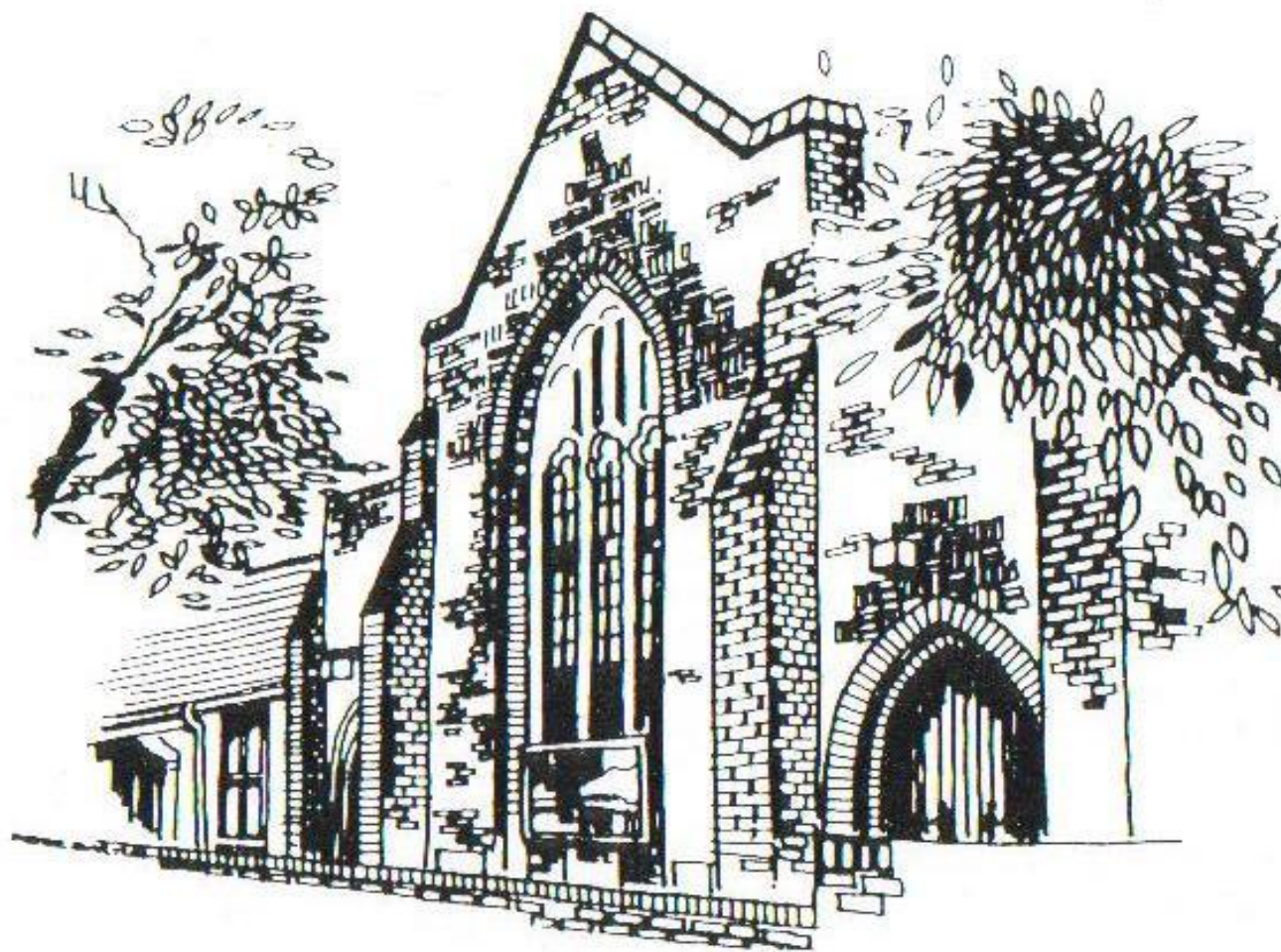




*The Magazine*  
*of*  
**Highams Park Baptist  
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



**SUGGESTED DONATION £1.00**

**April/May 2023**

## CHURCH PROGRAMME

### At the time of writing

#### Current Covid Safety Arrangements

- Please stay at home if you show any Covid symptoms - a recording of the service will be available later on the church website.
- It is your choice whether you wear a mask in the building or not, please feel comfortable whatever your choice, hand sanitiser will remain available, and we are continuing with increased ventilation and cleaning.
- If you test positive for Covid after attending a service, please let us know so we can complete extra cleaning and circulate an anonymous information to the congregation to be more vigilant for symptoms.

If there are any concerns, please approach the duty deacon.

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

Weekly Home Zoom Group is held on Tuesdays at 7.45pm. Please contact Sarah and Paul Raymond for details.



