

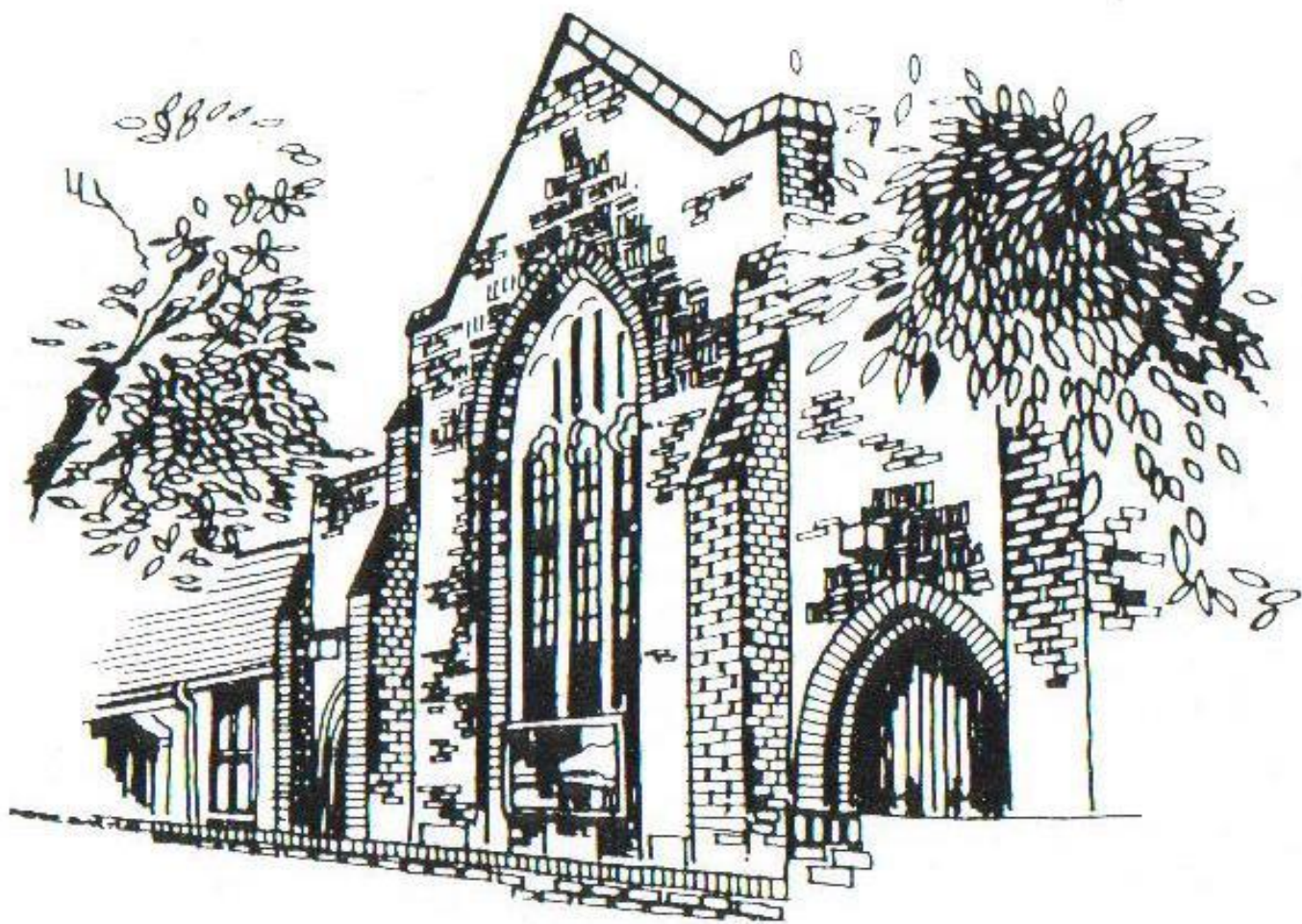


The Magazine

of

**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



June/July 2026

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



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



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

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 19th July 2026
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
June / July 2026

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Minister's Letter – June 2026

As I sit here writing this letter at the end of May, we are in a sweltering heat wave with temperatures well in the 30s. It's funny the things I find myself thinking about. As I reflect now on the Pentecost story, I am wondering whether the flames which descended upon the heads of each of those present in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came, had any heat attached to them? Luke says it was what 'seemed like' tongues of fire, and when we look at the artwork through the centuries, we see depictions of what looks like flame, but I wonder whether he was in fact referring to the heat and light that flames bring? When we feel the presence of God particularly close to us sometimes we can definitely feel His warmth, and when we think of the power that came upon the disciples that day, I am sure there was a lot of heat and light generated as well!

