



Christmas and New Year 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 speak to the duty deacon.

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



The Zoom Home Group has started again 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 21st January 2024
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk





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Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
December 2023 / January 2024

<p><i>Minister</i> <i>Rev Cherie Rogers</i></p> <p><i>mobile: 07367 281594</i> <i>landline: 020 3325 0461</i></p> <p><i>email:</i> <i>revcherierogers@gmail.com</i></p>	<p><i>Church Secretary</i></p> <p><i>Althea Donn</i> <i>Mobile : 07939 510955</i></p>
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Dear Friends

As the month of December arrives, I am in the thick of planning the Advent and Christmas services. One of the joys of this preparation is the choosing the beautiful Christmas carols that we will be going to sing together. The words are familiar and comforting – but I hope that their familiarity does not prevent us from thinking deeply about their meaning. This Advent, the titles of our sermon series are all lines taken from well-known carols, and there is one line in particular that been particularly resonating with me at this time of writing:

*The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight.*

I cannot help reflecting on how, in the land where Christ was born some 2000 years ago, there is currently so much fear. Bitter war is raging in the very region where Jesus was born and lived his life. I am sure the people of both Palestine and Israel are full of fear and perhaps even wondering whether there is anything in which to have hope. The situation seems so desperate and complex; there are certainly no easy answers.

Last month, many of the Highams Park community and around gathered in silent vigil – faith leaders of which I was one, included Christian Ministers, Jewish Rabbis and a Muslim Iman. We gathered without words, without banners, without political statement. We were there to reflect on the horrific events, to show empathy and connection with fellow human beings, no matter which ‘side’ they were on. It was powerful to have the three faiths represented. In the silence, I was praying quietly within me.



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I was praying that, like the candle I was holding, the love of God might shine out in this dark situation.



John speaks of Jesus Christ as being that very light to all of humankind in the beautiful opening lines of his gospel:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1: 5

There is plenty of darkness in the world, but the light of Christ will always shine out and banish the darkness. This is the good news that we have in Jesus that no matter how dark the situation may seem. In Jesus, God came down to earth to rescue us, and bring light and life. He is our hope and our salvation - and this is the good news of Christmas.

Our Carols by Candlelight service is perhaps the easiest opportunity in the calendar to invite others along to church; friends or family members who do not yet know that good news. I challenge you now to begin to think and pray about who you could invite along to that service, to give the opportunity to discover the light of Christ and the hope that he brings into the darkness. As the candles shine out in church, I pray that God's love will also shine out, and that visitors will feel the welcome in our midst.

I also pray for each of us in this Christmas season, that we might have the opportunity to take time to reflect on the Jesus as the Light of the World, the one who brings the light of life, and who is the Prince of Peace. Light and peace for ourselves, our families, our nation, and our world.

With every blessing

Cherie



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C  **VEND**  **SH** **C**  **RCUL**  **AR**

Nearly another year has passed and as we look forward to 2024, we have comfort in the knowledge that we do so with a new minister to guide us on our way.

We know that Christmas is seen as a time for families, but we remember that for many reasons this is not always possible. There have been bereavements and family conflicts, so, as well as asking you to think of those who for whatever reason are unable to attend church, we ask that in your thoughts and prayers you can remember those whose families will not be as complete as they would wish.

Since the last issue we have heard of two birthdays happening – first Muneyi Antoniou celebrated in style by having a party at Cosmo’s in Romford which was attended by family and friends including a number from HPBC



The other person celebrating her birthday was Cherie Rogers – we send belated congratulations to them both. (of course, we would not dare say what age was celebrated!)



Another event worthy of congaratulation is the celebration of their Diamond Wedding by Dorothy and Cliff Tayler. As a church we sent a bocquet for which they sent the following message:-
Thank you for the lovely flowers from our church family

Dorothy and Clifford



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Later in the magazine you can read about the events that took place to celebrate 150 years since the railway came to Highams Park. I took the opportunity to purchase an appropriate mug as well as a picture showing all the types of locomotive that have served us over the years.

At the Annual General Meeting for Church members which took place on November 26th elections were held for the positions as below: -

- Jason Close for Treasurer
- Althea Donn for Secretary
- Mandy Edwards for Secretary
- Tony Antoniou for Deacon

The results were as follows. Jason and Tony were re-elected. As far as I can recall there has not, for some time, been a situation where two people had been proposed for Church Secretary. In this case Althea Donn was elected to take on the position. We hope that Mandy will not be too upset and will carry on all the many things that she does so well.

