



Peace
on
Earth



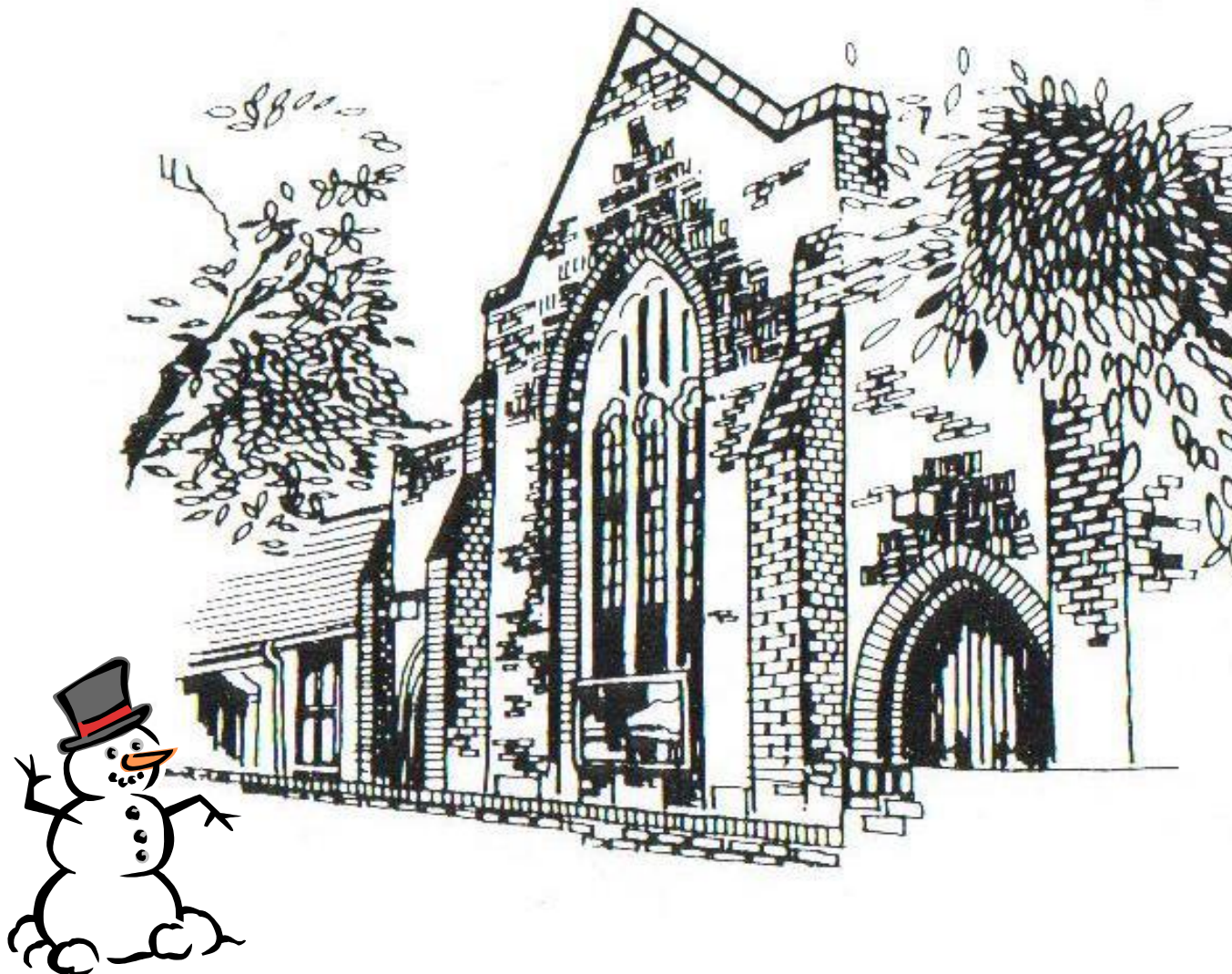
Peace
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THE MAGAZINE

OF

HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, E.4.



December 2022 / January 2023



Christmas Greetings



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.



The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday January 22nd 2023
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk





Christmas Greetings



**Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
December 2022 / January 2023**

<p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p><i>Rev. Andrew Willis</i></p>	<p><i>Please contact:</i></p> <p><i>contact@hpbc.co.uk</i> <i>or</i> <i>07967 655661</i></p>
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As we near Christmas and the New Year it seems appropriate to look back on the past twelve months as recounted in the magazine. There were 147 pages to read and about 150 pictures, cartoons etc and if you read every part of the magazine, you would have managed 48,977 words!

December/January

After a year that for much of the time had seen Covid restrictions in force we found out that just before Christmas Rosemary was leaving, but as ever the church stepped up to fill the gap. We even managed to have a 'Carols by Candlelight' Service on the Sunday before Christmas. We also noted that, with much regret, the BBGA had decided that after 79 years it would close. One thing that has carried on is the weekly Zoom Home group led by Sarah and Paul – one of the sessions was led by Mike and Fiona Thorndyke on the subject of 'Trees'. We were also informed by local councillors that work on The Regal site was imminent – whatever happened to that? You could also have found articles on Advent, Remembrance, The Church of St. Mary Le Bow and Christmas Facts.