One thing is for sure, those disciples certainly experienced the transformative power of the Holy Spirit that day. The day began with them all hidden away in an upper room, afraid and confused as to what was happening, and fearful for the future. Were they going to be able to continue this wonderful work that Jesus had started? He had commissioned them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and yet they weren't doing that. Yes, they were praying, but they were hidden away, and maybe without hope. After the Holy Spirit had come upon them, they were filled with boldness, and with hope, and instead of keeping themselves hidden away behind closed doors, they went out into the world to share the good news of Jesus.

If I am honest, this reminds me a little bit of the place that we are in as a church at the moment.

The church in general seems in many ways to be retreating, trying to preserve itself behind closed doors. We have the concerns at HPBC with our finances since the last preschool moved out and we wait for the new nursery to arrive, and those concerns could cause us to become fearful and going to 'maintenance mode' where we just keep church ticking over, remaining within our walls. And yet the story of Pentecost shows us that when we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us, he will bring us boldness and hope for the future along with a willingness to go out, to share the good news of Jesus with others. We believe that the Holy Spirit is upon and within all believers, to empower and embolden them. This was not a one-off event that day 2000 years ago, rather it can be the daily experience of every believer across the world. The trouble is, I am not sure we really believe that. Neither was Charles Spurgeon, famous Victorian Baptist preacher. In one of his most famous sermons on Pentecost, he said,

My brethren, do you believe in the Holy Spirit?...Have we such a reliance upon the Holy Spirit? Do we believe that, at this moment, He can clothe us with power, even as He did the apostles at Pentecost?

It's not always our experience. I don't know about you, but I want to believe more and more in the Holy Spirit's strengthening and emboldening, filling me in my everyday walk with God. And that is my prayer for us as a church as well, especially as we navigate this tricky season.

Pentecost was of course the *birth-day* of the church! May we not lose sight of our primary purpose as God's church – we are his plan for reaching our hurting world – let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us with this task afresh.

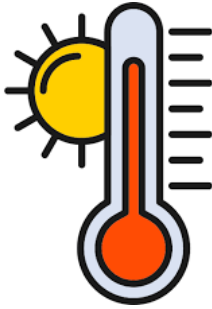
With Every Blessing,

Cherie

Over the centuries many artists have produced their versions of Pentecost and the 'flames' that enveloped the disciples and others which led to them speaking in a multitude of languages such that everyone heard the message in their own tongue. These are some of the examples that Cherie used in the recent Zoom home meeting.



Cavendish Circular



As Cherie writes in her letter the weather has been extremely hot! I am writing this at the end of the week in which the May temperature record was broken not once but twice – on following days! We are not really used to this and hope that it is just a small blip and that normal service will be resumed as soon as possible (as they used to say when there was a problem with television programmes).

We would hope that Saturday June 20th brings a good weather day (but not too hot) so that we may celebrate our Community Fun Day. Last years event was very successful so we are confident that this will be too. Of course, such a day requires help and if you are able to assist in any way – setting up, refreshments etc. it would be much appreciated.

Cherie recently attended this years Baptist Assembly in Harrogate and she reports on it later in the magazine.

Reports from visitors who have recently seen both Doris Thorndyke and Margaret Norris report that they are both doing very well and enjoy the visits. We would ask that you remember in your thoughts and prayers those of our fellowship who are unable to join us in the services.

It is strange how when you hear the word 'Baptists' you stop and find for what reason it is being mentioned. Such a case occurred recently in a television programme called 'Canal Boat Diaries' where one mans travels on the canals of the UK are chronicled. He visited a small building next to the canal which looked as if it was a warehouse. But in fact, it had in past times been used as a school room for canal boaters children. They were constantly on the move and could not always use conventional schools. Such buildings were often run by Baptists and Methodists providing a much-needed facility.

As we approach the end of the school year, we wish the children known to us a very enjoyable holiday and good exam results possibly leading to further education. In the future.

Hazel's Homespun Humour
The secret of getting ahead is getting started.
Mark Twain

A MOST IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

It is , of course the : -

Highams Park Baptist Church

Fun Day

- Hot Dogs and Burgers
- Face Painting
- Games
- Live music from the
17th Pals' Battalion Band

Sat 20th June
12–3 pm
Come and meet others
in your community – Free!



