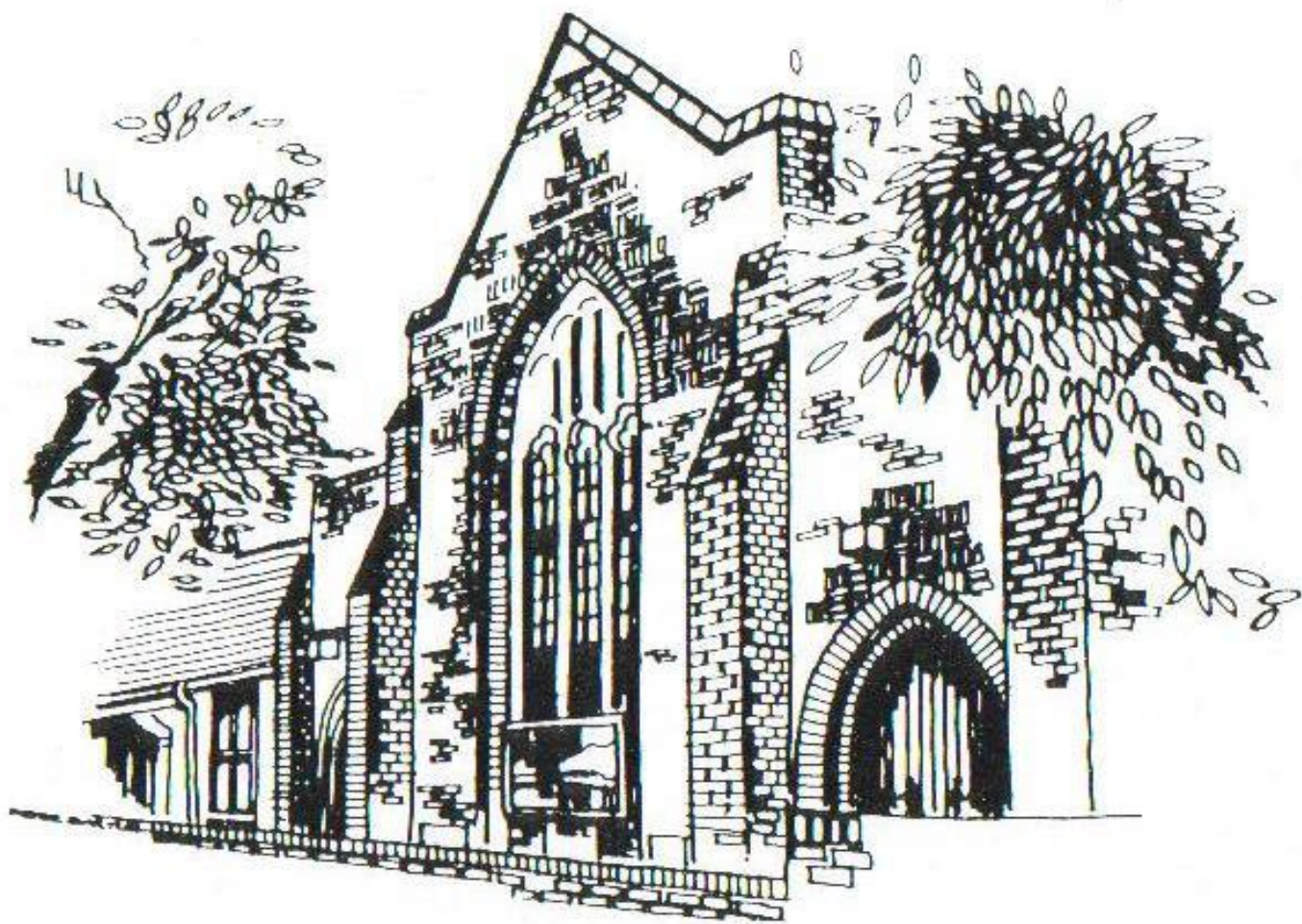




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



October/November 2025

CHURCH PROGRAMME

At the time of writing

Current Covid Safety Arrangements

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

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



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

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

The deadline for items for the next edition is Sunday 23rd November 2025
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
October / November 2025

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Dear Friends,

The nights are drawing in and there is chill in the air in the mornings – debates are happening in households across Highams Park: should we put the central heating on yet? In the daytime, the sky is blue and the sun is warm; the vibrancy of the leaves turning colours stand out magnificently against the bright and sunny sky - but the temperature plummets at night.

