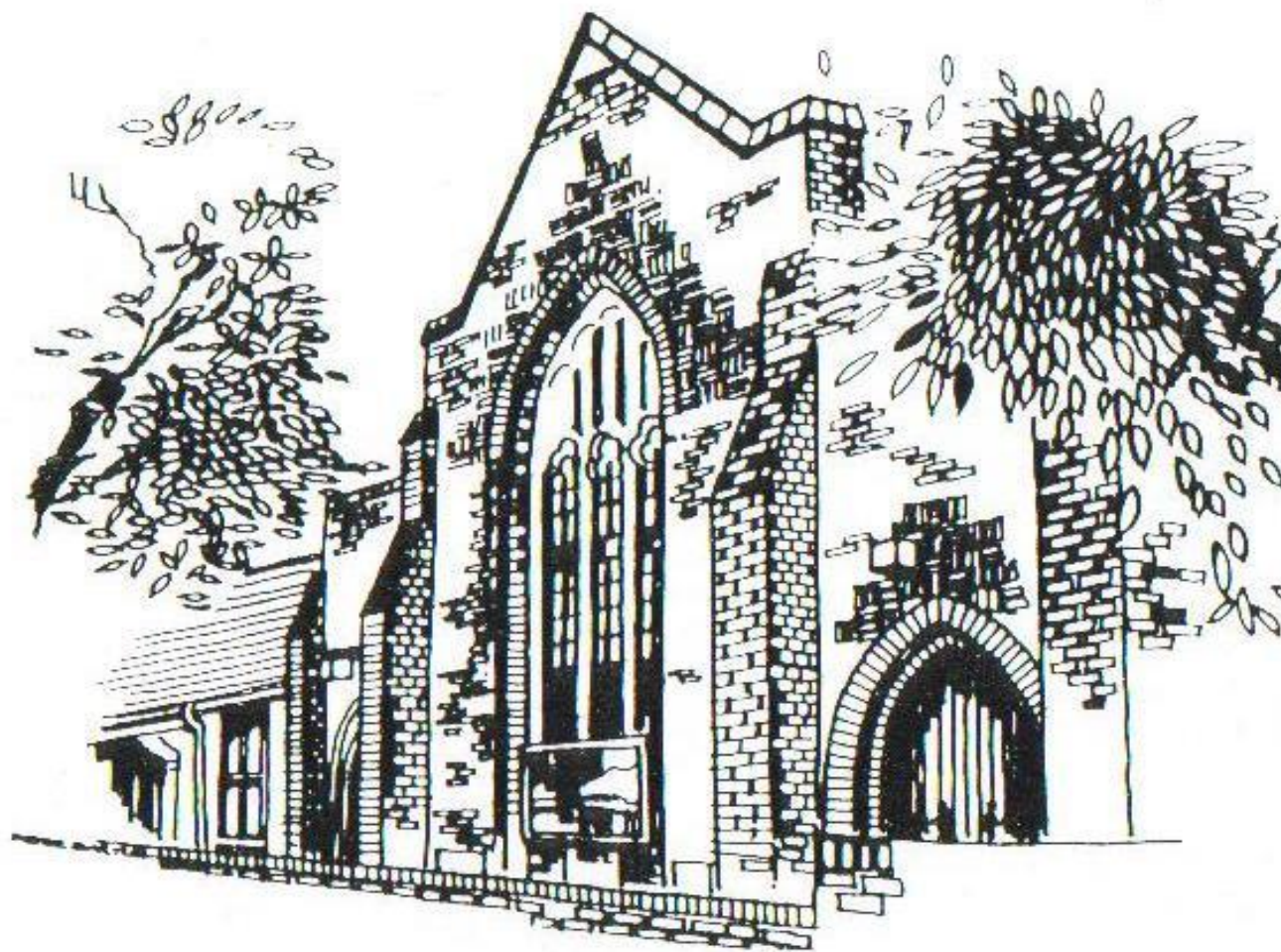




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



June/July 2023

CHURCH PROGRAMME

At the time of writing

Current Covid Safety Arrangements

- Please stay at home if you show any Covid symptoms - a recording of the service will be available later on the church website.
- It is your choice whether you wear a mask in the building or not, please feel comfortable whatever your choice, hand sanitiser will remain available, and we are continuing with increased ventilation and cleaning.
- If you test positive for Covid after attending a service, please let us know so we can complete extra cleaning and circulate an anonymous information to the congregation to be more vigilant for symptoms.

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

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

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



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 23rd July 2023
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbcc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG

June / July 2023

<p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p><i>Rev. Andrew Willis</i></p>	<p><i>Please contact:</i></p> <p><i>contact@hpbc.co.uk</i> <i>or</i> <i>07967 655661</i></p>
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A New Beginning

Seneca is a major philosophical figure of the Roman Imperial Period. As a Stoic philosopher writing in Latin, Seneca makes a lasting contribution to Stoicism. One of his famous quotes says "**Every new beginning comes from other beginning's end.**" You may well ask what this has to do with HPBC, but the answer is fairly clear – a few years ago we welcomed Rosemary Eaton as our new minister but that beginning came to an end and another new one started. This we called our interregnum, a period of time when we had no minister. Not the first interregnum that we as a church have faced but, in some ways the most difficult and in others one of the most fulfilling.

We had and continued to have the problem of Covid which meant that many of the usual ways of doing things had to change. It also meant that some members of the congregation were wary about attending services. The Boy's Brigade and Girl's Association felt unable to continue. Life was difficult but did go on...

We were very lucky in that Rev. Andrew Willis agreed to be our moderator, which was a good start to the period of seeking a new minister. Our church could not truly be described as large in terms of numbers compared to some previous interregna but – and it is a very large 'but' – we managed to rise to the occasion and find people willing and, more importantly, able to take the Sunday service with a great deal of success. Along the way we have been able to call on past members such as Dr. Paul Davis and members of Andrew Willis's church to lead and preach the services. But from within our number, we have heard many thought-provoking messages – as a new beginning it provided a worthy successor to the old beginning's end.

I think it is fair to say that in many ways the church is stronger than before – perhaps not yet in numbers but in the commitment that has been shown by so many.