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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023  
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : [magazine@hpbcc.co.uk](mailto:magazine@hpbcc.co.uk)



**Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG**  
**April / May 2023**

<p><b><i>Moderator:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Rev. Andrew Willis</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Please contact:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>contact@hpbc.co.uk</i></b> <b><i>or</i></b> <b><i>07967 655661</i></b></p>
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*At the present time we have no Minister, but I felt that it was important that there should be an Easter message in the magazine. I looked back in the archive and came across two Minister's letters from April 1974 and 1976 written by Rev. H. Alan Smith which are as appropriate now as they were then: - First from 1976:*

My dear friends,

'Christ is alive' – That is the triumphant cry which will ascend from the Christian Church on Easter Day. The triumph is real and heart-felt. For without such a cry there would be no Christian faith, no Christian people, no church and no hope for our world. But we believe that the resurrection of Jesus is a fact of experience. The living Christ has come to us. We have met Him. And so we say with conviction and joy 'Christ is alive!'

We are especially aware on Easter Day of the implication of what we proclaim. Jesus, as He predicted, has to die before He could be raised to new life. Throughout Lent and particularly in Holy Week we follow the path to Calvary and realise afresh what Jesus had to suffer. His physical suffering was grievous, the spiritual agony almost beyond bearing. But Jesus endured all this simply because He saw this as the way to accomplish His purpose and to defeat the twin enemies of mankind, evil and death. Each Sunday, of course the bread and the wine remind us of the suffering and death of Jesus, but on Good Friday our remembrance is the more pointed and poignant.

The sadness of Good Friday throws into even greater relief this joy of Easter Day. The Christ who is risen in triumph invites us to accept His risen life. This Christ who has overcome evil calls us to share His victory. The Christ who has conquered death offers us the gift of eternal life. The Christ who is alive seeks a dwelling-place in our hearts and our lives. So we rejoice with exceeding great joy at the Good News proclaimed on Easter Day. This is the greatest event of human history.

So once more Holy Week and Easter will bring us to the very heart of our faith. As we remember the events of long ago, we are glad to assert that Jesus is alive NOW, offering Himself to all men. We accept Him afresh and joyfully sing our hallelujahs.

With greetings to you all,

Yours sincerely

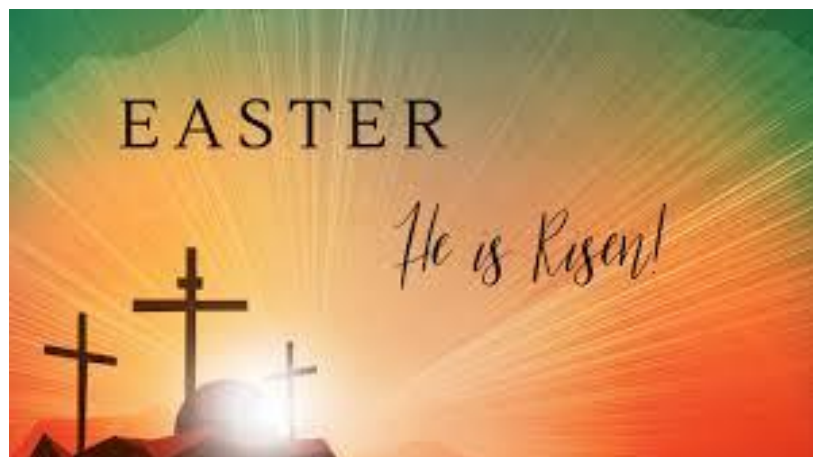
H. Alan Smith

*Secondly a section of the Easter 1974 letter:*

In our hemisphere nature too conspires to remind us of the meaning of Easter. New life is everywhere – in the fields, the hedgerows and the gardens – and we are reminded every day of the new life offered to all men through faith in Jesus who was crucified and raised from the dead.

In former days members of the Church felt that you could not properly commemorate the death of Jesus or celebrate His resurrection unless you prepared yourself most carefully. This was the whole point of Lent. Observance of Lent has fallen into disuse. But ought we not still to prepare ourselves more adequately for Good Friday and Easter? I do not mean by 'fasting' but rather by bringing ourselves to a deeper understanding of the Christian Gospel and a more ready response to its challenge.

Let these be for us days in which we ponder more deeply the meaning of our faith, examine more closely the depth of our commitment and come nearer to God in prayer. Then the poignancy of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day are for us the greater because we have made ourselves ready in heart and mind for these great occasions. May Holy Week and Easter be for us all this year a rich and deep experience.



# *Cavendish Circular*



The clocks have gone forward so it must be Spring although nobody seems to have told the weather as at the time of writing we are experiencing quite a lot of showers... However the trees are coming into blossom, so we have much to look forward to.

In terms of looking forward there are some dates that you should add to your diary. They are June 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is the Ordination Service for Cherie Rogers to take place at 2.30 pm and then on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00 pm there is to be an Induction Service for her at HPBC followed by a tea. More details will follow. These will mark the beginning of a new period for us as a church and it is hoped as many people as possible will be able to attend.

We do ask that you remember those who, for whatever reason are unable to attend church. We do miss them and would seek God's grace to let them be aware of our thoughts and prayers, especially at this Eastertide which is one of the most important of times for the Christian Church.

We have an update on Doris Thorndyke – she is now resident at Heathlands Care Home at Chingford Hatch and, from all we hear, is settling in well. We also have good news from Rob Edwards who, at last, has a date for the operation on his cataracts. It is to be hoped that this can go ahead as planned. We also hear that Simon Jones is awaiting a date for an operation for kidney stones which we know can be very painful. Likewise we are hoping that a planned operation for Emma Lewis-Azyear can go ahead soon.

