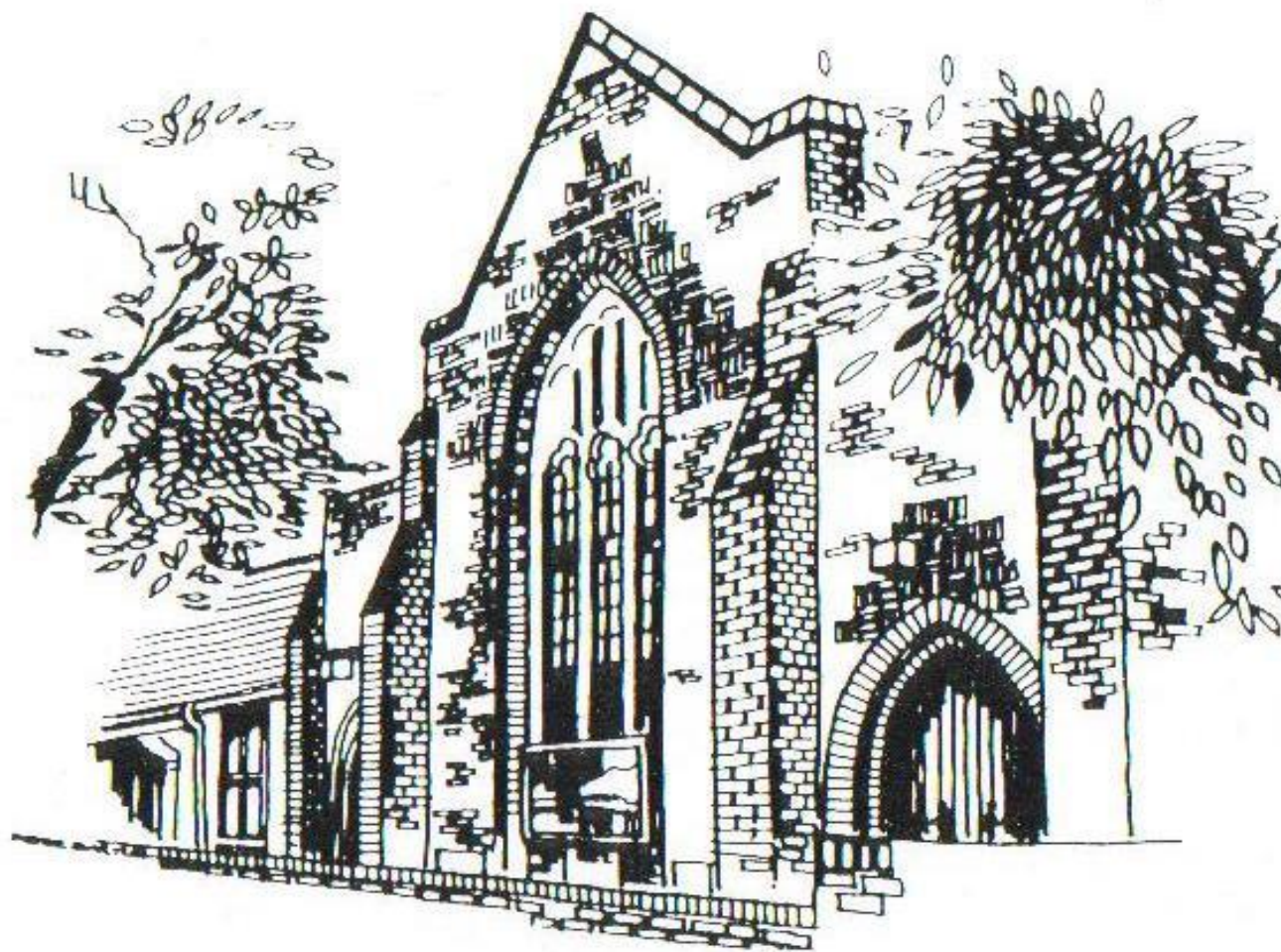




*The Magazine*  
*of*  
**Highams Park Baptist  
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



**June/July 2024**

## CHURCH PROGRAMME

### At the time of writing

#### Current Covid Safety Arrangements

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

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



The Zoom Home Group has started again on most Tuesday Evenings. Please see Cherie for details and how to join.

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

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : [magazine@hpbc.co.uk](mailto:magazine@hpbc.co.uk)



**Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG**  
**June / July 2024**

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

Dear Friends

I wonder if you remember learning a little rhyme with hand actions as a child:

*Here's the church, and here's the steeple -  
Open the doors, and there's all the people!*

It has been interesting thinking together since Easter about what it means to be church. We know well the adage that 'church is not the building but the people' and I am sure we know that to be the truth! But it can still be easy to think of 'church' as mainly something that we participate in on a Sunday morning – just another part of our busy diary...

Church is definitely not just a place that we *go*, or equally not something that we *do* – rather, it is a multifaceted, living entity which we *are*. We are a community that together share a belief in God that we express in our worship, and in the responsibility that we share as a fellowship in loving one another, encouraging and building each other up, which extends beyond the boundaries of an hour and a half each week. And our calling as church also extends beyond our fellowship to those outside, who do not yet know Jesus.

I have a vision for us to truly be a Jesus-centred and people-loving church – with worship, and community and mission at the centre of everything that we do. We are here for God, for each other, and for our neighbourhood and beyond. This means that we need to be looking up, in and out:

Our eyes focussed UP on God in worship, our care and compassion focussed IN through fellowship and supporting each other, and our hearts focussed OUT towards the local community in which God has placed us, so that we can be witnesses to what God has done in our lives.