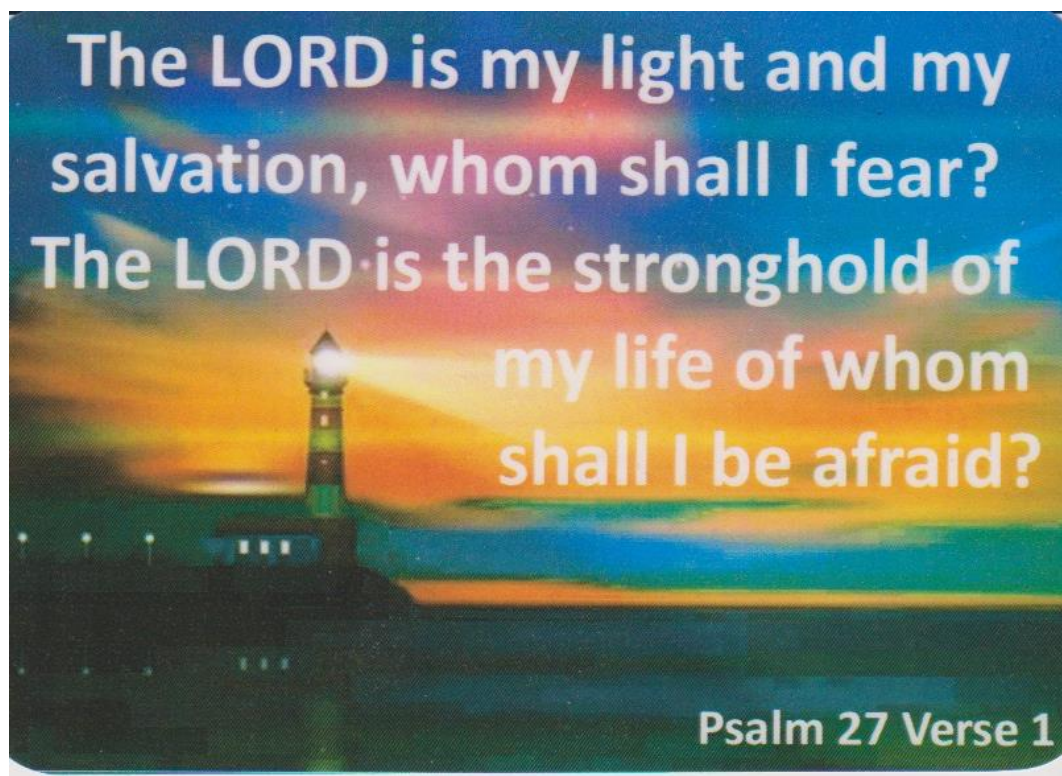
It is never a good thing to name all those people involved because you are sure to leave someone out, but those who attend church will know who to thank.

The church fabric itself is probably in better shape than it has been for many years, and we can now not concern ourselves that the church may be cold because the boiler has gone out! The Zoom Home group on Tuesday evenings has proved a great success, in no small part to the inspired work of Sarah and Paul. It also means that people do not have to go out on a cold night and try to find parking!

However, this new beginning is about to end and a new one is starting. By the time that you read this our new minister to be, Cherie Rogers, will have been ordained and it will not be too long before she is inducted as a new member in the roll of those who have been our ministers.

It is to be hoped that the momentum built up over recent times will continue. Some people who have played such an important part in keeping the church alive may wish to take a bit of a rest, but Cherie has indicated that she welcomes the idea that every so often someone else will take a service. We shall see how things work out, but I am sure that our new beginning will be welcomed and successful.

DL



Cavendish Circular



As we look back over the past few weeks, we realise the celebrations that have gone on. There was the Coronation of King Charles III, Eurovision! and, most importantly for the church, Easter. All are mentioned in this issue of the magazine – and with every issue we move a step nearer to the time when Cherie Rogers becomes, officially, our new minister – a time for celebration indeed! Her Induction takes place on Saturday 9th September at 2.00 pm followed by a tea. It also looks as if Summer is here and a time for meeting together on one or more of the social events planned for the next few weeks.

We do, of course, remember that not everyone can meet together at this time. Therefore our thoughts are with Hazel, Simon and Poppy as they come to terms with Mike having suffered a serious stroke, with Margaret Norris and family – the good news there is that Margaret is feeling stronger and able to come downstairs, and with others who through sickness, frailty or disability are unable to come to the services but who we know are still part of the HPBC family. We also remember Doris Thorndyke who, according to reports, is settling well in her new residential home.

We are very used to seeing the excellent display of flowers at the front of the church but there is a reminder that if you wish to supply and/or arrange flowers for the front of the church one Sunday in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or in memory of a loved one please speak to Mandy who co-ordinates this rota.

There is also a reminder about the Food Bank - 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.

We have good news about Robert Edwards who has had the first cataract operation that has been waiting for over such a long period of time, and he should get the date for the next operation soon. Also Simon Jones has a date for his operation for kidney stone problems – it is June 12th. We send them both our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to full health.

DL

Easter at HPBC and beyond

Easter is one of the main events in the Christian Church and we were delighted to welcome Rev. Paul Davis to take the service at HPBC. In a change to the normal order of a Communion Service he celebrated Communion at the beginning of the Service. This allowed him to set down a timeline for the events following the meal in the upper room leading to the crucifixion of Jesus. A thought-provoking way of marking Easter.

We were delighted with the flower arrangements for the service and we are grateful to Althea Donn for the following pictures: -



We are also very pleased that Althea gave us news and pictures of a Service held in Trafalgar Square by Wintershall a group based in Surrey which perform plays based on the life of Christ. Their website describes it thus:

THE PASSION OF JESUS

For the Wintershall cast this was the 11th year of being at Trafalgar Square.

Supported by the Mayor of London, one hundred Wintershall players bring their electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus to this iconic location in the capital. The 90-minute production is completely free of charge - a gift to Londoners and visitors. No tickets are required.

There is a performance at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. The production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. There is a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. British sign language interpretation is provided. This event is very popular - please arrive 40 minutes before your chosen performance.

The Designated Accessibility Area will be on the North Terrace at the top of the stairs in front of the National Gallery.

Level access is available from East and West of the Square. All stewards in the Square will be able to assist you and direct you. Please bring a folding chair or wheelchair for the Accessibility area.

