



Peace  
on  
Earth



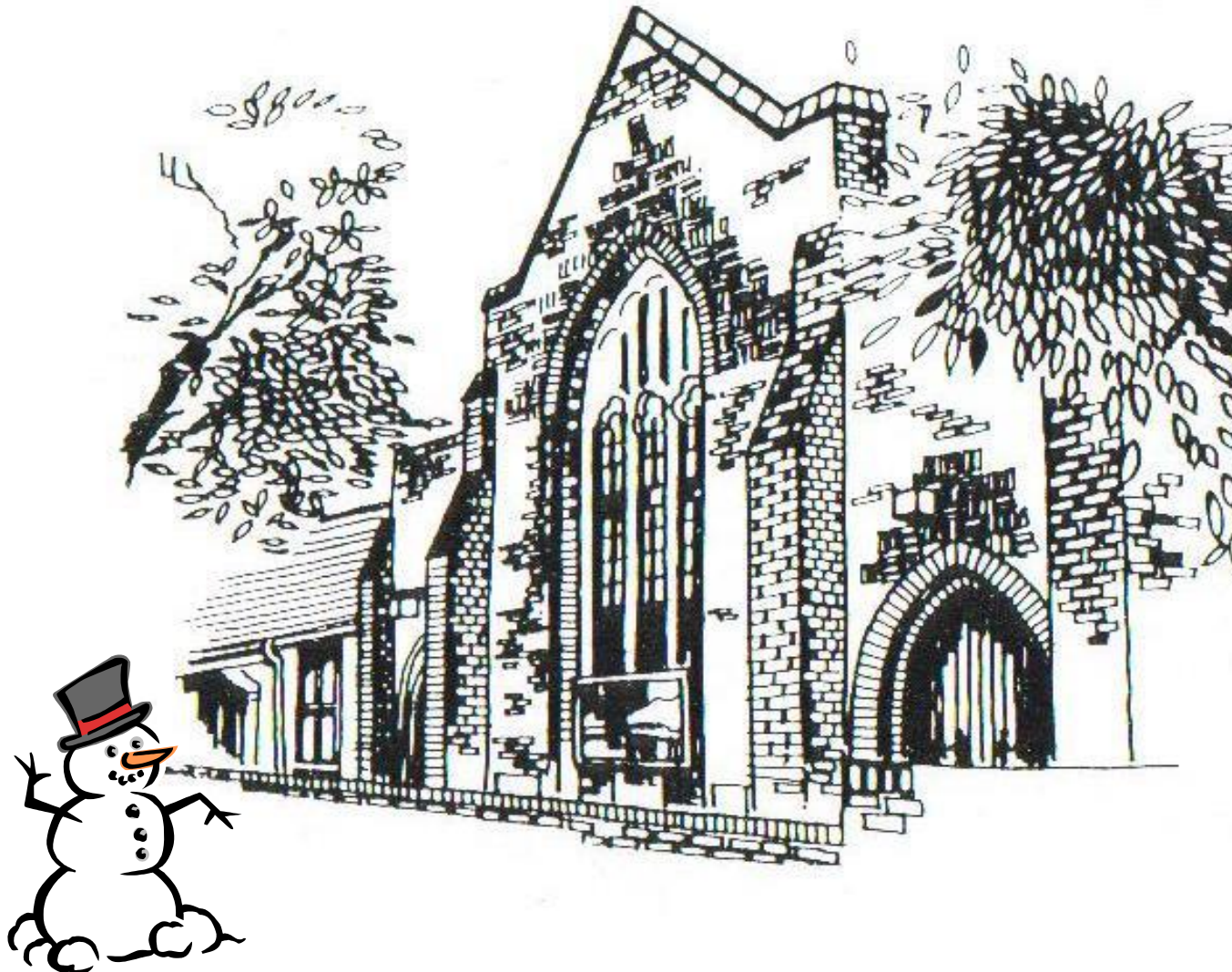
Peace  
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# THE MAGAZINE

## OF

# HIGHAMS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Cavendish Road, E.4.



DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022



## CHURCH PROGRAMME

**Sunday Services** : Following the current restrictions by the Government and after discussion at the Church Meeting there are a few changes to inform you about with regard to Sunday mornings.

We would encourage you to continue to wear a face covering when moving around inside the church building. During the service the wearing of face coverings is now optional.

Congregational singing has resumed. The chairs in the church have been rearranged but rows are spaced to allow appropriate distancing. .

Refreshments are being served in Fellowship Hall after services.

*For any further information please contact the Church Minister or Secretary.*

Weekly Home Zoom Group is held on Tuesdays at 7.45pm starting again on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Please contact Sarah and Paul Raymond for details.

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday January 23rd, 2022  
Editors : Dave & Jacque Lyus. Email : [magazine@hpbc.co.uk](mailto:magazine@hpbc.co.uk)





## **Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG December 2021/ January 2022**

<p><b><i>Minister: till December 12th Rev. Rosemary Eaton 21, Warboys Crescent, Highams Park, London, E4 9HR</i></b></p> <p><b><i>☎ 020 8523 5056</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Church Secretary: Ruth Underhay, ☎ 07593 421214 From Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 Please contact via the Church Website Hpbc.co.uk</i></b></p>
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### **It's Christmas...but not as we know it!**

Christmas 2021 is on the way. After another year shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic, hopes are high that this year's festive season will be a happier and more sociable event than was the case last year. Planning is underway for carol services, meals out, parties and family gatherings. All being well, this Christmas should be more like those we have known in the past. And yet, as the planning begins and preparations are made, there is a lingering sense of uncertainty and not a little doubt as to what will actually happen.

Will 2021 really be a return to 'Christmas as we know it'? Is that even possible in the wake of nearly two years that have changed everything? In light of all that has happened this year would it be better to look to for different ways of celebrating this important time in the Christian year? Might 2021 be the year in which the Christ Child might actually be welcomed in our midst not with frenetic activity but with awe and wonder?

