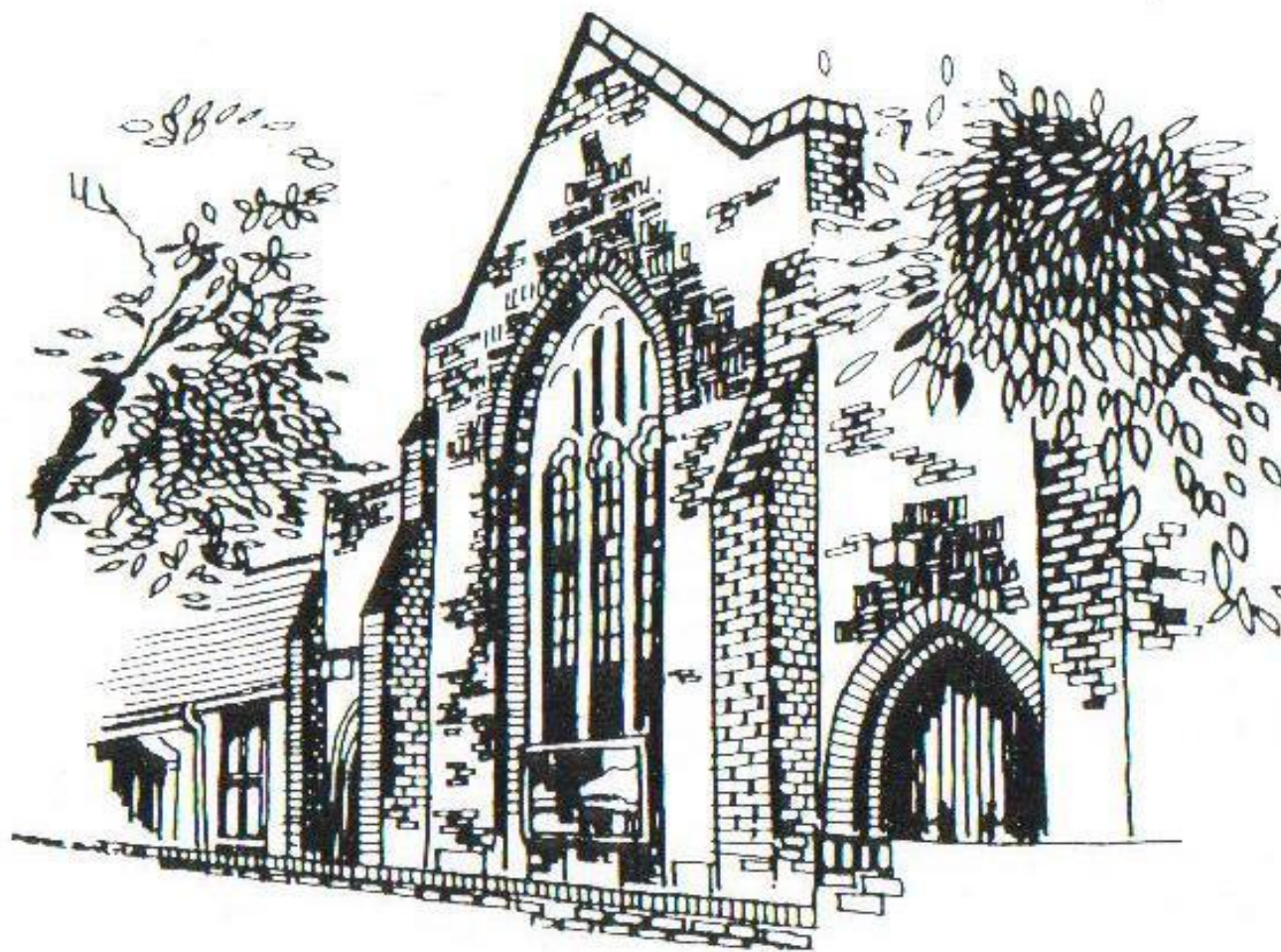




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



Feb/March 2025

CHURCH PROGRAMME

At the time of writing

Current Covid Safety Arrangements

These have been removed at this time. If you have any concerns, please contact the Duty Deacon

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



The Zoom Home Group is held on most Tuesday Evenings. Please see Cherie for details and how to join.

