

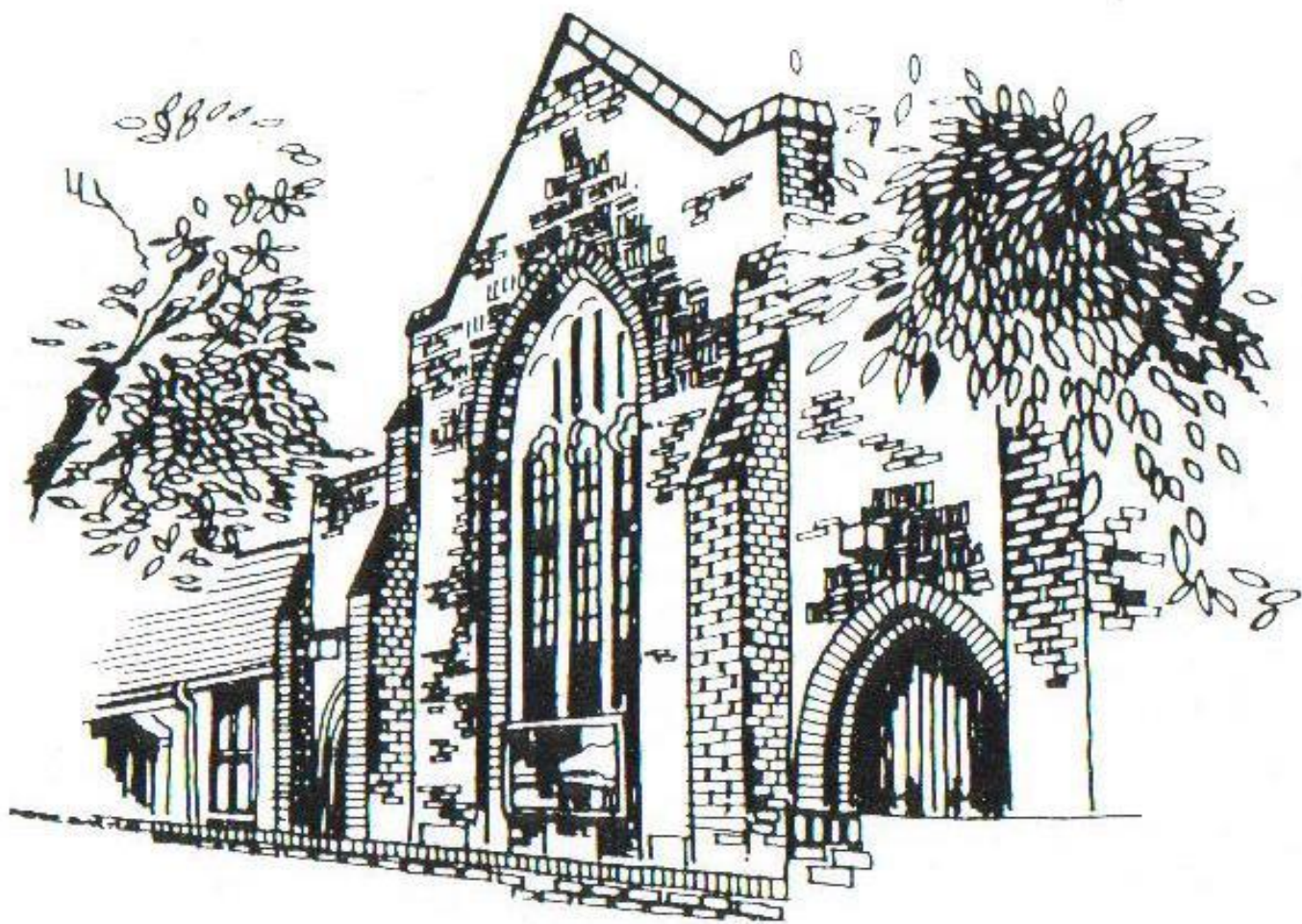


The Magazine

of

**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



April/May 2026

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 24th May 2026
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
April - May2026

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Dear Friends

Having journeyed as a church through Lent with the Desert Fathers and Mothers, we have learned something of what the wilderness could teach us: a thirst for more of God's presence through silence, solitude, simplicity, humility and wisdom. The wilderness is generally thought of as a barren place and rightly so, but it can also a place of blessing. I am reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days.
The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses.
Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers
and singing and joy!