Christians have often felt a certain unease that the cultural celebration of Christmas too easily overshadows the deeper significance of the Christian festival. Although carol services remain popular there has often been a tension between the expectations of the wider community and the preferences of those who form a regular part of church congregations. Music, mince pies and mulled wine have perhaps become more important than gathering as a Christian community to worship the advent of Immanuel, God with us. Could 2021 be the year when churches and communities decide to celebrate Christmas differently?

As planning begins for Christmas at Highams Park Baptist Church, I find myself planning a Christmas that will be very different from those I have known since becoming a Baptist minister twenty years ago. There are no carol services, community events or church meals to plan or lead. Christmas Day will not be shaped by the timing of the Christmas morning service. For me, Christmas 2021 will certainly be 'Christmas...but not as we know it'.

As my time in Highams Park draws to a close I am thankful to members and friends of the Baptist Church for the friendship, kindness and support that has been offered over the past four years. I have been glad of the opportunity to serve as your minister, and it has been a joy to get to know many of you during my time among you.





None of us could have guessed in 2017 at the changes and challenges that we would face. Now, in 2021, the way ahead for this local church is again unclear. My thoughts and prayers will be with you as together you negotiate the next stage of the journey.

Whatever Christmas 2021 brings, it is my hope that it will be a peaceful, joyful and blessed experience for you and those with whom you will share it.

Rosemary



***The Magazine Team***

***(And Samson the spider)***

***Wish You All A***

***Very Happy Christmas***

***And Peace and Happiness in***

***2022***





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

*Lord, You come to us, Your advent is here and now. Give us eyes to see and faith to believe, lest the last trumpet sound on deaf ears, and our sleeping eyes do not see the glory: lest, living in hope, we know not faith or love.\**



When we started preparing this issue, we were all waiting, with hope in our hearts, and some trepidation, for a Christmas that we could celebrate in the traditional way, amongst those we hold dear, and without restrictions; unlike last year when we stoically masked our fears while celebrating the joy and wonder of Christ's nativity. Yet once again we find ourselves wondering what the next few weeks hold; hoping that the latest virus concern is just a blip in our lives which will be safely and speedily resolved, allowing us to continue to enjoy this most special of festivals. Wherever we are and in whatever circumstances we find ourselves at Christmas, may we have a very real sense of the peace of Christ as we celebrate His birth, the joy and wonder it brings to mankind and remember His promise, that He would be with us always, in all life's joys and fears.

Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation of the future and reflection of the past and present also, and this year our Church finds itself once again facing a time of change and uncertainty as we bid Rosemary and Ray farewell on our Minister's retirement and their move away to a new home. We thank them for their contribution to the life of our Church over the past four years and wish them every blessing in the future. We will continue to support each other and the Church Council as we seek God's will for HPBC in seeking a new Minister and thank all those who will lead our worship over the coming weeks, administer the work of our Church practically and financially; knowing that we each have a part to play, young or old, and praying that we will go forward in Christ's name to witness in our fellowship and local community.

We were sad to learn of the death of Kerstin Dixon's father, who passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> November in Germany. Friends will remember Kerstin, Mark and their family who were faithful and active members of our fellowship some years ago until their move away from the area. We pray that God's loving presence will be with them and all their family and friends abroad as they remember her father and give thanks for his life and all he meant to them.

We are happy to report that Toby Player has continued to settle happily in supported living locally. We continue to uphold in prayer his family: Wendy, Gary and Gemma, together with those in his home who care for him, as they help him to grow and become fulfilled in this new phase in his life, praying that God's love will support them in all they do.





Over recent weeks Chhindo and her son, Anil, have been worshipping with us. Chhindo's husband, Amarjit, has recently had a spell in hospital and the family would appreciate our prayers as he returns home to recuperate.

Your prayers are also asked for Hannah, a friend of Lucy Jones, who has kidney failure and is hoping for a kidney transplant shortly but has an infection, anaemia and high blood pressure, meaning that the operation cannot go ahead. We pray for healing and God's loving presence for Hannah and all those supporting her through this difficult time. Hannah is a lovely, bright, cheerful young lady and remains optimistic despite her illness.

As always, we remember those who are currently unable to attend Church regularly, either through sickness, frailty, or other circumstances. May they be sure of our love and continuing prayers and know that they continue to be a vital part of our fellowship.

Our Church is once again beautifully decorated with a tree and candles etc. We thank Jason, Dave (Kendrick) and Tony who collected the tree and decorated the church.

At our recent Annual General Meeting the Church Council elections took place. We thank all those who have been willing to serve the Church in this way; those who continue on the Diaconate and those who are newly appointed. Those who were due for election or re-election and were voted in are:

Treasurer: Jason Close; Deacons: Mandy Edwards (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Steve Jenkins and Jean Mitchell.

We pray for our Church Council especially during the coming months as they lead our decision making concerning a new Minister, and the continuing work of our Church. As a Church family may we support each other in all we do in Christ's name.

A child is born, a son is given: eternal God made man.

Here shines the everlasting light that shone o'er time began!

He low within the manger laid is cradled by a Hebrew maid,  
according to God's plan.

Wonderful Counsellor is He, the mighty God, supreme!

Eternal father, ever the same; no change in Him is seen!

The everlasting Prince of peace, the King whose reign will never cease;

A Saviour to redeem!

*Anne Standfield, 'Reflections: Seasons of comfort and joy'. Day One publications.*

*\*Michael Walker, from 'For everything a season', Published by Arthur James Ltd.*





## ***ADVENT***

Advent – the word is derived from the Latin word *Adventus* meaning coming

In a recent Zoom meeting the subject of Advent was discussed and we learnt that up until the twelfth century Christmas took second place to Easter as the most important Christian Festival. However, this changed due to St Francis of Assisi thinking that perhaps there could not be an Easter if there had not been a Christmas – you always need to be born in order that you may die...