Over the past few years the celebration of St. George's Day has been greatly added to by the 17<sup>th</sup> Pal's Band's attendance. This year is even better as St. George's Day falls on a Sunday and the programme is as follows:

The band is forming up on The Broadway at 9.40 and marching to church.

Service from 10 to 11 - The band will then do a short static performance, either in the quad or in front of the church.

Then the band will make their way to Tesco. They are uncertain if they will march back to Tesco's, but there will be a static performance in front of Tesco from 11.30 to 11.45.

We are very lucky that although, sadly, the Boy's Brigade Company has been disbanded their ethos is carried on by the Band.



During a recent All Age Service our Moderator Andrew Willis asked the congregation to judge which out of nine options of fruit and vegetables were mentioned in the Bible. The list was:

- |          |        |          |          |
|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| Onions   | Garlic | Bananas  | Potatoes |
| Grapes   | Apples | Tomatoes | Oranges  |
| Cucumber |        |          |          |

I will leave you to guess which are the correct 5 – answers later in the magazine.

This led me on to think about cooking and how little or how much it has changed. Cooking usually relies on the introduction of heat to the ingredients by some means or other. Originally this would have been over a fire of some sort - probably on the floor and possibly surrounded by stones to make a rough hearth. Over the years this would have morphed into a proper fireplace and later still



into a range where the fire was formed in an iron box. This provided heat for warmth as well as to heat kettles and pans and an oven for cooking, my grandmother many years ago had one such, a small range which she referred to as a 'kitchener'.

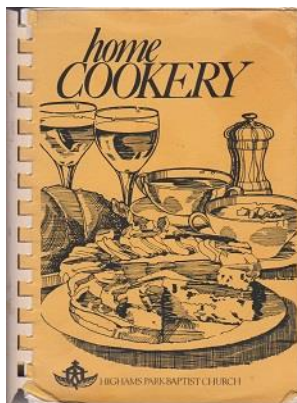
It used coal for the heat source. I recently read a book by Ruth Goodman the historian who specialises in showing how people lived in past times. The book is called 'The Domestic Revolution – How Coal changed everything'. It described how for a long period of time wood was used as the best means of cooking. This was followed by coal when it became more affordable. It then went on to show how domestic life became easier when there was the option of gas or electric heating.

There was no longer the need to set a fire, getting it to ignite and later to clean up the dirt, such as soot and ashes that came as part of the cooking process.

Nowadays cooking has been made easier still with the introduction of microwave ovens and air fryers, although slow cookers – again electrically powered seem to have again found a place in our kitchens.

As to what we are able to eat, the range of fruits, vegetables, meats, fish etc available has probably never been wider or (even in these times of economic inflation) for many items been relatively cheaper. The choice is almost endless whether you are a meat eater, vegetarian or vegan you are catered for (no pun intended!).

The food of so many counties is available virtually on our doorsteps, the ingredients are available for us to cook, we can eat at restaurants or have the food delivered. Bookshelves are groaning under the weight of the many many cookery books just waiting to be bought (and probably hardly ever used) – we are spoilt for choice...

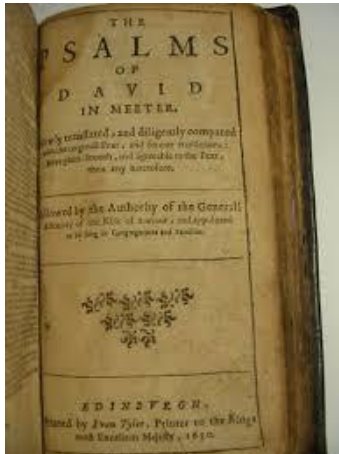


Of course those of you with long memories will recall the HPBC Cookbook which was put together a good number of years ago and from which we have included recipes in the magazine. ( who can forget the very detailed description of how to make the best toast that was contained as part of the tribute to Brian Turley in the June/July issue? ).

Some of you may have seen a television programme called 'The Reassembler' in which James May (better known for his appearance in 'Top Gear') takes an everyday object which has been stripped to its components and reassembles it... There was, of course, a book of the series which does not describe the reassembly process but more about the history and construction of the item – you would learn for instance that the inventor of the Kenwood machine was a man called Kenneth Wood! James goes on to describe how useful the food processor has been both for commercial and home. But he does bemoan the fact that even after all this time there is no hard and fast rule for a standardised system of ingredient measurements – do we use spoonfuls (real spoons vary in size), volumes, weights or cupfuls? It sounds horrific but then you can get a set of measuring spoons, volumes or weights are more set and for cupfuls it does not really matter as long as all ingredient measurement is made using the same cup! However, even in this modern world hiccups do still occur. As I write we are experiencing food shortages with a lack of tomatoes, cucumbers and other things we are used to just going out to buy. There are now more food banks than ever and inflation is making all food more expensive. I am sure cooking was a lot less confusing 2,000 years ago but not as varied... DL

, Sheila Humphrey has selected 'The Lord's My Shepherd' as one of her favourite hymns. She did point out that this is the more modern version as opposed to 'The Lord Is My Shepherd'.