February/March

The Church now had a Moderator – Rev. Andrew Willis as well as two new Deacons: Jean Mitchell and Steve Jenkins

For another Zoom group Jacquie and I discussed 'The New Year, we had an update from Jan Webb (nee Smithers) on her life in New Zealand, we found out what happened to the money we give to the Kingdom Fund, heard about the World Day of Prayer and started a new occasional series on Favourite Hymns. This came from yet another Zoom Group where Paul had talked about Martin Luther King whose favourite was 'Take my hand precious Lord'. It was also that of Mike Thorndyke and he had written an article on it for the magazine. Very sadly Mike died unexpectedly just a few days later – it was a great loss to so many people. Mike had expressed a wish to continue with the theme of 'My favourite hymn' and we have tried to do so.



Christmas Greetings



April/May

As we celebrated Easter, we heard of the deaths of two more people who had played a great part in church life some years ago. They were Brian Turley and Martin Briggs. The magazine carried a report on the Thanksgiving service for Michael Thorndyke. We also printed what we hoped would be the first episode of the 'memoirs' of Doris Thorndyke which Michael had transcribed – we are not certain if we will hear more of this fascinating story. 'The King of Love my Shepherd is' was chosen by Dianne Kendrick as her favourite hymn and we started an occasional series on the companies and people who had advertised in the magazine of the 1930's.

June/July

Jacque wrote the introductory letter entitled 'Let the Light Shine' based around a hymn written by Graham Kendrick', and Jason chose one of Graham's hymns 'Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining' as his favourite. We heard about Spring Harvest and the Youth Club which thrived in the late Sixties and Seventies coupled with tributes to Martin Briggs and Brian Turley who had played important roles in it. We also looked back at how we had heard of the death of King George the Sixth and how things were somewhat different in 1952 as the Queen became our new monarch.

August/September

We had good news of past members in the fact that Jean Owen's grandson Steven had married in Portugal. The good news was a little short lived as we heard of the death of Ron Long. He was a man of great humour and someone who had been part of the church family for many years. The refurbishment of the Manse allowed an Open Day to take place along with request for aid and assistance in cleaning and working on the garden. We noted that there had been a street party in Selwyn Avenue attended by Doris. A report on the 17th Pal's Band included the news that Steve Jenkin's daughter had married. Hazel Ansell had chosen her favourite hymn: 'Be Still for the Presence of The Lord'.

October/November

This was for me the most difficult to produce as in August my dear wife Jacque had unexpectedly and peacefully passed away. She had played such an important part in compiling the magazine since we took it over in 2004. We paid tribute to her life with a Thanksgiving Service. We also heard with sadness that Martin Howe and Stan Bonner had died. The magazine included news of another Thanksgiving Service – that to celebrate the work of the Boy's Brigade and Girl's Association which had had to close during Covid. Over the years we as a church have donated supplies to the local foodbank, The Hub, and we outlined how important their work is and how we must continue our support.



Christmas Greetings



So we come to the end of a brief look back at 2022 – it has been a bit of a bumpy ride not only in the church but nationally and internationally. The war in Ukraine has impinged on all our lives leading to levels of price increases unheard of for many years. However, we must be positive and look to the future perhaps with a new minister. We have lost too many people but take comfort in the knowledge that they are with their Lord. We know too that he will help us through whatever 2023 has in store for us.

*Christmas is nearly here, and this means
Advent*



*The magazine Team
Would like to wish you
A Very Happy Christmas
And a Joyful New Year*



Christmas Greetings



C  V E N D  S H  C  R C U L  A R



The end of the year is a time of birth – not only do we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we look to the birth of a New Year. We can have little idea what this New Year will bring but you can be sure that it will be a mixture of good things and less good things. There will be joy and happiness as well as sadness both in a personal manner and in the greater world. We therefore must put our trust in The Lord that he will respond to our need as is right for us.

We have to thank Jason Close, Dave Kendrick, Tony Antoniou and Althea Donn for their hard work in setting up and decorating the Christmas Tree, this together with the Advent candles, the Nativity scene and other decorations lets us know that Christmas is just around the corner.

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 26th November Jason Close was again elected as Treasurer and Althea Donn elected as a Deacon. We are sure that they will serve the church and its members to the very best of their ability.

Christmas is always a time when people feel drawn to church and so we remember in our thoughts and prayers those who for reasons of illness, age or frailty are unable to attend the services. We are aware also of those in the wider church family some of whom may over the years have moved away but still think fondly of HPBC. In their lives too there might have been illness, worries and loss.

Doris Thorndyke unfortunately had a fall in late November and was admitted to Homerton Hospital for treatment. At the time of writing (December 1st) she is still in hospital undergoing tests etc. We do wish her a swift recovery and her return to our fellowship.

Work is underway to replace the boiler that heats the Sanctuary – over the years there have been problems with the previous one. It is hoped that, in these times of higher prices for gas etc. the new boiler will be more efficient.

As you will see later in the magazine the Christmas Post Box has reappeared but is only to be used for those people who regularly attend church. Any cards not collected will NOT be sent on or delivered. DL



Christmas Greetings



POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS IS BACK!



As part of on the ongoing saving this year and because people thought it would be a good thing, the Christmas Post Box will return for you to use to send Cards to those people that attend Church most weeks. Please print names with surnames clearly, sort them alphabetically and put them in the Post Box at church before the start of the service and then they will be put out on the table in name order for you to

collect yours at the end.

Sunday, 4th December - DELIVERY, COLLECTION

Sunday, 11th December - DELIVERY. COLLECTION

**Sunday, 18th December - LAST SUNDAY FOR DELIVERY
COLLECTION AFTER SERVICE**

Sunday, 25th 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.

Note - Please only put Christmas Cards in the box for people that you see attending Church most weeks.

