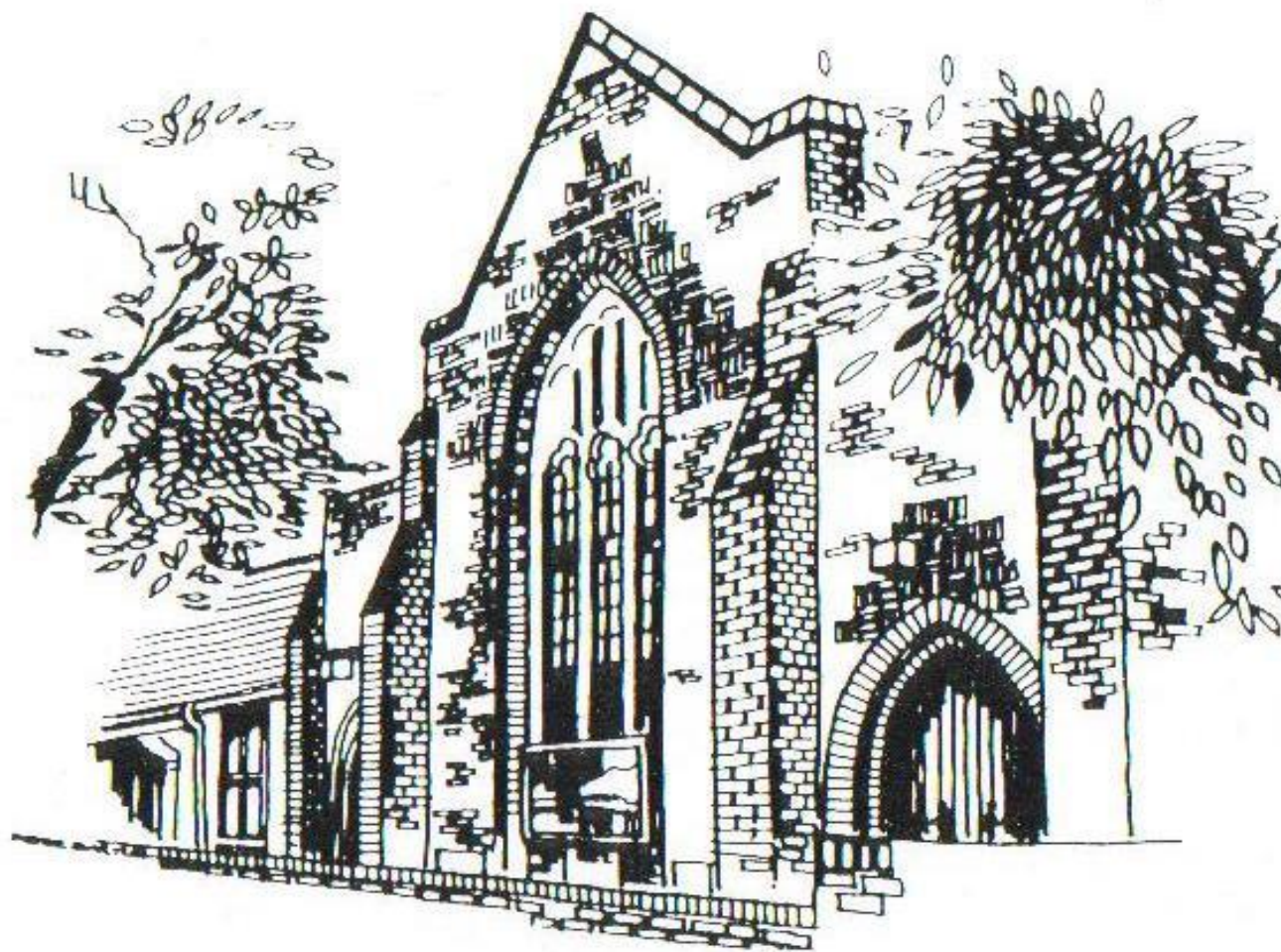




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



October/November 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 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 November 17th 2024
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
October / November 2024