The original is at least four hundred years old and is based on Psalm 23 as adapted by the English Puritan Frances Rous who published 'The Psalms of David set forth in English meeter' in 1643. It was approved for use as a hymn in the 1650 Scottish Psalter. The title page says:



*The Psalms of David in Meeter. Newly translated, and diligently compared with the originall Text, and former translations: More plain, smooth, and agreeable to the Text, than any heretofore. Allowed by the Authority of the Generall Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, and appointed to be sung in Congregations and Families Edinburgh, Printed by Evan Tyler, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1650.*

The original version is:

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me,  
And in God's house forevermore  
My dwelling-place shall be.





The version chosen by Sheila comes from 1996 and was written by Stuart Townend. He is well known as a hymn writer with some of our best known modern hymns to his credit.

He tells that:

*I never set out to write a new musical version of this psalm – it seems very brave, or very arrogant, to think you can improve on the existing hymn version, which has been loved and sung by millions of people for so long! I was actually working on a different song at the time, which after several hours' hard work was not going well... I happened to flick to this psalm in my Bible while taking a break, a simple melody popped into my head, and the whole thing was written in ten minutes (something I wish as a writer would happen more often)*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And I will trust in You alone...

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in You alone..

## Calling all friends from the 17<sup>th</sup> Waltham Forest Boy's Brigade.



As you all know we had to close the Company and feel that it is now time to sort through and clear out the cupboard and items we have collected over the years.

On **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** we will be clearing out and disposing of lots of the memorabilia and other things.

**Between 10am to 2pm**, why not come along and take anything that might be of interest to you. There will be lots to take including: -

- Photo's
- Magazines
- Old Uniform
- Display items
- Company items
- Historical items
- And more.



All you need to do, is pop in between 10am and 2pm and if you see something that takes your interest on the table you are welcome to take it.

Whatever is left over afterwards is likely to visit the tip...

Thanks

Jason





## Christian Aid Week

In 2023, Christian Aid Week will take place from 15th to 21st May. This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. The impact on the world population is great, as it means

that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need.

This is Jen's story:



Jen, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve. Her hard-working boys have earned places at top colleges – but Jen cannot afford to send them both. 'My heart longs to see our children finish school,' says Jen. 'These dreams are very important to me, because by doing so, I'll be sure that I am creating a good future for the children.' My heart longs to see our

children finish school. Her oldest two boys have gained tertiary education places, which is very rare for young people from her rural area. One has a place at a prestigious polytechnic and one at a well-known college – it's even on one of Malawi's banknotes. Jen works hard to provide for her children. But she can barely scratch a living from the soil. Soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees are crushing dreams and keeping her family in poverty.

Now, Jen has had to make a choice. One no mum should be forced to make. Rising costs mean Jen can pay for only one of her sons' college courses. Jen desperately needs to earn more, so that her oldest son Mathews can study as well. His place at a prestigious college is reserved for a year, so Jen remains hopeful that he'll be able to start his course. The erratic weather is affecting Jen's profits. 'The result is that our harvest is very little,' she says.

But Jen remains resilient. 'We say, let's work hard so that the money will help the children go to school,' she smiles. We say, let's work hard so that the money will help the children go to school.

Jen and her husband have two acres of pigeon peas, but they are struggling with the effects of the climate crisis. The rainfall is unreliable, and there are more storms, flooding and stronger winds. The pigeon pea is a tough plant, able to withstand a lot – just like Jen. But to make the most of her crop, Jen needs to plant good quality seeds and sell for the best price possible, and not to unscrupulous middlemen. Your gift could help famers like Jen plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops, and build happier futures for their children.

Please support Christian Aid and help this strong and determined mum provide for her family's future.

## *A Treasure Hunt*

I am sure that you would agree that our Church is a building with character and is a very welcoming place to worship, but does it have any treasures?

People have recently been asked to nominate 'treasures' for a competition held by the Association of English Cathedrals. This came about as part of the Cathedral Treasures social media campaign this winter.

The campaign was based on the book written by Janet Gough, OBE, author, lecturer and advisor on historic churches and cathedrals, The book called '*Deans' Choice: Cathedral Treasures of England and Wales*', lists the stories of 50 treasures from 44 Church of England cathedrals and six cathedrals from the Church in Wales - each one being chosen by the Dean or senior clergy of the cathedral featured.

Among the items chosen were:

An Anglo-Saxon portable sundial.

The Magna Carta.

A pair of 15th century pilgrim boots.

A pre-Raphaelite painted altarpiece by Dante Rossetti.,

The Tree of Life painting.

The first Bible in the Welsh Language.

And, as they say on all the best competition results (leaving a long pause of course!)

The Third prize goes to: Derby Cathedral's Bakewell Screen

in Second place is: The nave ceiling at Peterborough Cathedral,

And the winner is (fanfare): The Leaves of Southwell.