Summer is changing to autumn.

I love the arrival of autumn. I love the change that occurs at this time of year, and I am happy putting on thicker jumpers, and boots, and grabbing a cozy blanket in the evening and snuggling down with a cuppa (and perhaps some chocolate!) But I know that not everyone shares my enthusiasm!

The writer of Ecclesiastes talks about the changing of the seasons, albeit a different kind of season:

“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Ecc. 3 v 1)

And there is a time for change too. Here the writer is recognising (in his wisdom) that not everything stays the same, and change is often around the corner. But many of us do not like change because it can feel uncomfortable. We are challenged as we move away from how things used to be, towards something new that is perhaps unknown. We have a God, who despite himself being unchangeable – the same yesterday, today and forever – longs to bring about change and transformation in us. He is a God who brings renewal and transformation into our lives;

He does not want us to stay the same – He wants us to grow in our faith and character. This truth has been the main focus on our series concerning the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

‘And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are *changed* into his glorious image.’ (2Cor 3:18)

The Holy Spirit is the one who brings change. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings the conviction when we first come to faith. And it is the Holy Spirit who comes upon us and empowers that transformation within us.

Throughout the book of Acts, when the good news of Jesus is spreading across the known world, we read of lives being changed. People putting their faith in Jesus and being Baptised. Time and again we read that, upon baptism, these new believers received the gift of the Holy Spirit – the one who will bring about this change.

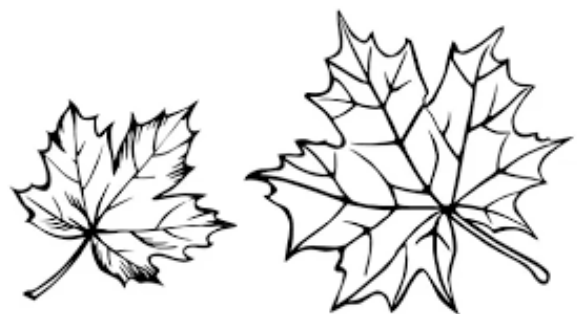
I am so excited that we are having a baptism this month, the first in Highams Park Baptist Church for about 6 years! I am delighted that Stephen has heard Jesus’ call to follow him wholeheartedly and will make a public declaration of that before the church, his family and friends. As he comes up out of the water, we shall pray for the Holy Spirit’s anointing upon him, continuing the work of transformation which he has already begun in his life. And an opportunity for all of us to renew again our faith in God and our desire to follow Jesus – and to be changed:

Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God *transform* you into a new person by *changing* the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12.12)

This is my prayer for us all.

With every blessing,

Cherie



Cavendish Circular



As the poet John Keats put it so succinctly about Autumn, it is the : "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". The nights draw in, the leaves change to their autumnal hues and the central heating goes on! We also start looking forward to Christmas (although the shops have been doing that since late August – or even before). There is news of two local events to get you started with the Christmas spirit later in the magazine.

We have had the chance to thank God for His goodness in providing for us. Firstly, our Harvest Festival – always an important service for us to remember all those people throughout the world who, with God's help, provide our food. Then there was the Macmillan Coffee Morning where a good sum was raised to help that excellent charity. You can read about them both later in this issue.

We continue remember Dave and Di Kendrick in our thoughts and prayers. Dave is making a slow but steady recovery from his operation and they have asked that we send their thanks to all those whose prayers, cards and visits have made life more bearable. We do hope that we may see them both at church in the not too distant future.