This is very much in line with the teaching given at the Baptist Assembly this year, which I was glad to be able to attend in Telford, on the 17-19<sup>th</sup> May. Being Pentecost weekend, the theme of 'Gathered Together in One Place' was timely. We were reminded by one of the speakers, Carl Smethhurst, that those first disciples, following the coming of the Holy Spirit, were empowered by the Spirit to live out their life of discipleship. (Discipleship is the process of working out how to follow Jesus in our everyday life – and it is an ongoing process as we journey through all our life.) Carl noted from Acts 2, that having received the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples became more committed to God in three ways:

**Committed to following Jesus**  
**Committed to loving one another**  
**Committed to mission to others**

This is true of us in our commitment as well. Exciting things are on the horizon for us as a church. We have the new sound system to be installed in the coming weeks, and we look forward to how this will enhance our worship to God on a Sunday. We are continuing to deepen care in the fellowship with the new coffee morning on a Monday and monthly youth event. I see each week how relationships are deepening.

And we have our community Fun Day to look forward to, a chance to bless our neighbours by providing a barbeque, bouncy castle and activities. On that day, I would also really like to have some way of engaging people in faith conversations, perhaps using all prayer tree. Or perhaps having a stand where people are able to ask questions about faith if they would like to. We hope also to be able to have the church open, so that people can come in and sit for a bit of quiet reflection if they would find it helpful. Please do speak to me if you have an idea of how we could do any of these things or would like to be involved.

In addition, we finally have the news that we are allowed to meet on the Aldriche estate, in the community room. The regulations say that we're not allowed to have an 'act of worship,' but that it is OK to meet there in

order to provide support for folk in the community. This will be initiative that is supported by all three of the churches in Highams Park – ourselves, Winchester Road Methodist Church and All Saints. It's good to be involved in something that is a joint effort between all the churches here. It's going to be happening on a Thursday evening, starting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, in the community room, and it will be wonderful if some of you felt able to support this. You wouldn't have to commit to going every single week, but it will be good to have as much support as possible. The more the merrier!

But the most important thing to realise about all of this, is the activities and events that come out of our own good ideas are not enough. The story of Pentecost shows us that we desperately need the work of the Holy Spirit to transform lives; just like the first disciples needed the Holy Spirit, we do too. Nothing we can do will draw people to Christ, only God can do that. But please will you join with me in praying that the Holy Spirit will move in a powerful way over the coming months in this church and in this community. And we pray that many will come to faith in God through Jesus, under our church fellowship will grow. Prayer is important it's the most important thing that we can do. So let us commit to pray together, praying that God will move powerfully.

With every blessing,  
Cherie

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Cavendish Circular*



In the last issue we noted that John Griffith, known to many as 'Biff' had been diagnosed with cancer and was awaiting further tests. It was with immense sadness that we heard that he had died on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Fortunately Cherie and Althea had been to see him in hospital the day before and had a time of prayer with him. His funeral is to take place on Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm at The City of London Crematorium and

will be taken by Cherie. You are asked to remember him and his family in your prayers and thoughts. We hope to bring more in the next issue.



You may remember that we recently told of the visit to a Turkish restaurant by some of the ladies of the church. Well, not to be outdone the men's group later paid their own visit to the same restaurant and their comments were very favourable. Thanks to Dave Kendrick for the picture.

However, the ladies decided that they had such an enjoyable time that they would do it again but with a different choice of food – this time Chinese at The Swan at Woodford. Again a very enjoyable evening was had. Thanks to Althea for the pictures. So far Ladies 2, Men 1...



We are looking forward to our Community Fun Day on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> from 1pm till 4pm. Offers of assistance will be gratefully received - please see Cherie. More details later in this issue. As you will see In Chrie's letter there are lots more things happening in the church over the coming weeks and months.

As ever we remember those of the Church family who for whatever reason are unable to get to the services. They are still very important to us.

## Hazel's Homespun Humour

The best way to find something you have lost is to buy a replacement!  
(Ann Landers)

## Apologies

In the *Cavendish Circular* of the last issue I noted that we would be celebrating Jason's birthday - and then I did not include it. Please accept my apologies and put it down to my having had quite a lot more birthdays!

We do (somewhat belatedly but well deservedly) celebrate one of the milestone birthdays for Jason and thank him for all he does and has done for the church over many of those years. *DL-pictures from Dave Kendrick*

—



## Easter Services



The Good Friday service took place in the church and was set up informally. The chairs were in a horseshoe shape facing the altar and the cross. Cherie sat facing us and was using her guitar to provide the music. There were no lights or heat, the latter just by chance, but it was suggested and significant that we needed to feel some discomfort as we were going to be thinking about the trial, death and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus.

The service was very moving in its simplicity. We sang four hymns which were..... 'When I survey the wondrous cross. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? How deep the Father's love for us and Jesus Christ I think upon your sacrifice' Each hymn was preceded by Cherie taking us through the events of that day.

The service was reverent and fitting and what struck me was the quietness within the church. We all must have had our own thoughts and feelings about our Lord Jesus and the sacrifices he had made in order to cleanse us and forgive our sins. Each and every part of the service brought it home to us.

There were Seventeen people there and we left the church in silence not breaking the atmosphere of such a beautiful, thought-provoking service.