Please come along to our Fun Day on Saturday 20th June as we reach out to our community. We will be in need of volunteers on the day and setting up the gazebos on the Friday evening, and of course packing away afterwards! You can let Cherie, Althea or Jason know if you can help. Please pray as we deliver invitations to the surrounding roads, that God brings people in. Pray also for good conversations and good weather!

Ed's note: -

The report from last years Fun Day said how much everybody enjoyed it with people taking time to look around our lovely church and then have a sit back with and a chat . Let's do our very best to make it even better this year...

Baptist Assembly 2026



United in Mission: Gathering and Sharing

Harrogate Convention Centre
15-17 May 2026

It was a joy to attend as the delegate from HPBC – thank you for releasing me to do so. I found the weekend to be uplifting and encouraging. There were times of praise and worship, challenging sermons, reports and business, Bible studies, seminars and a college reunion, particularly poignant after the sudden closure of Spurgeon’s last summer.

This year the focus was upon Mission, and delegates participated in consultation discussions over the proposed statement about mission that will be voted in next year.

Two messages in particular spoke to me. Helen Paynter from Bristol Baptist College speaking on Colossians 1.15 – 2.5, urged us to not lose the vision of why we are church – reaching our communities by standing alongside them in their hurts and joys, along with a powerful reminder that church and mission carry alongside them a need for us as members to have a ‘willingness to be inconvenienced’ in our serving.

Also Leone Martin’s message (Regional Minister Yorkshire Baptists) from Luke 10, sending out the 72, spoke of the urgency that Jesus had in sending out his disciples, and also the joy that he shared with them when they returned for their mission. Mission is the calling of our community.

Finally, something somebody mentioned in one of the seminars which I thought was so helpful and wanted to share, about the meaning of hope:

**Holding
On
Patiently
Expecting**

May God enable us to enable hope in our context – this is our mission as individuals and as a church here where God has placed us.

Cherie

How Amazing



I have often thought that life is like entering a maze. Some people can enter a maze and find their way through it with relative ease while others tentatively travel through blindly with bumps, halts, laughter bewilderment and despair

What is a Maze?

The word dates back to the 13th Century and is a Middle English word **Maes**

Synonyms for a maze are

Labyrinth which can be a circular complicated structure with a series of tunnels. It dates back to the 14th Century and comes from the Greek word Labyrunthos meaning a building of intricate passages. The most well-known Labyrinth is in the Greek Myth of 'Theseus and the Minotaur' whereby Theseus wishes to prove his courage and strength to Princess Ariadne by entering the Labyrinth to kill the Minotaur, which is a monster entrapped in the centre of it. It is a flesh-eating creature which was consuming King Minos people. The King had, through greed, upset Poseidon - who had gifted the creature, which had been a fine white bull, to be used as a sacrifice for King Minos's people. Minos had decided to keep it for himself and replace it with another. Poseidon was angry and it became this monster. Daedalus, the royal architect, created this structure to contain the beast and, at intervals, a number of young men from the town were sent into the Labyrinth to be sacrificed to feed it and appease it. Princess Ariadne gave Theseus a fine silk thread to be used as a guide so that, if he completed the task, he could find his way back. He achieved the impossible, used the thread and returned to the Princess.

In religious terms a Labyrinth can be a term simply as a place to walk and pray. A place to walk without worry of getting lost and where you can focus on God. It's a single walking path to a central point then back.

Puzzle for small solvable challenges as found in books, newspapers etc

Warren suggesting interconnecting tunnels such as a rabbit warren

Jungle winding complex routes often confusion.

There may be more.

There are many Mazes created for fun so that you can enter in groups or alone in order to see how quickly, or in many cases slowly, you can reach the centre then continue on to the exit. Some are created just to admire. These are a few of the Mazes in or near London which you may have visited or you may have on your wish list: -

Hampton Court

This Maze is set in beautiful gardens at Hampton Court Palace. It has towering hedges designed in the late 17th Century during William III reign. It has a viewing platform for those who reach the centre so that you can see how far you have come and the task ahead to reach the exit. Not great for anyone who suffers from claustrophobia!! The gardener who trims the hedges has a difficult job. It would seem never ending.



Crystal Palace



One of the largest Mazes in the UK.
Created in 1870

Leeds Castle

This Maze is created from 2,400 yew trees. It is unusual in that it leads you on a mythical journey also going underground with special effects of thunder and mythical creatures.