St Francis was a great advocate of Christmas – it is said that when asked if people should eat meat on Friday if Christmas fell on that day he replied, "*I would like that on Christmas even the walls could eat meat.*". He also began the use of a crib together with representations of animals and a carved doll for the baby. We still follow this with the present-day Nativity scene.



The lighting of candles on the four Sundays prior to Christmas is also an integral part of Advent. They represent Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, and are usually placed on an Advent wreath. At HPBC we add an extra candle which is lit on Christmas Day itself.

Advent in the Christian Church is seen as a time of preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth as well as for His second coming.

Advent calendars can be traced back to the 19th century when families would mark every day in December until Christmas Eve with a chalk line. Originally, the four-week period known as Advent began as a time for converts to Christianity to prepare for baptism. The practice of hanging a devotional image every day ultimately led to the creation of the first known handmade, wooden, Advent calendar in 1851. The first printed Advent calendar is thought to have originated in Germany in the early 20th century with Gerhard Lang. When Gerhard was a little boy, his mother made him a calendar with 24 small candies attached to cardboard, one for each day before Christmas. Of course, in recent times the idea of a Calendar to count down the days until Christmas has resulted in Advent calendars of many types. Chocolate Advent calendars were being made in Britain from the 1950s but did not seem to catch on until the 1980's. The normal British calendar was a cardboard sheet of festive images with a picture of the nativity scene on the 24<sup>th</sup>.





More recently we have seen Advent calendars with chocolate, cheese, cosmetics, spirits, Lego characters and even peanut butter cups(!) lining the shelves. Religious imagery seems to have disappeared...

The dictionary has two entries for the word 'advent':

*'the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.*

*the arrival of a notable person or thing: "the advent of television"*

In general usage the Christian meaning of advent uses a capital letter i.e., Advent. For the second meaning the lower case 'a' is normal.

Within HPBC we are, of course, celebrating Advent in the lead up to Christmas, but we could also be said to be looking towards the advent of a period of Interregnum. This properly refers to the time between the death of a monarch and the accession of their successor but, in a wider meaning it refers to the time between a minister leaving a church and the coming of their replacement. It is a situation that we have been in before but is no easier for that...

It has to be hoped that the finding of a new minister will be successful in a short space of time. Until then the onus of running the church will fall on the elected officers of the church and the Church Council. They will need all the support that we can give them in both practical terms and in our prayers. We would hope that the power of prayer will lead to a minister being guided by the call to HPBC and that the church can go forward to even greater things.



*Like a candle flame, flick'ring small in our darkness, uncreated light shines through infant eyes.*

*Stars and angels sing, yet the earth sleeps in the shadows; can this tiny spark set the world on fire?*

*Yet his light shall shine from our lives, Spirit blazing, as we touch the flame of his holy fire.*

*God is with us, alleluia, God is with us, alleluia, come to save us, alleluia, come to save us, alleluia.*

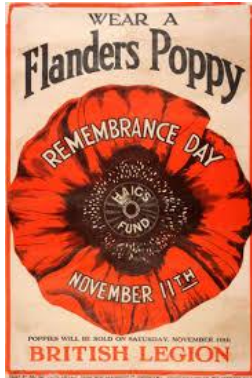
*Graham Kendrick (b.1950 - )*







## Remembrance



The use of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance has been with us since the Canadian doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae lost a friend at Ypres and was inspired to write the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The poem then inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She campaigned to get it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK. Also involved with those efforts was a French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, where she planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as the emblem in the UK. The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and raised over £106,000.

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' Fields.

Since that time, we have become very used to what might be called 'the standard poppy' but there are several other designs – there are various metal types and becoming increasingly seen are knitted poppies.

As many readers will know, we spend time in Newark and thus are able to watch the local television news programme 'East Midlands Today'. On a recent programme they mentioned ways in which poppies and other symbols were being used for Remembrance in the region.





The first was a nearby church – St. Giles in Balderton – they decided that it would be fitting to have a cascade of poppies hung from the church tower.



Members of the congregation were asked to knit, crochet, or make from felt, red or purple poppies – red for military personnel and civilians, and purple for animals that lost their lives in conflicts since 1914. I have also read that white poppies have been included in some displays representing the pacifist point of view. There has also been an introduction of a black poppy in memory of the black, African, Caribbean and Pacific Islanders who lost their lives at war.

Another story is related to an unknown person who has created many knitted articles in the village of Syston in Leicestershire. She only identifies her creations by the addition of the letters 'S K B' standing for The Syston Knitting Banxy in the same was as Banksy leaves works of art...



Over the years they have created over twenty post box toppings to celebrate special occasions including the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day and the Queen's birthday in June. Most appropriate is the one shown that appeared to celebrate Remembrance – but that is not all – he or she has now completed a full size and detailed knitted model of a soldier which has appeared at the town's memorial... DL





## Highams Park Snippets



As part of Remembrance over recent years in Highams Park, the Highams Park Society arrange for a short ceremony to be held at the Library building which houses the War Memorial plaque that originally stood in the Halex Factory. They also plant Royal British Legion crosses in the grass in front of Hale End Library – one for each of the Halex men and one to symbolise the Unknown Warrior. This year, they have added four extra crosses to represent the war dead from the then British Empire of other faiths – Sikhs, Hindus and

Muslims, a million of whom volunteered to join the Indian Army – and Jewish British soldiers.

We Will Remember Them

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### Remembrance – Two Victoria Cross holders

Whilst not strictly a Highams Park Snippet there is a connection to HPBC:

George Mitchell school is the only English state school to have had a past students awarded the Victoria Cross in each World War: Jack Cornwell in WW1 and George Mitchell in WW2'.