Hazel's Homespun Humour.

As well as liking to visit interesting places, Hazel, has over the years compiled a notebook in which she writes down little phrases or sayings that she finds amusing. We hope to bring some more of these to you in future issues... The first one is: - *There are just three golden rules for bringing up children. Unfortunately no one knows what they are.*

Unknown author.

*We wish all our readers
a Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year*



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Church Gardening

Many thanks to the hardworking team who set to work on the church garden on Saturday 14th October. Green fingers were not required this time as it was mostly tearing down and uprooting ivy and bindweed that had overtaken the shrub border! The jobs requiring slightly more skill in pruning were delegated to the watchful supervision of Sheila, and the most important job of all, that of keeping the workers fed and watered was managed admirably by Robert!

Cherie





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Ready to Help....

In the last issue we noted that a defibrillator casing had been fixed to the front of the building but was awaiting the equipment to be installed. This has now happened and below is the detail of the putting into service of this very important item of medical care. The following comes from the website:

The Justin Edinburgh 3 Foundation donated an Automated External Defibrillator to Highams Park Baptist Church.

The donation, made in Justin Edinburgh's name took place at the church based on Cavendish Road, London. CEO Charlie Edinburgh was in attendance to make the official presentation to members of the church this evening.

In line with the commitment to sharing Justin's story and increasing access to defibrillators, the Foundation invites organisations to apply to the defibrillator donation scheme.

By the time you read this a training course should have taken place and a number of church people will be able to put the equipment into use if it is needed.





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POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!



The Christmas Post Box is back again - Dianne and David Kendrick are donning their postie costumes once more - we are very grateful to them. These are the delivery and collection dates:

Sunday, 3rd December - EARLY BIRD DELIVERY
(no collection available)

Sunday, 10th December - DELIVERY. COLLECTION
after Service only.

Sunday, 17th December - LAST SUNDAY FOR DELIVERY
Collection available after Service only

Sunday, 24th December - LAST MINUTE COLLECTION ONLY. Please DO NOT deliver cards to Church on this day as there will not be time to sort them for collection.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

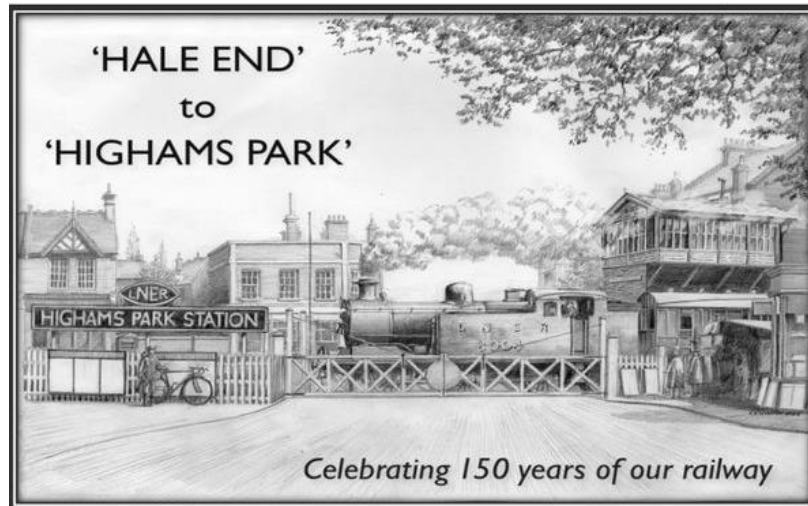
PRINT names with Surnames clearly and put your cards in **alphabetical Surname order**. This helps the organisers to sort the cards quickly and easily, whilst also enabling them to get to some of the Morning Service.

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

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



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Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th November

It has often been said, with good reason, that it was the coming of the railway that was the making of Highams Park. If that is the case, then there was a real reason to celebrate its arrival 150 years ago.

