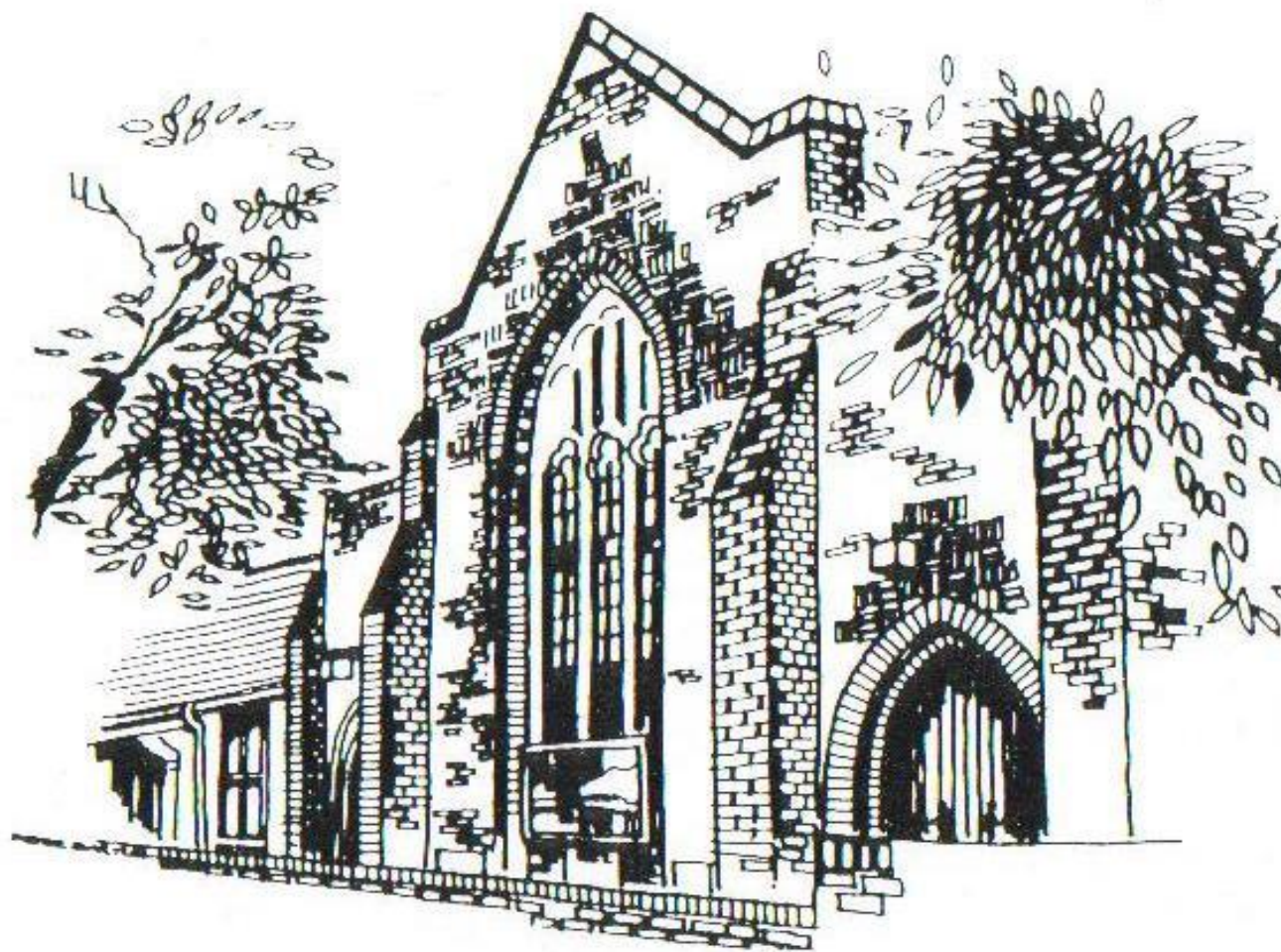




*The Magazine*  
*of*  
**Highams Park Baptist  
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



**FEBRUARY / MARCH 2022**

## CHURCH PROGRAMME

### At the time of writing

#### Current Covid Safety Arrangements

- We would ask that masks to be worn when moving around in the building please unless under 11 or exempt. But please feel free to remove your masks when you are sitting down
- Hand sanitiser to be used on entering the building
- Please stay at home if you show any Covid symptoms- a recording of the service is available on the church website later in the day
- The offering plate will be at the back of the church for your use on the way out or you can speak to Jason about other ways to contribute.
- Extra cleaning tasks/frequency remain in place