It is always a joy when the crocuses and other bulbs bloom in my garden, evidence that spring is on the way! New, fresh growth and a vibrant splash of colour is a sign of new life. In this passage, it is symbolic of the new spiritual life promised by God, a new spiritual life which the desert fathers and mothers sought and found in the wilderness, and their faith deepened.

At Easter time, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we can also rejoice in the new life that he gives to us, as we rejoice with singing and joy in what Jesus has done for us... the wilderness blooms as scripture promised.

Following on from our Easter celebrations, we begin a new series in church, studying together Hebrews. The author of the book presents Jesus as the supreme, final revelation of God – superior to angels, prophets and the Old Testament Institutions.

It was written to Jewish Christians who were facing persecution, and to encourage those believers to remain faithful to the new covenant Jesus initiated: Jesus is greater than any high priest, prophet or king who went before.

For us, the book provides teaching and understanding about who Jesus is and what he did, set against the context of the Old Testament. In turn, we then see what this shows us about the God we worship. It is packed full of helpful imagery which we journey through and explore in our Sunday services. It should be an encouraging and informative journey!

With every blessing, Cherie

Cavendish Circular



The clocks have sprung forward and we have passed the official Spring Equinox so it looks as if Summer cannot be far behind...

We hope that it proves to be a good summer for you. But, of course, we continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers those of our membership who, for whatever reason, cannot get out and about so much and who we do not see at church as often as we would wish.

May certainly looks as if it will be a busy time – as we mentioned in the last issue there is the 'Love your Library Day' on Saturday 9th followed a week (and a day) later by the 'Highams Park Spring Festival' in the park on the 17th.



I suppose that as a church we are probably fairly unusual in having had two of our ministers being published authors. Firstly, was Stephen Winward who authored several books. It was felt that his writings were so important to the Baptist Church that he was discussed in a one-day conference. You will find more about this later in the magazine. When he left, he was followed by Michael Walker (pictured) who wrote several books of prayers including 'Hear me Lord' and 'For Everything a Season' reflecting modern issues.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Joyce Stanborough. She was a very important part of HPBC for many years as you will read later.

We were very grateful that HPBC was represented at the Service celebrating her life by Jason Close, Sheila Humphrey and Hazel Ansell. Also there were Pauline and Michael Stanton and their daughter.

Through the year we as a church make donations to support various projects. They all send their thanks for the money received and Jason has put together a listing of these as you will see in the magazine. As a church we are very grateful for the money that you are able to give – so thank you very much.

Hazel's Homespun Humour

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention...

God Moves in Mysterious Ways...

At a recent Zoom Home Group Meeting Althea told of a strange experience that she had had.

I was at work and came outside for a break, on top of a outdoor maintenance box was a blank piece of paper. I picked it up and turned it over only to find a written message of our bible verse of the year. I looked around no one else was about.

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Jesus)



There seems to be no obvious reason why that piece of paper was there!

Joyce Stanborough 28-7-1937 to 21-1-2026



We are grateful to the family for providing the eulogy.

Joyce was born on 28th July 1937 at Chingford, Essex. She was evacuated during 2nd world war. Joyce's parents James and Lydia had two other children, Linda and Michael. On leaving school Joyce worked in London in a secretarial position. Michael, her brother was a downs syndrome child and Joyce devoted much of her early life to his care. Michael unexpectedly lived to the age of 35 due to the care he received at home and the devotion of his sister Joyce. In 1966 Joyce was a bridesmaid at Ken and Linda's wedding.