As Althea notes, Wintershall treated us to a powerful outdoor drama of Jesus's last days, acted out in Trafalgar Square, in two performances one at 12pm and then at 15.15pm, on Good Friday.

Althea says that the sun shone, and there were many people there, young and old.





We had a group go to Spring Harvest this year. Although these days I call our group "Friends of Highams Park Baptist Church" as over time and as our immediate church family has got smaller the group has kept hold of some families who don't now come on a Sunday now plus their extended families. For example: The Dorringtons, Magda & family and Rachael & her children, this year was a treat for me as my brother & his family came.

Its been the second year back on site at Skegness since Covid darkened our doors. The Spring Harvest Team have done wonders, the first year it was cancelled due to the lockdown with only two weeks notice. What they put together with 'Spring Harvest at Home' was nothing short of a miracle in my opinion. Now, although they have lost the Harrogate venue they still have both Skegness and Minehead AND Spring Harvest at Home which is such a blessing with people from all over the world joining up.

There has also been a huge focus on empowering people to come who ordinarily could not afford to do so. Much of the Spring Harvest Offering was used to provide subsidiaries and bursaries to those on a low income. People in our group also benefitted from this and they are doing the same for next year. There was also a big focus on children and young people. A bigger program than in previous years and almost 50% of guests were children which is a big shift. This is a work in progress as it did mean some children's venues were a bit squashy. Minehead and Skegness were also running at the same time, this was a huge challenge for the small events team and some frantic travelling for some speakers! It did mean we did a live link up though. Next year we are back to separate dates so pressure should ease a little on speakers, staff and volunteers. We owe them all a great debt of gratitude for all they do.



What was new this year? Well sort of new - we had a Big Top again! Supplied by Butlins because their new venue was having some work done.

It had some challenges and I think all in all I will be glad when they have Studio 36 back open again, we also had 4 evening celebrations to choose



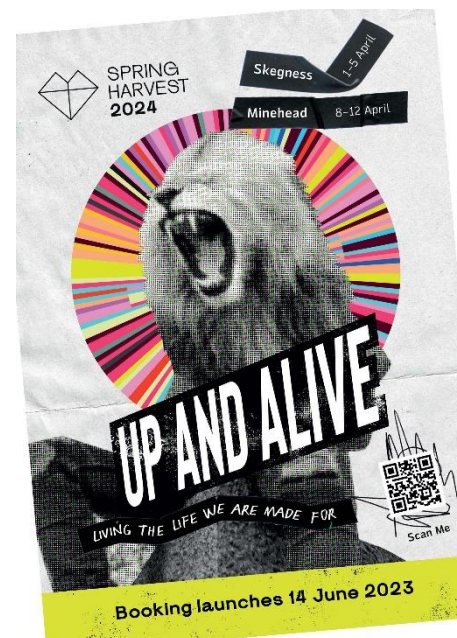
from. Also new, an amazing new children's interactive play ground with huge climbing towers and a coffee house for the adults. Harry, Finlay, Josie and Luke (my niece and nephew) especially liked this. They have also revamped the fairground and have some new rides.

Overall I think they have enough of the "Old Spring Harvest" ie pre Covid to keep people happy plus lots of new things and Spring Harvest at Home to enable so many more people to engage, learn, worship and enjoy times of fellowship together. Roll on next year.

Talking of next year the booking line opens on 14th June and they are offering the early bird discount of £10 off per person if you book before the end of July.

I have already booked some Gold apartments and will be looking to make an additional booking on 14th June.

So are you interested in going? If you are on a low income we can apply for funding to help you make it affordable for you. Prices from £149 per adult, (£37 per day) with so much included its really good value and you can pay in instalments over 7 months too.



Talk to me about accommodation, prices and bursaries and booking now. For more information check out www.springharvest.org

Mandy

Dates for
your
diary.....

We have four social events coming up soon which we would love to see you at:



15th June - Men's evening out - Purbani Tandoori, 34 The Avenue E4 9LD, 7pm. Please let Jason know if you want to come so he can book you a space.

18th June - Picnic in the park - from 12:30pm The Ridgeway Park, bring a pack lunch and enjoy time chatting, playing games, eating ice-cream and riding on the train (just like Walt Disney did!)



16th July - Picnic in the park - from 12:30pm at The Highams Park



20th July - from 7pm in the garden of The Royal Oak (children welcome in the garden till 9pm) Ruth is coming back for the evening so we have a chance to say Goodbye and Good Luck in her new home (she moved recently, and we are told that it went smoothly)

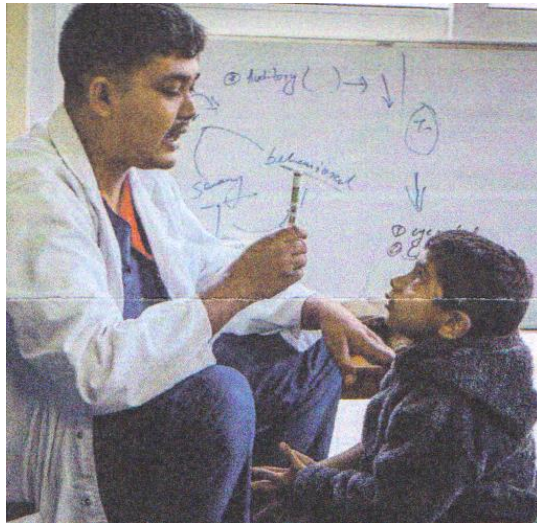
With Thanks

PO Box 49 129 Broadway
Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA
Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org
bmsworldmission.org



The Church has received thanks from BMS World Mission for a gift of £298.66 made to them. In their letter we learn of the work our money goes towards – it says:

There's nothing much worse than seeing your child suffering and not knowing how to help them. When Amulya was three years old his parents noticed he was becoming more closed off and not socialising with his family and the other children around him. He was also behaving differently to other children becoming hyperactive and overstimulated much of the time. His parents didn't know what was wrong and were scared for what this would mean for his future. But in Pokhara, Nepal where they live, there was nowhere they could take him for a diagnosis. Fortunately you were to step in.