The Highams Park Society and the Highams Park Planning Group had combined to create a weekend of talks and an exhibition worthy of those many years. The event at the Library on Saturday afternoon was a potted history of how the railway came to Hale End/Highams Park and was very well attended with at least 80 people present (and application for tickets had had to be stopped). Those people heard from four speakers. Roger Torode the author of 'Around Waltham Forest by Bus, Tram and Train' gave a chronological progression describing how the railway, which had run from Liverpool Street to a stop in Shernhall Street, Walthamstow, reached Highams Park and Chingford on November 17th, 1873. Over the years the station has been known as Hale End,



Highams Park and Hale End and Highams Park. He explained how the use of the Highams Park name was to persuade people to come to the Park for leisure time. He was followed by Peter Norris who had been a fireman on the steam trains. He had been based at the engine shed which was sited just outside Wood Street Station first as an engine cleaner and, after about a year, as a fireman. He gave several anecdotes of life on the rails on what has been described as the most intense commuter

service in the world and which was called 'The Jazz' service. (I seem to remember reading that from the time the train drew up at Liverpool Street station there was four minutes to allow the locomotive to be disconnected, a train to be connected at the Chingford end of the train and all the passengers on board and the train whistled off!).



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The name was resurrected when electric trains started running) Next, we heard from C. Pond who has written a very interesting history of the line. Finally, John Wigston a member of the Guild of Railway Artists who had been a resident of Highams Park gave a very interesting talk on how he had come to love the railways to such an extent that he was drawn (pun intended) to be an artist specialising in picturing early locomotives. He has provided the art for advertising the event and also has provided prints that were on display in the Library as well as being on sale. His extremely interesting talk had, unfortunately, to be curtailed for time reasons.



If this was not enough there was a chance on the Sunday to celebrate further. The station car park became home to several stalls selling refreshments and there was also a street organ, a railway themed children's roundabout and the presence of Higham Spark radio. The Stow Caledonian Pipe band made a wonderful sound with the skirl of pipes. The Highams Park Society also had a stall selling the prints by John Wigston who was on hand to sign them. There were also commemorative mugs for sale.

Perhaps most memory jerking was the presence of two London Transport RT buses (the one before the Routemaster) which for many years had run from Highams Park to Clapham Common on Route 35. These wonderfully preserved vehicles were giving rides throughout the day. It did seem strange to see them on 'the wrong side of the lines!' An absolutely excellent weekend.

DL





We shall go a'carolling (with a piano)

On the 10th of December we are going to be singing carols in the street around the church for the first time in many years. A few people in the church still recall how we did it before...

This is a story which has been told previously but seems worthy of repetition. I am not sure where the idea came from, but a group of friends felt it was not only a good idea to go carolling but to have an accompaniment – a piano seemed ideal – but we did not have one or the method of transporting it along the pavements. Serendipity intervened – the father of one of the group, John Avis who now is an important part of the Film shows put on at the church, was a decorator and was working at a house near Blackhorse Road station and they had a piano that they wanted to dispose of. I managed to obtain a four wheeled trolley that my father had made to move work around his factory. It was very well constructed with wheels in a diamond formation and a frame made of teak – so no worry about the weight of a piano!

Our decorator managed to get the trolley in his van and take it to where the piano was situated. A number of the friends managed to extract the piano from the house and found that it fitted perfectly on the trolley and even better it moved fairly well. All this took place on a dark winter's night, so it was felt that we needed to go carefully. John Avis was ahead of the game however and had constructed a set of lights, white at the front and red at the back to fit onto the piano. So we set off along Forest Road – past the fire station and down the hill to the Bell corner where we had to stop because of a red traffic light. As we waited a police car drew up alongside – are we in trouble we thought? – but the policemen nearly collapsed with laughter and off we went.

Fortunately we were all fairly young and so the push up to the bridge over the railway was possible. We travelled down Hale End Road and reached the level crossing (which was not very level!) but the piano remained in position. And so to HPBC where we manoeuvred the trolley into Fellowship Hall. And so in the fullness of time all the carol singers and piano pushers came together and off we went along Cavendish Road and up to Winchester Road and The Broadway and then along Selwyn Avenue and finally into Aldriche Way where we were very popular. We had made several stops along the way and made a house-to-house collection even asking for requests of which carols to sing. By the time we were all carolled out we needed the luxury of soup and rolls (and the odd mince pie) at Helwys Court – with a little more singing for our supper! This went on for several years and was well supported and enjoyed but it all came to a stop when Aldriche Way got double glazing and could not hear us...