Joyce was a dedicated carer for her parents and brother. On the death of her parents Joyce sold the family home and bought an apartment also in Chingford. Joyce became a member of Highams Park Baptist Church where she met Beryl Alvarez, who became a life long friend, and bought an apartment in Chingford next to Joyce. In 1964 Joyce became involved in Girl's Life Brigade where she helped in the Cadet section. She became leader of the cadets in 1965 later called the Explorers when the organisation became The Girls Brigade. Joyce became a Lieutenant of the company in 1969 and was Captain for 10 years from 1972. Julie Lambert a Girls Brigade member, remembers Joyce as someone who was lots of fun to be around, She had a hearty laugh and was very kind and patient with the girls.

In 2010 Joyce and Beryl both left Chingford behind and bought adjoining flats at Hammond Court. They both loved living at Frinton, spending lots of time at the beach and often hiring a beach hut. They loved holidays and days out or going for meals. Both Joyce and Beryl enjoyed hosting many events at Hammond Court raising money for charity and Joyce was a great organiser.

Sadly, Beryl died in 2016 from cancer and Joyce missed her greatly but continued devoting her time organising activities at Hammond Court. Joyce was loving, generous and caring and all her family and friends will miss her so much.

Joyce lived opposite Renee a friend and member of Frinton Methodist Church. She was such a caring lady and very good to Renee and others in Hammond Court. She always put others first even when not feeling at her best. Joyce had a happy, joyful personality and wonderful sense of humour and loved a good deep conversation or a good laugh. Joyce used to attend our monthly church lunches along with several from Hammond Court.

Many times she told me she would like to come to one of our Sunday services which she did and very soon started enjoying the fellowship, deciding to become a member about three years ago. She contributed well to our church family and was much loved although she never pushed herself forward.

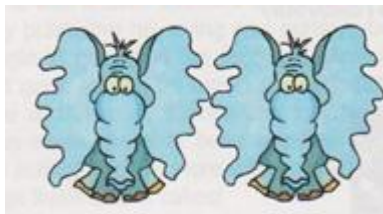
This was typical of Joyce, quietly getting on with life with generous devotion. Only last November she offered to help me with the Action for Children collecting boxes as she was keen on accountancy.

Sadly, her sudden illness meant she was no longer able to devote her time and efforts into helping others and that distressed her. Joyce lived life to the full and overcame so many difficulties. She lived a life of love, joy and commitment, to her family and friends, her church and community. Joyce truly believed, that all who believe are assured an eternity of peace in his presence. We believe that she is indeed now living that new life to the full, reunited once again with those she has loved and lost, but best of all that she is in the glorious presence of God. We have all been touched and blessed by Joyce in some way and she will be greatly missed by many. God bless you Joyce, rest in peace.



Many people will have their own memories of Joyce. From the time that Jacquie and I started to attend HPBC Joyce was often referred to as part of 'Beryl and Joyce'. The two great friends were so important to the running of the Church – Beryl was the Church Secretary from 1976 and Joyce was the Treasurer alongside

her hard work with the Girl's Brigade. When it was decided that an 'Open Gardens Day' would be a good idea both Beryl and Joyce gave it their full support. They were fortunate that the apartment block in Connaught Court in North Chingford had a large garden area and here they set up camp...



They were able to include stalls for the sale of plants, refreshments and most important of all was that selling bric-a-brac – better known as 'The White Elephant Stall'.

This became a running joke in the magazine - people were asked to ignore the sight of elephants processing from the nearby train station along the roads to the garden...



DL

The Legacy of Stephen Winward

On 5th March 2026 at Regent's Park College, Oxford, a day conference explored 'The legacy of Stephen Winward and the renewal of Baptist worship in the mid-twentieth century'. The event was organised by the Baptist Historical Society and the Centre for Baptist Studies.



This is of particular interest to us here as Stephen Winward was the minister at Highams Park Baptist Church from 1938-66, and it was here that he formed much of his thinking on the place of liturgy in our worship and wrote several of his books.

I was unable to attend (I was already booked to speak at the London Baptist Women Ministers' Day) but my friend and colleague, Simon Woodman (minister of Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church) was there, and below is an extract of the blog that Simon wrote reflecting on the day, used with permission.