There is a box just inside the main church door collecting food contributions for The Hub. If you are able, please put an extra item or two in your shopping to add to this for those who are struggling in the current financial climate.

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 16th March 2025
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
February / March 2025

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Dear Friends

By the time we get to the end of January, any new year's resolutions which we may have made, even secretly, are usually long since forgotten! In fact, I think that resolutions made at other times of the year are actually easier to keep!

One thing that I have resolved since beginning my time in ministry here, is that I would continue to work on deepening my prayer life – that I would not allow myself to be content with how things are but seek to move forward in my understanding. There is so much for us *all* to learn regarding prayer; if we ever get to the point of thinking that we know what we are doing and that we have this prayer business sussed, we are on dangerous ground. This is why I wanted to start the new year with a sermon series on the subject and perhaps encourage you to make a resolution similar to mine.

It is often thought that prayer is something that is difficult. This is dependent upon how we view prayer - the influence of our upbringing, any teaching we might have received in the past - our own perception about what prayer is and what it entails. In essence, it should be the easiest thing that we do, talking with our creator and loving God.

I know that sometimes we can set unbelievably high benchmarks for our prayer life – or rather we think God sets these expectations!

We then feel inadequate when we fail to meet that standard. God sets no such standard. Very often these are to do with the amount of time that we set aside for prayer and to do with the eloquence of the words which we use.

Neither of these are the most fundamentally important aspects. What I'm discovering as more important is the recognition of prayer as the *relationship* between us and God. A sharing of the things that are on our minds and in giving space and quiet for God to speak to us. There is an intentionality that is required, that we set some time aside each day for prayer – but not for it to be legalistic or binding. Prayer is as much an attitude as a task. We could view the entire day as a conversational walk with God, remembering Him in all things that we do throughout the day, as well as pausing to give thanks. Not just asking but listening too. Prayer doesn't change God – prayer changes us.

The other thing that has struck me as I have read various books and thought about prayer is that different ideas can be helpful for different people, and that there really is no fixed right way to pray. Indeed, when we get fixated on methods, our prayer-life can very quickly become a chore to be got through. We start to feel that we *ought* to be doing this and *should* be doing that, and it is then that we begin to feel that we are not measuring up: “I am not very good at prayer” and “I find prayer boring.” But I do not believe this is the way that God wants us to feel about prayer. A rich prayer life is far from boring!

Prayer is comforting as we begin to realise more and more that God is with us in all things, and he understands.

Prayer is vital to our sense of wellbeing: it has been said that if your day is hemmed in with prayer, it is less likely to unravel. The same things may happen, but we deal with them better.

Prayer is exciting as we listen to God and allow his Holy Spirit to prompt and guide us in what he wants us to do and say.

God wants us to notice what is going on around us and see with His perspective - the people in places where He is already at work and where might want us to join in. As Frank Laubach observed, 'Prayer at its highest is a two-way conversation and for me the most important part is listening to God's replies.'

Our verse of the year encourages us to press on in our prayer life, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7.7)

I hope that all of us will continue to resolve to develop our prayer life as we try to worry less about the *how* and *when* and simply become open to the journey.

Every Blessing,
Cherie

Cherie found the following on Facebook and felt it was very appropriate

How to serve your church family in 2025

Be there on a Sunday
Really listen
Look out for people who might be new
Don't just say you'll be praying, actually pray for people
there and then
Offer encouragement whenever and wherever you can
Apply the sermon to yourself
Remember people who have shared things with you and
touch base with them during the week
Remember we are still God's church beyond Sunday
Forgive as Christ forgave you

Cavendish Circular



It never ceases to amaze that even when there is snow on the ground and the thermometer has dropped out of sight, the daffodils are poking their heads above the soil – a sure sign that Spring is coming – and how we will welcome it.