A sad end to a great idea – but eventually the piano had rebelled against its yearly push and lost its musicality and where would we get another?

DL



Three Little Words That Could Spell Horror...

Dianne Kendrick's sister lives near Alresford in Hampshire and passes on copies of her church magazine to Dianne. I am indebted to Di for allowing me to see the magazine to find if there is any information that could be of use in our magazine.

One piece that seemed appropriate is an article entitled 'Beasts in the Belfry' which told of infestations of various insects etc. that had occurred in their church. These have included bees which invaded the bell ringing chamber just before a wedding was to take place. A beekeeper was called but did not manage to eject them, but they were at last cleared or, as the magazine says, 'professionally moved'. I am sure that if many of us looked in our roof spaces they would find signs of wasp's nests each beautifully constructed – I know that I have. Then there were two doves who decided that the bell chamber would make an excellent home and managed to get into it when the roof was being repaired. It is to be hoped that our recent roof repairs at HPBC has not provided similar opportunities...



This set me thinking back to a time when you would so often see signs outside many churches indicating that money was being raised for building and repairs. They would usually be accompanied by a picture of a thermometer showing how much had been raised to date. I am sure that fundraising still goes on, but you certainly do not see so many of those thermometers these days.

Very often the need for repairs were caused by the owners of those 'three little words that could spell horror'. They were the Death Watch Beetle. Eggs are laid in dark crevices in old wood inside buildings, trees, and inside tunnels left behind by previous larvae. The larvae of this medium sized beetle live in dead wood – preferring oak which is often used in churches – and eat their way through the wood leading to weakening of structures.

I did wonder why they were called Death Watch beetles – it seems that in days of old, when a person died they were often placed in the church and the immediate family would keep vigil with their dead. The noises that the beetles made in the oak timbers of the church were heard and the beetles therefore got their name.



Let us hope that we never hear any beetle sounds at HPBC (although it is now reasonably easily treated!).



Hazels travels...

Readers may remember that in times past we have told you about the exploits of Hazel and Mike Ansell as they visited parts of London and further afield. These visits had to stop when Mike suffered a stroke. Hazel had a long time looking after Mike which she did wonderfully well. When he sadly died earlier this year Hazel was unsure if she would be able to rekindle the wanderlust!

Apparently, she has, as she has reported two visits in a short space of time. The first was to Brick Lane in the East End famed for its curry houses (and sometimes a little run down!). However the place she went to was neither of these – it was the gallery of Gilbert and George those slightly eccentric artists. Hazel reported that it was an oasis of neatness and tranquillity in an area not known for either.



Her next visit was to 22, Bishopsgate which is one of the highest buildings in London and has the advantage of a viewing gallery. Hazel tells that she used to work in a bank which was on the site in the 1970s. As she says 'It was a WOW, I so enjoyed it. I know London well but from that height, 58th floor it took me a moment to get my bearings. I got St Paul's and then it was all quite clear to me. The Post Office Tower was so titchy. Even The Shard looked unimpressive as I was about the same height as the top of the top of it. A helicopter flew past at eye level! I must have been there for about an hour and spellbound'. Hazel also noted that 'the toilets were lovely' – always very important. Perhaps the best thing is that, although you have to book, there is no charge.

We look forward to more reports in the future.



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God's Own Junkyard

Not a section of the church but a business that operates from near Shernhall Street in Walthamstow. It deals with neon signs and was formed by Richard Bracey an ex-miner who came from Mountain Ash in Wales. He had decided he hated being a miner anymore and came to London and got into the making of neon signs, many of which could be seen in the Soho area! Now owned by his grandson, the company Richard started 70 years ago ships signs to all corners of the world. They also look after existing signs including the one that originally advertised Walthamstow Dog Stadium. It is a point of interest to us that this is the only listed neon sign in the country



Do not forget

Christmas Fayre
Highams Park Station Car Park & Signal Walk
 Sunday 10th December
organised by
Highams Park
Planning Group



Musings - *A few random thoughts about... Language*

It is often said that the English language is one of the hardest to learn especially if it is not your first language. Why should this be the case and what prompted me to think about it?