Thanks to everyone at Highams Park Baptist Church, Amulya was able to get the help he needed from occupational therapists at a BMS World Mission supported hospital in Kathmandu. They diagnosed Amulya with autism spectrum disorder and were able to work with his parents to get him the therapy he needed. Now five years old Amulya is interacting and communicating more and more with his family and friends, His parents are overjoyed to see the difference in him and are so thankful for the doctors who've made this change possible.

Thank you so much for your recent gift of £298.66 to BMs. Because you gave, children in Nepal are getting the support they need for a bright future, refugees from Ukraine have found shelter, church leaders in Peru are being equipped to share the gospel and so much more. We are so thankful that you've chosen to make such an impact – none of this would be possible without you.

God bless you.



This took place on 3rd March 2023 and was hosted by All Saints Church. It happens every year on the same day throughout the world so that a huge wave of prayer encircles the earth for at least 38 hours.

The service this year was written by the Christian women of Taiwan. Taiwan has been caught up in a superpower struggle for many years. China has continued to claim Taiwan as its sovereign territory although a large majority of Taiwanese reject being part of China. China at the moment is harassing Taiwan on a regular basis.

The service brings to the fore Taiwan Christian women, both here and around the world, who face challenges and need prayerful action. It is to give encouragement to all.

The service consisted of songs, hymns, scripture readings, meditations, and prayers. Approximately 30 people were involved. Part of the service involved constructing a map of Taiwan in puzzle form.

Thank you to All Saints who did a wonderful job of providing facilities, music, and refreshments.

Two recipes from Taiwan were attempted by Janice Dent from WRMC. I am including one of them with this article for anyone who would like to try them. Jan did an amazing job as they were not particularly easy. She adapted the Pineapple Cake and made it more like a mince pie with pineapple filling. It worked well and was very tasty. The other recipe will be in the next issue. The recipe follows.

Thanks to Althea and Jenny for supporting me on behalf of HPBC

Di Kendrick



Pineapple Cake

Ingredients:

For the filling

- 1 Fresh Pineapple cubed, or two tins of cubed pineapple put into a blender.
- 4 oz caster sugar
- 2 tbsp. honey

For the dough

- 8 oz self-raising flour
- 6 oz unsalted butter
- 2 oz caster sugar
- 2 oz custard powder
- 2 egg yolks
- Dash of milk

Method:

- Preheat the oven to 180° (160° fan) gas mark 4
- Mix the blended pineapple with sugar and honey on a very low heat and set aside.
- Cream the butter and sugar.
- Sieve the flour and add gradually to the butter and egg mixture with the milk and custard powder.
- Add two eggs to make the biscuit dough firmer.
- Leave the biscuit dough in the fridge for about half an hour.
- Roll out the dough into large squares and put a spoonful of the filling in the centre of each square.
- Fold the biscuit dough around the filling to seal and make into square shapes using square biscuit moulds or by folding a 3cm. strip of card into a square securing this with Sellotape and covering with foil.
- Bake for 10 – 15 minutes.
- Turn over and return to the oven for a further 10 minutes until golden brown.

Special places (1)

Over the years we have tried to include details of visits that have been made to 'special' places, very often Churches or other religious buildings. As an example, Bob Jenkins has written about a church local to where he lives as you will see later in the magazine.

In this article I am writing about a place – not a building as such but one that exudes spirituality. Over recent years I (and Jacquie my wife) have spent time in Cornwall with my daughter Kate and her family. They have always taken the opportunity of visiting St. Nectan's Glen which is located on the North coast of Cornwall not far from Boscastle and Tintagel. Up until this year I have never made the journey to the Glen as it is about a mile distant from the road and over tracks and steps cut into the terrain – not for the faint hearted! But I managed!

However, at the time of Jacquie's death last year we were supposed to be in



Cornwall with Kate and family. They had wanted to come home, but I managed to persuade them to stay as there was little that they could do at the time. They did manage to visit the Glen, part of which contains a small meditation room where visitors can leave mementos and express their thoughts in some way. We did indeed find the message that Kate had written last year in memory of Jacquie. This year we felt that it was appropriate to leave some of Jacquie's ashes in places that had been special to her, and Cornwall was an ideal choice. We had left some on the beach at Hayle near St. Ives and I felt that I

should really make the effort to visit the Glen – it is not an easy journey, but you pass through a wooded valley with the sound of the river running through it. As you approach the end of the walk rough and uneven steps take you upwards till you reach a small café where we took a much-needed break and coffee! Having climbed up you then have to climb down to the floor of the valley again – again a not too easy experience... However the journey was well worth it. There was a feeling of peace and tranquillity which seemed odd as there were a good number of people there – people of all ages including children. Strangely there was no unwanted noise – no calling out, just a respectful hum of people talking quietly to each other. The spirituality had taken over... The Glen is 'L' shaped and until you walk round the corner you can only hear the waterfall which is perhaps the integral part of the visit. As you do turn the corner you are greeted by a narrow cascade of water some sixty feet in length. The more correct name for the Glen is St. Nectan's Kieve.

Kieve is the Cornish for bath or basin and the water falls into an area shaped in the form of a basin from where it then washes out into the remainder of the fall and to the ground below. We stayed some time with just our thoughts and Kate managed to take some ashes under the waterfall where they became part of the Cornish countryside. We then made our way back up to the café for another welcome round of refreshments.

The Glen is named after the 6th century Saint Nectan. He is believed to have built his hermitage here, just above the waterfall. According to the legend the Saint would ring a silver bell in times of stormy weather. The bell was meant to warn ships of the perils of coming too close to the coast. In particular the rocks near the mouth of the Rocky Valley just below the falls. St Nectan was supposedly the brother of St Morwenna. And it is said that after his death he was buried here beneath the falls.

I would hazard a guess that few, if any, of our readers are aware of St. Nectan's Glen – it is not part of the tourist trail and probably people learn of it through word of mouth, and yet in trying to find out more information I came across a podcast by the television presenter and historian Neil Oliver describing a visit that he made to the Glen and how he felt that it represented something mystical being created by nature rather than man-made and fulfilled a need in humankind to sometimes just be quiet and reflective. More recently in a television series Fern Britton who now lives in Cornwall visited the Glen and again was taken by the peace she felt there. Both are worth seeking out if you wish to know more.