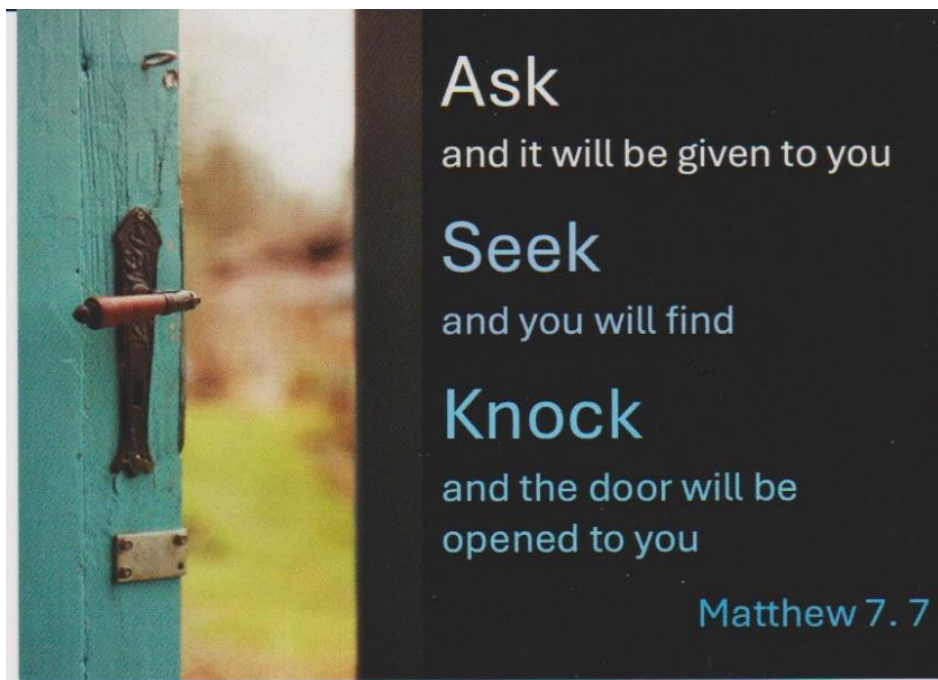
Hazel Ansell and Sarah Raymond have been welcomed (officially) into the Diaconate. We are sure that they will do all they can to ensure that HPBC as ever runs like a well-oiled machine.

The World Day of Prayer takes place on March the 7th – further details are shown later in the magazine.

Your thoughts and prayers are asked for all those who are suffering from ill health or other reasons which prevent them from attending church, especially for Liz Jones recovering from surgery and Margaret Norris who is staying for respite in the same care home that looks after Doris Thorndyke – we are sure that there are a few conversations taking place.

As you will read Christmas was celebrated well by all those of HPBC who were at one of more of the services, attended the Christmas meal or received and posted cards by using the post box. Thanks go to all who made this possible.

The Church Text for 2025 is : -



Christmas 2024 at HPBC



It seems only a few weeks ago that I sat writing about the HPBC 2023 Christmas - the time just seems to go...

The first sign that Christmas is about to happen is not that tins of Quality Street appear in the shops (that occurs in September if not earlier!) but that the

Christmas tree and the other decorations spread around the building are suddenly there. Of course, this is not by magic but the band of Christmas elves (better known as Dave, Di, Tony, Jason and Althea) work very hard to make it happen. The candles were also put into place for the Carols by Candlelight Service to take place later.

Amongst the items put into place are the Advent Candles which really signify the 'official' commencement of Christmas. The four white candles being lit one on each Sunday in Advent followed by the red one on Christmas Day.