Easter Sunday was a joyful service celebrating our risen Lord.



There had, been preceding this service, a series of weekly children's talks given by Cherie relating to a box which contained a different object each week. Each object linked to the character of Jesus. It was a relatable way for the children to engage and remember. Each week they were invited to recall

what was in the box to that point then a child was invited to take out the next object to add to the list.

In the box was a candle {Spirit Jesus}, a board marker {teacher Jesus}, a prayer book {prayerful Jesus}, a heart {caring and loving Jesus}, a first aid Kit {healing Jesus} and a picture of King Charles { King Jesus }. The children were amazing in the way in which they remembered. Each service had then continued with the themes. It was an interesting way for us as adults to focus too.

On Easter Sunday the children and adults were asked "What's in the box?" and it took a short while for all to realise that the box was empty! Jesus was no longer in the tomb. That too was empty. How wonderful was the realization that Jesus had risen. The children then played a game to find all the objects hidden in the church which had been in the box originally. It was a fun time for all.

Such a contrast to the events of Good Friday.

Di Kendrick

# SPRING HARVEST

Spring Harvest is something that needs to be experienced not just read about. I can describe what goes on the seminars, the talks, the worship, the fun activities shared with friends but whatever I type does not do it justice.

Spring Harvest has evolved over the years, even in the time that I have been going. The nature of the group of us that go has evolved, families grown up, some moved away, and the “event” itself has evolved. It used to be 6 days/5 nights, we lost a day to fit in with Butlins now booking as 4 night midweek breaks and 3 night weekend breaks. All SH activities used to happen in the mornings and evenings leaving the afternoon free for our group to have fun with “Butlins” activities- swimming, funfair, soft play, snooker, beach, good times spent with our church family after group devotions.



Covid of course was a huge game changer. Distancing, smaller groups, going online – SH at home was born and remains for those that are unable to book and travel. People worldwide now able to glimpse through the window, join in, learn, grow and worship our Lord in their living rooms, on their computers, pads, or phones wherever they can log in. Its exciting how Covid trapped us all at home but allowed such outreach and mission.

The mornings and evenings have relatively the same format, enough for us to feel comfortable, Big Start with its energetic family wake up, worship, prayer, drama and theme setting for the day. Followed by kids groups and bible study (now enhanced with singing and worship) and a series of workshops/seminars to pick and choose from, evening worship and then late night sessions of bands, comedians and drama for those with energy to keep going. Now the afternoons are also filled with talks, shows, and workshops. If you wish you can keep going with “God stuff” all day.



But it's different too, gone is the big top tent (that took some getting used to!) in its place a new venue 'Studio 36' - purposefully designed to minimise Covid risk with air purifiers and fans, blocks of chairs, big screens so its easier to see what is going on on stage if you have someone taller in front of you which is most of the time for shorthouses like me 😊 Less people overall, but now more choice of evening celebration making for a more intimate experience. And yes, still the choice of doing as much or as little as you wish, going full on or having quiet time, shopping at stalls selling "Christian" T Shirts, jewellery, art, music, books, signing up to sponsor a child or a toilet(!), fill food aid boxes, opportunities to study and much more, or a quiet walk on the beach.



But central to everything is Christ. Spring Harvest is like living in a bubble, you forget what day of the week it is. You are able to step away from your normal life, carve out some time to focus on our Lord - learning, sharing, immersing, recharging and healing. More focus now on inviting people and families that have not yet got a personal relationship with God, more focus on supporting people to come who would not be able to afford to come but who need to come. Church family, being family and reaching out. It's the feeling that you get being there, the whole atmosphere. If you stay on and make the break longer the change in atmosphere is palpably different between the Spring Harvest week and the normal week. All the Butlins staff notice it too. The way people behave, speak to each other, look out for each other. Jesus making a visible difference in people.

Mandy Edwards

## *Richard Hill*

*18<sup>th</sup> July 1948 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024*



In the last issue we noted that we had heard of the sad passing of Richard Hill, a good friend of mine and Jacqui's, and one of the group of people who had been attached to HPBC and who still met up at times. He was the husband of Chris who played an important role in the Girl's Brigade. They had moved to Manuden near Bishop's Stortford in the mid 1980's. His funeral was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

The service was marked by two events – the minister taking the service was late (as were others due to problems on the M3 motorway) – I can imagine Richard would have had a quiet chuckle at that. The other was the choice of music – Richard was a child of his time and so music by Mike Oldfield, The Rolling Stones and Fleetwood Mac was heard. Having been unable to get to the service I watched it later and I have to say the music really fitted the occasion.

Friends and family played a large part in the funeral – as Chris told me they tried hard to reflect Richard's life and likes. Laura, Richard's daughter had found the poem 'He is gone' and it was read by, as Chris says, 'a very long-term friend', Bob who Richard had met when he went to the Monoux school 6<sup>th</sup> form. He and his wife Ann have remained friends with Richard and Chris for all that time. I have found the poem to be of great comfort in the loss of somebody close and have included it at the end of this article.