Part of the problem is that there are many rules about pronunciation, grammar and especially spelling. The even bigger problem is how often those rules are completely ignored!! One example is 'I' before 'e' except after 'c'... I had spent a very pleasant day with Dianne and Dave Kenrick visiting Dobb's Weir near Hoddesdon and thought that I might write a piece about it. According to the rules it should be Dobb's Wier but, of course, it is not, and it is not alone by any means.

Then there is the pronunciation of words ending in 'gh' – there are at least five ways as shown below: -

- "Cough" - is pronounced 'coff'
- "Rough" - 'ruff'
- "Through" - 'throo'
- "Although" - 'all-tho'
- "Borough" - 'bu-ra'

When we look at pronouns such as 'you' 'me', and 'they' we see that only 'I' is always written in upper case. It then gets more complicated. It is correct to say, 'Dave and I went for coffee.' However, in some sentences, you should use the pronoun 'me,' as in; 'My friend met me and my daughter at the theatre.' What we have to do is take out the other person and seeing if 'me' or 'I' sounds the most logical. 'Dave and me went for coffee,' sounds incorrect and should not be used. This seems to be a rule that is constantly ignored especially by people on television who are more likely to say 'Me and Dave went for coffee' thereby breaking two rules – firstly putting the 'me' first and the second using 'me' instead of 'I'.

There are a great number of rules (not always well known) that affect the use of English, especially written English. Perhaps the most contentious is punctuation which sometimes seems an arcane mystery. I know this to my cost where proofreading the magazine is concerned. As I have said before Jacquie, and I spent a lot of time checking and rechecking our efforts and still mistakes crept through!

There is now a train of thought that indicates that such 'old fashioned' ways of speaking and writing do not matter much any longer. As long as the reader or listener understands what is being said all is fine. I submit that it does – we have a fine language so let us use it correctly.

DL



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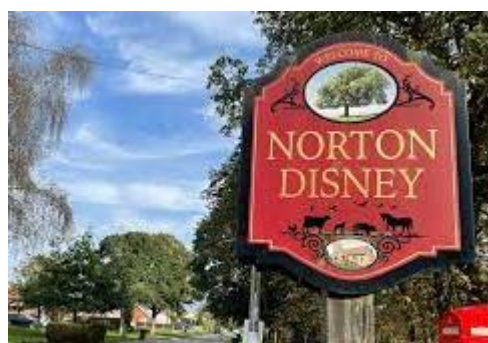


Just a small Lincolnshire Village but...

Hopefully readers will remember that in an earlier issue we noted the fact that Walt Disney had visited Chingford Model Railway Society at Ridgeway Park to further his interest in small scale steam trains. But he also visited another place in England in 1949. This is a small village a few miles from Newark where I spend some of my time. Its name is Norton Disney and is the place that gives the earliest trace of the Disney name in England.

Walt was in England making the film 'Treasure Island' and was to spend some time with his accompanying family in a visit to Scotland. He decided that he would make a detour to Norton Disney. Walt knew that his great-grandfather was Irish but had no idea of earlier ancestors.

He was provided with background information by the minister of the local church the Rev. Roper. He explained that it seems that as part of the invasion force by William the Conqueror was the De Isignys family who had after the Battle of Hastings settled in the area. As was so often the case the name was amended over the centuries – first to D'Iseny and by the 14th century was recognised as Disney.



As part of his visit Walt was shown the ornate 14th century tomb of William D'Iseney. This was embellished by the family crest which includes three feathers symbolising Normandy. This crest has gone on to have extensive use – it appears on all castles featured in the various Disneylands and since 2006 has been shown on the flag which flies above Sleeping Beauty's castle in the introductory logo of all Disney films.

To add another layer of interest to the story, a charter of 1386 held by the Lincolnshire Archives shows that the name of the estate of the Disney family was called Disnayland – pretty close to the now better known Disneylands!

And all from a little Lincolnshire village...



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Whatever happened to...

In the last issue I noted that I had come across cuttings taken from the Waltham Forest Guardian in the 1980's. This time I go slightly further back to a special issue that was produced in 1976 to celebrate the paper's centenary. The paper has faded but I think it probably has survived better than I would at 100 years of age!

Many local companies placed congratulatory adverts in this issue and it was interesting to note if any still exist. See how many you can remember...