It does seem to have some strange customs that have built up – there are two or three large tree trunks on the walk, and many

people have hammered coins into them and there are what is known as 'Fairy stacks' which are piles of flat stones built up into pyramids probably in memory of someone or something.

Perhaps it is not a religious place in the normal understanding of the phrase, yet it was a Christian Saint who felt that it was such a place to set up a hermitage where he could be alone and come to God. In these times it is recognised by Christians and pagans (and others as well I would imagine) almost as a place of pilgrimage and one which certainly had a profound effect on me. If you are in the area, it is well worth taking a few hours to experience but do wear good walking shoes! It is really a Special Place.

Dave Lyus

Favourite Hymns

This time we have a favourite hymn of Cliff and Dorothy Tayler. It is, perhaps, one that is less heard these days but still has an important message. It is 'Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us' also known as 'living Lord'. It was written by Patrick Robert Norman (Pat) Appleford born in 1925 in Croydon, England. He went to Hurstpierpoint College, West Sussex and then on to Trinity College in Cambridge. He later studied for the Anglican priesthood at Chichester Theological College. He worked in Poplar, a parish in East London and was ordained in 1952. The song was written for the youth club in Poplar, during his time there from 1952-58, and he said it was to "... *show Jesus was not a dead hero but a living lord*".

In around 1960, he, along with his former tutor Geoffrey Beaumont, co-founded the "20th Century Church Light Music Group". This was part of a movement which sought to create a major change to hymn-writing and hymn-singing in English-speaking Anglican churches, it looked to promote straightforward hymns English-language hymns, and setting texts to original melodies that were quickly learned and repeated.

He served with Anglican missionary agency USPG from 1961 to 1966, and then went to Zambia as Dean and Rector of Holy Cross Cathedral. He returned to England in 1972 and worked in the Chelmsford Diocese. His hymn-writing continued throughout his ministry, and a collection "The Hymns of Patrick Appleford" was published in 2007 marking his 80th-birthday. After retiring, he studied composition, and wrote three cantatas. The Way of the Cross, Follow the Way and Messiah comes to Town. He died on 9 December 2018, aged 93.

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
You are one with us
Mary's Son
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring Your love and goodness in
Jesus, our love for you we sing
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray
Son of God
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through
Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one with us
Mary's Son
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord

Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you
live my life for you
Son of God
All your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
Into my life your power breaks through
Living Lord

A 'Small' Church?

As a church we are part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and, as such, we receive a copy of their magazine 'Baptists Together'. In the summer 2023 issue there are a number of references to 'The Small Church' category – this refers to those churches with less than 40 members. I think that we may come under this heading (or if not be close to it). In fact over half of the Union's Churches do come in under this number. Does this mean that we are not successful or that we are failing? According to one article this is not necessarily the case but as it says:

'What if we were never meant to be big in the first place? What if this is a move of the Spirit, calling us back to our foundations? What if we are being challenged to be church in a different way? Looking at these figures we might feel despondent. However at the height of the 19th century chapel building era, where one chapel was being built every eight days in Wales, only 52 per cent of the population attended either church or chapel. In 'A New Mission to Wales' (2016), David Ollerton notes that by the 1970s this number had halved, and between 1982 and 2010 the number of Baptist churches dropped from 833 to 429. Despite these figures, our memory is often coloured by imagination. We remember when our churches appeared full, we remember the many meetings and missionary endeavours of our churches, but our memory can be deceptive. It can also be coloured by grief, longing for what we wished for in the past, when the culture and social climate in which we lived was very different.

We no longer live with the privilege of Christendom. Covid and subsequent lockdowns, with the attendant rise of online services, has highlighted the consumerist attitudes that pervade the Church. These can perhaps be traced to the late 19th century where people would travel to hear such speakers as Spurgeon, Lloyd-Jones, and Evan Roberts during the Welsh revival. But our Baptist forebears did not choose to worship according to the professionalism of the worship band, the provision of youth services and big-name preachers. Instead, they covenanted together to walk as saints, often travelling large distances to a small gathering held in the nearest house of fellow Baptists. Corporate worship often included extensive Bible readings, several sermons, and no singing! The pre-Constantine churches were of necessity small, only as large as the home in which they met. Once that home had been outgrown, they would plant another small church in the neighbourhood, creating a network of small churches.

I suppose the aim should be to grow our church, but as the article shows this is not the only aim – we should ensure that the church meets the needs of its members and of the community that it serves – Hopefully it does and will continue to do so...

DL

Special Places (2) - Rochester Cathedral



The Cathedral is located in the heart of Rochester, on the banks of the river Medway, and is within easy reach by either car or train. The entrance to the cathedral is not very special but once inside the amazing architecture and stained-glass windows takes your breath away.



Rochester can claim to be the second-oldest earliest cathedral in England after Canterbury. It was founded by King Ethelbert of Kent in AD 604. The Cathedral was personally consecrated by St Augustine and dedicated to St Andrew, the patron saint of monasteries. The first Bishop of Rochester was Justus.