Hever Castle

This was once the home of Anne Boleyn, married to Henry VIII, and beheaded. It is a traditionally designed maze built in Tudor times. There is even a water maze here which can catch you out with random sprays. The aim is to get to the

centre and stay dry.

Woburn Abbey {Milton Keynes}

A Hornbeam Maze with a Chinese Pagoda in the centre





.Marlborough Maze Blenheim Palace Oxfordshire, shaped apparently like the first Duke of Marlborough and is one of the largest symbolic hedge mazes in the world. It has a viewing platform in the centre.



Near Bishop Stortford at Cammas Hall Farm there is a **Maize Maze** in late Summer early Autumn during harvest season made from towering stalks of corn. Great for children.



Lee Valley Maze, Hamlet Hill Roydon near Harlow, open in Summer at Plants Galore Nursery, where there is a jungle trail. I need to find out more as it is a place we go often as there is a very good café.

And I could go onWhether Mazes are created in the grounds of Country houses or elsewhere they are all absolutely amazing BUT back to my introduction.

We enter life's intricate maze with a belief and trust that we will get through it. There are those of us who are feeling the way and treading the pathways carefully and a little restrained while others have a zest for life hitting the trails with a carefree approach. As I said before, some will find the trails easy and perhaps not quite understand that others may be on the difficult paths hitting those walls which can seem dense and causing perhaps fear, and upset with a feeling of no way through. In life we may have to take a step back, retreat and find a different way forward sometimes needing a little guidance and support.

What it does mean though is that trust is a big, big part of our lives and that can be so hard to do especially when things go wrong for whatever reason. It's not wrong to acknowledge this.

What we can do as Christians is to trust and believe in a God who doesn't forsake us and is always there along the way.

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest" Matthew 11 28 -30

It can be hard to lay your worries at the feet of a higher being. None of us are perfect but what we most desire is peace

I will leave you with this thought.

God is amazing, nature is amazing and the ability to create something as incredible as a maze is just that AMAZING!!!!

DI Kendrick



Every year around this time I reflect on Spring Harvest from this year. Spring Harvest is a massive get together of Christians and those who come with an enquiring mind. Whilst there, it is a too short 4 night 5 day break where we can discuss, learn, listen, worship and have fun. It is impossible to go to everything, so you pick and choose what you, your children and friends want to go to. You can go to as much or as little as you want plus enjoy some Butlins hospitality like the pool and the fairground.

For that short period of time, personally I try and pack in a lot as I am thirsty for knowledge and experience, but not all deep, there is plenty of laughter too as I try and always go to see some of the Christian comedians as its refreshing to hear funny things without the smattering of swear words which seems very much the thing to do on TV.

What we do forget is the amount of planning that these few days take. From the initial prayers and soul searching of the Spring Harvest Team to decide on the theme to the writing of the theme book, the preparation of the speakers and workshop session leaders. Planning of one Spring Harvest takes 2 years so whilst we are enjoying our break this year they are already half way through planning for the following year. Plus all the other things they do for "My Spring Harvest" – a wealth of resources and videos online, continuously being added to, the reaching out to schools and fund raising, training, DBS checks the list goes on and on.



Then there is the planning of the stall holders, staffing, making and purchasing supplies, printing, organising lighting, sound and IT systems. It's amazing what the small Spring Harvest team achieve, not forgetting all the volunteers without whom the event could not go ahead. [Have you considered being a volunteer?](#) They are always crying out for them, the range of jobs they do is extremely wide, from helping in a children's group, to being on the prayer ministry team or stewarding.

Could you take 5 minutes and pray for everyone in a planning and supportive role please. They often get forgotten for what they do, all the jobs that get done behind the scenes so we can have a great time and spend a few precious days drawing closer to God.

This year was, as per usual, worthwhile, tiring, brain stretching, heart expanding, whilst making time to relax and be embraced by our Saviour and offering in return, praise, worship, commitments, honour and thanks for his many blessings to us. I use it as an escape and a time to avoid the distractions of life and focus on the one who deserves much more than offer in a normal week.

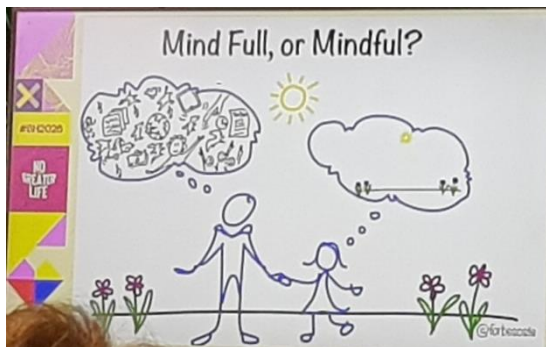


Think about coming next year you don't know what you are missing. If you have been before but not for a while, you still don't know what you are missing.

