver cards to Church on this day as there will not be time to sort them for collection.

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

**PRINT names with Surnames** clearly and put your cards in **alphabetical Surname order**. This helps the organisers to sort the cards quickly and easily, whilst also enabling them to get to some of the Morning Service.

Please note that this service is for the exchange of cards that are for personal collection or that can be collected on behalf of somebody - it is not for cards that need posting on as normal mail. Cards that are not collected will not be sent on.

**Remember also that the money saved on postage by using this system can go to the Christmas offering!**





## Update on Aldriche Way group

Soon after I arrived, I was approached by Mick from All Saints about the possibility of starting something together on Aldriche Way, as there was no church there. It began with four of us faithfully prayer walking each month and asking God what He wanted us to do.

Eventually we got permission to use the community room on a Thursday night from 7-9pm, and we got to know some of the members of the Residents' Association, who came along – all of us had a heart for the estate and wanting to improve the lives and wellbeing of the residents.

Last autumn, we launched the *Wellbeing Course* and held it weekly in the community room, advertising across the estate, and a few people started coming. It is an eight-week, video-based discussion course on different aspects of our wellbeing – a different one each week - emotional, physical, spiritual, relational etc. The Course is produced by Christians, but for use by all of any or no faith. We have now run it twice.

In addition, we have supported the resident's meetings, and helped to facilitate carol singing last year, and a BBQ on the estate in the summer funded by the resident's association, who like us are keen to build community and relationships.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December we are planning a more organised carol singing this year, to which you are invited to join in! (And there will be hot chocolate afterwards in the Community Room.

6.15 pm	<i>Gather at community room</i>
6.30pm	<i>Carol singing walking around the blocks</i>
7.00 pm	<i>Carols in 'The Shade' (by small park) gathered</i>
7.30 pm	<i>Refreshments in the Community Centre</i>

I hope some of you will feel able to join in, especially if you live on the estate, and please do pray for people to come along, and some good conversations.

Cherie





It's been quite a while since there has been a Baptism in HPBC but we had one recently, Stephen Edwards decided he would like to be baptised when he was at New Wine with Emma, Lee, Harry and Fin during the summer and he asked Cherie to baptise him.

This was an answer to prayer because Cherie had been doing a series on Baptism and set a date to have a Baptism service. We were all asked to pray for someone to come forward. Stephen was not aware of this until after he had made his decision!

There is a lot of preparation for a baptism. Cherie met with Stephen to talk about it, then he had to work on his testimony and choosing his favourite worship songs. He started inviting his friends and Mandy started planning what to feed everyone. Then thoughts turned to the Baptistry itself. One problem. No-one currently attending on Sundays had ever set this up before. We didn't know where the heater was, how long it would take to fill or empty or how long it would take to heat the water! This is actually quite sad really.

A few people volunteered to learn how to do this and met on the Sunday before. The carpet and boards were removed and the Baptistry saw the light of day. We found the heater inside but it didn't look great. Being kept in a damp environment had not done it any good and we decided we could not risk using it. Cherie contacted other Baptist ministers and arranged to borrow one.







We then debated how high we should fill it to and it was cleaned and spiders removed! Then filling commenced. The whole area was then sounded with chairs and warning signs put up so no-one would fall in!

Cherie spoke to Cliff who then said “Why have you filled it so early? Bacteria could grow” We hadn’t thought about that. Options were looked at, and it was decided to empty it and start again later in the week! Learning curve!

The day came, people arrived and the church filled. Stephen, Emma and Mandy led the singing, Stephen gave his testimony, his friend Harry prayed for him and then he was duly dunked by Cherie, Jason and Lee, surrounded by friends, family and church family. It was a lovely service and a lovely day. You can listen to the recording on the church website ([www.hpbc.co.uk](http://www.hpbc.co.uk)) and at some point, I will upload a video of the baptism when I have managed to get time to edit it.







Many have asked for a copy of Stephen's testimony so I have included that below.

Now let's all pray for blessings on Stephen as his faith and relationship with our Father God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit deepens and he continues his faith journey, in whichever direction he is lead by them.

Let us also pray for a growth in His church. May we plan outreach according to His plan, so that those He knows are ready to hear about Him are reached by our voices and come to follow Him and may our Baptistry be filled again soon.

*Mandy Edwards*







## Stephen's Testimony

I grew up in this church. Coming to church and Sunday school each week and, as soon as I was old enough, I joined the Boys Brigade. Sunday school and the bible teachings that Jonathan used to do in the anchor and junior sections gave me a basic bible knowledge that I didn't fully understand or appreciate until I started to go to my current Monday home group.

When I moved to Davenant school, I knew I believed in God but didn't really know what that meant. Although Davenant is a Christian school there was an odd prayer in assembly but it wasn't really talked about. I continued coming to church and going to Spring Harvest but I was quite isolated as there was no-one around that was my age to talk to or relate to.