We are not able to deliver or send on cards to people that are not attending Church on these Sundays.

You might like to then donate the money saved on the postage or any other Donation to the Christmas offering, which this year is split 50/50 to **Haven House Children's Hospice** and **The Food Bank Highams Park** – Envelopes will be available from this week and for the whole of December.



Christmas Greetings



The BBGA Thanksgiving Service

The Covid pandemic has had an effect on many things over the past few years. One of these was the decision to close the BBGA after nearly eighty years of service at HPBC. This was not taken lightly but numbers had declined and there seemed no possibility of this changing. The only formal part of the closure had been the Laying Up of the Company Colour. Thus it was felt that, now restrictions have eased, there was the chance to recognise the long life of the Company with a Thanksgiving Service. This took place on Sunday 23rd October. It was very well attended, and the congregation included past members of the Boy's Brigade and Girl's Association (at one time the latter was known as The Girls Life Brigade), and the 17th Pals Battalion Band. The Band had marched down Selwyn Avenue and their music could be heard



coming closer and closer to finally finish in front of the Church. They had been extremely fortunate in missing the showers of rain that were present throughout the morning – in fact during the service the rain was so hard that it made hearing difficult...

The service was led by Jason Close and interspersed between songs and prayers we heard memories from

past members Arnold Coe, Bob Jenkins, Steve Jenkins and lastly Jason himself. They told of how they had come to join the Brigade and of the activities they had undertaken. They spoke fondly of the people who had devoted so much time to leading and encouraging the boys – this recalled many of those no longer with us but whose names live long with not only those in the Brigade but in the minds of those in the church family. Many of the anecdotes and tales of camaraderie brought forth laughter. There were stories of being part of displays at The Albert Hall. The memories were greeted with clapping – a sound not often heard in church! That so many 'old boys' gathered to give thanks is surely testament to how much the Brigade meant to them.



After the service there were the usual refreshments and then a high spot of the day – the Pal's band had set up in the church and played a selection of the tunes in their repertoire. The sound reverberated around the sanctuary to the enjoyment of the audience, and I am sure backs straightened to the marching sounds. Steve Jenkins gave a

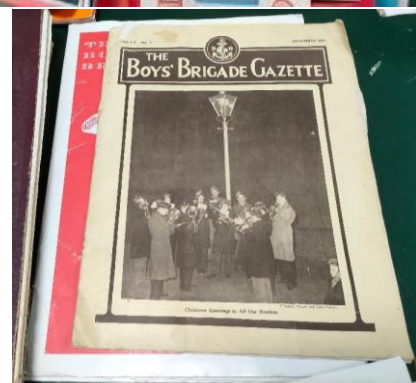
short talk on the history of the band and how it has become heavily involved with trips to the site of war graves. He also told how Norman Coe had been so influential in teaching the bugle to so many people.



Christmas Greetings



Norman is still suffering from the effects of long covid and could not be at the service. However, the band decided to present Norman with a cavalry trumpet, similar to one he had stolen many years ago. It was purchased on-line, in full knowledge that it was in need of refurbishment. As well as having the trumpet refurbished, Royston Haward also went about the task of producing a wonderful presentation case - one that allows Norman to gain access to the trumpet should he wish. In true Oscar manner Arnold Coe accepted the award on Norman's behalf. There then followed a buffet lunch with plenty of opportunity to enjoy the food and to spend time chatting over old times. There was also the chance to examine the vast amount of memorabilia that was on display in the Lounge



Some more pictures from the day – thanks to Phil Slaney for his.



Christmas Greetings



As mentioned, thoughts one of the people who talked of their time in the Brigade was Bob Jenkins. His thoughts are as shown below. We thank him for them...

MEMORIES OF 17TH WALTHAM FOREST COMPANY

Well there I was, nine and a half or thereabouts, bored at home, desperate to find something interesting to do and thanks to my mother spotting something on a Church notice board in Malvern Avenue, requesting boys of 8 and over to join a life boys' team, I went along, and the rest as they say is history.

The result, I could not stop talking about it. After that I attended every week joining in with the many various activities, even a summer holiday week at St Mary's Bay near Dymchurch in Kent. Because they did not have a company section I was later transferred to Highams Park Baptist Church and officially enrolled in the 17th Company, September 1960.

Little did I realise I would continue through every rank in the Company and eventually became Captain for a brief time, but I was proud of what I achieved, gaining the Queens Badge, serving the Battalion in many roles and getting involved as a leader with both the Anchor and Junior Sections.

My involvement with the BB was hand in hand with this Church of whom I am still involved with and feel blessed having been a member way back and baptised by Stephen Winward!

Maybe God had already planned things for me! I have so many treasured memories and would love to share some of them with you:

Royal Albert Hall Displays

- Roman Holiday a send up of Ben Hur, home made chariots, balloons being burst and Phil Slaney covered from head to foot in boot polish – I was a very young gladiator that day. I was fortunate to be involved in other RAH items over the years.

- London to Brighton Walk, walking 54 miles and somehow reaching the line and a walk which would be totally illegal now, at times, walking on my own at night along the A23 with just fluorescent tape on my body as health and safety!

- gaining the Queens badge which meant a great deal to me, as a result of devoting time, effort and hard work into various projects, which looking back was well worth it.