Spring Harvest is not static it evolves, grows with us as we grow. Many talk about pre Covid and post Covid for how things have changed. Covid caused a huge change in Spring Harvest, a massive learning curve in a short space of time and a re-focus, and I think now the dust has settled it is bigger and better than it was before. I could tell you, and show you, many ways if you ask but I will share one more before signing off. Did you know Spring Harvest is relayed live into UK prisons? People held captive are having their lives changes too. Reminds me of the song When I needed a neighbour were you there and the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25 v31-46).

Base cost for Gold Accommodation is £309 for an adult, then there are discounts for various things like, children or booking before July, and add ons for insurance or dining. There are also more and less expensive accommodation and I can give bursaries for people on a low income so please talk to me if you are interested either at church, on WhatsApp or give me a ring on 07940 962 779. It would be lovely if we could have more people from our church family join our happy little band.

Mandy



"Great thinkers don't harbour doubts because they are imposters. They maintain doubts because they know they are partially blind, and they committed to improving their sight"

- Adam Grant



What does an angel look like?



-In a recent Zoom Home group, we thought about how we envisaged an angel – would it be clothed in white? Would it have wings? How big would it be? In truth we do not really have answers to these questions but I would hazard a guess that we would not imagine it to be 27 feet tall and a sort of rusty colour. But there is such a representation of an angel which has recently been on display in Newark town square...

The 'Knife Angel' was created to draw attention to the horrors of knife crime which has afflicted our towns and cities. It was made over two years by the artist Alfie Bradley and the British Ironwork Centre based in Shropshire. During police amnesties for knives in 2015-2016 some 100,000 knives were either seized

or handed in and was designed to act as a symbol of the fight against knife crime and also as a memorial to those who were victims either directly or indirectly. The British Ironwork Centre even made the many knife banks and supplied them free of charge to the police forces. In all about a quarter of a million bladed weapons were collected. The full story can be found on the website: - <https://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/the-making-of-the-knife-angel>

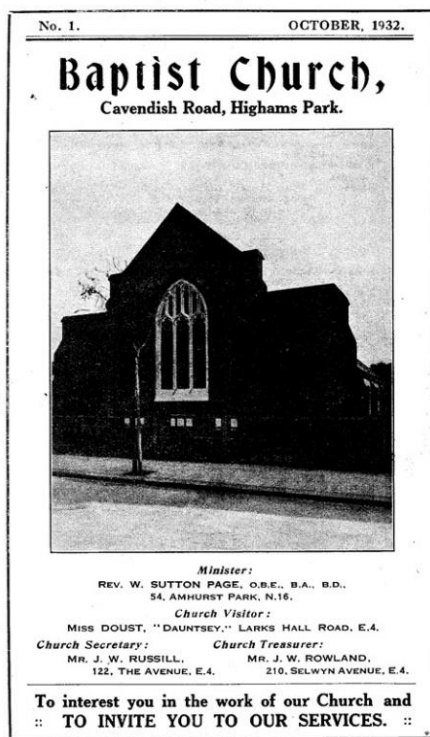
Starting in 2018 in Liverpool Cathedral it has travelled to over 50 towns and cities in the UK. Many of these visits were to Cathedrals – perhaps appropriate for an angel! The tour ends next month in Soham in Cambridgeshire. The tour has been much covered in the media both in television news and in the press.

I count myself very lucky to have been able to see the sculpture. It is hugely imposing but brings such a message of hope that knife crime will become a thing of the past. Our thanks must go to all those involved in the concept and construction of the Angel.

DL

October 1932

You may well ask what has October 1932 got to do with the Church magazine? Well, as far as I can ascertain it marked the appearance of the first Church magazine – it is certainly shown as No. 1 but I have no way of knowing if there were any previous magazines since the start of the church in 1913. This article was prompted by the discovery of this first issue amongst old papers. Readers will, I am sure, be aware that I have used adverts from these early magazines before and this issue carried a good many. There was no introduction to the magazine – no words of welcome or details of who was the editor – it was as if it had always been...