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

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

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



The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022  
Editors : Dave & Jacquie Lyus. Email : [magazine@hpbcc.co.uk](mailto:magazine@hpbcc.co.uk)



# **Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG**

## **February / March 2022**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b><i>Moderator:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Rev. Andrew Willis</i></b></p> | <p><b><i>Please contact :</i></b></p> <p><b><i>contact@hpbc.co.uk</i></b><br/><b><i>or</i></b><br/><b><i>07967 655661</i></b></p> |
|---|---|

Hi

As I write this piece for the church magazine, - don't worry, the hope and plan, is that a Church Council member or our moderator, will write something each time - I have been thinking at the start of 2022: what will be different in this year? What has been good? What do we hope for in 2022? The one thing I know for sure is that we have all been in this together. But at the top is the Lord Jesus Christ, who has been with us in the good and bad times over the last year.

I know that for a lot of us, like me, looking at four walls, not going out like I used to before lock - down, not seeing the people I work with and my friends and family, I often wonder, why? What caused this? When will it be back as it was? We cannot change what has happened, but can we change and try to plan what is ahead? Yes - and who can we turn to? Our God and our church.

We should give thanks for what we have had; more so for me than others for I have had a job. I can still work from home full time (and get up later!). I can still go out, see my family and friends, but I have to be more careful and I have to plan a bit more.

As a Church in December we said good- bye to Rosemary and Ray and wished them well in their retirement. Some have passed on in 2021 to higher service and yes, some doors closed and did not re-open, for which we should and do give thanks, but 2022 brings a new hope, new Deacons on the team at church, new directions of travelling forward as a church and a new search for our next Minister.

Someone gave me a book the other month and in it there was a hymn, the words of which stood out for me.

**What a Friend we have In Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear,  
What a privilege to carry,  
Everything to GOD in Prayer.**

**Oh, what a peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry,  
Everything to God in prayer.**

Prayer, love, friends: all things we do as a church together: helping and looking after each other we will move forward, stronger and better. But we also must remember God is at the top working with us.

In **John 3 v16** it reads: **God loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life.**

Let's make 2022 a good and positive year; and whatever is thrown at us together, as a church family with all the different gifts we bring and what we are, I know that with GOD's support we can.

Wishing you all a healthy and safe 2022.

Jason

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*The Church Text for 2022*  
*1 Peter 5 - verse 7 (NIV)*  
*'Cast all your anxieties on God because He cares for you'*

*We thank Dianne Kendrick for choosing this text.*

# *Cavendish Circular*



As we travel further into the New Year, we are heartened to see snowdrops once again appearing above the ground and the first few daffodils braving the cold winds and frost to shed a cheerful note in our gardens and hedgerows. While our New Year celebrations were once again somewhat subdued and many must have viewed the coming months with a degree of concern and trepidation, nevertheless, our faith in God remains strong as we know that whatever prevails in the coming year, we can be assured of his continuing and powerful support and guidance in all we

do. As a church we have the task of choosing a new Minister and much prayer and thought will go into this vital task. Our new Church Council have been inducted and our two new Deacons, Jean Mitchell and Steve Jenkins have received the laying on of hands and we thank them, and all the Council members, for their endeavours to guide our deliberations in the coming months, assuring them of our continuing support and encouragement.



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December we said goodbye to Rosemary and Ray with a buffet lunch after the Morning Service. We wish them both every happiness and blessing in their new life in Kent.

At the recent Church meeting discussion took place and opinions sought on the draft of our new Church profile and it was learnt that the Rev. Andrew Willis has agreed to act as our Moderator during the Interregnum. Members may remember Chris, son of Andrew, who spent some time with us under Jonathan's ministry as our Youth Worker. We thank Andrew for lending us his expertise and ministerial support during this time. It has been heartening to see members of the fellowship leading our worship on Sunday mornings.

Elsewhere, others are working in different areas of our church life to maintain our fabric, oversee our finances, organise our group hiring and, very importantly, supporting each other day by day in love and fellowship.

In early January Mikel Ansell, husband of our member Hazel, suffered a stroke and at the time of writing is still in hospital. It is hoped that, once suitable arrangements have been made in their bungalow, he will be able to come home. This will understandably mean a huge change in Hazel and Mike's life and your prayers are asked for Mike, Hazel, Simon, Paula and Poppy as they undergo his care and rehabilitation, with the help of family and professional services.