"Winward is not a name many contemporary Baptists immediately recognise. Yet the questions he was asking remain pressing. What is worship for? What should shape its order? How do word, sacrament and Spirit relate to one another? And how might our corporate worship form us into disciples capable of faithful living in the world?"

*The opening paper by Andy Goodliff explored the influence of Stephen Winward and Neville Clark, two figures who sought to renew Baptist worship after the Second World War. Winward's vision was articulated through two key publications, *The Way* (1945, with Godfrey Robinson) and *Orders and Prayers for Christian Worship* (1960, with Ernest Payne). This latter was, for a time, in every Baptist Minister's study, and wasn't intended as a Baptist equivalent of the Book of Common Prayer, but rather as a set of resources offering a common order for Baptist worship.*

*At the heart of the project was a striking proposal: the renewal of Baptist worship to a pattern centred on the Lord's Supper, preferably celebrated weekly, with the sermon no longer dominating the structure of the service. Instead, worship would hold together in equal balance the practices of **Word, Sacrament and Spirit**.*

Winward and Clark emphasised the Jewish and early Christian roots of worship. Christian liturgy, they suggested, grows from two primary contexts: the synagogue and the upper room. By this vision, word and sacrament belong together.

Their work also attempted to bring an explicit pneumatology (the study of The Holy Spirit) into Baptist worship. Worship was not simply an ordered sequence of events, but an encounter with God through the Holy Spirit.

In retrospect, Goodliff suggested, their influence can still be seen in some Baptist contexts. There are congregations which evidence careful and creative use of liturgy, congregational responses, a (modest) engagement with the Christian year, and a somewhat stronger place for communion within the service.”

It is interesting as I read this to see that some vestiges of his legacy still remain at HPBC: having the communion chalice and paten out on the table for every service, the frequency of communion (most Baptist churches tend to have communion once a month where we have it twice – but apparently in Winward’s day it was every week) and the church’s habit of saying the Lord’s Prayer every week. None of these are particularly Baptist practises, and I suspect they stem from Winward’s legacy.

You will notice that in the services I lead, I regularly have liturgy displayed on the screen for us to use in our worship. I believe that there is a real place for carefully prepared words and prayers, and I definitely follow the liturgical church year, encouraging series in Lent and Advent, and marking feasts such as Pentecost, Ascension and Harvest.

Some of our congregation still remember Rev Winward. He was a devout, spiritual man and committed to the spiritual growth of our church. People speak of being somewhat in awe of him, even though he was incredibly shy, he carried a real gravitas and presence. We were honoured to have a minister of such standing here – I have big footsteps in which to follow!

Cherie

Simon’s full blog can be found online for those interested:

<https://baptistbookworm.blogspot.com/2026/03/recovering-depth-of-baptist-worship.html>



In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. With no formal work opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, and no social support, it's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face.

The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming. 'When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food,' says Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother determined to support her family on what little she earns. 'Now I'm responsible for everything.' With school costs, rent and water to cover, providing food for every meal is a problem that never goes away.

But Fridah's faith in God, and in her own ability to provide, is unwavering. With tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah's now making the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables that she can cook for her family or sell on her market stall.

Reflecting on her new role in life, Fridah says: 'I never thought that a woman could also be a provider.' With her inner strength, unstoppable resolve, and a little help from Beacon of Hope, Fridah's overcoming poverty to feed the youngest members of her family and protect them from the threat of malnutrition.



Fridah rightly takes pride in all she's achieving: 'When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life.'

Please support Christian Aid in its most important work.





MY CHURCH

MY CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO ME.....

IT'S A PLACE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AN ALL
POWERFUL GOD, HIS SON JESUS CHRIST
AND THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

IT'S A PLACE TO WORSHIP, TO GIVE THANKS
AND FEEL PRIVILEGED FOR WHAT WE HAVE

IT'S A PLACE OF SOLACE, RENEWAL
AND REFLECTION THROUGH PRAYER

IT'S A PLACE TO BE REMORSEFUL WHEN WE
DON'T ALWAYS GET THINGS RIGHT

IT'S A PLACE OF LEARNING
TO IMPROVE OUR SPIRITUAL WELL BEING

IT'S A PLACE OF FELLOWSHIP,
TO CREATE AND SHARE FRIENDSHIPS

From Bob Jenkins

**A thank you for the money that you Highams Park Baptist Church
Has given in Mission groups and other ways.**

I thought it would be good for us to know and see how much we give and what help it is to others via our Mission work and other causes. Below are replies and thanks for the money we have given in 2025 from Highams Park Baptist Church.