The magazine consists of 10 sides of paper approximately 5 x 8 inches (13 x 20cm). The advertisements take up about 40% and include 2 for Meopham's – one in Wilton Road (which no longer seems to exist – however with a little investigation I found that Wilton Road became Haldan Road in 1940 – for what reason I did not find out!) which was a newsagent, confectioners, stationers and tobacconists, the other at 90, Cavendish Road where you could buy an Ultra Tiger Radio for 15 guineas (12 payments of 28 shillings and ninepence). This was advertised with a good deal of technical names – does 'variable-mu screened grid detector' mean anything to you, and did it to purchasers back then! But you could get 'magnificent reproduction of British and Continental programmes without complicated tunings'

You could also go to get your accumulator recharged – basically a battery which could run the radio – remember not everyone had electricity in their home. The D.C.S.A Ltd who were the local 'Tailors and Outfitters' even had two half page advertisements on different pages and you were urged to 'Shop in Highams park and GET THE BARGAINS' .

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 tunings.

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.

The D.C.S.A. Ltd.,
The Local Tailors and Outfitters,
 NEW PATTERNS. LATEST STYLES in
OVERCOATS.
 BETTER VALUE! LOWER PRICES!!
 Boys' 5/11, 8/11, 10/6, etc. Youths' 15/6, 17/6, 21/-.
 Men's 25/-, 30/-, 35/-, etc.
 Suits to Measure 45/- to £6/6/-.
 Overcoats to Measure 42/- to £5/5/-.
Smart Cut. Perfect Fit.
 Large Selection of Shirts, Underwear, Hats, etc.

The D.C.S.A., LTD., 504 Hale End Road, Highams Park.
 (BY THE RAILWAY CROSSING). PHONE 1 WALTHAMSTOW 1597.

The D.C.S.A. Ltd.,
GREAT
WINTER SALE
 Boys' Overcoats,
 Men's Overcoats,
 Winter Underwear, etc.

SHOP IN Highams Park and GET THE BARGAINS.
505, Hale End Road, Highams Park.
 (BY THE RAILWAY CROSSING). PHONE 1 WALTHAMSTOW 1597.

The prices seem very good to our eyes but the pound then is worth about ninety pounds now. This would make the radio as above cost about £1400.00.

Most of the advertisers remained present in further issues together with some others who came and went. There seems to have been a smaller percentage of each magazine taken up by adverts. Inside the magazine you could find the programme for the month and the Pastoral Letter written by Rev, Sutton-Page. He noted that now the days were getting shorter it was 'the signal for an outburst of fresh activity in all departments'. Interestingly, it notes that the 'Girl's Drill Class is developing into a Girls Life Brigade'. However it then says that 'the Cub Pack is growing into a Scout Troop' – nothing about the Boy's Brigade! The letter also mentions a Tennis club, Ladies' Working Party, Choir, Sunday School and The Parents' Association. It hopes that the Winter will bring an increase in congregations at Sunday services as well as at the Wednesday evening Prayer and Bible Study meetings. As we do in the present magazine he asked that prayers and thoughts would be given to those who were unable to attend church or, if they had not yet started coming know that they would be welcomed with friendship – a quality which we preserve and are proud of today.

There were notes on the various groups including 'The Young People's Society'. They were to have a series of debates, missionary talks and lectures. Topics included 'Folk Lore on the Rhine' and by Kamal a. Churchie a convert from the Moslem Faith a talk on 'From Islam to Christ'. I am not sure how these would go down now! Life was obviously very different some 93 years ago – as Wikipedia tells us: -

In October 1932, the UK was marked by severe economic hardship and social unrest, highlighted by the violent Hunger Marches in London on October 27th The National Hunger Marchers arrived in London and there were intense clashes with police as unemployed workers protested the "means test".. Key events included Britain granting independence to Iraq on October 13th, the signing of a trade treaty with the USSR, and ongoing Naval discussions, all amidst the backdrop of the Great Depression. Albert Einstein suggested the Earth was 10 billion years old. book tokens were set for release on November 14.

Who knows what the next 93 will years bring?

DL

Highams Park Snippets

Over the last few issues, we have included items from the Waltham Forest Heritage List (with thanks for the permission to do so). This time we have some more information about The Brambles which we mentioned recently. There is still no news about its future but Hazel Ansell has kindly provided an interesting fact: - *I have now found that The Brambles has a connection to Tesco's. John Stockwell lived there until he died in 1906.*



He was a fish merchant in the city. His elder son seems to have then stayed at The Brambles and the younger one, Thomas Edward, who was a tea merchant lived at 107, The Avenue. When Jack Cohen set up his grocery firm after the second World War he purchased his tea from him. He also used the TES from Stockwell and the CO from Cohen to make the name TESCO. The name Stockwell is used on Tesco's own brand items now. I had no idea the house had

so much interest when I played in its garden as a tot.