Some of our readers may remember Barbara and Dave Young who were the magazine editors before Jacquie and I took over. They moved away in 2004 to Norfolk and now live in Scotland. Barbara has been very ill after suffering a heart attack and several strokes. Sadly, we now hear that she passed away on Friday 3rd October Please think of Dave and the family in your prayers.

Had you ever considered how the church functions so well. Of course, the minister has a great deal to do with it but she is supported by the Deacons. If you have ever felt that you would like to be a Deacon, please read the article later in the magazine and let Cherie know. Elections will, as ever, be held in the members Annual General Meeting on Sunday 23rd November

Huge Birthday wishes have to go to Doris Thorndyke who has celebrated her 104th Birthday. A card was signed by church members and delivered to her.

Hazel's Homespun Humour
Life's biggest tragedy is that we get old too soon
and wise too late!



The Harvest Festival has for many years been part of the Church year and like so many things has its origins in pagan times. People have wanted to thank their god(s) for the safe gathering of the harvest which may have had to serve them throughout the winter months. In olden times the festival was accompanied with feasts, games and sacrifices! One of the main figures of those times was Lugh who was a major figure in Celtic mythology. He was revered as the god of skill and craftsmanship and was associated with the Lughnasadh harvest festival.

Whilst there may well have been recognition of the gathering of the harvest in religious terms it would appear that it was not until the eighteen hundreds that the Reverend Robert Hawker, a Cornish vicar, introduced the idea of having a harvest festival in church with hymns giving thanks for the bounty of the fields and orchards.

Our Harvest festival Service was held on Sunday 21st September and as you will see from the photographs a good selection of items were donated.



Thanks to Althea for the pictures

The proceeds were donated to The Hub who, it is reported, sent a big thankyou...

We Will Remember Them...

It sometimes seems strange to me that Anniversaries marking a number ending in five or zero often seem to get more attention. A case in point is the celebration of the eightieth anniversary of both VE (Victory in Europe) and VJ (Victory in Japan) days this year. Even though the Second World War was over Britain was still involved in conflicts – Mandatory military service continued, as we continued to wage numerous small colonial conflicts around the globe: the Malayan Emergency, 1948–1960, in Kenya against the Mau Mau Uprising (1952–60) and against Egypt in the 1956 Suez Crisis. It is interesting to note that the Malayan Emergency was not called a 'war' due to the fact that had it been it could have triggered clauses in London-based insurance policies that would not have compensated plantation and mine owners for losses in a civil war. Thus, it was framed as a policing and counter-insurgency operation or an "emergency" to protect economic interests.

To my mind it has been that, over the last few years, we as a nation have begun to pay more attention in the marking of Remembrance Day. Perhaps my memory plays tricks but I do not recall that until fairly recently supermarkets would announce that a two-minute silence would be observed at 11.00am both on the eleventh day of November and on Remembrance Day itself, which is always held on the second Sunday of November. In case you have wondered why it is a two-minute silence the first minute was a time of thanksgiving for those who had returned alive, the second minute was to remember the fallen.

The idea of having a day set aside to remember those who had died or been injured whilst fighting for their country came about after the First World War but it seems implicit that we should also think of those men and women who made their sacrifice in the many conflicts prior to 1914. We do perhaps need this reminder as, due to the passage of time, there are fewer people left alive who took an active part from the Second World War up to the present day. DL



The Role of a Deacon in Highams Park Baptist Church

In November, we will be having again our annual deacon elections, and so now seems a good opportunity to outline something about this role here.

What is a deacon?

The Deacons work together with the Minister on the 'Church Council' to provide leadership within our church. The term Deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means servant, and deacons were first seen in the book of Acts, chapter 6, appointed to help with practical and administrative tasks in the early church, and assisting the Apostles with practical service. By the end of the New Testament in Paul's letters, we see the role has broadened into a more formal appointment (Romans 16: 1-2 and 1Timothy 3:8-13), where there is a Spiritual side to it, as well as the practical.

This is very much the essence of being a deacon now here at HPBC. Primarily the role of Deacons is to assist and support the minister in the running of the church: with decision-making and formulating proposals for the Church Meeting; with practical and administrative matters; and with prayerful oversight of church life. The deacons also act as **Trustees** for the Church, in terms of charity law.