For the longest of times there have been lots of medical things going on in my family, with my parents and grandparents and that has been challenging to my faith.

I've also had my own challenges. I used to throw the javelin at school but was not taught properly and it injured my back, since then that has had a big impact on the sports that I love to do and at work because I am in pain most of the time.

In the background church was a constant, almost sometimes seeming that I was here more than at home, with Energize, BB and Sundays, then cutting the grass, painting and odd jobs.

Things changed a lot for me when Jonathan left. He had made things easy to understand and I had been part of the worship team and on the computer rota. This all stopped and I started working Saturday nights which made coming on Sundays impossible, then I moved to Surrey for a while and still couldn't get to church and I drifted away. Then came Covid which made things so much worse with the isolation that it caused. I didn't feel like I belonged to a church anymore and wasn't sure what I believed.

My back pain increased, and no-one in the NHS was able to help and I struggled with addictions, trying to find relief by myself. I floated around for a few years without focus or feeling like I belonged.





About 4 years ago Luke invited me to a Wednesday football group, a few old schoolfriends went as did youth leaders from the Monday night youth group. In typical fashion though I got seriously injured 5 minutes into playing and spent the next 6 months on crutches! But after I was fit enough to go back Harry invited me to the Monday night group. I was a bit sceptical because I was not in a good place but after a while I started going regularly. I surprised myself with how much bible knowledge I had learned as a kid.

It took me a while to come out of my shell there but now this group is the most important thing I go to each week. I have grown in confidence personally and in my faith in Jesus. I began to reconnect more with worship and when I went to New Wine this year with Emma, Lee and the boys I realised that I hadn't opened up to God. One of the speakers spoke to my heart about not just singing but to look at how you are worshipping and receiving from God. He wasn't asking us to dance or fall to our knees but it can be as simple as putting your hands out or raising your hand and being open to the Lord, waiting and listening.

When I was in the Big Top I was with Tim and Ali, but I was able to be in my own bubble with Jesus. I love Spring Harvest surrounded by family and friends but somehow this was different and I could escape on my own.

The series that we were doing at Monday group before New Wine was about healing and then the theme for New Wine was also about healing.

On the last day it happened, it was almost indescribable. It was like hot electricity flowing through my body, overwhelming me. God spoke me to, me, he told me that my back will get fixed and that I just need to wait and be patient and that it was time for me to get baptised.

For about an hour after that I couldn't stop crying, I could feel the holy spirit inside of me and the feeling of dread inside me had been lifted. He also told me that I need to start using the gift that he has given to me and to start leading worship. So I am going to start to learn the guitar so as I can start leading worship on a Sunday morning eventually, it's going to take some time but I will get there. I've found the transition from childhood to adulthood really difficult. Partly because of covid and partly because of my addictions, but it's time to hand things over to God. To stop fighting things on my own and fighting with him by my side instead





Over the last 2 years my friends have noticed a change and a shift inside of me and over the past 2 months I have started to notice the change myself, but this is the point of declaration that it's not just a feeling anymore and that I want to follow Jesus and have everlasting life in him and through him



### The Crossing

*In goes the old and out comes the new.  
Like Israel crossing the Jordan,  
Leaving the wilderness of our desert.  
On to the promise of a new land,  
then to face and conquer our Jericho.*

*The same river Jordan where John baptised,  
In goes the old and out comes the new.  
The seal of the Spirit as we feel new life!  
And like Israel ceasing to go round in circles.  
Also, like Jesus, after the waters saying NO! to the tempter.*

*This command comes with promise,  
yet no proof to argue with a scientist.  
Just the evidence of God operating on our heart,  
And the washing of a soul that came to cross over,  
To pass through,  
Now filled with the power to face all that lays ahead.*

*By Peter Burke – read at the baptism of Stephen Edwards*





## LOOKING BACK – THE PASSING OF TIME

As we enter the second quarter of the twenty first century, I find it difficult to work out what to me is 'time past' – 25 years ago we had just celebrated the start of a new millennium (and there are not too many people in the history of the world who can say that) so that seems reasonably recent. 1975 was 50 years ago – I had been married for five years and we had our first child and we had an attachment to HPBC. The minister at the time was H. Alan Smith who came to us in 1973 after a lengthy interregnum caused by the departure of Michael Walker. He in turn had replaced Stephen Winward who had been the minister between the years of 1938 and 1966 –



by far the longest serving minister that we have had to date. He was remembered very fondly by the congregations of the time. In the 'Colony of Heaven' written by Marjorie Perry detailing the history of HPBC from 1913 to 1988, she calls his coming to HPBC 'one of the great landmarks in the history of the church'. He was a very intellectual person and wrote a number of books. He is obviously still remembered in Baptist circles as they have arranged a one-day conference on his legacy of Baptist Worship. We had come too late to know Rev. Winward but we were very aware of the respect in which he was held by the older members of the congregation (details below).