The school was originally known as Farmer Road School and started in 1900 in temporary premises; a permanent building was constructed during 1902 and opened on 15 June 1903 as an elementary school with separate departments for boys and girls aged 5 to 14, which was the statutory school leaving age at that time. In the 1940s it changed to being a secondary boy's school which it remained until 1986 when it became a co-educational secondary school. In 1957 the school became known as George Mitchell School in honour of a pupil who attended between 1923 and 1927. The reason for this honour was that he had won the VC for bravery in the Second World War. In early January 1944 he was in action in Italy

where during the fighting both his Commander and second-in-command were wounded The Company were ordered to attack enemy machine guns which were delaying the advance. With no senior officer in command Mitchell grabbed a bayonet and rifle and alone ran up the hill through heavy fire and killed the machine gun crew. Other machine guns were still in action and Mitchell again charged and together with others of his group killed six more men of the machine gun crew – they also took twelve men prisoner.





This was not the last of his bravery – under his example the men attacked a final gun position and forced all the men to surrender. Sadly, one of the Germans who had surrendered managed to seize a rifle and shot Mitchell dead.

The other pupil who won the VC was Jack Cornwell who at 16 remains the third youngest VC recipient. Cornwell was just 15 when he lied about his age to join the Royal Navy. A year later he was dead — the last sailor still manning his gun on HMS Chester as the Navy fought the German fleet at the Battle of Jutland in June 1916. He attended the school between 1905 and 1910 The citation for recommendation of the award of the VC reads:



*The instance of devotion to duty by Boy (1st Class) John Travers Cornwell who was mortally wounded early in the action, but nevertheless remained standing alone at a most exposed post, quietly awaiting orders till the end of the action, with the gun's crew dead and wounded around him. He was under 16½ years old. I regret that he has since died, but I recommend his case for special recognition in justice to his memory and as an acknowledgement of the high example set by him.*

And the connection with HPBC? Dave Kendrick taught at the school and remembered that the George Mitchell VC medal was shown to the school in a special assembly accompanied by pipers from Mitchell's regiment, the London Scottish.

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It looks (fingers crossed) that Christmas might happen this year... Two occasions that will help are:



If past years are anything to go by these are events to really support!





## \*\*REGAL CINEMA UPDATE\*\*



Residents might have noticed some changes taking place at the Regal site over the last couple of days. We're really pleased to provide an update on the project – it's great that so many people support a brand-new cinema space in Highams Park and we're excited to share the latest news!

Planning permission – including a revised s106 agreement – was issued by the Council to Mammoth earlier this month. This is for the scheme originally brought forward by the previous owner of the building. This planning permission includes delivery of the cinema spaces. Mammoth continue to review the plans for the building with their design team – led by experienced cinema architect Weedon – as well as their in-house construction team. They are working on revisions to the original scheme to improve its buildability and the operation of the cinema spaces. These changes to the plans mean that the project will require an updated planning application.

Council officers are working closely with Mammoth on the revised plans and anticipate that the new and improved planning application will be submitted early in the new year. The application will then be subject to a public consultation period before coming before the Council's planning committee. We'll be sure to share the date of the committee meeting with residents as soon as its been confirmed. Once Mammoth have secured planning permission, construction work can begin on site. Mammoth and council officers are in discussions with a number of cinema operators who are interested in the development. In the meantime, keep an eye out for some exciting new developments at the site itself as the cinema will feature in this year's Light Up Waltham Forest Festival and we'll have some brand-new artwork on display around the building. We worked closely with the Highams Park Planning Group and council officers on the content for the designs which are a celebration of our incredible Highams Park Community, and we really hope you like them!

Get in touch at our councillor email addresses if you have any questions or would like to know more

[Cllr.Tony.Bell@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Tony.Bell@walthamforest.gov.uk)

[Cllr.Rosalind.Dore@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Rosalind.Dore@walthamforest.gov.uk)

[Cllr.Zia-ur.Rehman@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Zia-ur.Rehman@walthamforest.gov.uk)

*This news has appeared recently and is a positive step forward (we hope).*





## 17<sup>th</sup> Waltham Forest Boys Brigade & Girls Association

Since the last time I updated you in the Church magazine a lot has changed. As we all know we had our lovely covid virus, which meant that the BBGA Company had been closed since March 2020.

Due to a number of reasons in September this year it was decided that we would close the company after 79 years. The Covid Virus was the last knocking and we had not reopened from being locked down 18 months ago. It was a sad decision, but the right one under the current state of play.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021, as part of the service, we marched on and laid up the Company Colour for the last time as the 17<sup>th</sup> Waltham Forest Boys Brigade & Girls Association Company. The Colour will be kept on display at the back of the church along with the Girl's Brigade Colour.

As a leaving note, the Battalion had already arranged an event on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and some of our children attended along with four other Companies from the Battalion, over 50 children were there on the day. This was at Lambourne End Outdoor Centre and they took part in Ropes, Zip wire, Climbing and the Anchor section went on a farm tour and pond dipping.



Visiting the Outdoor Centre





There will be a Thanksgiving service in May 2022, with a lunch and time to catch up with past members and people who have been connected to the Company, along with photos and films to look at. More information, with date will follow at the start of the New Year.

I would like to thank our Officers and Leaders, Amanda Edwards, Toby Close, Rosemary & Ray Eaton, Mundele Pedro & Ruth Underhay, who in the last session from September 2019 to March 2020, before lock down, attended each Friday with myself to run the BBGA; to ensure the children and young people had something to attend at our Church, to learn about Jesus, to have fun, play games, gain badges and meet together. Without all the team this would not have happened. So, we must give thanks and thank GOD for the love and support all the Leaders have shown.

Also, thanks go to our children and young people for their dedication to the Company. We do need to ensure we continue to pray and support all the Children and young people, and let them know as people of God they are special and that we are still here and the doors are open.

As I write this for the final time in the Church magazine as Captain, I remember all the good times I had for many years, as a boy, Officer and Captain. I give thanks to all who served before me and with me, as Leaders at all levels, without whom, so many would not be who they are today.