Christian Aid

Back in May 2025 we raised £237 for Christian Aid week, all to help their good work they do though out the world.

Please see the link to find out more. www.christianaid.org.uk

LB Home Mission In 2025 we gave a total of £1,278

Dear Members of Highams Park Baptist Church,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we near the end of 2025, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks on behalf of **London Baptists** for your generous donation of **£1,278** to the Home Mission appeal in 2025.

This season offers a meaningful opportunity to pause and reflect on all that God has accomplished through our shared commitment to His mission.

Your support continues to fuel transformative work across our region – and beyond – through the Home Mission Fund.

Home Mission is more than just a fund – it is a vital *Partnership for Mission* that unites us in spreading the love and grace of Christ within our communities and beyond. Together, we are making a lasting difference, changing lives for the better.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 1:4-5

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...”

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/374909/Home_Mission.aspx.

Thank you for your faithful partnership in the Gospel. Together, we are agents of transformation, vessels of hope, and ambassadors of Christ's love.

With sincere gratitude and warmest regards,

BMS World Mission In 2025 we gave a total of £1,278

Thank you so much for Highams Park Baptist Church's recent gift of £1,278 in 2025 to BMS World Mission. You're helping your brothers and sisters share the good news of Jesus, enabling farmers to lift themselves out of poverty - and you are even helped a little girl called Maxim learn to walk. Thank you!

Maxim is between five and six years old - in Chadian culture, parents don't always hold to a precise number. It was even more difficult for staff at the BMS-supported Guinebor II Hospital (G2) in Chad to put their finger on her age because Maxim was not yet walking, playing or interacting with people around her. Her mother said she cried a lot - a heartbreaking scenario for any parent. But Highams park Baptist Church's donation has enabled G2 workers to transform Maxim's circumstances, thank you for enabling staff at G2 Hospital to heal those in need. and those of countless people like her around the world.

For Maxim, it was dedicated physiotherapy sessions, massages and expert healthcare that meant this little girl is now up on her two feet with the aid of a walker. "Everyone expects her to walk independently soon," shared a member of the physiotherapy team. "The greatest delight came when a drum was placed in front of her, and she beat it with another toy and smiled. The mother said it was the first time she saw her daughter play!"

Thank you so much for enabling children like Maxim to have a brighter future. And you're not only supporting important work in Chad, but work all over the world helping people lift themselves and their communities out of poverty, and experience the love God has for them.

Thank you for standing with churches in the UK and believers around the world - bringing fullness of life and news of Jesus' salvation across the globe.

Link to BMS work www.bmsworldmission.org

Christmas Offering 2025

This year the Church wanted to have the Christmas offering for the cost of the Minister in Training following the closing of Spurgeon's College.

We raised a total of £224 which went to support London Baptist which was added to the fund for the Ministers in Training. As you say, every penny makes a difference!

Thank you for your continued generosity as a church, we're extremely grateful.

Harvest Appeal raised £253 - From BMS

This year our Harvest Offering went to BMS World Mission: Highams Park Baptist Church has given displaced families like Baseer's a warm welcome and vital support. Thank you all so much.

Your church's generous gift of £252.86 to the BMS World Mission Refugees Welcome Harvest appeal is already making a difference, ensuring the BMS-supported welcome centre in Larnaca, Cyprus, can keep its doors open to provide urgent help to refugees in need.

Highams Park Baptist Church are helping to bring hope and save lives. Boran, a refugee from Gaza, says: "The centre is my home... I think I would die if I did not have it."

It's hard to overstate the impact of the centre on those who arrive with supporting the work, your church family is not only providing essential and advice; you're also giving people a chance to find community and purpose.