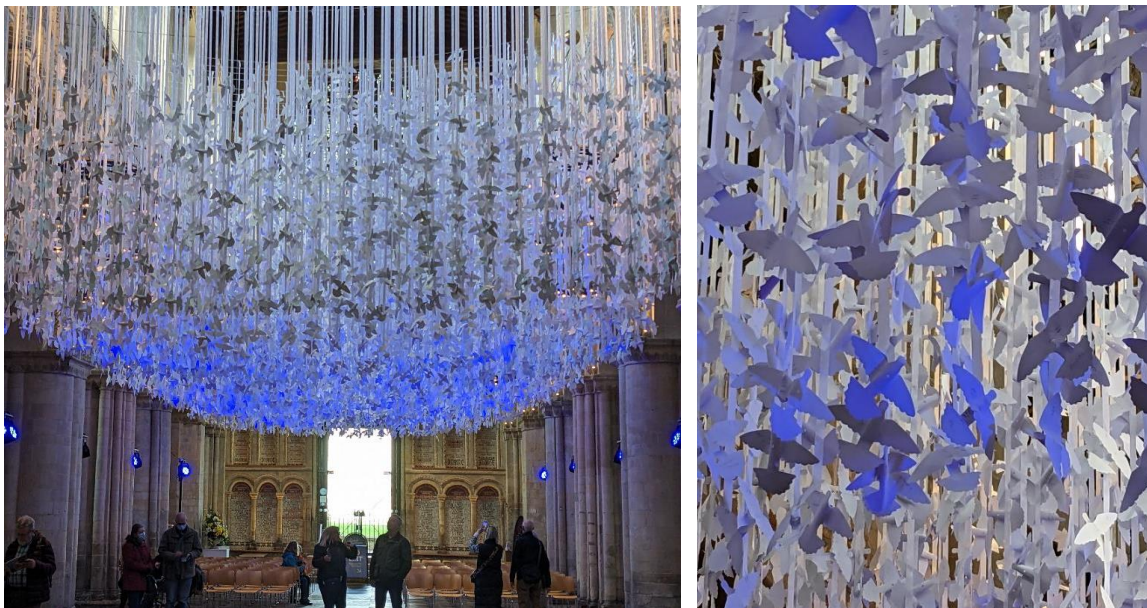
The original 7th-century Cathedral has long since vanished through centuries of rebuilding, but in 1889 restoration work uncovered the foundations of the original 7th-century building under the west end. The foundations were about 1.5m (5 feet) deep and what was left of the walls were 70 cms. (2' 4") thick. The walls were made of stone and Roman brick. The original Cathedral had a round end named an 'Apse.' The length was about 14 metres (46' 6") and the width was about 8.8 metres (29' 6") When the Normans invaded England in 1066, Gundulf became the Bishop of Rochester in 1077.

Gundulf built the Castle opposite the Cathedral, and he also built the Tower of London. Gundulf started to design the new Cathedral for Rochester. In 1115, Ernulf was inaugurated as the Bishop of Rochester.

In 1137 and 1179, fires engulfed the Cathedral, and it was badly damaged. In 1215 the Cathedral was looted, first by King John and then in 1264 by Simon de Monfort's men when they laid siege to the city.

It is traditionally thought that King Henry VIII met Anne of Cleves in the cloisters of Rochester Cathedral. Unfortunately, in the 1600's Rochester had become one of the poorest dioceses in the country. Again, it was robbed of its treasures by unruly soldiers. Unbelievably, the Cathedral became a place of ill repute, where often gambling and drinking took place. Samuel Pepys described it as a 'Shabby place.' Through the 1800s, the Cathedral had gone through a number of restoration processes, and finally, in 1880, Gilbert Scott restored the Cathedral to its present-day appearance.

A short while ago Dianne and I decided to visit Rochester Cathedral to see the amazing 'Peace Doves' installation that had been created inside the building.



Bringing a message of peace and hope, the Peace Doves artwork had been created from thousands of individually handmade paper doves. Collectively, they formed a piece of beautiful artwork which, as a whole, reflects joining together in unity.

Adaptations of Peace Doves have been exhibited in Liverpool, Lichfield, Derby, Sheffield and now at Rochester Cathedral. The project has incorporated educational engagement with local schools and community groups with individuals writing messages of peace and hope onto each dove.

Throughout history, the dove has been viewed as a symbol of peace in many different cultures. For example, in Greek mythology the dove is a symbol of the renewal of life, and, within the bible, the dove appears as a symbol of the Holy Spirit at the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan and in the teachings of Noah and the Ark.

Fossilised black oak tree table

An incredible 13m long table made from fossilised wood is to be found inside Rochester Cathedral. The Fenland Black Oak Table was made to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and is made of the nation's rarest and most precious hardwood – black oak.



In 2012, a giant black oak tree was found in a field in Wissington Fen, East Anglia. A 13.2m long section of a tree was discovered deep in the peat. It had laid undisturbed for 5000 years. It is believed the tree would have been an immense 55 metres tall when it was alive. For comparison, present day oak trees are around 20 metres.

For ten years a team of privately funded specialist crafts people worked to create a stunning sculptured table from the 5000-year-old wood. Allowing this incredible tree to be preserved in perpetuity for future generations to admire and use.



Old and New

I am not sure if many of you will have come across a television channel called 'Talking Pictures TV'. It shows a good selection of old films - often in black and white. But on a Sunday evening at 5.00 pm. There is a programme called 'The Footage Detectives'. In this Mike Read (you must remember him?) and the creator of the channel, Noel Cronin, show clips of films - not of the cinema sort but of the type sent in by viewers or which have come to light. They are often of events which took place many years ago. Recently these have included people sailing model boats on lakes in parks - very popular at one time - and road safety films along with promotional films for various items. The main part of the show is the reading out of letters from people who give further information about the place, time etc of the films previously shown. It may not exciting, but for people of a certain age it sets the memory bells ringing.

So why this article? Well, a recent film clip showed Boy's Brigade members marching with bugles and drums - so far nobody has come up with any further details! But we have our own memories being set up still. Our very own band - The 17th Pals Battalion Band marched and played to celebrate St. George's Day. They marched from The Broadway to the church where they played outside and later performed at Tesco's.

We are indeed lucky to have this ongoing memory now that our Boy's Brigade Company is no more.



Many thanks to Phil Slaney for the pictures

Special Places (3) – Greensted Church



GREENSTED CHURCH

Greensted Church, in the small village of Greensted, near Chipping Ongar in Essex, is the oldest wooden Church in the world and probably the oldest wooden building in Europe still standing, albeit only in part, since few sections of its original wooden structure remain. The oak palisade walls are often classified as remnants of a palisade Church or a kind of early stave Church, dating back to either the mid-9th or mid-11th century.

The Church lies about a mile west of Chipping Ongar town centre. Its full title is The Church of St Andrew, Greensted-juxta-Ongar. It is, however, commonly known simply as Greensted Church to locals and tourists alike. Greensted is still a functioning Church and holds services every week, although it does not have its own permanent Minister. The volume of tourist visits is light, but steady. Greensted Church has been situated in its idyll setting for nearly 1,200 years and archaeological evidence suggests that, before there was a permanent structure, there may well have been another Church or a holy place on the site for much longer, possibly dating back to around the 4th century. Construction of the first permanent Church on this site is thought to have begun shortly after St Cedd began his conversion of the Saxon people around 654.