Christmas Greetings



- Summer Camp to be honest I am not really a canvas lover, but Stonewood Camp, St Helens and experience of the Isle of Wight is second to none and the Island is a special place and I try to return as often as I can. What about the time when we had an Officers on Holiday sketch in St Helens, Terry Mead was dressed up as vicar and was approached by the public on the village green for divine intervention, thinking he was for real! One will never forget the worship at Camp especially at night-time where we always sang 'Great God who knowest all our need, bless thou our watch and guard our sleep' followed by howls of laughter as details were read out concerning those who were delegated to do middle watch that night.

- Bible Class always a great tradition, a different speaker each week and surely the piano playing of Dave Platt will be fondly remembered.

-Parade nights and Clubroom. When I joined there were seventy in the Company, formed up in Selwyn School, how times have changed. Clubroom was always popular, the difficulty was always getting the Staff to join in with the lads, as they seem to prefer to gather in the kitchen with their fellow Staff members! and who can forget Company activities First Aid, Band, (which I flirted with briefly at a later date!) Gym, Wayfaring, Athletics and Football, although I was always being put in goal, because of my height! And then there was Drill and Church Parades!!

Peak progress – the first Easter lightweight camping experience in Derbyshire, not really trained, memories of pitching a tent in the wrong place and woken up by a stream running through half the ground; and the food, I think was fairly inedible, but it was all great fun in the rain!

We even attended the local Church despite being half asleep! - on a brighter note, Brigade centenary 1983 a memorable experience, going to Glasgow and sharing the experience with others. Also attending other Brigade Councils in the UK. - Company displays with Dave Gwilliams there to gee us all up, but they all used to say poor rehearsal, good display, it will always be good on the night! - In the Seventies, it was Les Edwards who encouraged me to help out in the Junior Section and by accident, I ended up being involved in the Anchor Section as well; you have to remember back in the day, we had up to forty Anchor Boys down here every Friday evening, the sound of the screaming and general excitement you could hear from the end of Cavendish Road; most people of a sane mind would have turned their cars round and gone somewhere else, but not me!



Christmas Greetings



It never ceases to amaze me how in those days, the many youngsters we had coming through the doors every Friday evening; where are they now and was their time in the BB memorable?

- When the great and much missed Dave Evans, relinquished the Captaincy of the Company, it sent shock waves through the Company. This was a testing time for the 17th, we had 30 lads in the Company but not overloaded with Staff.

I volunteered to take on the role as I feared the Company was in a dire state. It was a difficult time for me as well as having severe domestic issues and I guess the job was like taking on an impossible task, but that that was then, and the Company prevailed and continued to flourish; although I don't like singling out certain individuals I would like to pay tribute to Jason Close who has done everybody proud by his unstinting hard work of continuing to run the Company over many years and to its last days and who has inspired us all with his enthusiasm, energy and endless dedication.

What can I say in summary, I gave up a lot of my time re BB and over the years this place has always been like a second home to me, and I suppose looking back it has been quite a challenging but happy experience being involved in the Company. It has been a tremendous privilege, and it would be impossible to list everybody who has helped and influenced me with their kindness, wisdom and various skills.

It is sad to see the Company disband, a sign of the times, I guess, but I shall not forget the laughs, the banter and the camaraderie; I think all of us would agree in this (for some) lifetime experience that we owe grateful thanks to all Ministers, Captains, Leaders, fellow officers and helpers past and present who have influenced us all in the 17th, whether it be a few years or many years, not forgetting the Officers and Leaders who were bold and steadfast when they launched the Boys' Brigade, way back in 1883.

Sir William Alexander Smith and friends we salute you!

Bob Jenkins





Christmas Greetings



A Message from BMS

Thank you!

Highams Park Baptist Church has partnered with BMS World Mission in prayer and giving to bring the hope of Jesus where it's never been known, to tackle injustice in desperate places and to walk with those forced to leave home.

From your overwhelming assistance for Ukrainian refugees to your generosity in helping to mitigate the ravaging effects of the cost-of-living crisis on marginalised communities already on their knees, we are continually humbled by your support. And never more so in this year of all years when only the most fortunate have been untouched.

As we all look ahead to 2023, the pressures on all of us show no sign of abating. I write this on the day of the budget announcement full of cuts to spending and hikes to taxing, with recession confirmed and inflation rising. Times have rarely been tougher, costs never higher and the poorest in our midst never more broken.

We understand the difficult choices you are having to make when it comes to your own budgets for next year. Please be assured of our prayers for your situation and accept our immense gratitude for your faithfulness and commitment to the work of BMS.

Whether your sacrificial giving cannot meet the levels mentioned below, or you can give abundantly more than we ask, we are so grateful for all that you do. If you have been insulated from the shocks and crises of this year, I can but ask that your church consider increasing your giving.

So many of the people and communities where we work are suffering disproportionately and your sacrifice can provide them protection from the grip of poverty, and hope in the name of Jesus.

I know an increase is not possible in many cases, but I pray that you may be able to continue with your faithful support of BMS during the year ahead. We are planning and praying with our partners and people on the ground, and we want to make solid commitments to them for the coming year.

Together, we can feed the hungry; quench the thirsting; welcome strangers; clothe the naked; visit the prisoners, heal the sick...and make disciples of all nations! And I would like to offer you a reminder of just some of what you have made possible this last year.

Thanks to the generosity of supporting churches, more farmers in Uganda have been provided with seedlings through the local church. This will have an amazing knock-on effect, meaning a greater number of farmers can provide vital food and help generate income for their families. They're calling the project 'Cek Cam', meaning 'abundant food'.