The Church Postbox made its welcome appearance from December the 8th staffed by Dave and Di. There seemed to be rather fewer cards than in past years but alphabetic sorting soon started. However, although people brought the cards, they did not always rush to collect their cards after the service. On the 8th there was also a joint Advent Evensong with Hainault Baptist Church which was very successful. Being two smaller churches we thought that it might be encouraging to meet other Christians from another local congregation and build Baptist links. The service was based around the traditional advent readings and hymns. Rev Keith John led the service, and the address was given by Cherie. Around thirty attended, equal numbers from both churches, and we shared tea and cake afterwards, with good conversation. It is hoped that in the summer we might have a joint service again, this time at Hainault Baptist Church.



A change of venue for the Church Christmas Dinner this year took 20 plus diners to the Queen Elizabeth public house in North Chingford. Reports say that it was an excellent evening and enjoyed by all.



Sunday 15th brought an All-Age Service and what was advertised as 'A Nativity - of sorts!' - Mandy had worked very hard to create a commentary in rhyme and the cast performed very well. Over the years we have had many different Nativity presentations and all have been extremely well received. This year was no different...



In the period leading up to Christmas we had delivered details of our Carols by Candlelight service to take place at 4 pm on Sunday 15th.

Together with word of mouth this must have worked as there were just under a hundred people who came to sing and hear the Christmas story.



Many also stayed behind for refreshments afterwards. On the afternoon of Christmas Eve, we enjoyed a joint Chocolate Nativity with Winchester Road Methodist church, which attracted a good number, around 25, and children and adults alike enjoyed the retelling of the nativity story mentioning many different chocolate bars - it was good fun and nice to gather on

Christmas Eve afternoon. The candlelit midnight communion was also joint with the Methodists, and about fifteen people saw in Christmas Day by celebrating the Lord's Supper together. This was followed by a usual Sunday-sized number at our Christmas Morning service, including some visitors from other churches, and a joyous atmosphere.

The last Sunday of the year was led by Dr. Paul Davis who gave much food for thought about the chronology of the Nativity especially regarding the Magi. He discussed that such people who 'journeyed from afar' would not travel lightly and that it would take a considerable time to reach Bethlehem. This would seem to indicate that Jesus may well not have been visited by them at the time of the Nativity.

As ever Christmas is a wonderfully varied time at HPBC as well as with other churches and much appreciated by all who were there. We do have to give huge thanks to all those people who worked so hard to make it happen. And now off to Christmas 2025...

DL and Cherie



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – MARCH 7TH

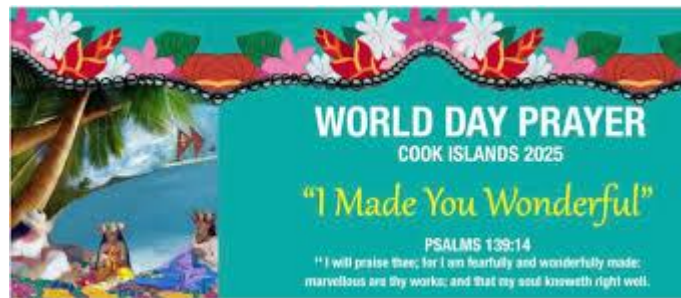
“I Made You Wonderful”

Psalm 139:14



“Kia Orana! Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme ‘I made you wonderful’. World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of

years earlier. Once written it goes to the International Committee in New York for translation and dissemination to the National Committee in each participating country. The service is then discussed and edited before being presented nationally, regionally and then locally for branches to make their plans. Finally, at a church near you, on Friday 7 March 2025, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of The Cook Islands. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world — through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. A worldwide wave of prayer...



The idea of a World Day of Prayer originated in the United States in the late 1800's when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. It is from such roots as these that WDP has taken its present shape. Not unsurprisingly (for the times) there was much opposition from the church men but with perseverance Methodist women called for a week of prayer and self-denial for foreign missions. Two years later, two Baptists called together a Day of Prayer for the World Mission. The Day of Prayer initiated by these two women expanded to Canada in 1922, then to the British Isles in the 1930s.