Which are as the Southwell Minster website says:



*The fluid carvings of plants, animals and green men found within the Chapter House – known collectively as 'The Leaves of Southwell' – are of quite exceptional quality. Regarded as the best example of 13th century naturalistic carving in the United Kingdom, they are globally important.*



In the June/July 2015 issue I wrote about the 'Easter Sepulchre' in Hawton, a village near Newark where I spend much of my time. This again is finely carved stone sculpture and as I said then : *There is a theory that the masons who undertook such work were those who also worked on Southwell Minster which is only a few miles away. This may be the reason that, for such a small parish, the church is quite large and may have been intended to be a collegiate foundation linked to Southwell.*



*The Hawton Easter Sepulchre.*

It is sometimes asked 'what is the difference between an Minister and a Cathedral?' The answer is given as : A Minster is a Church that has priest(s) that administer to and visit the parishioners. It is open to the public for worship. A Cathedral is a Church in which the throne of an Archbishop is located. The name Minster derives from the Old English "mynster", meaning "monastery", "nunnery", "mother church" or "cathedral", itself derived from the Latin "monasterium. Minsters, of which there are 31 in England, are often known as 'The Mother Church' of a diocese. This phrase also appears in the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' which is a day honouring mother churches - the church where one is baptised and becomes "a child of the church", celebrated since the Middle Ages in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some Commonwealth countries on the fourth Sunday in Lent During the Middle Ages the custom developed of allowing those who had moved away to visit their home parishes and their mothers on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This became Mothering Sunday in Britain, where it continued into modern times, although it has largely been replaced by Mother's Day.

*DL*

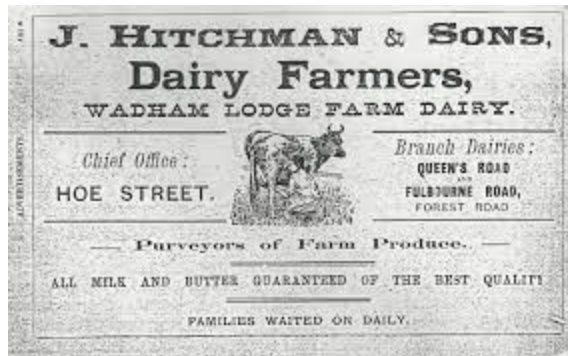
# Highams Park Snippets

I again dip into the old magazines and the advertisements that appeared in those of the 1930's. This time the subject is something that most people will still use every day – Milk.

Two companies used to advertise - Radbourne's Dairy and Hitchman's Dairy. Some of you will remember that Hitchman's had a depot at the bottom end of Handsworth Avenue roughly opposite the doctor's surgery, where the nursery now stands. From here the electric milk floats would be charged before leaving to serve the local customers.

The history of Hitchman's goes back well before the advent of electric floats: -

The story starts with John Hitchman who was the son of a farmer from Bromley by Bow. He started as a stonemason and later took a job as a cow keeper. This title indicated that his cows were able to supply milk to other people. Once he was



established in his job he moved with his family to Walthamstow. In 1867 he moved to Hale End and was able to rent Wadham Lodge farm in Blind Lane (later to become Wadham Road). By 1871 he owned 67 acres of land and had five children. In a few years he owned 280 acres and employed 18 people and more importantly had established Hitchman's

Farm, and by 1880 was selling produce including milk. He understood that the best way to make money was by selling directly to customers. The empire extended, as by 1886 he also owned Chestnuts Farm which was situated in Forest Road where the Town Hall now stands. He was also able to supply milk to dairymen who would deliver to houses in Walthamstow. When he was 60, he passed the farming business to his three sons, Frederick, Samuel and Stephen. On his death in 1911 John was able to leave over forty thousand pounds (equivalent to at least four million today).

As Walthamstow and the surrounding area grew so too did the need for milk supplies and the business grew as well. After the end of the First World War the family felt it was time to sell the business and did so to David Alban Davies another local dairyman. He joined forces with the Evan Williams owner of Green Pond Farm which was situated in Higham Hill. They did keep the Hitchman's Dairy name. The business prospered so much that in 1938 they had a purpose-built main depot sited on Walthamstow Avenue. The site has now become a Holiday Inn adjacent to the Sainsbury's Supermarket. However, in the way of business, United Dairies bought the company in 1946 but still used the Hitchman's name locally. This lasted into the 1990's when Dairy Crest took over the company and by 2000 the name of Hitchman's disappeared.



*Now a Holiday Inn*

Whilst researching this article I found out that Hitchman's were a big enough company to sell their own branded tea and that these packets in the 1960's and 70's contained 'cigarette' type cards in several sets including Military uniforms, buses and trams and of course 'the story of milk'. Their reputation even spread to the area of model vehicles and there is a copy of one of their lorries as shown below. The same vehicle was used in an advertisement for Duramin – a company that made the material for trailers of lorries - stating that because the body was made of aluminium alloy it allowed one ton more cargo to be carried within the legal limits of the day.





Hitchman's has lasted well in the memories of people around Highams Park – they also seemed good at publicity. In The Highams Parklife website a gentleman named Ian Williams reminisced about his early days in the area. His article includes a mention of Hitchman's :- *Hitchman's Dairies had a milk vending machine here too. As a baby I got free milk, and I still have the Hitchman's Dairies birthday cards I was sent; a flying stork carrying a pastel blue blanket holding a bottle in milk.* You somehow just cannot see a modern supermarket sending birthday cards...