In Bangladesh, the gospel continues to spread. BMS supported evangelists travelled to the northern regions recently to lead a series of outreach events. 82 people gave their lives to Christ and were baptised. Praise the Lord!

There are many, many more stories we could share. Each one a testimony of how God's love has been brought near in Christ. **Highams Park Baptist Church has been part of all this, through supporting BMS.** Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.



Christmas Greetings



WHY WORRY?

THEY SAY DON'T WORRY BECAUSE AS THE SONG SAYS
'EVERY LITTLE THING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT'
BUT HANG ON A MINUTE!

I WORRY ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE,
THE PACE AND THE BUSINESS OF EVERYTHING AND TRYING TO
KEEP UP WITH EVER CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

I WORRY ABOUT MY LIFE, IF I LOSE MY JOB -
MY FINANCES AND OVERALL CONCERNS, MAKING ENDS MEET,
AND THE DANGERS OF GETTING INTO DEBT?

I WORRY ABOUT MY HEALTH AS I GET OLDER,
WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO INTO HOSPITAL. ENDURING PAIN AND
DISTRESS AND THEN HAVING TO RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE?

I WORRY ABOUT MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY AND WHAT HAPPENS
TO THEM WHEN I AM NOT AROUND, ARE THEY GOING TO
COPE WITHOUT MY INPUT AND EXPERIENCE?

I AM WORRIED ABOUT MY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION,
THE EXPOSURE TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND BEING BROUGHT UP
IN A LAWLESS AND VIOLENT SOCIETY

I WORRY ABOUT THE TURMOIL OF WAR AND THE
NUCLEAR THREAT IN OUR FRAGILE WORLD

I AM WORRIED ABOUT OUR PLANET, THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL
WARMING, POLLUTION AND EXTREME WEATHER SITUATIONS.

**BUT THERE IS HOPE AND WE NEED TO TAKE STOCK, RELAX
AND BE GRATEFUL, RECOGNISING THAT OUR GOD, THE
CREATOR, IS THERE ALL THE TIME FOR US IN ANY SITUATION
TO GIVE US A GUARANTEE OF AN INNER PEACE, SO BE STRONG
AND OF A COURAGEOUS HEART AND BE ASSURED THAT HE
WILL PROTECT AND GUIDE US FOREVER. NO ONE SAID IT
WOULD BE EASY BUT WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT WHATEVER
IS THROWN AT US, GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH!**

Ed's Note: We are grateful to Bob Jenkins for putting into words what many of us are feeling at this difficult time. It is very appropriate because one of the strands of Advent is HOPE.



Christmas Greetings



Keeping Going.



The 4mijl Groningen is an annual road run and this year marked the 35th anniversary of the event. The run is open to all – so from the serious runners who aim to break a speed record, to groups who represent different companies and organisations, those who are less able, to those who prefer to walk the course. The run is open to all ages.

It is very much a celebratory event – for both participants and for those who are spectators. This year 23,000 people registered to run and there were around 80,000 people on the sidelines, cheering the runners on.

Though I like to jog, I had managed to avoid taking part, but this year there were free spaces on my University team, and it seemed like a fitting challenge. I am not a road runner and have never been. My preference is to run in the woods, or park and to be on my own. The enjoyment for me is just to be surrounded by nature, see the seasons changing and to let my thoughts go. So it was a bit of shock (even for me!) to find myself signing up for this. But I decided I would do it in memory of Michael. He had been a “proper” runner when he was younger and often recounted his days in his running group. He also ran the London Marathon. The day was promising. A very warm, sunny Sunday afternoon



in October. There were 10 in our team from the Physiotherapy department. The event is very well organised – we were in the third wave of runners, so it was good to start early. The run – which is 6.4km – is a straight road travelling into the city Centre of Groningen. It was great to see people lining the route and often I would hear “hey Fiona, keep going”! from

friends who had come along. Encouragement and support are really motivational especially on the last stretch – which is the main shopping street and uphill! And I made it! It was good to have a new challenge, though I can’t say road running is for me! The next day I ached all over! But I have my medal, my commemorative t-shirt and very much enjoyed being part of the team. And with Michael pinned on my back!

Fiona Thorndyke



Christmas Greetings



St Mary the Virgin Church in Rye

During a recent holiday to Hastings, Dianne and I drove out one day to have a look around nearby Rye. Rye contains many interesting shops including small art galleries, antique shops, artisan bakeries and (much needed) coffee shops!!

One feature that overlooks one end of the main street is St Mary the Virgin Church. This church has an amazing history and contains many inspiring features.

For more than 900 years the Parish Church of Rye, dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, has dominated the hill on which the old town stands.



When the building of the present church was started, early in the 12th century, the town itself and much of the surrounding area was still held, under a Royal deed of gift, by the Abbey of Fecamp in Normandy. It is because of this link with Fecamp and the fact that it had become an important member of the Cinque Ports Confederation that Rye has such a magnificent church, which has sometimes been called 'the Cathedral of East Sussex'.

The worst disaster in the church's history occurred in 1377 when the town was looted and set on fire by French invaders and the church was extensively damaged. The roof fell in and the church bells were carried off to France. They were recovered the next year when men from Rye and Winchelsea sailed to Normandy, set fire to two towns and recovered much of the loot, including the church bells - one of which was subsequently hung in Watchbell Street, to give warning of any future attack. It was not returned to the church until early in the 16th century.