Among the tributes and memories from friends and family there was one from Tim Wyeth who had met Richard and Chris when Richard was working in Bahrain. Again they have remained long term friends and Tim had introduced Richard to the joys of fly fishing and they had spent many happy hours both fishing and putting the world to rights. The family memories were deep and effusive, remembering how Richard had been a great dad – firm at times but always loving and very much missed. Richard's granddaughter Charlotte sang 'Songbird' by Fleetwood Mac. As Chris told me 'Charlotte is our second granddaughter (sister to Daisy who spoke her tribute on behalf of the grandchildren). She is very much into ballet and musical theatre. Richard was very proud of her talent and attended all the concerts and shows that she appeared in. Charlotte wanted to sing as her tribute to her Grandad - recorded the version whilst hiding under her duvet apparently!'

A truly great send off for a great husband, father, grandfather and friend – I know I will miss him and his wonderful sense of humour.

*DL*

# *'He is gone'*

*by David Harkins*

*You can shed tears that he is gone,  
or you can smile because he has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back,  
or you can open your eyes and see all he's left.  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him,  
or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live  
yesterday,  
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of  
yesterday.  
You can remember only that he is gone,  
or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn  
your back.  
Or you can do what he'd want:  
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*



## Christian Aid Week



The Christian Aid service was run differently to how we usually worship. The church was set up with chairs grouped around tables. We were invited to share pastries, tea and coffee before the service and on the tables were Christian Aid envelopes in which we could place donations at the time or at a later date.

The service was about compassion.

We listened to the story of a lady called Aline, who lived in Burundi, and had been aided out of poverty, and malnourishment. Through a marriage at a very young age she found herself later cast out when her husband took another wife. He kept their children leaving her to beg for food and a place to sleep which often left her on the streets.



Aline was able to attend a 3-day community Workshop funded by Christian Aid and it taught her amazing skills and knowledge which gave her hope. She was taught how to form a village Savings and Loans Association {VSLA} which loaned money and helped people to save for the future. She was able, having taken a loan herself, to purchase a bicycle to transport avocados and peanuts which she grew in the garden of her rented house.

She finally got her eldest children back as they had escaped from their abusive father, bought her own house and could afford to look after her family. It was good to know one way that the donated money could help those in need to climb out of poverty and to a better future.

We watched a video about Christian Aid, prayed in groups around our tables and sang songs. We also took part in a general knowledge Quiz which was a challenge for many. It was a successful service and we went home knowing that we had helped others by giving.

Di Kendrick

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 1 – 4 pm**



We look forward to welcoming our neighbours to join us for this outreach event. There are still plenty of things that we will need help with on the day, helping with games and activities, serving food, welcoming on the gate, being in the hall to supervise the table tennis and pool – as well as clearing up afterwards!

It will need to be a team effort! It will be great for as many of you as possible to be present to chat with our neighbours as well. Invite your family and friends along too. You won't have to be stuck on a job for the whole time!

Please pray for this event, for people to come, for fine weather, for good chats with our guests. On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, from 7-9 pm, we will be praying and leafleting the surrounding roads.

Ask Cherie, Althea, Jason, Phil or Pete for more details about how to get involved.



### **Prayer**

Putting on the Easter event takes a lot of time and effort from a small core team and many volunteers. It takes about 2 years of planning from start to finish so next years event prep is in full swing and 2026 has already been started. Please pray for all those involved, for doors to be opened, things to slot into place, for God's desire and guidance to be clear in what is needed and the way to get there.

### **Giving**

The "Everyone in fund" is an important part of Spring Harvest now. Until 30<sup>th</sup> June all donations are being matched by a generous donor so if you give £1 they do too, if you give £100 that turns into a £200 donation, an amazing offer.

### **Visit the website**

[www.springharvest.org.uk](http://www.springharvest.org.uk) find out more about what they do what you can do and get free resources

### **Join My SpringHarvest**

Full details are on the website. Sign up you to get even more and access recordings of what went on at the live event.

### **Book to come next year!**

The theme next year is "No Greater Story".

At Skegness from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April, Minehead 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April. Booking lines open on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Let Mandy know if you want to be added to our group that is going to Skegness. We book Gold apartments which cost £295 per bedspace (£20 reduction for children under 15) and are normally all together on site but there are other accommodation choices. There are also bursarys available for those on low incomes - Talk to Mandy if you want more information (or email [mandy.edwards@bridol.co.uk](mailto:mandy.edwards@bridol.co.uk)).

Could you be a volunteer? They are always on the lookout for people to help out, the event could not run without the army of people needed to help steward, with kids groups etc

If you cant come there is 'Spring Harvest at Home' wherever you are in the world you can be part of this little bit of magic



## On her travels again...

Our intrepid roving reporter better known as Hazel Ansell has been out and about again. This time she travelled to The Barbican which is situated near Moorgate Underground station. Whilst there she visited the Barbican Conservatory. She describes it thus: -

The Barbican Conservatory. It is free but one has to book a time slot. It is on level 4 and is the second largest in London. I thought it quite lovely, over 2000 plants, tropical fish and terrapins.

There are other exhibitions to see while at the Barbican and there is a quite expensive but good cafe. If one wants to take a sandwich from home, there is ample seating both in and outside.

Easy to access. I got the train to Liverpool Street, walked via Finsbury Circus to Moorgate, took the escalator next to Moorgate station to the high walk and at the end of which I turned left and skirted the lake to cross the bridge.

Hazel.