We were very sad to learn on January 25<sup>th</sup> that Michael Thorndyke, husband of Fiona and eldest son of our member Doris, collapsed suddenly and died at their home in the Netherlands. Michael was a regular worshipper with us when he and Fiona were able to return to the UK or when he travelled back for hospital treatment and scans. Friends will remember his leading of family tributes to his mother at Doris's Centenary Birthday party last September at church when, together with brother Chris, he organised a very happy celebration. His funeral took place on February 1<sup>st</sup> in the Netherlands, and it is hoped that there will be a memorial service here later. We send our loving our condolences to Fiona, Doris, Chris and all the family as they remember Michael and all he meant to them. Michael, with Fiona, was a regular contributor to our weekly home group Zoom meetings and will be very much missed. Shortly before his death he contributed an article for the magazine, and we are very grateful to Fiona who has asked that it should be included in this issue as planned. Further tributes to Michael will appear in the next issue.

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*If you have a Prayer Request please pass it to Robert (Text to: 07762 026381) or Mandy Edwards (WhatsApp or Text to: 07940 962779), or e-mail to: [mandy.edwards@bridol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.edwards@bridol.co.uk)).*



### **Church Council Dates 2022 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm (2 Hour max)**

- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June (as 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday)
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**There may be additional meetings arranged as and when Minister interviews are arranged.**

### **Church meeting Dates 2022 (Sunday) After Morning Service**

- 30<sup>th</sup> Jan
- 20<sup>th</sup> March
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- 24<sup>th</sup> July
- 18<sup>th</sup> Sept
- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - AGM

*The following is taken from a short reflection that Dave and I gave in the service on the first Sunday in January. While we are now fully into the new year it is still early enough in 2022 to think about our thoughts, concerns and prayers for the coming year and also follows on from Jason's letter at the beginning of the magazine.*

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The beginning of the New Year is a strange time: a time of poignancy; a time, perhaps, of regrets; certainly of hopes and anxieties (especially recently) and a time of feelings that we do not dare, and hardly know, how to put into words. We are faced with a whole New Year, a blank canvas with new opportunities and hopefully, new blessings.

Our celebrations may have been somewhat curtailed once again but here are a few light-hearted thoughts on the New Year:

***Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.***

***This New Year I was going to make a resolution never to be late again, but I didn't wake up until January 2<sup>nd</sup>.....***

***An optimist stays up until Midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old one leaves.***

***I'm a little bit older, a little bit tired, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser!***

***I don't know where I'm going from here but I promise it won't be boring...***

***And on a more thoughtful note:***

***Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start..***

Advent, with its time of reflection and anticipation, and Christmas, with its excitement, and wonder, has gone. The present-giving is over, festive greetings have been exchanged, familiar carols joyfully sung and traditional food consumed, and now things can seem a little flat after the fun and excitement of Christmas. Life returns to normal and suddenly we are in the middle of winter, as W.H. Auden puts it in his poem: "The Flight Into Egypt" .....

***'Well, so that is that. Now we must dismantle the tree, putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes – some have got broken – and carrying them up into the attic. The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down and the children got ready for school. There are enough left-overs to do, warmed up, for the rest of the week – not that we have much appetite having eaten such a lot, stayed up late, attempted – quite unsuccessfully - to love all our relatives, and in general grossly overestimated our powers...'***

And then we arrive at the New Year with all its promise and uncertainty – no wonder that sometimes we can't quite believe where the time has gone and wonder just how much we have achieved over the past year, and what this new year will bring:



*Another poet begins her reflection thus:*

**'I'm writing this in a state of shock, watching the clock-tick tock, tick tock.  
Advancing, approaching, relentlessly. A brand New Year; oh - how can it be?  
The Calendar says the same thing too: time races, vanishes for me and you.'**

While the New Year is a time when we are deeply conscious of our human existence and the passing of the years, it is a time to celebrate new beginnings, to celebrate having a clean slate. Anything is possible because the past doesn't matter.

*The poet, John P. Read writes:*

**'Brush away old heartaches, learn from our mistakes, another year is finally over, a new dawn awakes.**

**Let the old year out. Welcome the new one in. Bury the bad things of the past, as a New Year now begins.**

**Make your New Year wishes as simple as you can. Pray for peace and love, not for wealth or fame.**

**Pray for health and happiness, pray for your fellow man. Pray for all the ones you love. Pray for those who've lost their way.**

**As the midnight hour chimes, we leave the old and embrace the new. I wish the things you wish for yourself, and may God's love stay with you.**

*Our former Minister, the Rev. Michael Walker, also reflected on the past year, giving thanks for all its blessings:*