The 'new' clock was installed in about 1561-2 and was made by the Huguenot Lewys Billiard. It is one of the oldest church turret clocks in the country still functioning. The pendulum, a much later addition, swings in the body of the church. The present exterior clockface and the original 'Quarter Boys' (so called because they strike the quarters but not the hours) were added in 1760. Today, if you wish, you can climb the church tower where you will see the 8 bells now hanging there. These are not the same bells that were stolen in 1377 as they were re-cast in 1775 and new bells added. The total weight of the 8 bells and clappers is almost 5 tons.

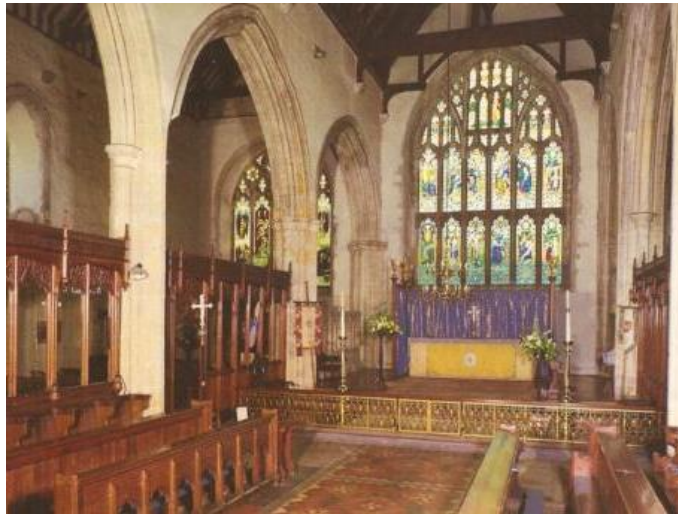
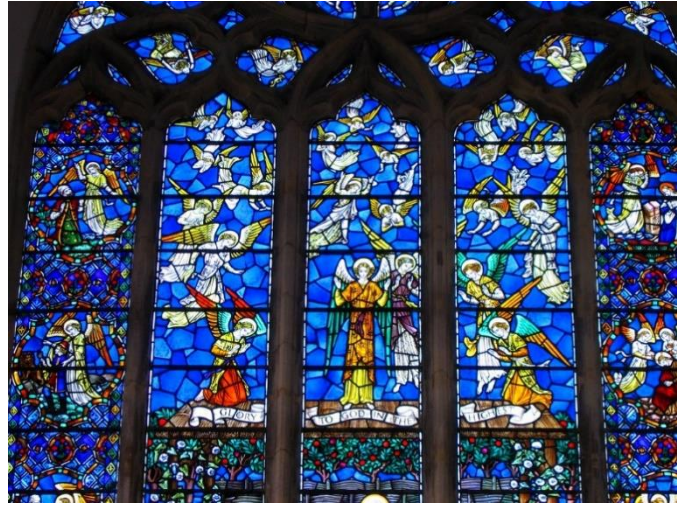
In 1742 the churchyard was the site of a crime. The butcher John Breeds accidentally murdered Allen Grebell instead of the mayor he really intended to kill. John Breeds was hanged and gibbeted. His skull, which is the only remains of him, was brought to the town hall and remains there. Both are still told to haunt the churchyard.



Christmas Greetings



More pictures of this fascinating building:



Thanks to Dave Kendrick for the article and pictures.



Christmas Greetings



PAUSE AT CHRISTMAS



**RUSHING AROUND AT THIS TIME OF YEAR
GETTING STRESSED WHEN THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE CHEER
REMEMBER IT'S CHRISTMAS – A SPECIAL BABY BEING BORN
LET'S CELEBRATE HIS LIFE ON THE HAPPY MORN
WE LITERALLY GET WRAPPED UP IN OUR BUSY LIVES
AT CHRISTMAS – WE PRIORITISE TURKEY & MINCE PIES!
GETTING SIDETRACKED WITH ALL THE SHOPPING AND FURORE
INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THE BIBLICAL STORY
SEARCHING FOR A BABY AND BEING LED BY A STAR
THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN HAD TRAVELLED AFAR
TO MARY AND JOSEPH, PARENTS MUCH ADORED
AND ALL FOR JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD
AT CHRISTMAS WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LONELY AND IN FEAR
AND THOSE WHO JUST BELIEVE IT'S AN ORDINARY YEAR
LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND REMEMBER THE REASON
IT'S ABOUT GIVING AND RECEIVING - THIS JOYFUL SEASON
SO THIS CHRISTIAN MESSAGE IS FOR YOU AND ME
ARE WE SO BLIND THAT WE CANNOT SEE?**

Bob Jenkins



Christmas Greetings



Our Favourite Hymns

In our series of favourite hymns we asked Althea Donn for hers - and she chose 'In Christ Alone'. She explained that this was because the words are so powerful and reminded her that her life was in His hands and no one else's. The Lord's hands offer the most comfort and provide a safety net.

This hymn is often viewed as "one of the best modern examples of storytelling conveying the power of the gospel", It was co-written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. With Stuart writing the words and Keith the music. This resulted in that focussed on praise and worship and which shows the attributes of God, His actions and our response for all Christ has done.

You can read into the hymn in almost every line a corresponding line of scripture - as an example the title 'In Christ alone my hope is found' could be taken out of John 14:6, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' this line expresses Jesus as the sole and only path to hope.

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

There has been some debate about one line in the second verse - 'The wrath of God was satisfied'. In 2013, a 15-member committee of the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted to exclude the song from a new church hymnal after Townend and Getty refused permission to alter the controversial line to "the love of God was magnified.". I know that some people sing 'The love of God was satisfied' - whichever you use it is a really good example of modern hymnary. DL



Christmas Greetings



Are you good with numbers?