*Ed's note: Tickets are, as Hazel says, free but looking at the website you may have a wait for tickets to become available. I am sure Hazel will be happy to advise you on booking.*



*The Barbican estate was built over eleven years, starting in 1965. It was felt that there were too few people able to live within The City of London, so the development of the estate was begun. There are over 2,000 flats for about 4,000 people. The whole area is well worth a visit, and you are able to see Roman wall remains nearby. I spent a few happy years working very close to the Barbican Centre, and for a good number of years a group of friends from church would visit at Christmas time for the carol concert. Sadly the Museum of London is no longer situated by the Barbican Centre – it is closed pending a move to Smithfield Market in 2026*

*DL*

## That Vicar off the Tele...

*An excellent article by Peter Burke to whom we send thanks.*

Kate Bottley speaking live was always going to be an interesting talk.

I regularly hear her on the radio and know that the BBC have created a religious celebrity. Whether it is what Christianity should be aiming for or not, I knew it was worth putting in the diary. And I was not disappointed either. Kate was relatable, full of joy for her role and understood most struggles in life.

Kate was known for the many TV show appearances, *Gogglebox*, *Songs of Praise*, *Celebrity Mastermind*, and on Radio 2. However, She was more comfortable talking about teenage pregnancy, losing loved ones and the social issues from her home town in Yorkshire.

The humility was clear, a working-class Sheffield upbringing, a broad Yorkshire accent, her Mum who prefers Aled Jones to her own daughter when discussing presenters on *Songs of Praise* was very funny.

'That vicar off the Tele'



Kate had no plans for being a vicar, Didn't go to church as a child although was Christened or 'churched' as the locals called it. This was this only connection Kate had until around 13/14 years old when the question was put to her about her faith.

At school, there was a friend, Katy who went to church and after a visit to a service one Sunday, the

friend asked, so do you believe then? Kate then had a moment to ask herself and realised. Actually I do.

School was also the place where her future husband went, found R.E interesting and realised after leaving school that Kate could train to be an R.E teacher herself.

When deciding this as a career, her parents thought Kate had joined a cult. Kate began her training at Trinity Roman Catholic college in Leeds.

Kate described her own style of teaching. She has a rough state school upbringing and understands the young people in her area well so made R.E. lessons relatable to who knew drug dealing on the local estate or often had relatives who were going to prison. When asked 'miss, I'm not religious, why have I got to do R.E. Kate had armed replies. 'You're not a piece of wood but you still have to do Design technology'. After a few years, Kate went from R.E. teaching to 'vicaring' as she calls it. Bishop Cyril or 'Squirrel' passed her to selection process to St John's, Nottingham. She Passed the Curacy and looked after towns such as Blythe and Scrooby in Yorkshire, where the local ice cream was nicknamed a scrooby doo.

Early placement was being a chaplain in a clinic, working with young people, taking care of teenage pregnancy issues. The local visits included beauty shops, betting shops and worked in local clinic.

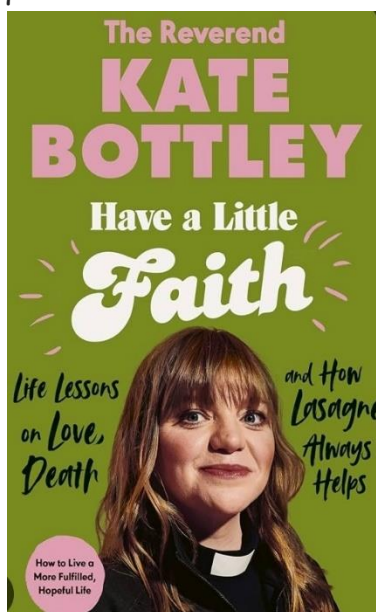
Her real privilege is being with families at the moment where people pass away. I have never heard of people display compassion for death in this way.

She often tells people there's no one with all the answers on religion but asks people to come and hear what Christians have to say at least.

Traditions had been broken in her Churches to allow people to ask real questions about life and faith. The moments of, Births, Deaths and Marriages have been opportunities to help people find their faith. Some days, having faith is hard, Finding faith may sometimes be in scraps, particularly when not understanding the terrible circumstances when people pass away but she will stand by her parishioners.

Kate gives people peace and celebration when facing death.

Kate Bottley's book that she is promoting is called 'Have a Little Faith'.



# Helwys Court

Have you ever wondered where the name of Helwys Court came from. I have to say that even though Jacquie and I were at HPBC when it was built, and I do not remember being told of its derivation. However...

Having written about the history of Charles Spurgeon in the last issue I felt compelled to look further into the beginnings of the Baptist Faith. As with other religions the Baptists came into being by dissenting from the 'National' church, but not only from them but also from the other separatists who were coming into being around this time – and when was this time? – well, the first Baptist church met in 1612 in Spitalfields, close to where Liverpool Street station now stands.

The main difference between the Baptist Church and the other Christian fellowships was the idea of the believer's baptism. They felt that only those people who have professed to their faith can be baptised. Most of the other Christian faiths practice infant baptism but it was felt that this may not follow through to later life. Thus you had to be old enough to be able to give evidence of your faith and could then be baptised by full immersion in water. They also believed that church membership should be voluntary.