**'Thank you, Lord, for this year: thank you for the work that has filled my days. Sometimes it has been rewarding, intense with meaning, it has borne fruit in others and in myself. Sometimes it has been frustrating: a task to be done, but simply because it was there - but Lord, how much worse if the task had not been there, and my hands compelled to hang idle and my mind denied the discipline of change, circumstance and problem.**

**Thank you for the people who have filled my days, those who have continued to find something in me to love and have called love out of me, those who have shared with me in the worship and witness of the Church. Lord, may gratitude mingle with hope for all of us. You are our past, our present and our future, the Alpha and Omega of our death. You have brought our lives from time into eternity.'**

However this New Year finds you perhaps the most comforting and sustaining thoughts are found in the words from this poem which have been used on many occasions and in many circumstances including King George the Sixth's Christmas broadcast on the eve of the second world war:

'And 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 in the hand of God. That shall be better than light - and safer than a known way".

**A VERY BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**

*JL*

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## A New Zealand Update: -

*In our issue of June/July 2021 we were delighted to include the story leading up to the wedding and honeymoon of Jan (nee Smithers) and Allan Webb. We are now able to bring you the story to date....*

Since our honeymoon, we have enjoyed several other trips away, visiting family and friends in Tauranga, Foxton, Levin and Whanganui. In August, we flew to Christchurch for a week. As well as catching up with family and friends, we enjoyed exploring the quaint port town of Lyttelton, taking a ride to the top of the Port Hills on the gondola and having lunch in the historic Sign of the Takahe restaurant. We also made a quick trip to Timaru for lunch with my cousin Gwen and long-time friend Sheena.

Unfortunately, Covid returned to NZ in the form of the Delta variant, in mid-August, so within a few hours, we were back in lockdown, for a couple of weeks. Social distancing, mask wearing and scanning-in became common place again. Allan and I were double vaxxed early on and have recently had a booster jab. We suffered a few side effects but seemed to recover quite quickly. Now the Omicron variant has arrived, but at this point all the cases are in Managed Isolation (MIQ).

Recently, we bought a Motor Home, which has given us a whole new way of travelling.



We have 'camped' at the foot of Mt. Maunganui in Tauranga and in a valley beside a fast-flowing river at Mangaweka. Allan enjoys driving it, but I have yet to try! However, it has been fun discovering what having a Motor Home involves and we look forward to many more adventures.

We have continued to go cycling on our electric bikes as much as possible, usually along the beautiful lake front, enjoying amazing views of the mountains



and the ever-changing moods of Lake Taupo. Sometimes we cycle further afield to Huka Falls and the Waitahanui River – lovely spots for a picnic lunch before the ride home. This was particularly the case during our Covid lockdown, as we were having some gorgeous early Spring weather. Next year, we are looking forward to exploring cycling paths in other areas, as we have a bike rack on the back of our Motor Home, so we can take our bikes with us. We have also enjoyed a number of trips out on the lake in Allan's boat, including catching my first two trout!

During the year, we have enjoyed several tribute concerts here in Taupo. These have included Neil Diamond, Queen (which we had to go to Napier to see), Music of the Seventies, Bee Gees, The Eagles and the Roger Fox Big band. All really high standard performances with audience participation.

On the subject of music, I have had opportunities to get back into playing the piano. I am on a roster to play for the Seniors' church service on a Wednesday morning and it is up to me to choose the hymns and songs when it is my turn. Earlier in the year, I was asked to fill in as a rehearsal pianist for the Taupo Choir, so this involved quite a bit of practice in the weeks leading up to these rehearsals, which I thoroughly enjoyed. As a result of this, I was invited to be the accompanist for a ladies' A Cappella choir, for when they want to sing with piano accompaniment. This has been great fun, accompanying eight well trained singers, who produce an amazing sound. Last Sunday, we assisted with Nine Lessons and Carols at the Anglican church and yesterday we performed in a short concert at a local retirement village.

Allan and I have both been involved in Home Groups at the Baptist Church, (where I became a member earlier in the year) as well as worshipping there each Sunday, until Covid caused restrictions, as has happened with many churches around the world. However, we have got to know some lovely people and have enjoyed entertaining different friends in our home regularly.



In June, we hosted a mid-winter Christmas dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings, followed by homemade Christmas pudding. We plan to repeat this on a regular basis.