I finish by saying nothing can last for ever, but our memories, and the times we had are always with us.

God bless and in God's service, - Sure and Steadfast.

Jason Close - Captain of the 17<sup>th</sup> Waltham Forest BBGA Company

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*ED's note:* Perhaps with falling numbers the closure of the BBGA Company was to be, at some time, inevitable but it still leaves a feeling of great loss. It has, after all, been in existence for more years than few would admit to! Both the Church and the many people who have played a part in all the groups that make up the Company owe a huge debt of gratitude to those who have taken on the Officer's duties in those years. Those of us with a long memory will remember the many men and women who have instilled in the younger people lessons that they will remember and put into practice in their coming years. It is a sad fact that many who have played their part are no longer with us, some who went far too early, but we honour their memory. For those who are still with us we thank them for their service. This is especially true of the current Leaders who have done their best to keep things running along. We will miss telling you of their successes and bringing you news of their experiences. We must give special thanks to Jason for his hard work over the years and for bringing news of the BBGA. They will, of course live on with the Pal's Band...





*ED's note: Readers will know that we sometimes write about Churches etc. that we feel are of interest. We are delighted to include a report from our roving reporters Dianne and Dave Kendrick (who also provided the pictures).*

## **St Mary le Bow**

A short while ago, Dianne and I decided to make the most of the relaxations introduced following Covid lockdown by taking a closer look at the area surrounding St Pauls. We came across a really interesting church which, we have since discovered, has a fascinating history – this was the church of St Mary le Bow.



St Mary le Bow was built around 1080 by Lanfranc who accompanied William the Conqueror to become his Archbishop of Canterbury. St Mary le Bow was part of a building project which encompassed St Paul's and the Tower as a way of indicating that the Normans were here to stay. St Mary le Bow was the Archbishop's London headquarters and the 'le Bow' designates the distinctive Norman arches which were such a prominent part of the new architectural style and which can still be seen in the undercroft or crypt.

In the Middle Ages St Mary le Bow was famous as the home of the single 'curfew' bell which rung from the site in the middle of London's central street, Cheapside, to indicate the end of the working day. This ringing was picked up at the gates and the City closed for the night. So, if you could hear Bow bell you must be a Londoner or 'cockney'.

The church was destroyed in the Great Fire and rebuilt in restrained baroque by Christopher Wren. The tower (now with twelve bells, the Bow bells) was Wren's most ambitious and expensive project after St Paul's and at the time not wholly appreciated. Wren wanted this church (after St Pauls) to be his second tallest church and did so by moving the tower to the street.

The bells came crashing down in 1941 when the church was destroyed by enemy action. The church was rebuilt in 1960-4 by Lawrence King and the bells were restored in 1961, at which time they were inaugurated by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The architecture is still Wren's, but the atmosphere and fittings are more modern and liturgical giving a light and open aspect. Interestingly, the church now has 2 pulpits, an ancient Christian device for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel and also used today for a busy programme of exchange, lecture and debate.





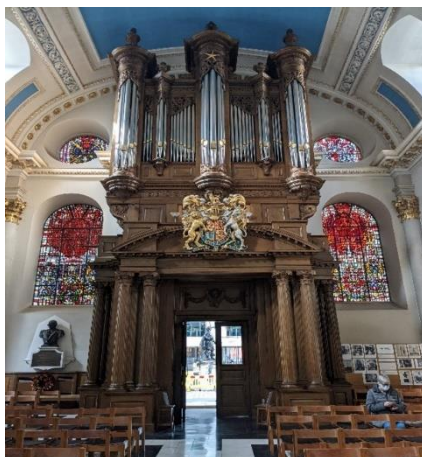


High above the Altar hangs a Rood – figures of the crucified Christ, Our Lady and those at the foot of the cross. This was a gift from the people of the Federal republic of Germany in 1964 – the first such Rood here since the Reformation.

The stained glass depicts Christ in Majesty above the City of God from the Book of Revelation and surrounded by the gifts of the Holy Spirit as flames of fire.



The present-day Crypt, although much altered, gives an idea of the of the structure (two aisles and a nave), then only partially underground, which Medieval Londoners would have known. Nowadays, the Crypt serves as a café to help refresh visitors to the church.



I was lucky enough to rest inside the church, while Di did a bit of retail therapy, and to hear someone practising on the organ (pictured left) – what an amazing, uplifting sound it was!!

We can recommend that anyone, when they get the chance, who hasn't yet visited this church, adds it to their 'things to see in London' list.

*Di and Dave Kendrick*





**All donations left in the 'Food Bank' box in the welcome area are now taken to the 'HUB food aid' at All Saints Church.**

Highams Park Food Aid (the HUB) was set up to provide food to people in Highams Park and Chingford who needed support in obtaining food supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of the COVID-19 lock down restrictions have been lifted but many people are still in need and Highams Park Food Aid continues to support them. Highams Park Food Aid is working closely with the Borough and food banks and the local Support Groups to provide food supplies to vulnerable families and people with no other support networks.

Please support this worthy cause as much as possible, particularly now that the weather is getting much colder.

The table shows which items are in particular need and those less so.

Many thanks for help with this.