On a similar theme to farms etc.in the area I found a fascinating article on the Highams Park Portal website ([www.highampark.london](http://www.highampark.london)) under the heading a 'latest articles'. It is written by Nigel Reynolds and describes a walk over the Woodford Golf Course and its history – the golf club was formed in 1890 and took over from farming land. The article goes on to describe in some detail not only the history of the parcel of land but of the type of farming which would have been carried on there. If you have web access it is well worth reading

Plans are being submitted for the regeneration of Highams Park School (does anyone else remember calling it 'Uncle Sid's Academy – USA for short – it was Sidney Burnell School some years ago!). For once it seems that the area is planning for growth, all it needs now is a similar set of proposals for the rest of the infrastructure...

It is good to know that Highams Park is to share in the 8.4 million pounds from the Government for local regeneration. It is to be spent on 'new retail spaces, lighting and flood proofing' – pity that no one will use the retail spaces because you cannot park anywhere....

DL



## *The Stranger on the Train*

Although my daughter no longer lives in London, she thinks of herself as a 'London Girl' and keeps in touch with the local social media sites. She alerted me to an article on a site called 'The Londonist' ([www.Londonist.com](http://www.Londonist.com)) . It related how a famous American connected with the film industry had come to Ridgeway Park to see the model trains. He himself had a mile long layout at his home in California and had an interest in such trains. The Ridgeway Park system was begun in 1945 and is still going strong. In for some years the church has arranged for a picnic afternoon at the park, and I am sure many of you will have enjoyed a ride on the trains.

It is thought that in 1952 (or possibly 1954!) there was, as usual, a Chingford Festival and the crowds were joined by the American on a purely personal unannounced visit. He was aware that the Ridgeway Park layout was one of the best in the country and wanted to see it for himself. His interest in trains probably stemmed from the fact that his uncle was a steam engine driver. He himself had also sold food on a local line when he was a teenager. As his fame (and wealth) grew he could indulge himself by building his own layout.

He impressed the members of the Chingford and District Model Engineering Club, which ran the railway, with his knowledge and understanding of the system. He commented to a Guardian reporter that he felt that there was a 'fine layout they had there but the locomotives were a little smaller than his'. Not everyone recognised him, probably not expecting somebody so famous to be queuing for a ride. (Note: The Club are trying to find anyone who appeared in the picture – Email to [contact@chingford-model-engineering.com](mailto:contact@chingford-model-engineering.com) )



And who was this very famous American from the film industry? – well he was not a film star but perhaps even better known – it was in fact Walt Disney. Having mentioned this to some people their reply was 'it sounds like an

urban myth'. But no – there is this photographic evidence...

*DL*



'Those were the days' – I am sure that most of us have said that at some time, usually looking back through rose tinted spectacles. But in the here and now we all have 'special' days. Those birthdays, anniversaries or just days that, for some reason, have special significance for us. Days and dates are important to us both individually and collectively.

In the wider world the important days can be divided into two types – there are those that occur on a specific date and others which are, as the phrase has it, 'moveable feasts'. A very few combine the two. We celebrate the end of World War One on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, but the National Day of Remembrance is always held on the Sunday nearest the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout history 'days' have attracted special meanings. Ignoring those days which have importance to the individual, the nomination of a day or date to celebrate or remember probably goes back until the ages when we were first able to use the idea of time. There was obviously a difference in day and night and people came to realise that the length of days and night (or light and dark) changed as time passed but there was no way of measuring this. That probably came when the Egyptians invented the sundial prior to 1,500 BC. However, this was of little use as they could only really tell that the sun was available for different periods, and it only had any relevance to the area where the sundial was situated.

The Romans had a much better idea of time – we are informed by William Shakespeare that Caesar was told by the Oracle to 'Beware the Ides of March' but what are 'ides?' The word "Ides" is derived from the Latin word "idus," which refers to the middle day of any month in the ancient Roman calendar. The Ides are specifically the fifteenth day of the months of March, May, July, or October, and the thirteenth day of the remaining months. Therefore the idea of dates seems to be in place.

As time passed (pun intended) the world's ideas of time moved on but it was still very localised – indeed in Britain there was no standardised time until the coming of the railways. People had no need for accuracy before timetables came into use. When calendars came into common use some days were indicated in Red i.e. they were 'Red Letter Days'.

These days were for days worthy of special note and have been used since classical antiquity; for instance, important days are indicated in red in a calendar dating from the Roman Republic (509–27 BC).

Whilst some days have long been designated for specific purposes such as Quarter days – these are: Lady Day (2<sup>nd</sup> 5 March), Midsummer Day (24<sup>th</sup> June,)

Michaelmas (29<sup>th</sup> September) and Christmas (25<sup>th</sup> December) and are fixed by custom as marking off the quarters of the year, on which some tenancies begin and end and quarterly payments of rent and other charges fall due.

We now seem to have any number of days which have been allocated connection to any amount of reasons. We all know of Mother's (and Father's Day) but are you aware of May 2<sup>nd</sup> being 'Harry Potter Day, whilst May 4<sup>th</sup> is 'Star Wars Day' ( May the Fourth be with you...) and March 9<sup>th</sup> is 'World Kidney Day!'