It was our intention this year to return to the UK to pack up and sell my London flat, but with the way the Covid situation panned out there and the fact that booking a place in Managed Isolation (MIQ) upon our return to NZ was proving to be virtually impossible, not to mention hugely expensive, we reluctantly made the decision to give up the idea of any travel outside of NZ. So this meant selling remotely, which I eventually did. I will be eternally grateful to my wonderful Kiwi friend Jean who had offered to help with packing when we did go to London and was more than happy to take on the task of going through all the stuff in my flat (23 years' worth!) and sorting it out. There were hundreds of WhatsApp photos back and forth, as I decided what was worth shipping to NZ and what would go to charity. In the end, the only furniture I wanted was my Victorian carver chair and a lovely oak bookcase, plus my kitchen stuff, clothes, dozens of books and a few other bits and pieces. All in all 72 boxes, which, at this point in time, are waiting in Auckland for delivery to Taupo.

Once Jean had sorted stuff and done a big clean, I contacted a local Estate Agent in August and found that he had people waiting to buy flats similar to mine. So there were several viewings and in less than a week, I had accepted an offer which was way more than the asking price. Then came the waiting period – numerous emails back and forward between the solicitor and myself, but hardly any paper work. Suddenly in mid-October, the buyers wanted to settle and move in, so it all happened then in less than a week. Fortunately, my boxes had been gone for a couple of weeks so the flat was vacant, except for a couple of beds and a couple of chairs which the charity shop didn't want, due to fire regulations, and which wouldn't be collected by the Council for another two weeks! Getting the proceeds from the sale into NZ involved several late-night phone calls to my UK bank, who would only allow the transfer of a limited amount on each transaction. But eventually it all happened.

A couple of weeks ago, Allan and I purchased another property by auction, so we are looking forward to moving into it early in the New Year, once our current home has sold. It is a larger well-designed home on a hill, on the other side of Lake Taupo, with a lot more land, mainly laid out with beautiful gardens. There will be a bit of work to do to modernise the house and some clearing up in the gardens (fortunately we both enjoy gardening) but all this is worth it for the stunning view we will be enjoying across the lake.



It will be fun setting up our first home together and we will enjoy using the larger entertainment spaces both inside and out.

The greatest joy of all in 2021 has been getting to know my new family and the way they have welcomed me so warmly into their lives. We have three wonderful children, nine grandchildren and a great-grandson due in May. We see them regularly as most of them live in Taupo.

We are looking forward to a family Christmas tomorrow, hosted by our daughter Amy at her home across the lake.

Allan and I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. May God bless you all.

With all our love,

Allan and Jan Webb.



**A thank you for the money we give via the Kingdom fund and other ways.**

I thought it would be good for you to see how much we give via our Kingdom fund and where it goes to. During one of our services in February or March this year, we are planning to give updated information about mission, our Kingdom fund and what it is all about. Below are replies and thanks for the money we have given in 2021 from Highams Park Baptist Church.

Jason Close

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**LB Home Mission. In 2021 we gave a total of £1,014.**

Dear Highams Park Baptist Church

I hope and pray this letter finds you well. On behalf of London Baptists, I am writing to offer our sincere thanks for your recent contribution to the Home Mission appeal.

Despite seeing restrictions gradually eased on our way of life, there is still much uncertainty within our church communities. With legal restrictions at an end, the responsibility rests with local groups and individuals to make decisions on the use of buildings, planning activities, whilst mitigating risk. I am deeply concerned for all of our pastors and leaders as they grapple with these complex and difficult decisions. In respect of finance – something which has been incredibly disrupted this past year – I am writing to thank you once again for your ongoing support of the Home Mission appeal. London Baptists knows that we wouldn't be able to function without the financial support of our family of churches and I hope you have also seen the genuine benefits of being part of a wider movement throughout the pandemic.

We give grateful thanks to the Lord for those saints who have remembered the Baptist movement in their wills.

The Home Mission Appeal supports the Specialist Teams at Baptist House in Didcot; core staffing costs for the Regional Associations; and, most importantly, provides grants to churches and projects which could otherwise not sustain themselves.

More details on Home Mission can be found on the Baptist Union website: [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220659/Home\\_Mission.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220659/Home_Mission.aspx)

For now, please do receive our thanks for the financial gifts – and prayerful support – of the wider Baptist family. We are here to support you. Every blessing to you in your service of the Gospel.

**BMS World Mission.** In 2021 we gave a total off £1,014.

Dear Highams Park Baptist Church

Martha knows what it's like to fear for her child's life. Her Daughter is non-verbal and uses a wheelchair. They became increasingly isolated during lockdown in Tirana where they live but because of what we have given she is not alone. Thanks to all at Highams Park Baptist Church, they have connected with BMS partners working in the community. They have been given hygiene packs and helped her to get to doctors and stay safe and happy.

Thank you so much for you gift to BMS World Mission. Because of what has been given these families are getting the support needed in the post lockdown world and, for some, are receiving the gospel message for the first time.