Let us go back further – in 1517 Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation and radical Anabaptists rejected infant baptism. The Reformation led to dissenters known as Puritans starting their own churches. However there was much persecution of members of these breakaway churches. A name that will be familiar to the HPBC congregation comes into the picture – it is Thomas

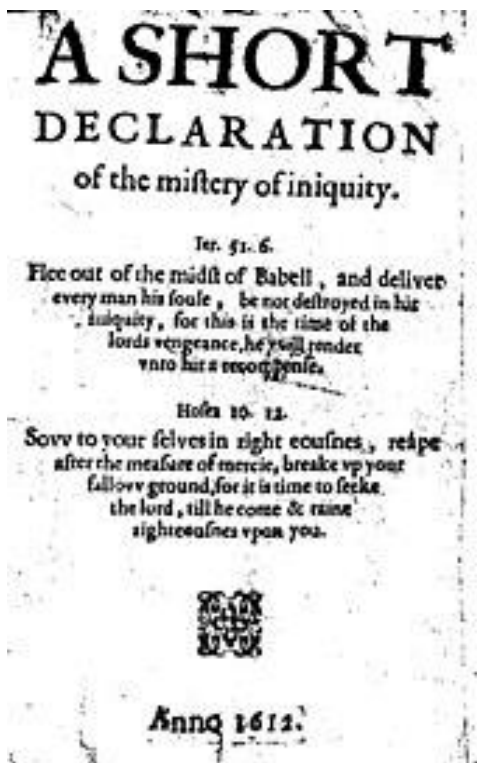


Helwys. He lived in Nottinghamshire and came from a moderately wealthy family. He married in 1595 and over the next twelve years had seven children. He allowed his home to become a haven for the early Anglican dissenters. He became firm friends with John Smyth who had a separatist congregation of sixty or so members and Thomas and his wife became committed members. However, the Church authorities were not going to tolerate this dissension and moved to clamp down on this

congregation. It is well worth remembering that such Protestant dissenters could still be burnt at the stake for 'heresy'. (the last dissenter martyr to be burnt at the stake was, Baptist Edward Wightman on April 11, 1611). Because of this Thomas, John Smyth along with some forty of the local congregation fled to Holland which was much more tolerant of such beliefs.

It was here that a recognisable Baptist tradition emerged amongst those who had fled to Holand. John Smyth was an ordained Anglican priest and formed the view that baptism should only be for believers and not for infants.

They came into touch with a group called the Mennonites who already practiced this form of baptism and doctrines which Smyth embraced. At this time Thomas Helwys along with others began to formulate the earliest Baptist confessions of faith. This 'confession' became the 27 articles in *A Declaration of Faith of English people remaining at Amsterdam in Holland* (1611).



Helwys and some twelve fellow Baptists returned from Holland to England and although aware of the obvious danger spoke out about religious persecution. It was they who founded the first Baptist congregation in Spitalfields. Helwys published a book called 'The Mystery of Iniquity' which is possibly the first ever English book defending the principle of religious liberty. Helwys believed that this was a right for everyone, even for those he disagreed with, including such as Catholics and Muslims. He even wrote an appeal to King James 1 along with a copy of his book arguing for freedom of conscience. This copy of the book remains to this day in the Bodleian Library in Oxford, It did little good for the King had Helwys thrown in Newgate prison, where he died in 1616 at the age of forty.

He did not die in vain because over the coming years the Baptist church flourished and now has a worldwide following of about one hundred and ten million people.

Thomas Helwys is honoured with the Helwys Hall at Regent's Park College, [Oxford](#). Broxtowe Hall, the Hewlys' family home, is now only a remnant but in nearby Bilborough Baptist Church there is a simple plaque to his memory.

The Thomas Helwys Centre for Religious Freedom was opened at Bristol Baptist College, the oldest Baptist seminary, in 2002 and named in honour of Helwys whose "remarkable plea for religious freedom ... has given him an honoured place among Baptists." The Centre was transferred to the International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS) in Prague in 2006.

And of course now I understand where the name of Helwys Court came from.

But what is the story of the building of Helwys Court...

The Anglican Church in Highams Park made the decision that they no longer needed two separate church buildings and would concentrate on the Castle Avenue site. This meant that the Selwyn Avenue church was no longer needed, and it was put up for sale. The Baptist Men's Movement Housing Association decided to purchase the site and build what would become Helwys Court. Originally there were twenty-two flats planned but later the site for the church hall was available for a further four flats to be built. The flats were designed for 'elderly people' and on this basis a flat was provided for the on-site Warden. The first inhabitants were ideally to have some connection with the Baptist faith – in fact, Jacquie's mother as the wife of a Baptist minister did consider taking up residence – but decided against it as she stated that 'she had been born in Selwyn Avenue and did not want to die in the same place!'

The opening ceremony for the flats took place at 3.00pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 1978. There was a Service of Dedication conducted by Rev. H. Alan Smith our minister at the time with the Act of Dedication led by John Humphrey (Sheila's husband who had played a very important part in the setting up of Helwys Court). When the Service was over the congregation were asked to go to Helwys Court for the official opening which was carried out by J. Hugh Jones the Chairman of the Baptist Men's Movement Housing Association with prayers from Rev. Douglas Sparkes who became our Moderator later on the departure of Rev. Smith and is remembered with great affection.



John Humphrey outside Helwys Court

The Official Invitation.

**THE BAPTIST MEN'S MOVEMENT HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD.**

The Chairman and Members of the 'Helwys Court'  
Management Committee cordially invite

**MR. & MRS. JOHN ROBERTS**

---

to the official opening of 'Helwys Court' flats for the elderly  
107 Selwyn Avenue, Highams Park, London, E.4  
Service of Dedication at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 10th June, 1978  
at the Baptist Church, Cavendish Road, Highams Park, E.4

R.S.V.P.  
J. R. Humphrey,  
5 Falmouth Avenue,  
Highams Park, E4 9QL

Buffet tea will be served at the  
close of the proceedings.