Dave Kendrick





Below are some of the donations we accept, divided into those in **high stock** and **low stock**

## Low Stock

We are in particular need of the items below

<b>Rice</b> <i>500g bags</i>	<b>UHT Milk</b> <i>especially Semi-skimmed</i>
<b>Tinned Tomatoes</b>	<b>Tinned Fish and Meat</b>
<b>Fresh Fruit and Veg</b>	<b>Pot Noodles / Instant Meals</b>
<b>Eggs and Cheese</b>	<b>Shampoo, Body Wash, Hand Soap</b>
<b>Size 3 Nappies</b>	<b>Adult Pull-ups / Incontinence Pads</b>

## High Stock

We have plenty of these in stock already

<b>Sweets and Chocolate</b>	<b>Biscuits and Crackers</b>
<b>Tinned Fruit</b>	<b>Tinned Vegetables</b> <i>(especially sweetcorn)</i>
<b>Baked Beans</b>	<b>Jam</b>
<b>Sugar and Flour</b>	<b>Cereal and Oats</b>
<b>Tea</b>	<b>Soft Drinks</b>
<b>Nappies</b> <i>(except size 3)</i>	<b>Sanitary Towels</b>

## Items we cannot use

I'm afraid we do not accept the following items:

<b>Items past their</b> <b>Best Before or Use By date</b>	<b>Alcohol</b> <i>or items containing Alcohol</i>
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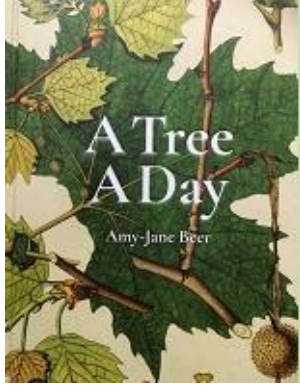




At a recent House Group Zoom Session Fiona and Mike Thorndyke gave a very interesting talk on trees – we felt that a wider audience would enjoy it too...

## Trees

Feeling inspired by the autumnal colours of the trees in our garden and in nearby woods, but also enjoying a book that we are currently reading.



The book is called “A tree a day“ and is written by Amy-Jane Beer. Amy was Michael's student (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) in the early 1990s. Her research was on sea urchins! She was always a very good writer and wrote one of the best theses I have seen! She has written a lot of books now and you can find her on Amazon if you want to know more. This particular book was her "Lock-down project". For each day of the year there is a page (or pages) about a tree or tree-related topic. Each day we learn something new, and it has been interesting to read about the different species of trees, and the stories and details attached. So, we have

selected a few of our favourite specimens to share.

### 1.The Wonderboom (Wonder tree)



This tree is found in Pretoria (South Africa) and named by Dutch speaking settlers who welcomed its shade as they migrated east. What at first appeared to be a grove of fig trees was just one single specimen. The branches had drooped and taken root in the ground, forming three rings of daughters around a central hole. The oldest parts of the tree are thought to date back more than 1,000 years.

### 2.The Giant Hand of Vyrnwy - Michael

Simon O'Rourke, a sculptor who works mainly with wood, heard that the tallest tree in Wales had been storm damaged and was due to be felled, But that Natural Resource Wales who were in charge of the site, were going to commission an artist to carve the tree. He found the right person to talk to and got permission to submit a design! He found out that the area of woodland that contained the tree was known as the Giants of Vyrnwy. So, he decided on a giant hand, symbolising the Giants, and the tree's last attempt to reach for the sky! Scaffolding was needed to make it safe to work on, and the terrain was such a difficult one that it took two days to erect the scaffold! Six days of intense work followed using chainsaws and grinders He needed to add two pieces for the thumb and little finger, as the tree wasn't wide enough to form the whole hand After completion, the sculpture was coated in Tung Oil, a natural plant-based oil safe for proximity to waterways.





### 3. Goats in Trees

We enjoy the wildlife that lives in trees – such as insects/ squirrels/ birds. But how many of us think of goats in trees? We also know that goats are skilled climbers and can scale steep rock faces and mountains in search of food. And the ones in Morocco climb trees for the same reason – food, which is otherwise scarce in this drought-ridden region. The goats are drawn to the fruit of the Argan tree, which ripens in June each year. The goats eat the flesh of the fruit, the nuts pass through their digestive system and is left in their droppings – then can be collected for processing. The Argan trees have thorny, with gnarled trunks, but the goats, who have been climbing these trees for centuries, have learnt to adapt themselves to the task. They perch from the branches and have now become a tourist attraction. Local farmers capitalise on this opportunity - they can make money from the processed nuts and also by charging tourists money to take photos.



### 4. Kelp Forests (Michaels choice – not surprisingly )



Kelp forests are underwater areas with a high density of kelp, which covers a large part of the world's coastlines. Kelp is a family of very large Sea Weeds that can each stretch several metres in length. They are recognized as one of the most productive and dynamic ecosystems on Earth.

***"I can only compare these great aquatic forests...with the terrestrial ones in the intertropical regions. Yet if in any country a forest was destroyed, I do not believe so nearly so many species of animals would perish as would here, from the destruction of kelp. Amidst the leaves of this plant numerous species of fish live, which nowhere else could find food or shelter; with their destruction the many cormorants and other fishing birds, the otters, seals and porpoise, would soon perish also;***

– Charles Darwin, 1 June 1834, Tierra del Fuego, Chile.

Kelp forests provide a unique habitat for marine organisms and are a source for understanding many ecological processes. For example, kelp forests can influence coastal oceanographic patterns and provide many ecosystem services. So are very much the marine equivalent of a terrestrial forest