Link to BMS work [www.bmsworldmission.org](http://www.bmsworldmission.org)

**Food bank All Saints Highams Park**

**Christmas Offering raised £228.00**

**Harvest Appeal raised £130.00**

Thank you so much to you all at Highams Park Baptist Church, for this fantastic Christmas offering. Every penny and pound we collected from both the Christmas and Harvest Offering goes straight into the funds at Highams Park Food Hub run via All Saints Church HP, to be ploughed backing into Highams Park and the local community. All the food and items given, is so grateful to so many people.

You can find out more about Highams Park Food Hub on the link [www.hphub.co.uk](http://www.hphub.co.uk)

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**Christian Aid** – In May 2021 we raised £143 for Christian Aid Week, all to help their good work throughout the world.

Please see the to find out more. [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

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**Thank you from HPBC**

I would like to thank all of you that gift to the Magazine over the year.

The donations we get help cover the cost of production and postage where required, for which I am sure you would agree is a good Church magazine. So thanks to you all for your donations; no matter how large or small it all helps. Also, thanks to those who put it all together.

And finally, a BIG Thank you to **YOU ALL** for the giving each week, or when you can, to both our Kingdom and General funds, sometimes we forget to give thanks for what we give.

February / March 2022

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## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL  
MOVEMENT)

*“I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU”*

2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text “I know the plans I have for you” from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children’s and - for the first time - young people’s activities.

All this work will come to fruition on Friday 4 March 2022 when services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. We will use modern technology to reach those unable to access a service but hope to be able to extend a welcome and hospitality once released from lockdown. For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Our local Service will take place at Winchester Road Methodist Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March at 10.30 am. Dianne Kendrick has taken over from Haze Ansell as our representative. We do thank Hazel for her many years of excellent work for these events.



A few dates to put in your diary for events in and around Highams Park.

Hopefully they will happen this year!

## HEADLINE COMMUNITY EVENTS 2022



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>The Spring Festival</b><br/>The Highams Park<br/>Sunday 22nd May<br/><i>organised by The Friends of The Highams Park</i></p>               | <p><b>Highams Park<br/>Arts &amp; Culture Trail</b><br/>All around Highams Park area<br/>Friday 10th to Sunday 19th June<br/><i>organised by the HPPG/ARC Group</i></p>   |
| <p><b>The Picnic<br/>in The Park</b><br/>The Highams Park<br/>Sunday 4th September<br/><i>organised by The Friends of The Highams Park</i></p>  | <p><b>Highams Park Day</b><br/>Vincent Green<br/>Saturday 16th July<br/><i>organised by the Highams Park Society</i></p>   |
| <p><b>The French Market</b><br/>Highams Park Station Car Park<br/>Sunday 25th September<br/><i>organised by Highams Park Planning Group</i></p> | <p><b>Christmas Fayre</b><br/>Highams Park Station Car Park<br/>&amp; Signal Walk<br/>Sunday 11th December<br/><i>organised by<br/>Highams Park<br/>Planning Group</i></p>  |

For the most up to date information, search for us on [www.facebook.com 'It's a Highams Park thing'](https://www.facebook.com/ItsAHighamsParkThing)



Just a few days before his untimely passing Michael Thorndyke sent over the following article to us for inclusion in this magazine. Fiona has asked that we do include this as planned and we are grateful to her. It is a fitting tribute to Michael's wise and inspirational contributions to our weekly Zoom Home Groups.

## A Favourite Hymn



As part of the regular Tuesday "Zoom House Group" meeting those giving the talk usually choose a hymn or song (or two). On Tuesday 18th Paul gave a fascinating talk about Martin Luther King Jr. since the day before had been "Martin Luther King Jr. Day". It turns out that "Take my hand precious Lord" was MLK's favourite hymn so Paul chose a version of

this to play, one that I had not heard before. The hymn stirred memories for me and others in the group. I think mine went back to when Mum and Dad (Doris and Alf) went to the Billy Graham's London Crusades in 1954. I am a great lover of Gospel Music and know this hymn very well, so I have researched it a little.

It was composed by Thomas A Dorsey in 1932 and was one of more than 3000 songs he composed. He was an American musician, composer, and Christian Evangelist influential in the development of early Blues and 20th-century Gospel Music. He penned 3,000 songs, a third of them gospel.

One night in August 1932 he was called to the hospital where his wife was in labour with their child. Sadly, both wife and child (a son) passed away within 24 hours. Thomas' response was to compose "Take my hand precious Lord".

*Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

*When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near  
When my light is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

*Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home*

There have been many recordings of this song by very famous artists, including Elvis (Di Kendrick must know this one!). My personal favourite is the first link below.

I have put in other interesting links for those of you that can access them. Including to a wonderful Documentary "Say Amen Somebody".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HNZNvIhIN4>,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_A.\\_Dorsey#Early\\_life\\_\(1899%E2%80%931918\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_A._Dorsey#Early_life_(1899%E2%80%931918)),

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Say\\_Amen,\\_Somebody](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Say_Amen,_Somebody),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsD1bkge3cM>,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4eiQmJsSsl>,



*Ed's note: We had discussed with Michael the possibility of including an occasional article on favourite hymns; an idea which had his enthusiastic support. We would like to continue with this idea in his memory.*

*If you have a favourite hymn or praise song, please let us know and we will be happy to include it and find out the history (if possible).*

*This was forwarded to us by Paul Raymond – he has sent reflections by Brian Draper before. Brian writes : 'you might have heard me on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, on the Today programme. It's a good indicator of what I try to do: help people of all faiths and none to see the world from a creative and engaging spiritual perspective. In 2 mins 45'.*

### **Make Peace with the Risk of Life - Lenten Thoughts From Brian Draper**

Just before Jesus began *his* 40 days of prayer and fasting in the desert (which, in turn, precipitated his public ministry), he was baptised by John in the Jordan. When he rose from the water, a voice came from heaven, saying: "This is my son, whom I *love* ..." A sign to all, both then and now, that love is *the* place from which to set off.

Mercifully, God's loving heart extends to us, here, within *this* invitation to start anew, to reconnect, to seek perspective in Lent. It's worth remembering that we're not 'doing Lent' to earn love. Love is not the object of our quest, but instead its life-giving energy, its propulsion, it's imperative! I wonder where it will take us ...

Meanwhile, your own heart may well be aching, or weary, or slowly mending. It could be rejoicing. It's probably a mix of all sorts (and how appropriate that the Orthodox Christians describe Lent as a time of 'bright sadness'). God knows. And God knows your heart for the people you love, and the places you miss; for what you have lost, and what you hope will come next.

Why not take a breath; and be still; and place your hands on your heart.

Take as long as you need, to give thanks for this heartbeat, this sign of life - and not just any life, but *this* life which God lovingly invites you to explore and express, uniquely as you.

And while it's not always easy to feel whole-hearted about our 'lot', about where we find ourselves, especially with the effects of the pandemic still close by, we can resolve - I'm sure - to meet this Lenten point of departure with at least an *open* heart.

Rob Bell says that to open your heart is to "make peace with the risk of life". I *want* that! It's such a great challenge; and it reminds me that God makes the first move here, and takes the risk of life with us, declaring: "This is my child, whom I love."

After another strange year, it may take a whole season for the ground of our being to thaw and for new shoots, buds and blooms to break the soil. But this Lent, perhaps we can start with the risk - that God's open heart for us can open *ours* to the adventure of a new beginning.

## Highams Park Snippets

As readers will know, we try to include news of events and happenings in Highams Park in the magazine. We know that this is appreciated especially by those who have moved away but still read the magazine.

One of the sources for such news is checking the local Facebook groups with an interest in Highams Park (there are several at the moment). Sometimes just a name or photograph of someone or something produces many responses...

Such a picture was that of Pamphilon's which appeared online in 2019. It obviously triggered fond memories. For anyone who is unaware of this shop in the life of Highams Park, it was one of those shops which now seem to almost have disappeared, selling a vast number of differing items. The company profile gives some idea of their business: -

*A.Pamphilon & Sons (Walthamstow) Ltd was founded in 1896. The company's line of business includes the retail sale of a general line of apparel, dry goods, hardware, housewares or home furnishings, and groceries.*

The memories also spread out to include the names of many other shops and businesses which are no longer part of our scenery and which now seem to be dedicated to the provision of cooked or prepared food... Among those mentioned were Home and Colonial 1950's, the Jewellers which is now 'Strawberries', Hancock photography, Heals bike shop – (this elicited a further comment) – there ought to be a plaque in remembrance of 'Winnie Heals of Highams Park. She was a woman who young girls could aspire to. She could weld or repair any model of bike. In a man's world in those days, covered in bicycle oil from head to toe, running Heals on her own (*after the death of her husband*) now that was ONE powerful Lady. Then there was Batson's across the 'lines' which also smelled of paraffin and was more of a hardware store (*than Pamphilon's*). Who remembers Mr. Gill the draper, his drawers full of lovely things? And Mr Pruum, the shoe shop next to Barclays, opened on a Sunday because of his Jewish faith and closed Saturdays.