Your support has been transformative for Baseer.

Since writing to you, Baseer has started teaching the computer course he'd been hoping to run at the welcome centre (using the computer lab funded by BMS supporters). It's brilliant to see him able to put his Computer Science degree and passion for education to good use again, equipping other refugees to learn computer skills that can help them navigate their new lives in Cyprus, and increase their chances of employment.

On top of that, Baseer has found paid work, and his family now have a more permanent place to live, giving them a much-needed sense of security. The holistic support your church has helped provide has been essential in Baseer and his family's journey. Thank you.

Baseer is just one example of the many refugees Highams Park Baptist Church has and will continue to support. You are bringing hope and help in the darkest of times, showing people who've been forced to leave their homes and their countries there is always a place they will be welcome.

We're so grateful for your church family and the difference your choosing makes

Thank you and God bless you,

Sam Chaise

Head of Programme for People on the Move BMS World Mission.

Thank you from HPBC for allowing us to make these donations

MY FIRST PRAYER

Dear God

I clasp my hands together now, a physical action for prayer,
For the first time I am speaking to you, before I could not care,
But then, before, I believed I could go entirely my own way,
However, all of us need your help, and your guidance, someday,
I thought I could tackle each and every one of my troubles alone.
But life can make you feel down when you are on your own.
You can place your trust in me that we will always be together,
Just like I trust you'll be there for me, perhaps forever.
At this moment an ocean of words could not thank you enough
Before you intervened I was weak, but now I am tough.
My anchor can withstand the heavy storms in my life.
My new strength and will power can overcome any strife,
Your calming voice of reason gently soothes my heart,
Just to have you on my side is enough to tear my pain apart.
Now I am about to finish my first ever proper prayer,
I believe that you can do anything to help me out of despair,
I open my eyes, and my room remains the same,
But, up in Heaven, your Book of Life now contains my name.

Amen

From Bob Jenkins

Changes?

Regular readers will be aware that in recent issues we have noted the sad passing of our past member Barabara Young. Her husband David contacted me to say that whilst sorting through paperwork he had come across a pencil drawing of the interior of the church and would it be of interest? I suggested that it would be good to add it to the archives and he kindly sent it to me. In the accompanying letter he said that he thought it may have been drawn by Michelle Bartle the daughter of Peter Bartle. Peter is a talented artist who created several pictures used as covers for the magazine when it was in its slightly smaller format than now. The picture is shown below.



David asked if much had changed over the years since the drawing was made. This set the memory in motion whilst I thought what was different...



Obviously, the basic structure is the same but as can be seen the seating was on what is now seen as old fashioned wooden chairs. Old fashioned they may have been but hey were built to last and when they were replaced by the comfortable upholstered chairs of today, they were sold off to the membership. They have lasted well, as I know , still having two or three. Of course, as well as the new chairs we had a new toning carpet. The old chairs had a shelf at the back to hold hymn books and communion glasses once emptied. The new seating also had a shelf underneath on which to place hymn books and, again, a place for empty communion glasses.

Which leads on to another major change – we now do not use hymn books... With no one able to be an organist on a regular basis we moved to music on CD's played from a unit at the back of the church through speakers on either side of the church



We then erected a large screen set high on the right hand side of the front area of the church which showed the words of the hymns, videos etc. This meant that the seating shown in the far front area of the church in the picture had to go for two reasons. Firstly, that was where the projection equipment was sited and secondly, if you were sat in those seats, you would

obviously not be able to see the screen. Due to lower numbers in the congregation that area was but rarely used anyway. Unfortunately, the positioning of the screen meant that not everybody had a clear view so hymn books were sometimes needed.

We then came to the system we now use where we have a sound desk at the back of the church and two large tv style screens placed high, one on each side of the platform. This means that everybody has a clear view and the hymn books have, in effect, been consigned to history.



As explained the area with the 'spare' chairs at the front became redundant. However, it has become the area which is used for live music to accompany the hymns if we are lucky enough to have people to play.