It seemed that there were more places selling cars 47 years ago – on the front page were congratulations from Lamb's Ltd who had branches in Woodford, Loughton, Hornchurch and Brentwood but which would all appear to have gone. Then there was Harvey Hudson in Woodford who sold Jaguar and Rover cars. Our late member Alan Smith had a post-retirement job collecting and delivering cars for servicing – a task he found very enjoyable. There is still a car sales business on site but now it is called Grange (Jaguar Woodford). Not to forget



Gates Ford car sales who had a number of sites locally – the main one was where Waitrose now stands – I bought my first car from them more years

ago than I would wish to be reminded of! They still have sites but spread around – as far as St. Albans and Stevenage. You may recall Ray Powell Motors near Gants Hill. Their advert indicates that they sold Leyland Group cars but I bought a Hillman Hunter from them – it was probably the worst car I had and I often seemed to meet Dave Young (another old church member) there when we took our cars back to get faults repaired. A name that I do not remember is Graham Bond Motors of Forest Road, another Ford Garage. Finally – and this was a surprise – is an advert for W & N Motors at numbers 2 and 6 Winchester Road who were Skoda Main Dealers. This was a time when Skoda was not part of the Volkswagen Group but were the butt of many jokes – that has certainly changed.

That is our transport sorted out but what of the home. Well back in 1976 the place to go was the local department store – Bearmans in Leytonstone.





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I seem to recall that it was so well known that its name appeared on bus destination. Probably not the cheapest but a good place to go. Or you could go to the London Co-op Home Maker branch. It called itself 'The complete D.I.Y. Centre. And you could buy 2.5 litres of gloss paint for £3.05 – I think it is a bit more now! Leytonstone seemed to be the place to go to make purchases – you may have wanted to buy a musical instrument – then you would possibly have gone to Freedmans or Myers in Hoe Street Walthamstow.

MUSIC-THAT'S OUR BUSINESS!
Hit a high note at the Big Store with the Big Range

MUSICAL FUN FOR EVERYONE — EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER PLAYED A NOTE!
Get into **FREEDMANS** — Fast!

INSTRUMENTS NEW AND USED — PART EXCHANGES — SHEET MUSIC — LEARNING SYSTEMS — AMPLIFIERS — AND OTHER EQUIPMENT — ACCESSORIES

629/631 High Road, Leytonstone, E114PA. Tel: 01-539 0288/9

UPSTAIRS or DOWNSTAIRS
this fine REPRODUCTION CABINET would enhance any room. And like the cabinet we combine the OLD WITH THE NEW

OLD FASHIONED COURTESY WITH THE LATEST HI-FI

Not only do we stock the **FULL RANGE of TECHNICS and BANG & OLUFSEN EQUIPMENT,** but many types of cabinets as well

myers audio THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE
199 HOE STREET, WALTHAMSTOW, E17. Tel: 01-520 7277
ON THE BRIDGE AT WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL STATION

But what about clothing? For school uniform there really was no option but Henry Taylor or if you wanted shoes, Hopkins at the Bell Corner was a good choice, especially if you wanted Clark's shoes. They had one of those machines that x-rayed your foot to see if the shoe fitted well (Health and Safety seems to have made these disappear!). I had a by-marriage relationship with this shop. The manager Mr. Ward was Jacquie's uncle Ken and a very nice and helpful person he was.

HENRY TAYLOR
founded 1903

Although we cannot quite match 'The Guardian' with 100 years, Henry Taylor is one of Walthamstow's longest-established businesses. The original shop (pictured in the new photograph), is shown at the scene of the opening of Walthamstow's first service in 1903. We have grown a little since then, but still retain the traditions of a family business that puts service first. Come in and see for yourself.

HENRY TAYLOR (Outfitters) Ltd.
198-192 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E17.
(2 minutes from Walthamstow Central.)

G. F. HOPKINS
10 CHINGFORD ROAD
(BELL CORNER) E17 TEL: 527 3482

for *Clarks*

We insist on measuring your child's feet for size and width every time you buy feet or feet a pair of shoes.

We have a Clarks-trained fitting expert in attendance.

We stock a wide selection of Clarks children's shoes in sizes, half sizes and width fittings.

We undertake to replace any Clarks shoes that prove faulty without argument.

That's why your children's feet are safe in our hands with Clarks

There were more companies that gave their best wishes to the Guardian – some may appear in the future editions. DL



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A Christmas Fact Miscellany

A few (hopefully) interesting facts about that special day...