## Highams Park Snippets



Whilst we wait for some positive action on the update of the Regal Cinema it might be worth thinking about its history and that of the films that it might have shown. The cinema opened as The Highams Park Electric Cinema on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1911, and could hold some 550 people. Some seventeen years later it was renamed as The Regal Cinema. Later, in 1935, it was greatly updated with a new fashionable Art Deco frontage and foyer. There was also a café on the circle level. There was now seating for 615 patrons. It served the people of Highams Park until it closed on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1963. It has had a

somewhat chequered existence since then and, we are told, that plans are in place to revive it as an 'Art Cinema' with new flats on top. We shall believe that when we see something positive happening.

But what of the films that it showed in its early days? In the (Walthamstow) Guardian Centenary Supplement (and yes, I do have a copy!) there is a page devoted to 'The Golden Days of the Silver Screen' which tells of the film industry and the fact that Walthamstow was one of the most important movie centres in the world. And where was this? Apparently in Wood Street courtesy of Walter West who set up Broadwest studios initially in Esher and then, in 1916, in a purpose-built studio on a half-acre plot in Wood Street. It was, in reality, little more than a long glass shed which allowed the necessary light in and the weather out. Some of the actors later went on to become household names – Robert Colman, Jack Buchanan and Gladys Cooper all made films locally before going on to greater things. These are names probably not known to many people nowadays, but they were greatly liked in the middle of the twentieth century. But 'Woodlywood' could not last as the real Hollywood got into its stride and by 1924 Broadwest had gone. There had also been other studios nearby such as The British and Colonial Kinematograph in a disused skating Rink in Hoe Street which later became the site of a telephone exchange. One other sign of the times in the cinema world was the idea that films were shown in the Arcadia cinema in Wood Street with first- and second-class seats. The films were shown in a large hall with hard seats for a second-class cost of a penny. However the first class had better seats for twopence. There was a curtain hung halfway down the hall and the second-class seats were behind it meaning that the film subtitles and credits were seen backwards...Oh how things have changed!



In the last issue there was details of the renaming of some of the London Overground railway lines. As yet I have not heard people shouting, 'Weaver Line'. And from the 20<sup>th</sup> of July till 4<sup>th</sup> of August it will not be true because 'we won't

have a line' as the train service will not run from Chingford to Liverpool Street. This is because one of the original bridges built near Hackney Downs station 150 years ago is in a bad state and is to be demolished and rebuilt. In the article in The Evening Standard no mention is made of a shuttle service running to Walthamstow Central which would allow access to the Underground services. Other services which use the track via the line which runs off of our line midway between Clapton and St. Jame's Street are also affected. It seems typical that we celebrate the opening of the line 150 years ago and then it starts to fall to pieces...



Perhaps to take our minds off of the thought of no trains for a while the Railway Heritage Trust commissioned a commemorative plaque for Highams Park station to mark the coming of the railway in 1873. The Highams Park Planning Group supported the occasion by arranging for the Old Pal's Battalion Band to play at the unveiling ceremony as well as a mini market

*Thanks to Phil Slaney for the information and photographs.*





The Highams Park Planning Group are also to be very much congratulated on their Spring Festival held on The Highams Park. It was very well attended, and the weather was so kind. There was the usual selection of stalls selling a wide selection of food and drink as well as a car show and dog show. There were also some fair rides for the children. It seems to be taking over more of the Park each year which is great for the community. There were some queues especially for ice cream! The other people that seemed busy were those tasked with removing cars parked between the two 'chicanes' in The Charter Road. There were enough signs telling people that parking had been cancelled whilst the festival was taking place...



# Musings - *A few random thoughts about...* Magazines

Over the years the Church magazine has appeared in different formats, frequency and size. I thought I would discover what the definition of a magazine is – one I found raised a little smile: -

*A magazine is a printed publication that comes out regularly and includes photographs and articles. Before cell phones became popular, people used to read magazines in doctors' waiting rooms. Magazines were once only printed on paper, but today there are also online magazines*

*Ed's note – You must remember Doctor's waiting rooms!*

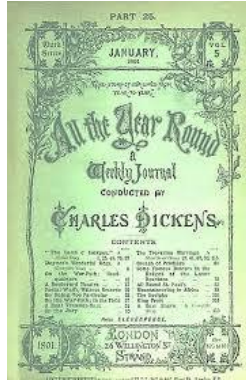
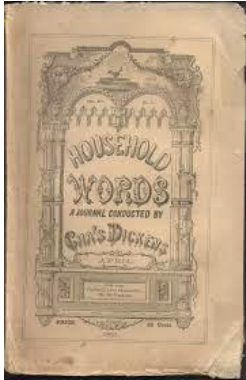
The first magazine appeared in Germany in the late seventeenth century and was called 'Erbauliche Monaths- Unterredungen' (Edifying Monthly Discussions) it was started by Johann Rist, a theologian and poet of Hamburg. It was aimed at a learned market as were most of the magazines following. It was not for some while that magazines aimed at a diverse readership appeared. As far as Britain was concerned The Gentleman's Magazine, first published in 1741 in London was the first general-interest magazine.