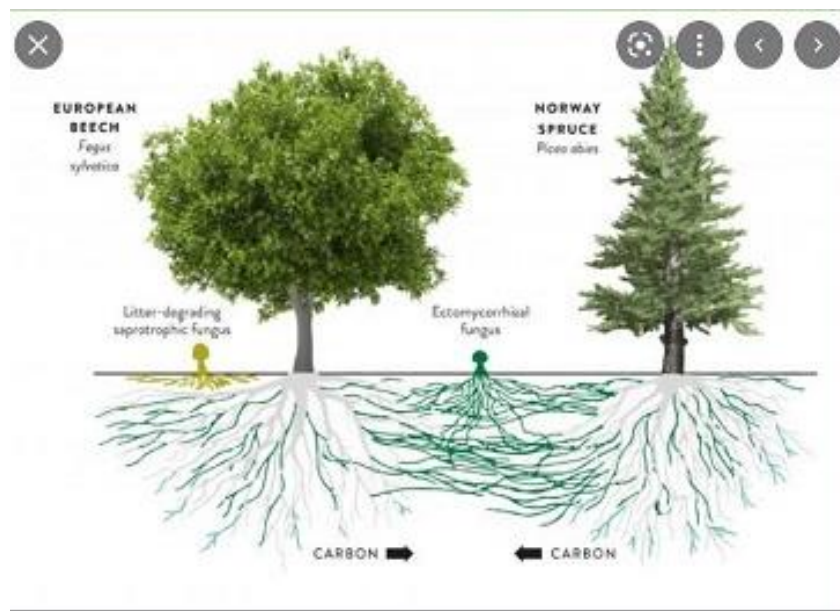




## 5. Ginkgo Biloba

Though the fruit, a ginkgo, is not so familiar to us, the Ginkgo species is over 270 million years old. Individual trees are long lived and often exceed 1000 years. The fan shaped leaves are distinctive – many leaves develop a notch on the outer edge forming the two lobes (as Ginkgo biloba). In the autumn the leaves turn yellow and can fall in a single day - “golden rain”. The male trees produce a cone, female ones a fruit which is said to smell of vomit. (though we have a female one in our garden and have never noticed any bad smells).

## 6. The Wood Wide Web



While we are familiar with the World Wide Web the lesser-known Wood Wide Web behaves in similar ways and exists right beneath our feet. In fact, the Wood Wide Web is vital for the functioning of a healthy ecosystem and, ultimately, the survival of humans around the globe. So, what is the "Wood Wide Web?" Autumn is also time of fungi, mushrooms and toadstools. Anyone walking in the woods and forests will have seen them this time of year. In many parts of Europe this is a time of year to go collecting fungi in abundance. What many people do not realise is that if you see a Mushroom or Toadstool growing in your garden or the local woods, most of that "plant" is underground! There is a mass of very fine fibres in the soil beneath the Mushroom "Fruit". These are called Mycorrhiza

“Mycorrhiza” literally means fungus-root, and it refers to the symbiotic relationship occurring between fungi and plants within the soil. This is not a new thing - fossils from 400 million years ago show evidence of the plant-fungi relationship. Today, more than 95 percent of terrestrial plants form a symbiotic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi. In this way, individual plants are joined together in an underground root-fungal network that has been termed the **Wood Wide Web**.





Whether we call it the **mycorrhizal fungi network**, or the wood wide web, its function remains the same - the transfer of information that enables organisms to communicate and help each other. Not unlike our www.

It is only recently that this has been known about. In 1997 forest ecologist Suzanne Simard discovered that **trees talk to each other**. In a revolutionary experiment, she was able to track the transfer of radioactive carbon gas from one tree to another faraway tree. She demonstrated that Douglas Fir and Paper Birch were communicating with each other. Contrary to the popular belief at the time that every tree in the forest canopy was in competition with each other - survival of the fittest - Simard's experiment showed us that trees, in fact, share resources. Older, healthier trees shuttle carbon and nutrients to younger trees, and those obscured by shade. She discovered that trees of different species are not only taking caring of each other, but they are favouring their own kin. Trees are capable of recognizing their own saplings! It turns out that they are also able to send warning signals to each other about threats in the environment, resulting in an increase in production of defence enzymes in neighbouring trees. Simard revealed that all this communication is taking place via the network of mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. The fungal web acts as a two-way highway that both sends and receives messages to balance forest resources, recognize kin, and signal for defence.

The growth of a church and the growth of trees have much in common. Scripture compares believers to trees planted by the water, with deepening roots, green leaves, and much fruit. (Psalm 1 1 -3)

***1. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.***

***2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night***

***3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, in all that he does he prospers.***

Trees grow upward, reaching toward sunlight, which they need to live. Quality, intensity and duration of exposure affect their health and growth. Insufficient light hampers photosynthesis and interferes with the tree's production of oxygen and other important organic compounds. Without light, trees die.

Christ is to the church what sun light is to trees. He came to the world to give light and life to those who were in the shadows of darkness and death. Growing churches look up to Christ for their sustenance. Christ's light shines in their proclamation, relations, and actions. A church without Christ is lifeless. He is the source of real life.

Trees grow internally by the multiplication and accumulation of new cells. These cells form the tree's structure, the leaves, the trunk, stems, and roots. These different organs work together, giving the tree support and all the other ingredients needed for life.





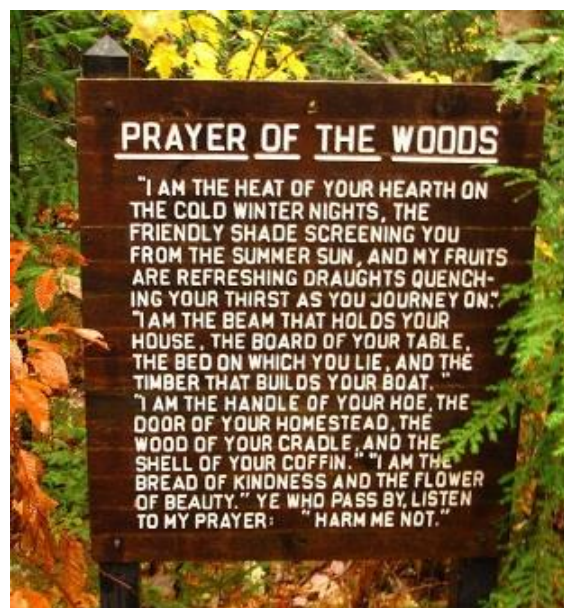
The roots dig for nitrogenous compounds, water, and other nutrients. Roots often spread beyond the width of the crown anchoring the tree solidly to the ground, securing it from the winds and other forces that may topple it. No organ in a growing tree is idle. Each performs a particular task, but all work in unison. In trees, different organs perform distinct activities for the benefit of the whole.