What is the commitment?

So, what does this look like in terms of practical commitment?

Church Council meet monthly (except in August and December) on the first Thursday of the month, for no longer than two hours. These alternate between a meeting discussing and arranging practicalities, and a more prayerful meeting. Together we keep on top of matters concerning the direction of the church, the finance, the fabric/building upkeep and pastoral care. Deacons are the eyes and ears of the church, keeping a look out for any kind of issues and informing the minister.

Most deacons have a further special responsibility, specifically to oversee upkeep of the buildings, keeping a regular check, the finance, safeguarding and children's work.

In addition, about every 5-6 weeks they take it in turns to be the ***Duty Deacon*** on a Sunday morning, which involves arriving between 9 and 9.15 am to prepare the church for worship: unlocking the buildings and side gate, setting the table, preparing the communion, setting up the hall for Sunday School/refreshments, putting the urn on in the kitchen, refreshing the water for the minister and at the back of church. They also make sure in the morning that there are people on the tech desk, welcoming at the door and they find a volunteer to bring the Bible reading, and take round the offering bags.

They, along with any other deacons, pray with the minister before the beginning of the service, for all that will happen – the worship, the tech, the preaching of the word and the children's work. At the end of the service, they are the last to leave, check everything is cleared away and lock up. It is a sacrificial role – but one that is rewarding, serving God's church.

Who is eligible?

Deacons are elected by the Church Members Meeting. Nominees must show maturity in their character, Christian faith and conduct. They must be prayerful and spiritually mature, committed to the ministry of the church and reliable. It is a requirement that they are in full church membership (so in covenant relationship at HPBC) and it is best in my view that they have been around at least a year so that they are known to people and understand how our church functions. Because they are trustees, they cannot be bankrupt, and will also need to have a DBS check on them because of the nature of the role in working with vulnerable people and with children within church.

What now?

Take time to think and pray about who you think would be good in this role. At present, it would be helpful to have another deacon or two on board to help, and of course we know that we need a new treasurer as Jason wishes to step down from this role. Members are free to make nominations; nomination forms will be available nearer the time - and there will be a vote at the next Church Meeting (AGM) in November.

Please do speak with Cherie if you wish to have anything clarified.



Jenny and I hosted a MacMillan coffee morning again this year on Friday 26th September.

A big thank you to everyone who supported whether by baking, coming along to the manse or donating on Sunday and helping to finish all the cake!



We raised a wonderful £150 plus for this incredible charity, and had fun in the process!



Ed's note: - Well done to Cherie and all who took part in this years Coffee Morning and raised an excellent amount of money. They are following in the footsteps of

a local fundraising group in Kent who in 1990 had the idea of holding a coffee morning and donating the cost of their drinks to Macmillan. It was such a simple and effective way of raising money that it went national in 1991. It is now considered to be 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning' and to date has raised well in excess of three hundred million pounds. What could possibly be better than coming together to drink coffee (I am sure tea could be provided if really necessary!), have some cake and have a good old chat and even better raise money for such a good cause? (Thanks to Cherie for the pictures)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...



Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday 28th November
at Hale End Library
organised by
The Highams Park Planning Group