According to tradition, you should eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas to bring good luck - but remember it is technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded.

The word "Carol" actually means dance or song of praise and joy, and they used to be sung during all four seasons, but the tradition of only singing them at Christmas is the only one to survive.

6 million - The number of rolls of Sellotape that will be sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas (5.99 million - the number of rolls where you can't find where the tape starts).

Ebenezer Scrooge's famous line "Bah Humbug" almost never existed. Charles Dickens' initial choice was "Bah Christmas".

Many parts of the Christmas tree can actually be eaten, with the needles being a good source of Vitamin C.

Japanese people traditionally eat at KFC for Christmas dinner, thanks to a successful marketing campaign 40 years ago. KFC is so popular that customers must place their Christmas orders 2 months in advance



A survey has revealed on average, British women do not attempt their first Christmas lunch until the age of 34. Nearly half of women polled said they felt a real sense of achievement when finally dishing up the Christmas dinner and 28% of British men admit that their partner's dinner is better than their mother's.



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13% of families in the UK always attend church on Christmas Day but 27% of families sit down to watch the Queen's Speech.

In Somerset and parts of Dorset, it's traditional for the last person to finish eating their sprouts to have to do the Christmas Day washing up dressed as a giant turkey. This tradition is believed to have started in the 1960s as a way to encourage children to eat the vegetable.

In many Eastern European countries, particularly in Ukraine, finding a spider or a spider's web in your Christmas tree is a symbol of good luck! That's because these countries have the legend of the Christmas spider, which tells that a poor widow lived in a small hut with her children. They found a pinecone in summer and cared for it diligently until it became a pretty tree! Unfortunately, they couldn't afford to decorate the tree for Christmas, but upon waking up on Christmas day, they found the tree covered in elegant cobwebs that shone gold and silver in the sunlight. And since that day, the widow and her children never lived in poverty again!

Some monetary facts...

£700 million - The amount of money spent on unwanted Christmas gifts.

£51,000,000 - The amount saved each year through the use of discount voucher codes.

£18,000,000,000 - will be withdrawn from UK cash machines over Christmas.

The most expensively dressed Christmas tree was valued at just under £7,000,000 and was erected and displayed by the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 16 to 29 December 2010.

Scientists calculated that Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second.

Each year, Canada Post helps Santa respond to thousands of letters sent from around the world to him, with the address being Santa Claus, North Pole, HOH OH0, Canada. So, now you know where to send your letters next time! More next year...



Christmas and New Year Greetings



CHURCH DIARY

December

Sunday 3rd	10 am	All Age Morning Service Led by Cherie Rogers <i>Light and Life to all He brings (John 1:6-14)</i>
	3 pm	Joint Memorial Service at Winchester Road Church – a; 'Blue Christmas' for those who have lost loved ones.
Thursday 7th	7.30 pm	Church Council at the Manse
Sunday 10th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers, <i>The angel Gabriel from heaven came (Luke 1:26-38)</i>
	4.30 pm	Carol singing (and delivering invitations in local streets.
Tuesday 12th		Church Christmas meal at the Harvester.
Saturday 16th	11.am	Prayer Walk on the Aldriche Way Estate.
Sunday 17th	4 pm	Carols by candlelight (no morning service) Led by Cherie Rogers <i>Oh Holy Night (Luke 2:1-7)</i>
Sunday 24th	10 am	All age scratch Nativity Service Led by Mandy Edwards
(Luke 2:8	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion <i>Angels praising God (Luke 2:8-14)</i>
Monday 25th	10 am	All age Service Led by Cherie Rogers <i>All is calm, all is bright (Luke 2:15-20)</i>
Sunday 31 st	10 am	Morning Service Led by Dr. Paul Davis <i>The hopes and fears for all the years (Luke 2:21-35)</i>



Christmas and New Year Greetings



January

Thursday 4 th	7.30 pm	Church Council at the Manse
Sunday 7 th	11 am	All age service – verse of the year Led by Cherie Rogers
Saturday 13 th	3 pm	Sunday School bowling trip and pizza.
Sunday 14 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers
Sunday 21 st	10 am	Morning Service with packs in Service for children Led by Cherie Rogers
Sunday 28 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers
	11.30 am.	Followed by Church Members Meeting





Christmas and New Year Greetings