I have always liked the art Deco style of building such as The Hoover Building in Perivale, West London. Highams Park and the surrounding area is not particularly known for this style but there is a prime example not very far away. The Heritage List shows: -

32 Mansfield Hill is arguably the best example of a domestic Art Deco house within the borough. It appears to retain all of its original external features, which include Crittall windows with curved glazing, an original 'sunrise' entrance doorway, painted window sills, and a decorative metalwork balcony, also featuring the sunrise motif. Whilst other similar examples of this style of property exist within the north of the borough, this is by far the best-preserved example.



Just to prove that there are other buildings of this period still in use: -

Forest Approach, Chingford, E4 A purpose-built Masonic Hall built in 1930 to designs by the architect Stanley Miller ARIBA. It is a single storey building designed in a muted Art Deco style, featuring Diocletian windows and an imposing arched entrance way flanked by large flagpoles. A foundation stone can be found on the building's side elevation, which records the involvement of the Lord Lieutenant of Essex.



Left: Masonic Hall

Right: The entrance, with leaded Diocletian window above the doorway.



North Chingford – just a stop away on the train is the site of many prominent earlier buildings which were built to accommodate the better off people who were now able to commute to the city: -

Chingford, E4 Nos. 7, 10 and 11 Forest Avenue are fine examples of large Arts and Crafts style Victorian properties. They are intricately detailed, exceptionally well preserved, and in a key prominent position overlooking Chingford Plain. They are built of brick with timber and roughcast render panels. They feature raised ground floors and grand entrance steps rising to a canopy entrance, large bay windows, decorative bargeboards, intricate finials and weathervane details at roof level, and distinct cupola/bell turret features which adds considerably to the streetscape.



Left: No. 7 Forest Avenue

Right: Nos. 10 & 11 Forest Avenue



Nos. 2-3 and 8-9 Forest Avenue are two pairs of large Victorian properties which feature both Gothic and Arts and Crafts style influences. They are key features in the townscape, located in a prominent position overlooking Chingford Plain, well detailed, and largely in original condition. Features of interest include the thick mullioned ground floor windows, the overhanging first floor supported on timber brackets, the use of timber boarding, and small roof dormer windows with decorative swag detailing.



Left: Nos. 2-3 Forest Avenue

Right: Nos. 8-9 Forest Avenue.



Musings - *A few random thoughts about Communication*

I sometimes think that my brain seems to make strange connections. One of the television programmes that I like to watch is 'Only Connect' so when I saw that it was going to be on BBC2 in the early evenings I thought that there was a new series. How wrong I was – what appeared were programmes from 2008 being reshowed. The formula was reasonably the same but used Greek letters rather than the Egyptian hieroglyphs used now to select which question the competing team would like. So it was similar but not the same as I expected. This set me thinking how many things that I grew up with have changed (I did say my brain works in odd ways!). This is very evident in the broad spectrum of communication...

When I was young – admittedly a long time ago – many of the things we now take for granted had not even been invented. The telephone was had been in existence for many years but relatively few people had one. Even in 1970 when we first set up house the only reason that I was able to get a telephone is that I worked for the GPO (later to become British Telecom and other variants of the name). my wife Jacque's father only got one because he was a vicar. Many people had what was called a party line where you shared a line with somebody else and could only make a call if they were not using it.



There were, of course, no mobile phones. They were fifteen years in the future and initially were the size of a car battery and carried by a sling over a shoulder – not particularly mobile although they very soon shrunk in size.

So, phones were not an ideal way of communication but you were able to write letters if there was no great urgency.

I seem to remember that there were two deliveries a day although this was not nearly so good as in times past where there were many more – in 1914 some areas of the country receiving up to twelve a day – this did decrease drastically as men were called to join up to fight the war. Letter writing was perhaps the answer but perhaps deserved the name it has lately received – 'snail mail'. To some people letter writing was not just a form of communication but an art. For really urgent messages a telegram was an option but this service ceased in 1982. However, the start of the internet was about eleven years away. This would indicate that telephones both land line and mobile had become much more prevalent and the best way of quick communication.