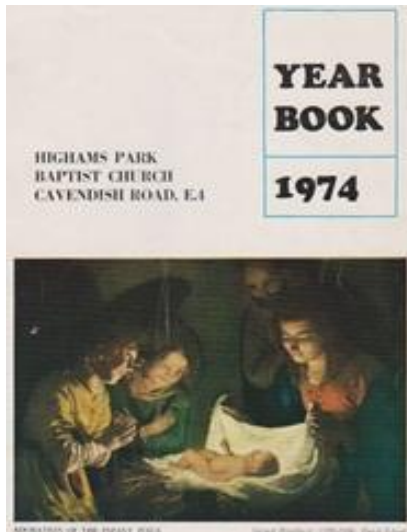
Christmas Fayre

Highams Park Station Car Park & Signal Walk

Sunday 7th December
organised by
*The Highams Park
Planning Group*



Highams Park Snippets / Memories



If you say it quickly the year 1974 may not seem too long ago and in the great scheme of things I suppose it is not. But – I recently came across 'A Year Book for 1974' produced for the church. I would have to say that I do not remember these and have no idea for how many years they were produced. Several things struck me – adverts were carried as they had been many years ago. Some of the advertisers were in fact the same as 40 years before. The book also acted as a contact list for members and in the middle was a sheet of blue paper – it seems to be blotting paper and whatever happened to that? The minister at the time was H. Alan Smith and he introduced it as follows:

My dear Friends,

With this issue of our Year Book we send greetings to you all. May 1974 be a year of joy and peace for every one of you.

Every year this book reminds us of the meaning of belonging to the Church. We joined when, in response to Christ's love for us, we gave our love and lives to Him. Our names in this book remind us of our need to always renew that covenant with God.


This book reminds us, too, that we belong in one another. We will use it to pray for one another, so that our fellowship be increasingly real to us in 1974.

51 years later these words seem as relevant now as they were then. In 1974 I was 28 years old and looking through the list of the names of church members certainly evokes memories of those I knew then. Even more it shows how few are still with us – the list contains well in excess of 200 names and very few would be recognised as being part of today's church. At that time, in 1974, it seems very likely that many people had moved away from the church but still had kept their membership. I remember that Jacquie and I were involved in contacting many of these people in later years to see if they still wanted to be members. Few of them realised that as a church each member was a cost which had to be borne. H. Alan Smith was very much the right man for the task of unifying the church. He was quiet, scholarly, but I remember Jacquie saying that he controlled meetings like no one she had met... 1974 was an important year for us – our first child was born. These memories rekindled by the finding of a Year Book. I will include a couple of the adverts from that Year Book – see if they rekindle memories for you.


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Telephone: 527 2025



One of those sorts of shops that do not seem to exist now – our loss!

My memory tells me that when I went to school at Selwyn this was called Meopham's – just right for buying cigarette cards etc! I am sure Mr. Lee's continued those delights.

LEE'S NEWSAGENTS

Tobacconists, Confectionery & Toys
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STATIONERY TOYS BOOKS

I am sure many people will remember Arnot's who seemed to be such a part of Highams Park for many years. I seem to remember buying a good few books there

Another shop I recall from those days when televisions always seemed to need repairing... DL

For Personal Service . . .

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TWO YEARS UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE ON MONOCHROME T.V.
FOUR YEARS TUBE GUARANTEE ON COLOUR SETS
GUARANTEED REPAIRS

Our Heritage

In the last issue we introduced readers to the London Borough of Waltham Forest Heritage List. We have been given permission to include more entries from it. The list covers the whole of the Borough but you can search by electoral ward. . It holds details of many places considered to be part of our heritage. I hope that you will find it enjoyable to 'dip' into it...

The Parade Highams Park



No. 503 Hale End Road, Highams Park, E4
An Edwardian shopping parade with architectural significance, which evidences the growth of Highams Park in the early 1900s. The building is in yellow and red stock brick, which progressively steps back from the road as it curves creating an interesting, layered elevation when travelling north along Hale End Road. The side elevation features blind windows. The shopfronts are in varying condition, but all retain the large dividing corbel and pilaster

details. Decorative elements on the upper floors include signage 'THE PARADE', as well as patterning above windows and ball finials at roof level.

Winchester Road Methodist Church



The church was built in 1904 in a Perpendicular style, on land donated by Hitchman Dairies, and was designed by the architect George Baines FRIBA. It was originally designed as the church school, with the church itself intended to go where the church hall now is. It features an attractive frontage with a leaded window and pinnacles topped with decorative ironwork. The hall is a Modernist structure which features

a curved window and some small pieces of stained glass, as well external plaques and a war memorial. Whilst contrasting with the Edwardian building, it is also considered to have architectural interest

The Royal Oak Public House



The building is a good example of a decorative Edwardian public house, which retains much of its original character. Its copper clad turret and oriel window is a particularly attractive and prominent feature at the road junction. The building was constructed in 1906 and replaced a row of Victorian cottages, also

partly in use as a public house. It was the scene of the climax to the "Tottenham outrage" of 1909, an armed robbery and police chase, which resulted in numerous casualties. The events led to the creation of the Kings Police Medal for those officers who gave pursuit.