Part Two

Following on from Part One in the last issue we hope that you will have time over the Christmastide to spend on Part Two! Answers at the back of the magazine.

11: (Churches in Revelation) multiplied by (stars that bowed down to Joseph in a dream) (Rev 1:4) x (Gen37:9) = _____

12: (Number of years Israel wandered in the wilderness) plus (number of years that Israel spent in Babylonian exile) (Num 32:13; Ex 16:35) + (Jer 25; Dan 9:2; Zec 7:5) = _____

13: (Day of creation on which God made whales) multiplied by (number of waterpots at marriage in Cana) (Gen 1:20-23) x (John 2:6) = _____

14: (Number of cows in Pharaoh's dream) divided by (seals in Revelation) (Gen 41:2-4) / (Rev 5:1) = _____

15: (Number of people 'sealed' in Revelation) divided by (length of New Jerusalem in furlongs / stadia) (Rev 7:4) / (Rev 21:16) = _____

16: (Number killed by tower of Siloam falling on them) plus (number of lepers Jesus met on the way to Galilee) (Luke 13:4) + (Luke 17:12) = _____

17: (Number of loaves at the feeding of 4000) multiplied by (number of loaves at the feeding of 5000) (Matt 15:34) x (Matt 14:17) = _____

Nobody said that it was going to be easy!



Christmas Greetings



Highams Park Snippets

As readers will know I have been looking back at Church magazines from the 1930's and writing about companies that advertised in them. Whilst those of you with good memories would recognise the names of some of those companies there are only two that I can find that still exist and only one still in Highams Park (albeit with a slightly changed name)

Yellands were Estate Agents based in Hoe Street Station (now of course Walthamstow Central) headed by Mr Yelland who played a large part in the running of HPBC in later years. They are now based in South Woodford.

The other is not only still in Highams Park but in the same position – it was called James Hawes then but now has 'and Goodchild' added. They remain at Number five in The Broadway – surely a permanent feature! The internet has little information but the little I did find would indicate that they were in existence nearly a hundred years ago as shown in the following: -



'James Hawes was an undertaker who owned several funeral businesses around London in at least 4 locations in Higham's Park, Well Street in Hackney, Seven Kings in Ilford and one in Romford.

Mr Hawes had witnessed the miner's unemployment march to London in 1927, during which two miners died during. He was horrified at their condition and poor health, mentioning that most of them didn't even have proper shoes. Following witnessing this, he made a donation to the miners. It is also possible that he was involved in arranging the transport of these men that died on the march to Paddington station'.

'Phone : WALthamstow 0169.

YELLAND'S

(A. W. YELLAND)

HOE STREET STATION
(Down Line Side),
WALTHAMSTOW, E.17,

for

All Matters Relating to Property.

Estate Agents & Surveyors.

Rents collected. Estates managed.
Mortgage and Insurance Brokers.

JAMES HAWES,

Undertaker, Horse and Motor Funeral Carriage Proprietor.

5, THE BROADWAY, HIGHAMS PARK.

Telephone : LARKSWOOD 1508.

Cremations Arranged. Certified Embalmers.

Chief Office— Wells Street, Hackney.	Quality & Reverence ARE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF OUR Service to the Public	Branches— Manor Park, Romford, Upminster.
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Established nearly a Century.

OUR PRICES ARE
in accordance with charges laid down by the British Undertakers' Association
AS CHARGED THROUGHOUT LONDON.

With Christmas nearly being upon us I am sure that we will be glad that it is still towards the end of December and not in October as the shops would have us believe!



Christmas Greetings



In the 1930 magazines I can find only one business mentions Christmas at all – it is DCSA who we have mentioned before – they were one of the few advertisers that had a different layout nearly every issue of the magazine:

The D.C.S.A. Ltd.,
Tailors, Clothiers & Gent's Outfitters.

Special Xmas Display now showing.
 Dressing Gowns, 15/6 to 35/-.
 Shirts, Scarves, Ties, etc., in great variety.

Gifts packed in Fancy Boxes Free of charge.
 INSPECT OUR WINDOWS
before you buy "him" a gift elsewhere!

Suits and Overcoats to Measure.

505, Hale End Road, Highams Park.
 (BY RAILWAY CROSSING). PHONE: WALTHAMSTOW 1597.

This was their December 1933 advertisement

The prices look really good until you check on what the pound in 1933 is worth today – according to the Bank of England website it is currently £55.44 so that would make the cheapest dressing gown cost about £40.00 – perhaps not such a bargain...

In the September issue we mentioned that there was a shoe mender between Heales cycles and the Post Office and Hazel Ansell has reminded me that this was run by June Tresarden's father, and they lived over the shop. It was a very small shop with a wooden counter as you entered and behind this was the work area from which emanated a wonderful smell of leather. It was approached down an alley between the south side of The Regal and a carpet/lino shop which became a restaurant later.

Repairs at shortest notice. Price, Quality, Craftsmanship - the BEST

H. A. BRUTON,
High-class Boot and Shoe Repairer,
479, Hale End Road, E.4.

Leather and Grindery seller. Dog Collars, Leads, Whips, etc.
 Straps of all descriptions. Footwear requisites.