It has to be said that Britain had lagged behind other parts of the world in issuing these types of magazine. Amongst the first was 'Le Mercure Galant' in France in 1672. This contained court news, short pieces of poetry and stories (known as 'anecdotes') in what became the genre of 'periodicals of amusement'. These early general interest magazines were still aimed at the better class of person who could afford to purchase them. During this time there was an explosion of 'new ideas' and the magazines expanded to meet the need for information. Several were produced three times a week including Daniel Defoe's 'The Review', and 'The Tatler'. These were of the type of magazine to include political content and were, what today would be seen as, opinion forming.

As time went on the content of magazines diversified – you would find some which dealt with only one topic – I suppose 'The Lancet' would meet this criterion. Then you would find those whose content was more general and applicable to many more people. As education and working conditions improved and more people were able to read, and more importantly had more time to spend on 'leisure activities' sales grew especially amongst women.

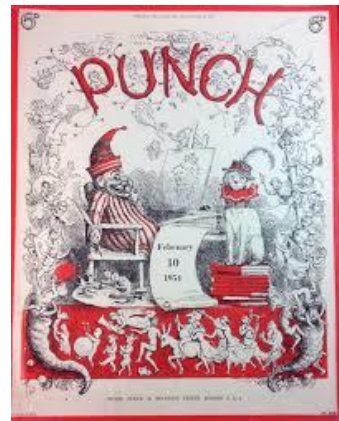
In the nineteenth we begin to see a much wider circulation of magazine, helped in no small way by the advent of the railways. People had taken to the idea of travel but especially if you were travelling alone, it could be a little boring. The newspapers of the time were all in broadsheet format, not always easy to cope with in a crowded carriage. Thus books and magazines were ideal to take on a journey. But where to buy them? Enter W.H. Smith in 1848, they opened the first travel retail store (a posh description of a news vendor) which was set up at Euston Station.

The company had started some time before in 1792 by Henry Walton Smith and his wife Anna (note H.W. not W.H. – W.H. was William Henry Smith who was their son who took over the business later). This method of selling magazines caught on and W. H. Smith expanded and now include not only railways stations but airports and shopping areas.



The late nineteenth century became well known for the start of some of the best-known magazines. Among them were two with a Charles Dickens connection – ‘Household Words’ of 1850 was edited by him and he then founded ‘All the Year Round’ (1859). Dickens was not only involved in these weekly magazines, he used a similar formula for his books which were at first issued in sections every month.

Predating these two magazines was what may be amongst the best known of all British Magazines: ‘Punch’. This was started in 1841. It was probably the first to use wit and satire to poke fun at the Establishment and made great use of cartoons (in the modern sense of the word) It used some of the best-known authors and artists of the day and was a huge success. It did of course lead to a copy in the form of ‘Judy’ which is little remembered nowadays Although it did introduce ‘Ally Sloper’ which is often looked upon as the first comic strip. I discovered ‘Punch’ at secondary school which had a (possibly) complete bound collection – it is possible that many schools had this as I have heard other people relating their acquaintance with the magazine from schooldays. The last issue was in 2002.



Possibly even more important to some people is ‘The Strand Magazine’, famed for being the magazine that introduced Sherlock Holmes to the reading public. So famed was he that people queued to get the latest issue of the magazine to read his exploits (a bit like Harry Potter today). But not only Conan Doyle wrote for ‘The Strand’ – looking through one of several bound volumes that I have(of course) I find that the H.G. Wells story ‘The First Men in the Moon’ is being serialised along with any number of articles of interest. This magazine ran from 1891 to 1950.

Of course now there is an almost incalculable number of magazines available on virtually any subject you care to name You can still buy them at W. H. Smiths or have them delivered to your door not forgetting the option of reading them online. You may not be able to buy this magazine at your local newsagent but some people who have moved away do still have it delivered and it is available online... DL

## CHURCH DIARY

### June

Sunday 2nd	10 am	All Age Morning Service Led by Cherie Rogers
Monday 3rd	10.30 – 12	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday 4th	7.45 pm	Home Group/Bible Study on Zoom
Wednesday 5th	2.00pm	Funeral of John Griffith (Biffo) at City of London Crematorium led by Cherie
Thursday 6th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting at Manse
Sunday 9th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers
Monday 10th	10.30 – 12	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday 11th	7.45 pm	Home Group/Bible Study on Zoom
Friday 14th	7 – 8.30pm	Youth Evening in Fellowship Hall
Sunday 16th	10 am	Morning Service – Children have Activity Pack. Led by Cherie Rogers
Monday 17th	10.30 – 12 7 – 9-m	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall Prayer and leafleting for Fun Day
Tuesday 18th	7.45 pm	Home Group/Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday 23rd	10 am	Morning Service led by Sarah Raymond Sermon by Phil Slaney
Monday 25th	10.30 – 12 7.45 pm	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall Home Group/Bible Study on Zoom
Sunday 30th	10 am	Morning Service – Children have Activity Pack. Led by Cherie Rogers

## July

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30 – 12 7 – 9pm	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall Prayer and leafleting for Fun Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting at Manse
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1 – 4pm	Community Fun Day
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	All Age Worship . With BMS Service, Focus on our new mission partner. Led by Cherie Rogers and Phil Slaney
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home Group/Bible Study on Zoom
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7 – 8.30pm	Youth Evening in Fellowship Hall
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – 12	Coffee Morning in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Home Group/Bible Study
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10 am	Morning Service – Children have Activity Pack. Led by Cherie Rogers
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.45 pm	Home Group/Bible Study
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers

Refreshments are served in Fellowship Hall after each Sunday Service