Memories of The Halex Factory



The Elephant & Tortoise sculpture was created by local artist Barnaby Barford and was installed in 2016, as part of the redevelopment of the former factory site. The design was chosen following a public consultation and is an local icon representing the industrial past of Highams Park. It represents the Xylonite factory, around which much of Highams Park grew. The Xylonite logo featured an elephant and a tortoise which represented

the company's manufacturing of artificial ivory and tortoiseshell. At later times the factory also manufactured table tennis balls, and this is represented by the small holes which pepper the sculpture, allowing light through.

Castlenau – Castle Avenue



Castlenau is an attractive Arts and Crafts house of 1904, built in brick with painted render and wooden window frames, and a large, exposed brick chimney stack. It is a well-maintained example of Arts and Crafts style applied to domestic architecture, and it sits in a prominent position at the road junction, opposite the church, which is also locally listed.

More next time DL



Halloween

As with many Christian festivals and celebrations their history lies to some extent in pagan tradition. One such is Halloween which has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which was celebrated around 2,000 years ago, to mark the end of summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark, cold winter. The Celts believed that on this day, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead blurred, allowing spirits to return to Earth. To ward off these spirits, they lit bonfires and wore costumes. The name Halloween comes from All Hallows' Eve, the name of the Christian holiday of All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows' Day), which was established by Pope Boniface IV to commemorate saints and the dead and was held on May 13th. However, in the 8th and 9th centuries it was moved very strategically to November 1st thereby absorbing some of the Samhain traditions and replacing the pagan festival and influence. It is thought that the festival was much celebrated in Scotland and Ireland and the Scots who emigrated to America in the 19th century took their traditions with them and these became much entrenched in that country. Over recent years Halloween has become more prevalent in Britain and has in many ways taken over from Guy Fawkes Day.

The practice of trick-or-treating is thought to have evolved from the British practice of allowing the poor to beg for food, called "soul cakes." Trick-or-treaters go from house to house with the threat that they will pull a trick if they do not receive a treat. Some people now exhibit carved pumpkins outside their doors if they want to take part in the trick-or-treating by the people who travel around the locality dressed up, often in scary costumes. Originally known as the Jack-o'-lantern they are said to come from an Irish folk tale about someone called 'Stingy Jack' who apparently tricked the Devil for his own gain. When he died he was not let into either heaven or hell and sentenced to roam for eternity. In Ireland demonic faces were carved into turnips to frighten Jack's wandering spirit away. When the festival became popular in America they used pumpkins which were easier to come by (and were larger) than turnips.

Whatever your thoughts are on Halloween and trick-or-treating remember that it does have a Christian aspect... *DL*

Musings - *A few random thoughts about Musing*

Musing can be defined as 'thinking carefully about something and for some time'. In the series of articles I have written under this banner I have found that I have needed a trigger to get me thinking about something. Hopefully it will be interesting to you the reader and there will be sufficient information available to make it a worthwhile topic...

For this article the trigger was a plastic bag – I am sure that by now you are fed up with me telling you that I have moved from London to a pleasant village in Nottinghamshire but herein lies my trigger. As anyone who has moved home will understand it involves a lot of packing and later unpacking in the hope that you will find the ideal place for some long-forgotten item. In my case I opened box number (think of a number between 1 and infinity) to find at the bottom a good old fashioned plastic bag. It was smaller than most bags today and was from a time before you had to pay for the bag in order to save the planet. It did have a shop name on it together with phone numbers and the things that they sold. That led me to the fact that for 'Musings' I should use the phrase 'what goes around comes around' in the sense that something which has become unfashionable may have a renaissance in future years. The 'what goes around' part of the phrase is very appropriate – the bag was for a shop (or shops) called 'Turntable'