Since 1927 the day of prayer has been known as the Women's World Day of Prayer. Catholic women joined the movement after the Second Vatican Council, beginning in 1967, and united what had been their May day of prayer with the March Women's World Day of Prayer in 1969. The Women's World Day of Prayer became the World Day of Prayer in 1968.

The 2025 WDP program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully" made in the image of God reinforces our movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

This year's service in Highams Park is at HPBC on Friday 7th of March at 10.30am. You will be very welcome to join the rest of the World...



THINGS TO COME

Not the 1936 Sci Fi film but news of forthcoming events. It is good in the early cold/frosty/snowy days of the year to look forward to better times.

Love Hale End Library Day

including the Spring Flea Market

Saturday 10th May

organised by the Highams Park Planning Group

Highams Park Arts & Culture Trail

all around the Highams Park area

Friday 2nd to Sunday 18th May

organised by the HPPG/ARC Group

The Spring Festival

The Highams Park, IG8 9RB

Sunday 18th May

organised by The Friends of The Highams Park



The Picnic in The Highams Park



Sunday 7th September

organised by The Friends of The Highams Park

We know that Peter Burke has been through some hard times recently and has found comfort in not only writing articles for the magazine but in poetry as with these heartfelt verses...



HOPE

You dropped a lifeline in that storm when I couldn't cope,
I'd been damaged in my mind so I clung to your rope.
You shone your light down on me,
I reached up and believed,
there was not much else I could do,
than be a leaf just hanging on a tree.

But I also looked down, kept looking at the storm,
like checking a healing wound,
is my mind back to norm?
For now I must keep focus on the light I see above,
You taught me how to embrace the thing I was increasingly afraid
of.

Being still whilst in the dark, accepting trouble, yet needing faith.
Recurring thoughts require trust that God was like the Bible says.
I exposed my sinister trait and so it lost it's power,
Thats when grace came flowing from the high tower.
I learned to not fear in the storm that surrounded me,
being pulled towards a light by your strong, kind hand of mercy.

Do you feel that you are going round in circles? Perhaps the following event may be able to let you make sense of so doing...



MAYPOLE DANCING
in The Highams Park
IG8 9RB

Come along and try this great exercise for the mind and body, at fun and informal sessions next to Humphry's cafe!
No pre-booking necessary.

Join us on for regular weekly sessions starting on

Saturday 16th March
9.45am to 11.30am
(weather permitting)

please note, children under 8 yrs are required to have an adult dancing with them.

All welcome from ages 5 to 95!
No experience necessary!
To register interest please email highamsparkevents@gmail.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Waltham Forest Highams Park Planning Group Highams Park

As well as Church there would appear to be much to look forward to...and as Hazel says: -

Hazel's Homespun Humour

Don't wait for things to get easier or better
Life will always be complicated.
Learn to be happy right now
Otherwise, you'll run out of time.

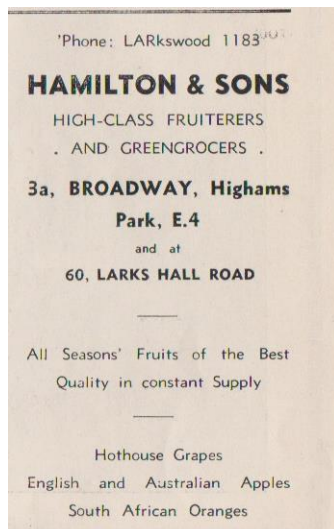
Highams Park Snippets

Back to looking through the archive of HPBC Magazines from the 1930's and the adverts that they contained. I think that we have now covered most of the businesses that found the magazine a good way of getting their names and products known about.

I do remember writing about Hitchman's Dairy sited in Handsworth Avenue and just writing those words prompts the memories of going to the dairy when a delivery had not been made or was incorrect. The dairy always seemed to be a hive of activity with a good number of people running around, the sounds of the electric milk floats arriving and departing. They would all return when their rounds were over to be charged up for the next day. It seemed very unlikely that such methods of propulsion would become the future...