The archaeological remnants of two simple wooden buildings were discovered under the present chancel floor, and these are thought to have been built in the late 6th or early 7th century.

The Church's dedication to St Andrew suggests a Celtic foundation for the original sanctuary. The body of King Edmund of East Anglia (who died in 870 at Hoxne) is said to have rested there in 1013, on its way to reburial



at Bury St Edmunds. An interesting detail is the so called 'Leper's Squint' on the north side. This small aperture through the oak wall was formerly thought to have been a place where lepers who, not allowed inside the Church with everyone else, were allowed to receive a blessing from the Priest. It is now believed to be a holy water stoup. The Church, like many,

has had additional work performed on it over the centuries.

The nave is mostly original and using research in the 1960's - dated it to 845. In 1995, however, this date was revised to 1053 + 10-55 years (sometime between 1063 and 1108). It is made of large split oak tree

trunks, which was a traditional Saxon form of construction; the revised dating would, however, probably reassign it to the early Norman era, suggesting that it was built or rebuilt by local craftsmen for the new Lord of the Manor after the Norman Conquest. The flint footings of the Chancel wall and the pillar piscina inside the sanctuary are all that remain of any identifiably Norman work.



Henry VII's reign saw many changes to England, and they are reflected in the changes made to the Church at this time. The original chancel was small and built of timber, but the current brick-built chancel dates from this period of construction. The distinctive white wood panelled tower was added in the Stuart period (17th century) and is what initially draws the eye. One of the bells is inscribed '*William Land made me in 1618*' and so many consider the tower may in fact have been built earlier.

This would not be too surprising as there are a number of mediaeval wooden towers in the district. Around this time, the three dormer windows were added to the nave for the first time. and the south porch. A fragment of 15th century glass can be seen in the centre of the quatrefoil window at the west end, but it was set there during the Victorian restoration.

Restoration work by the Victorians in the 19th century added some wonderfully detailed brickwork to the building, along with most probably, some of the more ornate decoration to the outside.

Specifically, it replaced the three dormer windows with six, and the porch was also reconstructed, along with other minor alterations and stone coping. As for notable events in its history, in 1013 an ancient chronicler records that the body of St Edmund was, for a night, deposited at Greensted Church, There are many tributes to St Edmund in the Church itself. Also, near the porch, a large, flat, coped stone marks the quiet resting place of an unknown early crusader who is said to have arrived, badly wounded, at the Church and died there.



The fact that it was made of stone, not a local material, and was placed against the south wall, suggests he was considered a hero. If any friends would like to visit this small but fascinating Church, please let me know and I will have pleasure in taking you round the 'sticks'.

Bob Jenkins

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

The definition of 'tradition' is given as: - *a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has existed for a long time among a particular group of people; a set of these beliefs or customs religious/cultural, etc.*



I thought of this much used word as it could be used by two recent events which took place within a week of each other. The first is (fairly obviously) the Coronation of King Charles III. It seems that the weather has not been kind to the incoming monarchs for some time. It may not have rained every Coronation since Edward VII's but neither has there been vast amounts of sun. I remember the Coronation of

Queen Elizabeth being shown on television and pictures of Queen Salote of Tonga being driven in an open carriage rather than cover up to prevent getting very wet. Unfortunately the recent Coronation carried on what could become a tradition – it did not rain everywhere on the day but certainly London experienced a good downpour! Even before the ceremony began inside Westminster Abbey many more years of tradition came into play – there was a journey in a state coach from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey. The Abbey itself is steeped in tradition having been used for every Coronation since the ceremony on Christmas Day 1066 when William (the Conqueror) was crowned. The ceremony can be considered to be in six parts -the recognition, the oath, the anointing, the investiture (which includes the crowning) and then the enthronement and the homage. All of these are based on past events and traditions. As an example, the Anointing of the new Monarch takes place while he or she is seated on King Edward's Chair which has been used at every Coronation since 1626, (The Chair itself was made in 1300) and it is performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury whilst being hidden from the congregation. The Oath is the one part of the ceremony which has to take place – in it the Monarch promises to uphold the Law and The Church of England – over the years it has varied slightly to take account of the territory's of the State and Commonwealth.

The Order of Service for the Coronation includes a description of the ceremony that is to take place and highlights that much of it comes from tradition: -

The rite of Coronation in England, which is really a series of ancient rituals, has its roots in the ninth century and was codified in the fourteenth in a book called the Liber Regalis, which the Abbey still possesses. It was further modified over the following centuries, adapting to changing needs.

Today's service draws on that long tradition, set once again within the context of the Eucharist, which is the defining act of worship for the Church universal.

Bible passages will be read from the letter to the Colossians and the Gospel according to St Luke; the Archbishop will preach a short sermon; hymns will be sung; and bread and wine will be offered, consecrated, and received by The King and Queen, to strengthen and guide them in their public service.

I hope that this shows how firmly rooted in tradition the Coronation is – during researching this article I noted that there does not have to be a Coronation for a new Monarch – they become such on the death of their predecessor and, in fact no other European Monarchy does have such a ceremony.

Perhaps from the sublime to the ridiculous I look at the other 'tradition' that took place recently. It is, of course, Eurovision that yearly event which has been with us for many years – the Eurovision website gives the following information:



The Eurovision Song Contest began as a technical experiment in television broadcasting: the live, simultaneous, transnational broadcast that Europe has now been watching for nearly 70 years was in the late 1950s a marvel. The first Eurovision Song Contest was held on May 24, 1956, and saw seven nations compete: the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, and Italy. Austria and Denmark wanted to take part but missed the deadline, and the United Kingdom sent their apologies as they were busy with their own contest that year.

Over the years the traditions for the contest have evolved and changed. To date, the UK has won the Eurovision Song Contest 5 times. We have also finished second a record 16 times and hold the record for the longest-running string of Top 5 placings. The United Kingdom holds the record for the longest run of consecutive appearances in the Grand Final of the Eurovision Song Contest. Perhaps the traditions differ from those of the Coronations but there are some 'similarities' Participants often wear 'different' clothing, represent their countries on the international stage, and both were watched by millions of people around the world. Traditions do change however – over recent years the tradition that the UK does not do well in the voting part of Eurovision. This changed last year when we came second, and this, in turn, led to the change of tradition that the winning country host the next competition since Ukraine could not be the venue. So we offered Liverpool and managed to put on an excellent show – but then the tradition of us not doing well came back with a vengeance...