Many important days are linked to religion – each having its own particular days to remember and/or celebrate. As an example:

According to Greece's Orthodox tradition, every day of the year is dedicated to some Christian saint or martyr. When someone is named after one of these saints, that saint's celebration day becomes his/her "name day." In Greece people celebrate their namedays with gatherings and gifts much like an actual birthday.

For Christians there are two times of great significance – Christmas which is always on December 25<sup>th</sup> – however, Advent always occurs on the four Sundays preceding Christmas Day, and like Easter is a 'moveable feast'. Easter is always on a Sunday and this is defined as the first Sunday after the vernal equinox full moon (i.e. on Sunday after the full moon of March). The days linked to Easter such as Lent, Shrove Tuesday and Palm Sunday are considered as 'moveable feast too'.

Many books seem to have been published using the theme of days - in 1869 there was published 'A Book of Days' which listed, amongst other items, Matters connected with The Church Calendar. This included Saint's Days, the popular Festivals and other Holidays. Phenomena connected with seasonal Changes, The Folk Lore of the United Kingdom and Notable events per day.

It still exists to view online at [thebookofdays.com](http://thebookofdays.com) and would be useful if you were looking for events that happened on a particular date (but only up until 1869!). In the same vein I have a book called 'A Tree a Day' which does just what it says on the jacket...

Our weekly home Zoom group meetings always end in prayer for which a book that gives a Blessing for every day of the year has proved very useful.

But whatever the day please try to make the most of it.

*DL*



## Easter quiz questions

1. How many Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year? (to the nearest 10 million !)
2. Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
3. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
4. The first Easter eggs were dyed what colour?
5. What is the tradition behind the hot cross bun?
6. In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
7. What is the Sunday before Easter Sunday called?



8. What is the official flower of Easter?
9. Besides bunnies, what animal is considered an Easter symbol?
10. What popular game is traditionally played at Easter?
11. Where is Easter Island located?
12. When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?

**13.** What meat is traditionally consumed on Easter Sunday?

**14.** Where did the Easter bonnet originate from?



**15.** In the Bible, who betrayed Jesus just before his crucifixion?

**16.** What dance traditionally takes place at Easter?

**17.** What happens on Maundy Thursday?

**18.** Why is it called Palm Sunday?

**19.** When do Easter egg hunts traditionally take place?



**20.** What do the marzipan balls on simnel cake represent?

**21.** Which country first introduced an Easter tree?

**22.** In eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called what?

**23.** Easter Sunday is also called what?

*Many thanks go to Dave Kendrick for posing the questions (and providing the answers which can be found at the back of the magazine)*

# Musings

A few random thoughts about...



They are so necessary for day-to-day life. We hear them all the time, we read them in books, newspapers and social media – where would we be without them?

People who take vocabulary tests show that adults know between 20,000 and 35,00 words, at age 8 there is knowledge of 10,000 words and even at age 4 5,000 words are known. It is likely, that on average an adult will learn one new word a day. That is not saying that all are used at all times or by all people. The number that you need to know if you are learning English as a second language varies from the low to mid hundreds as a beginner whilst you are likely to be able to converse reasonably with 3,000 words – by the time you know 10,000 words you should have caught up with a native speaker.

We seem to like testing out our knowledge of words if the attraction of crosswords and other word games are to be believed. Scrabble has been with us for some time, but its history is confused – some say that a form was even known to the Japanese in about 500 AD. The more modern game came about in 1933 when Alfred Mosher Butts came up with a game called 'Lexico' but it was not until 1938 that a playing board was introduced – even then the game was a very slow seller. Ten years later in 1948 Butts joined with James Brunot to try to reinvigorate sales by adding a few more changes. However, it was not until a few years later that the president of the large American store, Macy's, came across the game and made a very large order that it really took off. It then came to Britain in 1954. Nowadays we have Wordle and Waffle amongst others, games to be played digitally on phone or computer.

It is often said that a picture paints a thousand words – if so, how many works of art do we need to encapsulate the Bible? Well this is not a cut and dried situation as all the different versions have different totals – The King James Authorised version has 783,137 and the New International Version has 727,969 – The Catholic version even more as it contains an extra seven books. As a point of interest there are 3,116,480 characters in the King James Authorised version.

As John 1.1 says 'In the beginning was the Word', but no one really knows when language (the use of words) began – estimates do range from 150,000 to 200,000 years ago but it was not until language developed into writing that we can have any records of what words were being used.

What we have learnt over the years is that the meaning of words can change very much, An example is the word 'nice'. We use it today to mean 'pleasant' but a hundred years ago it meant 'foolish' or 'simple' (as in 'simpleton'). whereas 'Silly' went in the opposite direction: in its earliest uses, it referred to things worthy or blessed; from there it came to refer to the weak and vulnerable, and more recently to those who are foolish. In the same way is the word 'Naughty': Long ago, if you were naughty, you had naught or nothing. Then it came to mean evil or immoral, and now you are just badly behaved. We now use the word 'Awful' to mean something terrible, but it once meant that something was worthy of awe. Perhaps one word that seems to have made changes of meaning in recent history is 'gay'. Once meaning 'full of joy or mirth' from the 12<sup>th</sup> century Old French 'gai'. It was in 1951 That the Oxford English Dictionary as slang for homosexual (it may have been secretly used some 30 years earlier). Something that I was unaware of is that for the last 30 years it has apparently come to mean 'stupid' or 'undesirable'. Which is where we came in...