*(Ed's note – these comments are shown as written)*



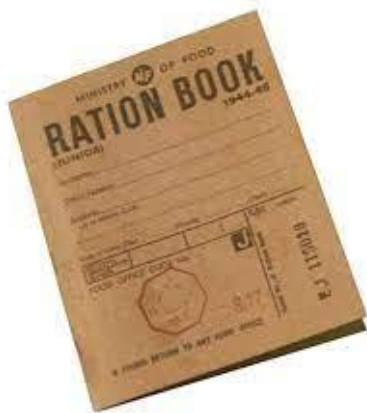
Returning to Pamphilon's, one lucky person noted that she had bought a souvenir plate from them stating 'I bought this plate in the 1970's. It has 24ct gold on the edges as a souvenir from Highams Park, on the reverse it gives you all the details about the 'signal box'.

She had also bought her 'Greens' mixing bowls and most of her kitchen ware from them noting that they also mended lawnmowers. And many people comment on how they liked that indefinable smell. Such shops were so important back in their day and are so sadly missed – but we can have our memories!

## Memories in store...

People who know me are probably aware of the fact that I enjoy reading and collect books. One area that I am interested in is social history with a special liking for details based around Highams Park.

I recently visited a garden centre in Nottinghamshire which was in the throes of an after Christmas sale. I was, of course, drawn towards any books that might be of interest and found one which ticked a few boxes. It was called 'The Lost Album – A Visual History of 1950's Britain' – that ticked one box. It was half price – another box ticked. As well as pictures it contained facsimile ephemera of the time such as petrol coupons and a programme for Bertram Mill's Circus – tick number three. But the clincher was the Ration Book for 1953



- 4 – it showed that it had been issued to Stanley Webb who happened to live at 42, Wadham Road, Walthamstow E17, and better still the first retailer to stamp the book for the meat ration was the Co-operative Society Limited in Highams Park – needless to say the book is now in my collection! (as an aside all the other grocery items came from 'A. Storry' at 309 Chingford Road).

I do remember the Co-op in Winchester Road about where the Turkish Supermarket is now sited. In those pre-supermarket days it was three adjacent shops – a butchers, where meat was on display and prepared for the customer; the greengrocers, which always had a good display of fruit and vegetables but only those that were in season – strawberries in December were extremely unlikely in those days, and finally there was the grocery shop which was really divided into two sections – one on the right and one on the left. Memories of exactly what was sold where are growing dim, but I seem to recall that fresh products such as bacon and butter were sold from the right-hand counter and tinned goods etc. from the left. Times have definitely changed as I sometimes used to go to the left-hand counter and ask for a packet of Player's Weights cigarettes for my mother – I must have been under ten years old... (she did not smoke more than one a day, if that!). Of course, all transactions were accompanied by the trotting out of your 'Co-op number' which was written down on a small ticket, part of a pad of such tickets, that were perforated at the edges and carefully torn off and given to the customer. It showed the amount spent and that all important number. Each year the amount spent was calculated and a dividend was paid to each number holder. It is strange (if not worrying) how things remain in the memory – my mother's number was 786800 and my grandmothers was 52628... Dividends are still paid but you now have a card to present at the store. *DL*

## **CHURCH DIARY**

### **February**

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Thursday 3rd | 7.30 pm | Church Council Meeting                               |
| Sunday 6th   | 10 am   | Morning Service<br>Led by Paul Raymond               |
| Sunday 13th  | 10 am   | Morning Service with Communion<br>Led by Jason Close |
| Sunday 20th  | 10 am   | Morning Service<br>led by Amanda Edwards             |
| Sunday 27th  | 10 am   | Morning Service<br>Led by Robert Jenkins             |

### **March**

|              |                   |  |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| Thursday 3rd | 7.30 pm           | Church Council Meeting   |
| Sunday 6th   | 10 am             | Morning Service<br>Led by Dr. Paul Davis   |
| Sunday 13th  | 10 am             | Morning Service and Communion<br>led by Peter Burke                                    |
| Sunday 20th  | 10 am<br>11.30 am | Morning Service<br>Led by Sandeep Christian<br>Followed by Church Member meeting       |
| Sunday 27th  | 10 am             | Morning Service for Mothering Sunday<br>led by Jason Close<br>Note – Clocks go forward |

### **April**

|              |         |  |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Sunday 3rd   | 10 am   | Morning Service<br>Led by Amanda Edwards |
| Thursday 4th | 7.30 pm | Church Council meeting                   |