Lastly David asked if we still had the curtains and cross at the front – well yes, we do but not the originals. The picture shows a patterned curtain and a cross that had back illumination. We now have plain curtains with a cross made by Sheila Humphrey. There is some continuity however – many years ago Phil Slaney and I erected the cross, hung the curtains and wired in the light. When it was decided that we would have new curtains and cross it was Phil and I that did the work again. I am sure Phil would agree that we do not want to do it a third time... so yes things have changed over the years!



Ed's note. I have come to believe that other people may have copies of the picture so perhaps they were available to members of the congregation.

DL

Musings - *A few random thoughts about Heritage*

In the last issue we mused on 'Nostalgia' – in this issue we consider its close neighbour 'Heritage'. The use in English is first recorded in 1175–1225; Middle English, from Middle French, herit(er) "to inherit" leading on to Inheritance and Heritage. There are thought to be three kinds of heritage: -

- Historical buildings, museum exhibits, archives and monuments i.e. Tangible
- The natural world of landscapes, woodlands, native wild life including insects, birds and animals and trees.
- What is referred to as Cultural or Intangible such as Agricultural methods and Tourism

Perhaps it is just me but I find that use of the word Heritage has become much more prevalent recently. As an example, I remember the steam railways that were set up in the 1960's suddenly became 'Heritage Lines' and there are now several items that include the word 'heritage' in their names or advertising. It is thought that such products have a good history and are, perhaps, a little up market (meaning they can be more costly!).



The government got into the act when in 1983 it set up of an executive non-departmental public body known as English Heritage which was officially called the Historic Buildings and

Monuments Commission for England, In 2015 it was split in two and became – Historic England which inherited the regulatory, statutory, and protection functions of the old organisation, and the new English Heritage Trust, a business and charity that would operate the historic properties, and which took on the name English Heritage and is the charity which we know today. Amongst the sites that it looks after is Stonehenge.

You can now get Dulux Heritage paint in competition with at least one other brand which relies on its supply and use of 'heritage' colours. Dulux has been around for nearly a century but is best known for its ranges of fairly standard colours but obviously felt that introducing a heritage colour palette would be a good move. In one article I came across whilst investigating heritage the following statement: -

Heritage branding is all the rage at moment, the marketing buzzwords are heritage, craft, handmade, authenticity. So perhaps it is not just me....

So, we now delve again into the Waltham Forest Heritage List: -



Nos. 20-22 Chingford Mount Road, South Chingford E4 Known as the Brambles, the building is a substantial detached house from the 1880s, with an attractive garden setting. It is one of only a handful of such properties which survived the wider suburbanisation of south Chingford in the 1920s, and as such is something of a rare survival. Key features include a timber porch/veranda structure, with a central doorway at first floor which would have once led out on a balcony. It is however in a particularly poor condition, and overgrown by plants.

I suppose that this is almost outside our area of interest . However, there has been a good deal of mention of it on social media probably because its future is being decided. Hazel Ansell had mentioned it in a recent message. She writes: *There is a house in Chingford Road called The Brambles which is quite derelict now but has a good history. The man who lived there, Herbert Brown, with encouragement from Lady Clara Boothby and Queen Mary started The British Fuchsia Society which still exists. T.E. Lawrence was a customer. Herbert Brown later became a missionary and then his sisters took over the nursery. When I was little, my Mum had some connection with the lady who lived there and I used to play in the Folly castle which was in the huge garden there with a little boy named Billy Gress. They are trying to get a conservation order put on it but I don't think that will happen.*



I found out a little more of the history – The Folly which Hazel mentions is described as the pretty garden folly, known as, 'The Castle', situated in the beautiful garden of The Brambles. It was a decorative, whimsical, picturesque, non-functional structure designed to enhance the pleasure grounds of its owner. The Chingford Castle Nurseries was named after the Brambles garden folly. This business was started by Herbert John Brown (1876- 1949) on the extensive land attached to the side of the 1880's built, large Victorian house which was the Brown family home for over ninety years. However, in 1928, much of the Brambles' land was sold off for building development but The Brambles still had a sizable rear garden and Herbert's son also called Herbert purchased the land on which three of the Castle Nurseries glasshouses were still standing. He also managed to purchase the Castle Nurseries stock of fuchsia plants at auction.