This change in the meaning of words does impose a sort of responsibility on us to be clear in what we are saying. One of my favourite phrases appears on a card that Jackie pinned to the fridge – it says:

*I know you believe you understand what you think I said,  
but am not sure you realise that what you heard  
is not what I meant?*

*Anon*

I am sure that we have all been there!

There are many words that have a very localised meaning such as 'mither' which is defined as being 'Northern English for making a fuss or moan'. And of course in London we are likely to be aware of Cockney rhyming slang – such as 'butcher's hook' for 'look'. So I hope that you enjoyed a butchers at this article...

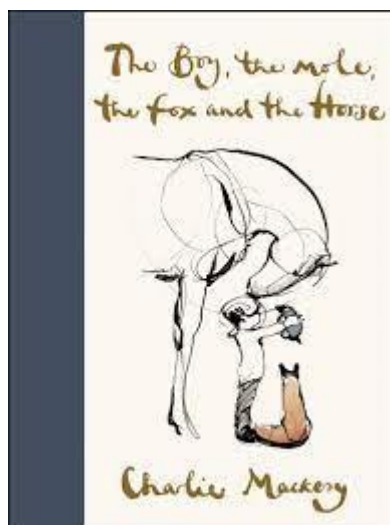
*DL*

## A strange journey

If you were asked what book was first published in October 2019, has sold over eight million copies worldwide and has spent over 100 weeks on the Sunday Times Bestsellers List top ten. It is therefore the longest Sunday Times Hardback Number One of all time. It was also Waterstones Book of the Year 2019 and the Barnes and Noble Book of the Year 2019 (the first ever book to be awarded both in the same year). If you were then told that its animated story has won a BAFTA and an Oscar and was written by Charlie Mackesy, a lifelong atheist who became a Christian after the experience of hearing the Edwin Hawkins singing 'Oh Happy Day' whilst in a somewhat unpleasant portable toilet at a music festival what title would you come up with?

More clues - there is a Scottish vernacular version called 'The laddie, the mowdie, the tod and the cuddie. The animated version was one of the hits of Christmas Television with an average of four million people watching. The book is, of course, 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse'. The best description I have read posed the question 'why is it so popular? And the answer was given as:

*Love, hope, friendship and the courage of asking for help resonate deeply at a time where mental health can't be taken for granted and kindness seems out of reach. The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse may not be able to save the world's problems, but it has reminded thousands of people of the qualities that can.*



The reason that I have included it in the magazine is that we discussed it during a recent Zoom house group meeting. Several of the group have the book and have found it inspiring. This connected with the author, Charlie Mackesy's coming to Christianity made it an excellent topic (thanks to Paul for making it so). I watched the film at Christmas and it was one of those that you say was brilliant but could not put into words why! If you have not seen it, you can watch it on BBCiPlayer - I do not think you

will be disappointed.

DL



## Easter quiz answers

### How did you do?

1. 80 million
2. Germany
3. 11
4. Red
5. The bun represents the cross on which Jesus Christ died
6. The Easter Cuckoo (bird)
7. Palm Sunday
8. White Lilies
9. A lamb
10. An Easter egg hunt
11. The Southeast Pacific
12. In the 13th century
13. Lamb
14. Europe
15. Judas
16. Morris dancing
17. Maundy Thursday marks the night of the Last Supper as told in the Bible. Christians often partake in a simple meal of bread and wine — commonly known as the Lord's Supper or Communion
18. Palm Sunday was when Jesus entered into Jerusalem greeted by the people waving palm branches
19. On Easter Sunday morning
20. Jesus's 11 disciples (excluding Judas)
21. Germany
22. Lazarus Saturday
23. Resurrection Day

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The Answers to the **Food Quiz** with the Biblical reference: -

Garlic (Numbers 11:5)  
Apples (Song of Solomon 2:5)  
Grapes (Leviticus 19:10; Deuteronomy 23:24)  
Cucumbers (Numbers 11:5)  
Onions (Numbers 11:5)

## **CHURCH DIARY**

### **April**

Sunday 2nd	10 am	Palm Sunday All Age Service Led by Cherie Rogers
Sunday 9th	10 am	Easter Morning Service with Communion Led by Dr. Paul Davis
Sunday 16th	10 am	Morning Service with Sunday School Led by Jason Close
Sunday 23rd	10 am	St. George's Day Morning Service With Sunday School Led by Sandeep Christian
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion Led by Robert Jenkins

### **May**

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 7th	10 am	All Age Morning Service Led by Amanda Edwards
Sunday 14th	10 am	Christian Aid Morning Service With Family Breakfast Café Led by Jason Close
Sunday 21st	10 am 11.30 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School led by Sandeep Christian followed by Church Member's Meeting
Thursday 25th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 28th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion Led by Cherie Rogers

### **June**

Sunday 4th	10 am	All Age Morning Service led by Amanda Edwards
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