Likewise, in the church different members with diverse gifts accomplish different functions for the whole. Not all members can do the same thing in the same manner; all have different personalities, inclinations, interests, and gifts. But all can work together with dedication and unselfishness to make a perfect whole.

The pattern of growth differs in trees as well as in churches. The growth of trees is also influenced by light, shade, climate, and soil quality. Church growth is also influenced by geographical location, leadership, human and financial resources, and the climate around the church. Most people prefer warm churches with friendly members, located not too far from their homes.

God created trees to be a blessing to humankind. We are dependent on them in many ways from food to wood, from soil conservation to ecological balance, from medicine to air. Likewise, God has planted his church to be a blessing to humanity. The blessing includes more than the spiritual: The church is the only hands God has on this earth, to reach out and touch the sick, the poor, and those in need. Yet the church is composed of its individual members, who, if faithful, can fill the words of Jeremiah the prophet:

*"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit" (Jeremiah: 7)*







## Christmas facts...

In past years we have presented some facts about Christmas - here is a new selection for you to enjoy...

The word Noel derives from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news".

The world's tallest Christmas tree at 221ft high was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.

Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.



In 1999, residents of the state of Maine in America built the world's biggest ever snowman. He stood at 113ft tall.

Many parts of the Christmas tree can actually be eaten, with the needles being a good source of Vitamin C. **DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!**

Jingle Bells was the first song broadcast from space when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra sang it on December 16, 1965.

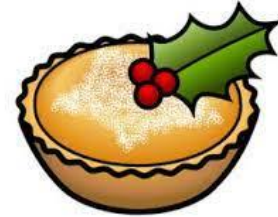
Santa has different names around the world - Kriss Kringle in Germany, Le Befana in Italy, Pere Noel in France and Deushka Moroz (Grandfather Frost) in Russia.

Upside down artificial Xmas trees are sold to allow more gifts to be piled under.





According to tradition, you should eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas to bring good luck. It's 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 first song ever broadcast was a Christmas Carol. On Christmas Eve, 1906, the Canadian inventor Reginald Fessenden (1866-1932) played "O Holy Night" on the violin and sang the final verse while broadcasting from his Brant Rock radio tower in Massachusetts.

32.56 metres - The length of the longest ever Christmas Stocking. It was also 14.97 metres wide.

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 large part of Sweden's population watches Donald Duck cartoons every Christmas Eve - a tradition that started in 1960.

The average Brit consumes around 7,000 calories on Christmas day, and you'll reach your recommended daily allowance at about 2pm.



The UK Brussels Sprouts industry (and yes, it's Brussels sprout, not brussel sprout) is worth £650 million, and the area of the country covered by Brussels Sprouts fields is the equivalent to 3,240 football pitches. 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.





It is fairly well known that Christmas crackers were invented by Tom Smith in 1846 taking the idea of the French bon-bon which is basically a sugar almond wrapped up in tissue paper, with a twist either side of the bon-bon. He thought the idea could be a festive way of enjoying sweets and produced other candy wrapped in a similar way, for the lead up to Christmas. They proved to be a bestseller at Christmas, which led to his next idea. Since the bob-bons were mainly bought by men for their partner to unwrap, in the early 1850's, Thomas came up with the idea of including romantic poems wrapped around the candy. Further developments led to the addition of the 'bang' and then paper hats and small gifts. However, by the 1930's it was felt that the 'sweetheart' poems were no longer appropriate and so was born the 'Christmas Cracker Joke' with its reputation for being awful - but it's not because the joke writers don't have a sense of humour, but rather because that's what people love and expect from a cracker. There were complaints in the past of having jokes which could be seen as offensive or in bad taste. The jokes are intentionally bad so that all the family can understand them, and laugh at how stupid the joke is. Examples follow:

**Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?**

He was picking his nose

**What did Adam say the day before Christmas?**

"It's Christmas Eve"

**What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?**

Claustrophobia

### Hit or myth

It is sometimes said that the Germans have no sense of humour - but to prove this wrong they seem to have taken to heart a British film made in 1963 called 'Dinner for One'. It is only eighteen minutes long and was originally written by Lauri Wylie and was debuted as a sketch in his London stage revue *En Ville Ce Soir* in 1934. A German TV broadcaster recorded the sketch as an 18-minute black-and-white videotape recording, starring British comedians Freddie Frinton and May Warden. It is now shown every New Year's Eve and has become traditional in European countries such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Estonia, or on 23 December in Norway. The show is now broadcast every New Year's Eve in Britain on Sky Arts with its first national broadcast there airing in 2018. DL





*The following comes from many years ago but seems very relevant for us today as we once again face an uncertain future albeit for different reasons.*

'Big Ben's booming chimes have been broadcast all round the world to mark significant moments in our lives. On Remembrance Day 1940, the chimes broadcast just before the 9 o'clock evening news had a new meaning for many listeners gathered behind their blackout curtains. The launch of the Big Ben silent minute followed the worst month of the wartime blitz, and as the BBC announcer said just before the hour:

*There is no doubt that we may face the future courageously, that we must build for the future wherever we may be; above all that we must find fresh standards on which to build, and some will be seeking those standards as Big Ben strikes.*

*Andrew Barr from Songs of Praise – A Christmas Companion*



*Christmas is the launching pad for the New Year to come. Resolve to go forward in peace and with a willing heart, for nothing is impossible.*



*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.*





## **CHURCH DIARY**

### **December**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service Led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by Rev. Rosemary Eaton with Sunday School Farewell lunch for Rosemary and Ray
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight Led by Mandy Edwards and Ruth Underhay With Mince Pies afterwards

**Please Note there will be NO Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service**

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Muneyi and Tony Antoniou
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**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> No Service**

### **January**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 am	Songs of Praise Service led by Ruth Underhay and Mandy Edwards
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting at the Church
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service and Communion led by Mandy Edwards
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Peter Burke With Sunday School
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Paul Raymond
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service led by Sheila Humphrey