I am not sure what 'Grindery' is or how much call there was for whips in Highams Park... DL



Christmas Greetings



If you have a long memory, you may recognise the article below from 2012. Since Christmas changes little so do the facts... If you do not remember it, please read on

Christmas Miscellany

It has become something of a tradition that we include some facts about Christmas in this issue of the magazine.:



Mince pies have become a staple of Christmas and have much history and superstition attached to them. Good and bad luck are likely to befall those who eat them correctly (or wrongly). You should never cut a mince pie with a knife as doing so courts bad luck in a foolish way.

It should be broken with a fork or spoon or better still be taken up and a large bite taken out of it. When you have your first mince pie of the year (and these days this can be very early!) you should first make a wish. (if you cannot remember the first pie then make a wish before eating each one). You must never decline a mince pie offered over the Christmas season as this will also bring bad luck. It was believed in olden times that if you ate a mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas you would have good fortune in the coming year. What you must always remember is to eat the mince pie in silence - apart from everything else it will help you remember all the superstitions attached to it.



There was a belief that every scrap of greenery used for decoration in a Church at Christmas had to be removed - in the days when each churchgoer had their own place in a pew any greenery left there meant bad luck or even death in the coming year to the inhabitant. Please ensure all greenery is removed - just in case!



The phrase 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is well known but what is meant by it? The answer stems from Pope Gregory X111 who, in 1582, decreed that October of that year would lose 10 days to clear the anomalies in the Roman Julian calendar.



Christmas Greetings



This edict was taken up by those countries which were Roman Catholic but of course the Protestant countries, almost as a matter of principle, ignored the change. It was not until 1752 that Britain changed and by that time another day was needed to be lost. This meant that in 1752 September ran 1st, 2nd, 14th...All this caused great confusion as to when Christmas was celebrated - it obviously still had to be on December 25th but if you now used the *Gregorian* calendar this meant that it should be on the 6th January under the *Julian* system. Since some people still clung to the 'Old Style or Julian Calendar' whilst others used the 'New Style or *Gregorian Calendar*'. Dependant on which you used defined when you celebrated Christmas. Hopefully all your family used the same system.

The Twelve Days of Christmas is also a well known song that seems to have many meanings and its origins are very unclear - even the wording changes in different versions. As an example on the eighth day there can be: 8 Ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, or 8 hounds a running. There is also the theory that it could have French origins. There is also an early 18th century Scottish version that has completely different objects on the twelve days.

One other version allocates a more religious tone to the gifts;

"Twelve Days of Christmas" as a Catechism Song

Gift	Interpretation
A partridge in a pear tree	Jesus
Two turtle doves	The Old and New Testaments
Three French hens	The three kings bearing gifts
Four calling [sic] birds	The four Gospels
Five gold rings	The Torah or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament
Six geese a-laying	The six days of Creation
Seven swans a-swimming	Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
Eight maids a-milking	The eight Beatitudes
Nine ladies dancing	Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten lords a-leaping	The Ten Commandments
Eleven pipers piping	The eleven faithful Apostles
Twelve drummers drumming	The twelve points of the Apostles' Creed

Whatever version you use, sing it with gusto...



Christmas Greetings



Are you good with numbers?

Answers

11: (Churches in Revelation) multiplied by (stars that bowed down to Joseph in a dream) (Rev 1:4) x (Gen37:9) = (7) x (11) = 77

12: (Number of years Israel wandered in the wilderness) plus (number of years that Israel spent in Babylonian exile) (Num 32:13; Ex 16:35) + (Jer 25; Dan 9:2; Zec 7:5) = (40) + (70) = 110

13: (Day of creation on which God made whales) multiplied by (number of waterpots at marriage in Cana) (Gen 1:20-23) x (John 2:6) = (5) x (6) = 30

14: (Number of cows in Pharaoh's dream) divided by (seals in Revelation) (Gen 41:2-4) / (Rev 5:1) = (14) / (7) = 2

15: (Number of people 'sealed' in Revelation) divided by (length of New Jerusalem in furlongs / stadia) (Rev 7:4) / (Rev 21:16) = (144000) / (12000) = 12

16: (Number killed by tower of Siloam falling on them) plus (number of lepers Jesus met on the way to Galilee) (Luke 13:4) + (Luke 17:12) = (18) + (10) = 28

17: (Number of loaves at the feeding of 4000) multiplied by (number of loaves at the feeding of 5000) (Matt 15:34) x (Matt 14:17) = (7) x (5) = 35

Did you do better this time?



Christmas Greetings



We have travelled from Advent to New Year – the following poem is one that we use each year at this time: -

*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'.*

*'The Gate of the Year' from 'God Knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957);
read by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast of 1939.*





Christmas Greetings



CHURCH DIARY

December

Sunday 4th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion Led by Paula West – Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday 11th	10 am	Morning Service with Sunday School Led by Stephen Jenkins – Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday 18th		No Morning Service
	6. 30pm	Evening Service with Carols by Candlelight Led by Mandy Edwards - Fourth Sunday in Advent
Saturday 24 th	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Service with Communion Led by Jason Close
Sunday 25 th	10 am till 10.30 am	Christmas Morning Service Led by Jason Close

January

Sunday 1st	10 am	Songs of Praise Service led by Mandy Edwards
Sunday 8th	10 am	Morning Service and Communion Led by Cherie Rogers (Preach with a view) followed by lunch and question and answer session
Sunday 15th	10 am	Morning Service with Sunday School Led by Rev. Andrew Willis Followed by Church Members Meeting
Sunday 22nd	10 am	Morning Service led by TBC (Ilford Baptist Church)
Sunday 29th	10 am	Morning Service with Sunday School led by TBC (Ilford Baptist Church)