He decided to specialise in this plant and soon became a self-taught expert in fuchsia and from 1929 exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show. Herbert senior and his daughter Edith (1904- 2002) helped in the running of the nursery. Orders for the plants came in from all over the world and the Nursery was raising an impressive 10,000 plants each season to keep up with the demand. On the death of their father in 1949, Edith and her sister Margaret took over the running of the Nursery.



Margaret Brown married James Slater in 1951. For 46 years, she was active in the fuchsia world. She was an enthusiastic and energetic member of the British Fuchsia Society, which had been formed in 1938, and served as both the Society's Vice - President and President. She was highly respected and is commemorated by the fuchsia "Margaret Brown"

I have to say that even though I had lived in and around Highams Park for most of my life I was unaware that such a well-known nursery business thrived for many years so nearby.

There is a large amount of comment on social media about the future of the building and its plot. Many people are shocked that it has been left to deteriorate and there is apparently a petition seeking its restoration. There is perhaps the feeling that if a building warrants inclusion on a Heritage List it is worth keeping...

On a slightly more positive note, it is good to hear that Highams Park Community CIC has signed a 50-year lease with Network Rail for the Signal Box. It is good to know that this part of our town is to remain. Its use may be limited but it seems that it may be possible to hire the building for community events.

Similarly, the Boathouse by the Lake has been demolished and it seems to be the intention of the City of London Corporation (the site's owners) who have expressed a wish that the area is used for community purposes but that no permanent building is erected and if a temporary (i.e. one with no formal foundations) building is erected it may not be used as a café but as part of leisure activities. It is now in the hands of Commercial Property Consultants to find a suitable user and will have a maximum fifteen year lease.

It is good to know that sometimes positive thinking does help Highams Park keep its 'village' ethos. Long may it continue...

The County Arms Public House No. 420 Hale End Road, Highams Park, E4 The County Arms dates from 1908 and is evidence of the growth of the area into residential suburb after the arrival of the railway station. It was the area's first public house, at that time catering to a population of c.5,000. It was owned by the Herts & Essex Public House Trust Co., and was initially called the 'Trust House', before being re-named the County Arms in 1909. It is a loosely Arts and Crafts style building, with an asymmetrical exterior in painted roughcast render, a small amount of black timber boarding, and small areas of red tiling. The roofscape features gable ends and more modern dormer windows, as well as large and prominent chimney stacks.



Left: A corner angle of the County Arms pub, showing the Arts and Crafts influences.



Right: The frontage to Hale End Road.

Rye House No. 65 Handsworth Avenue, Highams Park, E4 Rye House is a semi-detached house of 1890, and along with its neighbouring property Haile House, is a fine example of late Victorian architecture. The building retains many of its original features, including entrance tiles, pilasters and corbels around the bay windows, and decorative clay ridge tiles. It is larger than many of the semi-detached houses that would be built across Highams Park during Edwardian period, and it is believed that the pair were built for John Haile's sons, who were developing the Haile Estate at the time.



Left: Rye House

Right: Doorway detail, showing the glazed tiles



More Heritage in the next issue...

DL

CHURCH DIARY

April

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

Friday 3 rd	10 am	Good Friday Service
Sunday 5 th	10 am	Easter Sunday All Age Service with Communion
Sunday 12 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 13 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 14 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 19 th	10 am	Morning Service led by Rev Brenda Brundritt
Monday 20 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 21 st	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 26 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 27 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 28 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom

May

Sunday 3 rd	10 am	All Age Service
Tuesday 5 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 10 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Followed by Church Members Meeting
Monday 11 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 12 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 17 th	10 am	Christian Aid Service led by Jason Close and Althea Donn
Monday 18 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 19 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 24 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School led by Rev Dr Paul Davis
Tuesday 26 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 31 st	10 am	Morning Service with Sunday School

Refreshments are served in Fellowship Hall after each Service