1975 still seems familiar to me – perhaps going back another 25 years to 1950 is getting to the edge of memory. Life was very different then so soon after the end of the Second World War and I suppose I had just started school in that year – but I can still remember some of the detail of that time. Another 25 years to 1925 is just history – the sort you read about in books - so perhaps that is my 'time past'. After all just a few people like Doris Thorndyke can remember back that far!

Save the Date... **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**BAPTIST WORSHIP  
OLD AND NEW:  
THE LEGACY OF STEPHEN WINWARD**

A day conference at Regent's Park College, Oxford jointly organised  
by the Centre for Baptist Studies and the Baptist Historical Society.

Registration opens October 2025

Regent's Park College  
CENTRE FOR Baptist Studies  
BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY





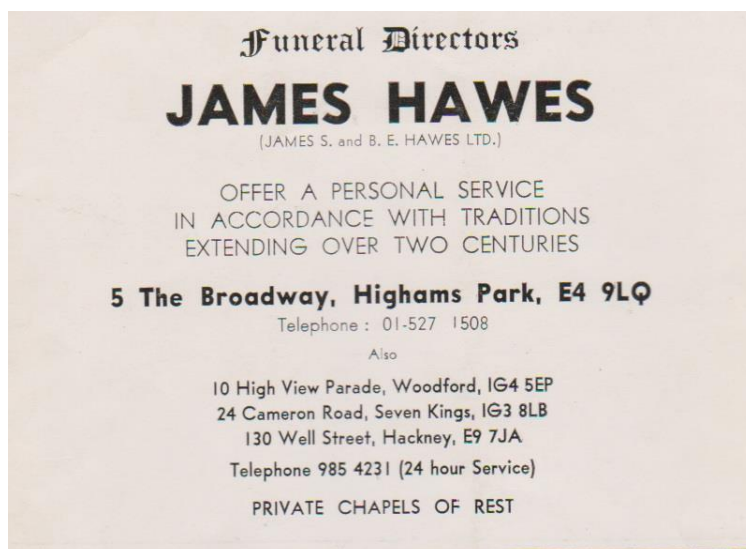
## More from the 1974 Yearbook

In the last issue we put your memory to the test with adverts for companies that were to be found in the 1974 Yearbook. This time we have just a few more. All but one are no longer with us - but do you remember them?



Taken from us to leave a building site!

You must remember Butchers shops, perhaps not in Highams Park anymore



Still with us, although with a slightly changed name





## Highams Park Snippets

It would seem that the work on the Regal Cinema is, at last, going ahead. At the recent AGM of the Highams Park Planning Group a report was given which indicates that as planning conditions have now been met work is due to commence in the next few weeks. There will be disruption to traffic for some while as the junction between Hale End and Beech Hall roads will be blocked for vehicles to allow for delivery of equipment and materials. Cycle and pedestrian access will still be available. This will last during the construction time.



At the same meeting an update on the fate of the boat house by the lake was given – the remnants of the building will be removed and it is hoped that the area will be landscaped. There are no plans in place for further building or use as a car park on the site.

So, it looks as if we will see work occurring on one landmark whilst we have lost another...

Over the last two issues we have been including details of local buildings taken from the Waltham Forest Heritage List. Again, we are grateful for the permission to do this and we bring you some more now: -

**The Signal Box** - Hale End Road, Highams Park, E4 The signal box was built in 1924/5 by the Great Eastern Railway Company, to replace an earlier structure that was located closer to the station platforms. The new building combined the duties of the signaller and the gateman, and allowed for the manual management of raising and lowering the gates as trains crossed the roadway, until modernisation. It is a small but interesting example of railway architecture, and the only example of a signal box within the borough. It was latterly saved from demolition by community endeavours and transformed into a cafe.







More good news is that it seems likely that the Highams Park Planning Group (HPPG) will be offered the opportunity to lease the Signal Box with National Rail being responsible for the external upkeep whilst HPPG will be responsible for internal matters. However, it is very unlikely that any form of business will be allowed to use it.

### **All Saints on the Hill Castle Avenue, Highams Park, E4**



All Saints on the Hill was built in 1898 as a mission church to the parish church of St Peter in the Forest, owing to the increasing population of Highams Park at the end of the 19th Century. It gained its own parish in c.1912. It was designed by J Lee and Sons in a simple Perpendicular style, with red brick & stone dressings and glazed windows with tracery. Internally it features items likely from a now demolished church located on Selwyn Avenue (also called All Saints), as well as a memorial to V C Richmond OBE - a pioneering engineer

and designer of airships educated in Highams Park and Walthamstow. He died during the ill-fated R101 airship disaster in 1930.