There was at least one other dairy that I remember from fifty years ago – this was Radbourne's sited in Fulbourne Road near to the junction with Forest Road. In the magazine they state that they are at Hagger Farm. I found the following information on line: - *R. E. Radbourne Ltd Dairy. Formerly Hagger Farm. The farm was much bigger and straddled what would become Fulbourne Rd, originally a small lane running through the farm. The building of Fulbourne Rd possibly involved compulsory purchase and the farm became a dairy linked to others and which covered South Woodford, Harlow and other locations in Essex. R. E. Radbourne moved his family to Harlow Bury farm in Harlow, (the dairy in South Woodford was named for Harlow Bury). James Radbourne his father was a dairy farmer on Hagger farm and Robert Edward Radbourne expanded on that and even became a counsellor for North Walthamstow on Essex County council. Sadly R.E. Radbourne died quite young, his son Murray carried on as director of the company as one of a large family, I don't know when the company ceased to exist, it was still going in the 60s.* They too must have found it cost effective to advertise in Highams Park.

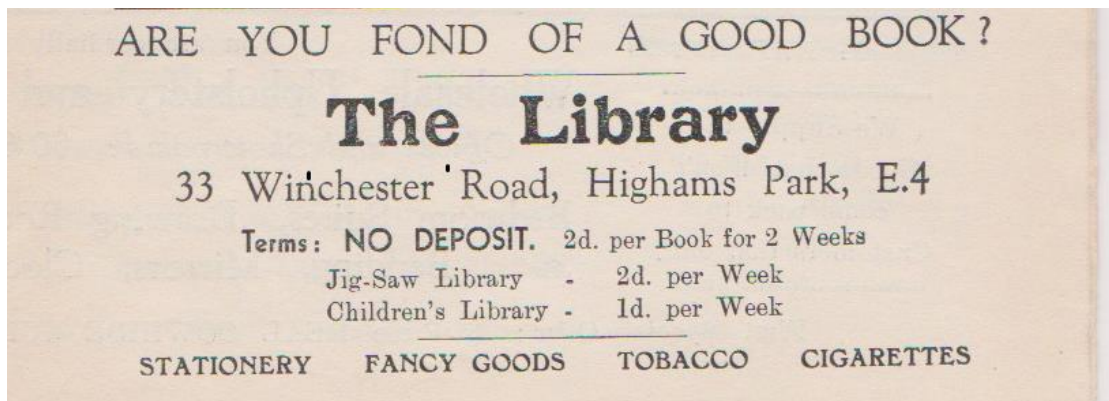
MILK MATTERS :: :: TAKE NO RISKS
Are you sure that the milk you obtain is
PURE, CLEAN AND FRESH ?
You can be if you place your order
with the producers
R. E. RADBOURNE, LTD.
HAGGER FARM DAIRY :: WALTHAMSTOW
Also at Woodford and Chingford - Telephone: LARKSWOOD 1922



Another company I do not recall having written about is Hamilton and Sons who apparently had two places of business. They note that they sell 'All Seasons Fruits of the Best Quality in constant supply'. Those were the days when you could only get certain fresh items when they were in season – that has certainly changed.

I also found a couple of adverts for 'The Library' in Winchester Road. It would appear that although it was a business that sold stationery, tobacco and cigarettes you could, for a small sum, borrow books and even Jigsaw puzzles. I think I would have liked that idea as a: -

Dissectologist: The technical term for someone who enjoys jigsaw puzzles. The term comes from the original name for jigsaw puzzles, which were called "dissected maps".



For now, that uses all the advertisements that I have found over the weeks and months in the archived magazines from the 1930's. If you have read them, you will have noted the preponderance of small businesses that had set up in Highams Park. The only 'chains' that I remember from the 1950's were the Gas and Electricity Board showrooms in The Avenue, The Co-op had a large presence having greengrocery, butchery, general supplies and chemists in separate shops. (not counting the Funeral Directors), there was also Home and Colonial. There were coal merchants, clothing and haberdashery, shoe menders – all have gone to be replaced by mini supermarkets (and Tesco's of course) and plenty of places to eat. This change is not unique to Highams Park of course but will we look back in a century to come and try to remember what we had?