I apologise for the state of the bag but if you had lived under assorted bits and pieces for a number of years you would look crumpled too! I am uncertain how old the bag is but the telephone numbering harks back almost to the LAR and SIL days – but it is without the 01 or 0208 numbers we are used to now. Also, it mentions records and Video not CD's and DVD's. The bag is just the size to contain an LP (Long Playing record) or two. Technology has moved on and now few people would buy CD's or DV's as the stacked shelves in charity shops would indicate. However,

there does seem to be a slight movement to reintroduce some amount of vinyl records – usually LP's – as it is felt that vinyl records can give a 'warmer' tone than CD's which are seen as giving a slightly harsher sound. Ever since Thomas Edison gave us the first means of recording sound with his cylindrical 'records' we have looked for better and better quality of sound reproduction.



Cylinders gave way to the 78-shellac record followed by vinyl in both 45 and LP versions. We had cassette tapes and then Compact Discs (CD's). Not only was the goal better sounds but the ability to have music wherever we wanted. I would think that most of us can remember the days of the 'Walkman' on trains when we could all hear a very tinny rendering of some tune or other! Nowadays most music is downloaded and the record shop has all but disappeared. However, there is always the possibility that downloaded music could be lost and there is nothing quite like holding a record in your hands reading the sleeve notes and knowing that it is a tangible item. Perhaps there will be a resurgence of those discs of vinyl – now all you need is something to play them on...

In a similar way there seems to have been an upswing in book ownership. Some years ago electronic book (eBooks) were introduced such as the Kindle and the Nook. With these you could download a book in seconds and read it at your leisure. My late wife Jacquie was a fan of these as it meant that if he could not sleep it was easy to pick up an electronic reader without the fuss of turning the pages of a heavy printed book. They were seen as an easy way to buy and read a book. However, although they are still in existence they have patently not changed our love of the feel and heft of a proper printed volume. There is the fact that eBooks are mostly confined to works of fiction which limits their appeal.



In Newark there have for many years been places selling books – we did have a W. H. Smiths (now T. G. Jones since Smiths have been sold off!) as well as one recently opened bookshop for selling new books. But perhaps the good news for the book lovers of Newark is that Waterstones have just opened a new store in a prime location by the town square. And they also sell

a selection of vinyl records. Then there is an Oxfam bookshop – not new books but a shop whose main reason is the sale of reading material. There are a number of charity shops who, amongst other items, sell books. The love of books can start at an early age – when my grandchildren came to London for a few days there was always a visit to Waterstone's shop in Picadilly and the purchase of one or more books each – they certainly have the makings of a good library! Searching for facts via the internet I came across the following:

- In 2024, fiction sales saw their highest performance on record, while audiobook sales grew significantly, nearing £270 million. Despite some declines in nonfiction, the overall UK publishing market shows continued resilience and growth, with total revenue crossing the £7 billion mark in the previous year and continuing to hold strong in 2024.

Welcome back to vinyl and books!

CHURCH DIARY

October

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

Thursday 2 nd	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 5 th	10 am	All Age 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 pm	Youth Club
Sunday 12 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 13 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 14 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 19 th	10 am	Morning Service With the Baptism of Stephen Edwards
Monday 20 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Sunday 26 th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion Led by Dr. Paul Davis
Sunday 31 st	10 am	Morning Service

November

Sunday 2 nd	10 am	All Age Service
Monday 3 rd	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Thursday 6 th	7.30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 9 th	10 am	Remembrance Sunday Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 10 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 11 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 14 th	7 pm	Youth Club
Tuesday 9 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 12 th	7 pm	Youth Club
Sunday 16 th	10 am	Morning Service
Monday 17 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 18 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 23 rd	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Followed by	11.30 am	Church Members AGM With the election of Deacons
Monday 24 th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 25 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 30 th	10 am	Morning Service

Refreshments are served in Fellowship Hall after each Service