### **No. 19 Crealock Grove Highams Park, E4**

No.19 Crealock Grove was built around 1935 specifically for the manager of the surrounding Highams Estate, which was being constructed at the time. It is the most distinctive property within the estate, and the best example of Courtney Warner's vision to create a desirable place for the 1930s middle classes. It is sometimes affectionately known as "Pepperpots" due to its two curved turrets and domed roof caps, and it retains a large amount of its original detailing, including the weathervane, intricate stained-glass windows, fan lights and a gothic-styled solid oak front door.



More of our local heritage in the next issue...

*DL*





## Musings - *A few random thoughts about* New Year

Over the years we have provided 'interesting' facts about Christmas so this year we will try to do the same for New Year and more especially New Years Day; -

In order to have a New Year you must have some kind of record as to dates. Probably the first people to celebrate the coming of a New Year were the ancient Babylonians some 4,000 years ago. However, it was Julius Caesar who decreed in 45BCE that it would occur on January 1<sup>st</sup>. He named the month as January after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and doorways. This originated in the Latin word "ianua," which means door. Janus is usually pictured as having two heads – one looking forward to the coming year and the other looking back to the year past.

In fact January 1<sup>st</sup> is only New Years Day according to the Gregorian Calendar. Different cultures celebrate it at different times – the Chinese New Year is in late January or early February

In more recent years London has become just one of many places that celebrate the coming of the New Year with fireworks. Their display takes place along the River Thames. Whilst the display is really wonderful if you want to see it up close you now have to buy a ticket and these would appear to cost quite a lot of money depending on where you view from – I think I will watch on television in the comfort of my own armchair!



Some of the traditions celebrated around the world are: -

In Spain if you eat 12 grapes at the 12 strokes of midnight is believed to bring good luck for the coming year.



Denmark has a tradition of smashing plates against the doors of your friends and family to wish them good luck.





If you live in Brazil, you may wear white which symbolize peace and good luck. You may also go to the beach and jump over seven waves whilst making a wish for each wave.

In Greece, onions play a part in New Year celebrations – they are hung on the front door as a symbol of rebirth and, in order to wake the children on new Years Day, they get a gentle tap on the head with an onion!



You might wear red underwear for good luck or throw old items out of the window to give a fresh start in Italy.



Of all the home Nations it is, perhaps, the Scots who make the most of New Year celebrations – they even give it a special name – Hogmanay. Where this word comes from is unclear. It may have French origins in their word 'huginane' which translates as 'Gala Day', or there is 'hoguignetes' from Norman French – this means New Year Gifts. Wherever the word comes from it brings with it a good number of traditions...

You may find that the house is given a good clean as a dirty house represents bad luck for the coming year. Similarly, you may try to pay off any debts giving you a clean slate for the New Year.

One of the best-known traditions is 'first footing'. This refers to the first person to come to your house after midnight. Ideally, they should be a tall dark-haired man (being handsome also helps!). They should bring gifts to symbolise various things – coal for warmth, salt for flavour, a silver coin for prosperity and some food such as shortbread or black bun.



Black Bun is described as *A traditional Scottish fruitcake, made with pastry exterior, raisins, currants, brandy, and spices, that is prepared in early December and left to mature for Hogmanay.*





Quoted by King George VI in his 1939 war time Christmas broadcast to the British Empire, the “Gate of the Year” poem by Minnie Louise Haskins speaks to readers in all of life’s difficult and dangerous situations:



*And I said to the man who stood at the  
gate of the year,*

*“Give me a light that I may tread safely  
into the unknown.”*

*And he replied:*

*“Go out into the darkness and put your  
hand into the hand of God. That shall be  
to you better than light and safer than a  
known way.”*

*So I went forth, and finding the hand of  
God, trod gladly into the night. And He  
led me towards the hills and the breaking  
of day in the lone East.*

*It is also said to be the late Queen Elizabeth’s favourite poem...*

\*\*\*\*\*

We do not know what the future holds  
for us in 2026 but it is to be hoped that  
it matches our dreams and not our  
nightmares...





## CHURCH DIARY

### December

*Note: - all Services led by Rev. Cherie rogers unless shown*

Monday 1st	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 2nd	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School with Rev. Cherie Rogers and Rev. Lucy Wight from London Baptists preaching.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 12th	7 pm	Youth Club
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Rev. Cherie Rogers with Mandy Edwards including Nativity and delivery of Christmas Service Invitations to neighbours.
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Church Christmas Meal
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.15 pm	Carol Singing at Aldriche Way -meet in Community Room
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	4 pm	Carols by Candlelight Service
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30 pm	Midnight Service
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	All Age Celebration
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Dr. Paul Davis





## January

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	All Age Service on the Verse of the Year
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Sunday Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom (tbc)
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	tbc	Sunday School Party in the Afternoon
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Sunday Service
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom

*Refreshments are served in Fellowship Hall after each Service*