You may have read that the Granada Cinema in Hoe Street, Walthamstow is due to open as the Soho Theatre Walthamstow in May of this year. It is described as a 'multi-purpose multi-cultural centre' venue which will be an asset to residents, communities and businesses'. We can 'look forward to seeing 'the biggest names in comedy, cabaret and live performances. Many of you will remember going to the cinema or to one or more of the live performances of pop stars of the day (including the Beatles (who were not even officially the headline – that was Mary Wells, singer of 'My Guy'. I think she gave up the top of the bill spot because the Beatles had become so popular – I know because I was there...)). The press release states that the opening will be 'the core of the council's vision for Waltham Forest to become a cultural neighbourhood'.

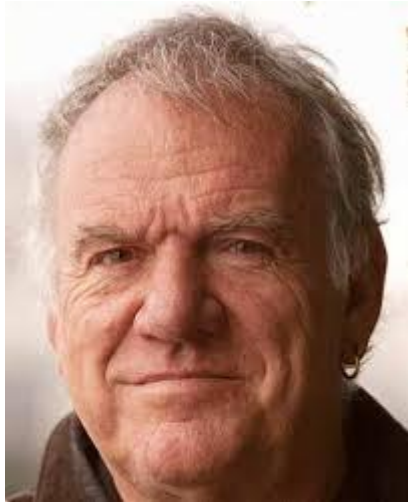
Hopefully this goal will eventually extend to the re-opening of the Regal Cinema. Over recent years there have been many reports of plans for its reconstruction as part of development with housing but keeping the original facade. It has seemed to be degenerating more and more and is now less a 'sight for sore eyes' than 'an eyesore'. We live in hope.



HPBC does have a tenuous link to the cinema when it was the 'Electric Theatre'. The service for the first anniversary of our church was held there as we did not at the time have a suitable venue of our own. The Church magazine of March 1933 tells that 'Our village had never previously witnessed such a gathering on a Sunday evening, for the building was crowded, many having to stand throughout the service.

DL

Musings - *A few random thoughts about...* Streets of London



Whilst reading the last issue of the magazine and listening to the radio I heard a short programme about Ralph McTell whose 80th birthday took place on December 3rd. He is probably best known for his writing and recording of 'Streets of London'.

Ralph was born on 3 December 1944 in Farnborough, Kent. He was named after Ralph Vaughan Williams— his father Frank had worked as the composer's gardener before the war. Frank was demobilised, but after a year or so at home, he walked out on his family in 1947. Ralph displayed a love of music early and his grandfather taught him to play the mouth organ/harmonica. He was a bright child and did well at school although disliking it greatly. About this time he came to hear skiffle music which was becoming popular and started a skiffle group at school. After his school days he was very influenced by American music – especially jazz and rhythm and blues. He bought a guitar and practiced hard and slowly became known on the burgeoning folk scene. He made many good friends amongst the folk players and he managed to eke out a moderate career.

Eventually he came to the attention of record producers and in 1967 got a contract with Transatlantic Records. As was often the case at that time he became better known for albums rather than singles and on his second 'Spiral Staircase' there was the first iteration of 'Streets of London' (recorded in just one take). He soon became very well known - to such an extent that he managed to have sell out concerts at the Royal Festival Hall and later the Royal Albert Hall. 'Streets of London' had only been heard on albums but in late 1974 it was re-recorded as a single and it rocketed up the charts to No. 2 in the first week of 1975, and then became a worldwide million-seller, and won McTell the Ivor Novello Award.



It quickly became seen as a comment on the homeless situation. At the 70's many people who had for whatever reason left home came to London believing the streets were paved with gold.