Of course, much of the way we celebrate our faith is based on traditions. These go back to Jesus himself celebrating the first act of Communion and giving us the Lord's prayer. Even these have been subject to some change. As noted in the article on the Easter service Communion was celebrated at the start of the service and not at the end as is usual. The Lord's Prayer has been 'updated', however, if the old version is good enough for use at the Coronation it is still good enough for me!

Long may our traditions continue.

Dave Lyus

Highams Park Snippets

Over the last issues we have remembered some of the businesses in Highams Park that advertised in the Church magazine of the 1930's. There are still more to come but for many there is little more information of their name and the type of service they provided. In this article we go back to the early 1930's and give a mention to those we have not already included.

One of the very first reminds us that ninety years ago not everyone had electricity in their homes. So what did you do if you wanted to listen to the new-fangled radio broadcasts? Step forward Meopham's Accumulator service.

Ultra 1933 Tiger. Radio's Richest Voice.



A SUPER 4-valve all-electric Receiver. Variable-mu screened-grid H.F. valve, screened grid detector, power pentode output and rectifying valve. Built-in Energised Moving-Coil Speaker. Modern Walnut Cabinet. Magnificent reproduction of British and Continental programmes without complicated tuning.

15 Gns. or 12 monthly payments of 28/9.
Efficient after sales service is assured by purchasing your Radio Receiver from:

Meopham's Accumulator Service,
90, CAVENDISH ROAD, HIGHAMS PARK.
Telephone: WALthamstow 1387.

provided a service which charged them up. He also sold radios as can be seen from the advertisement. A radio for 15 Guineas (i.e. a Guinea is one pound and one shilling in old money or one pound and five pence today) sounds reasonable but then you find that a 1930 pound is equal to about £62 today which means that it cost the equivalent of over £900 today – and there weren't a huge amount of programmes to listen to!

Another company that dealt in a similar field was Wirewell - This may well be a name that is remembered by some. They were still in business to the 1970's

WIREWELL ★
Electrical & Radio Installations, Ltd.
507 HALE END ROAD, E.4 Lar. 1481 ☎ AT HACKNEY

ANYTHING Radio
Electrical
Public Address

and we bought our first television from them. At one time they had at least three shops in Highams Park but later disappeared from the scene.

Telephone: LARKWOOD 2188

The Broadway Motors
(Proprietor - G. H. Welder)

AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS


Repairs a speciality
: Stocks in Stock :
CARS FOR HIRE

9 The Broadway,
Highams Park, E.4
AND
Beechwood Terrace,
Larks Hall Rd., E.4

The technology of the 1930's was evolving – one area that people were getting used to is that of motor cars – or as The Broadway Motors referred to themselves as 'Automobile Engineers. We learn that 'Repairs a speciality and Spares in Stock' You could also Hire a Car. They were situated at 9, The Broadway and also had a presence at Beechwood Terrace, Larks Hall Road.

Phone: LARKSWOOD 1894.

ALFRED DAFLON,

Purveyor of  High-class Meat.

Noted for Beef and Pork Sausages.

Families waited on daily. A trial solicited.

5, Winchester Road, Highams Park.

*Our Motto—
"He profits most who serves the best."*

C. PARSONS

Finest Cooked Meats
and Table Delicacies

Noted for Finest Bacon
Wall's and Parson's Sausages
Pies, etc.

Fresh Cut Sandwiches at all times
Pickles, Sauces, Tinned Goods, etc.

**404 Hale End Road
Highams Park, E.4**

People these days complain about the fact that most of the 'provision' type shops have disappeared leaving the way open for supermarkets and even many of those have done away with fresh meat and fish counters (Morrison's and Waitrose seem to be the exceptions). But in 1934 there was Alfred Daflon providing high class meat. You could take a trial and be waited upon... or you could patronise C. Parsons. It would seem that sausages were a popular option – no doubt made on the premises. 'Table Delicacies' sound wonderful...

Perhaps the most difficult to understand at such a distance in time is the Company shown below. Most of the companies that used the magazine to advertise their wares or services were local but the Wholesale Upholstery and General Furniture Company was situated in the heart of the City, a train ride away. It may well be that a church member had some attachment to the company. The adverts seem to disappear in later magazine issues so perhaps the hoped for increase in trade never happened.

Ed's note: At one time I worked very close to Chiswell Steet (it is near The Barbican) now full of offices and the only business still extant was the Whitbread's brewery from where the horse drawn drays left for local deliveries – another thing of the past. Even that is no more.

Telephone: NATIONAL 1828

You are cordially invited to visit the:—

Wholesale Upholstery and General Furniture Company

Offices and Showrooms: 60-61 Chiswell Street, London, E.C.1

Bedroom Suites, Drawing Room Suites, Dining Room Suites
Bedding, Mirrors, Clocks, Barometers, Etc., Etc.

Factory: Cookham, Bucks

FULL SIZE
DAMASK
EASY CHAIRS
27/6

First Special Offer: 3 Piece REAL COWHIDE SUITES, "Feather Filled Velveten Cushions," £9 15s. 0d.

More next issue.

DL

CHURCH DIARY

June

Sunday 4th	10 am	All Age Service Led by Amanda Edwards
Sunday 11th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion And Sunday School Led by Robert Jenkins
Sunday 18th	10 am	Morning Service for Father's Day Led by Dr. Paul Davis
Sunday 25th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion Led by Muneyi Antoniou

July

Sunday 2nd	10 am	All Age Morning Service Led by Andy Bowles
Thursday 6 th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 9th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Amanda Edwards
Sunday 16th	10 am	Morning Service Led by Robert Jenkins
Sunday 23rd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Jason Close
Followed by	11.30 am	Church Member's Meeting
Sunday 30th	10 am	All Age Morning Service led by Rev Cherie Rogers

August

Sunday 6 th	10 am	All Age Morning Service Led by Sandeep Christian
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Note: Children and Young people will be staying in each week, During the School Holidays (30/07 to 02/09).