In the broader sense communication about what was happening in the wider world was down to three mediums – newspapers, radio and television. For newspapers there were two main types – national and local and many people took a mix of the two. When I was young newspapers were very much in evidence with a variety of titles. Some of these have disappeared over the years and a few new titles have come to market. The national papers again fell into two main types – the ‘redtops’ and the ‘broadsheets’. The redtops were for what we would probably now categorise as the ‘working class’s’ whilst the broadsheets were aimed at the professionals. I remember that The Times ran an advertising campaign that announced that ‘90% of the clergy take The Times’ only to find that graffiti artists added ‘the other 10% pay for it!’.



Some cities did have their own newspapers – there used to be the newspaper sellers cry in London of ‘Star, News and Standard’. Whilst the national press reviewed new films (another sort of communication) you would have looked at the local press to see what cinema was playing what film (and the times of screening).

Again when I was young or as Alan Titchmarsh called one of his books ‘When I was a nipper’ the radio or wireless as we called it was probably the most used form of communication. Television was still limited to, initially just one channel eventually to become BBC I and 2, ITV and channels 4 and 5 and not until satellite services started did we have the many channels that we have now. With radio you were able to listen and do other things and use your imagination to put pictures to the words you heard. There was a choice of the type of listening that was offered. The Home service (later radio 4) was for plays, talks and discussions – a bit highbrow you might say. The Light programme was more for humour and the lighter style of music but ‘pop’ radio did not really happen until the pirate stations came into being. They eventually were mostly closed down but had led to the opening of Radion One which played a similar type of more up to date music. I remember reading that the producers of BBC radio programmes had to abide by ‘the green book’ which laid down strict rules about what was allowable – I think that has totally gone out of the window with what can be seen and heard nowadays. There was a huge uproar when in 1976 when on a regional magazine programme Bill Grundy interviewed the punk group The Sex Pistols’. At one point what would now be called ‘a four-letter expletive’ was used probably for the first time on pre watershed television. Sad that fifty years on it is almost *de rigueur* that there should be swearing and other forms of rudeness at any time of the day. The excuse that this ‘real life’ does not really hold water in a similar way that ‘reality television’ bears very little resemblance to most people’s ides of ‘reality’.

So, what is the best method of communication now|?

Probably face to face interaction is the most useful . If you have a desire to get your message across the person / people that you are speaking to can see you and hear your voice with all its tones and inflections and it is two way or more immediately. It could be a stand-up argument or a sit-down pleasant conversation but you will know that what you want to say has been received.

Earlier in the article I mentioned that mobile phones were, initially, the size of a car battery. They soon began to decrease in size and as long as the person you wished to communicate with had a land line or mobile phone you could call them. The service was not always good – I remember being in Yorkshire and spending some time pirouetting around to try and find a signal...



But several things happened in quick succession – somebody thought that sending a written message – texting! – would work even if you had to press one of the numerical keys a set number of times per letter. The phones were now smaller but so were their screens which did limit use. Then came the internet which demanded a much bigger screen – so that is what we have now where the screen is the whole size of the phone. And if you can send and receive messages and information why not pictures as well? So now we have very high-quality cameras to hand at all times.



So, does this mean that as far as communication goes everything in the garden is lovely? Unfortunately, not completely – as with most new inventions there are people who will find ways of using them for their own ends. So now we have to be careful of scams, trolling and fake news. And to be honest the fact that the more elderly may not



always be able to understand – that number certainly seems to be less and less now We now have to think u and remember vast number of passwords and my biggest bugbear – the fact that if you use the phone to get something done – book a car service for example, once it has been done there will be the ever present 'how was it for you' survey which will 'only take 15 minutes' I very rarely complete any of these unless the service has been above and beyond expectations. But you can be sure that I will be in touch if there has been poor service!

And after all this - for the best communication go to church and hear the best news... DL

CHURCH DIARY

June

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

Monday 1 st	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 2 nd	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Thursday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 7 th	10 am	Morning Service
Monday 8 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Friday 12 th	7.00 pm	Youth Group
Sunday 14 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School followed by an Extra Ordinary Members Meeting
Monday 15 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 16 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Saturday 20 th	12.00 pm	HPBC Community Fun Day till 3.00 pm
Sunday 21 st	10 am	Morning Service for Father's Day
Monday 22 nd	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 23 rd	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 28 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 29 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 30 th h	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom

July

Thursday 2 nd	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 5 th	10 am	Morning Service
Monday 6 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 7 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 10 th	7.00 pm	Youth Group
Sunday 12 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Sunday 19 th	10 am	Morning Service
Sunday 26 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School

Refreshments are served in Fellowship Hall after each Service