There was little homelessness in the rest of the country. Dissolution probably soon set in. There was little help – mainly The Salvation Army hostels. 'Crisis' had been set up in 1967 in response to the growth of homelessness. However, there was much less sign of people sleeping rough as squatting (the taking over empty properties by groups of homeless people} was legal and remained so until September 2012. The frightening statistic from 'Shelter' in 2024 is that it is estimated that one in forty-seven people in London are homeless...



Strangely the song makes mention of 'the old man' and 'the old girl' yet it is probably much more likely today that the homeless will be young. There is no one reason why somebody 'chooses' to be homeless – it could be family problems or having lost their home due to loss of employment and

getting into a downward spiral of debt. There has in the past been problems with claiming benefits if you do not have a permanent address but there are ways in which this can be overcome. You do hear stories of people who have even been given accommodation but later return to living on the streets – possibly their chosen lifestyle does not sit well with the responsibility needed to conform with the rules and regulations accompanying the use of a property. It is not a life that most of us would want to pursue but not everybody has that choice...

'Streets of London' will forever be associated with Ralph McTell but many others have recorded versions including Harry Belafonte, Cilla Black, Roger Whittaker and the Anti-Nowhere League.

When he was young Ralph was aware of a contentious sentence of death made on Derek Bentley for the shooting of a police officer. Bentley was said to be of limited intellect and under the influence of Christopher Craig who at the age of sixteen was too young to have the sentence of death passed on him. Ralph wrote a song 'Bentley and Craig' about the apparent miscarriage of justice and worked hard with Bentley's family to petition for a pardon to be granted. Eventually a full pardon was given in 1998.

The song ends: -

*Oh, you men on our behalf who sanctioned the boy's death
There's still one thing left to do.
You can pardon Derek Bentley who never took a life.
For Derek Bentley cannot pardon you*

It is not only the homeless that need help – food banks were first set up in the year 2000 and have (unfortunately) grown since that time. In Highams Park we have 'The Food Hub' which is run from All Saints Church with collection points dotted around, including the one in the foyer of our church. They have over 70 volunteers and are currently serving some 85 families and over 170 people. To use the food bank you have to be referred by one of a group of people including: - Social Housing Officer, Midwife or Doctor or Officer of any Religious Institution. It has proved to be an excellent scheme helping many needy people. They are always grateful for supplies – it helps to check on their website (<https://www.hphub.co.uk>) for items that are needed.



As an aside – the song title that we started with is 'Streets of London'. One of those perennial Quiz night questions is 'how many streets does the City of London have?'/ The answer for the Square Mile of the City of London is none. There are many streets, lots of Alleys, Gates and Lanes and streets with names indicating their original use such as 'Poultry, Milk Street, Bread Street



Apparently the word 'Road' did not come into use until the sixteenth century and by this time most of the thoroughfares were already named and this tradition has remained. DL

CHURCH DIARY

February

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

Sunday 2nd	10 am	Sunday All Age Service
Monday 3rd	10.30	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 4th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Thursday 6th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 9th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 10th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 11th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 14th	7 pm	Youth Evening
Sunday 16th	10 am	Morning Service Led by Mandy Edwards Followed by Members meeting at 11.30 am
Monday 17 th	10.30 am	NO Coffee morning (Half Term)
Tuesday 18th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 23 rd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 24th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 25th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom

March

Sunday 2nd	10 am	Sunday All Age Service
Monday 3rd	10.30	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 4th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Thursday 6th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Friday 7th	10.30 am	World Day of Prayer
Sunday 9th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 10th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 11th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 14th	7 pm	Youth Evening
Sunday 16th	10 am	Morning Service
Monday 17th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 18th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 23rd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School. Led by Dr. Paul Davis
Monday 24th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 25th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 30th	10 am	Sunday All Age Service
Monday 31st	10.30	Coffee morning till 12 pm

Refreshments are served Fellowship Hall after each Sunday Service