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Dear Friends

I hope that you were all able to have a time of relaxing and refreshment over the summer period. August is usually a quieter month in church life; groups and activities are paused, and folk are away on holiday. For me it was a chance to slow down a little and reflect upon the first year of my ministry here at Higham Park Baptist Church. It feels positive: church life seems busier, Sunday mornings fuller; there are loads more children attending, which is fantastic! Coffee and chat is well-established and even includes some knitting lessons for those interested to learn! (Thanks, Betty!) The monthly Youth Club is gathering momentum, and a new course – the Wellbeing Journey – is about to run, jointly between the three churches, on the Aldrich Way Estate.

I was fortunate also to get away for a week and visited Northumbria – somewhere I had not been before, and a very beautiful part of the world. I started with 48 hours retreat at the Northumbria Christian Community. The peace and tranquillity of the buildings and surroundings, and of the pattern of community prayer three times a day refreshed my soul. The place is definitely what the Celtic Christians would have called a ‘thin place’ – where God feels particularly close, and we catch a glimpse of what heaven is like. In these places we meet with God in an unhurried way and without agenda, and He does a work of transformation in our lives. If you ever have opportunity to go, I thoroughly recommend it. I also visited the Holy Island of Lindisfarne that week, and I write a bit more about that later in the magazine.

The summer rest soon seems like a distant memory as the Autumn term gets underway, and the busy routine resumes.

But within that, I bring back the lessons learnt in Northumbria: the importance of Sabbath rest and the need for an extended daily quiet time with God, to listen to his voice and feel his presence.

I am reminded again of the word that I believe the Holy Spirit gave to the church in September, and that I asked you to pray about - Isaiah 37: 31:

*The surviving remnant of the House of Judah shall again
**take root downward
and bear fruit upward***

We are a small remnant of what the church here used to be in terms of size and impact back in the 70s and 80s. But I believe God is encouraging us to put down deep roots, so that our faith is strong and secure, and that from these deep roots, we will bear fruits 'upwards' and outwards. The fruit will not come unless the roots of our faith are deep, and I am convinced that the deep roots come from cultivating a 'Sabbath mindset,' where we set apart time to be still with God, read his word, listen to his voice, and bring our prayers. There are no shortcuts to depth in faith. It comes through time spent in God's presence each day. And I am also convinced that fruit will follow on account of the deep roots.

I pray that God will help all of us to deepen our roots of faith. That the Holy Spirit will give us the desire to seek God, and that we will put time aside each day for encounter with God each day. From that, fruit will grow.

Every Blessing
Cherie

Prayer of Saint Patrick – used in Northumbria Community and helpful to use in our daily quiet times with God.

**Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.**

Cavendish Circular



After what proved to be an indeterminate Summer, we enter Autumn – a season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' - although the shops would have us believe that Winter (and Christmas) are upon us!

Somebody who has seen many more changes of season than most is Doris Thorndyke who recently celebrated her one hundred and third birthday. From the people who visited her we hear that there was perhaps too much cake but that Doris was, as ever, on fine form.

We send her our (belated) Birthday Wishes)



We hear that Cliff Tayler is able to get around a little more and the fitment of a stair lift has made life much easier. Margaret Norris has been unwell with an infection but although she had to go to A&E she was not kept in. We ask that you remember in your prayers and thoughts all those in the church family who, for whatever reason, are unable to get to church.

On the 22nd of September there was a special meeting for all (not just members) to discuss the way forward for the church. Cherie has been with us now for a year and reported on some of the many things that have happened in that time such as the Aldriche Way initiative which you can read about later in the magazine. We then had an excellent 'Bring and Share' lunch (many thanks to all who planned/cooked/served and washed up!). Lastly, we were asked to give our thoughts on how it was felt the church could be made (even) better. We await the results...

DL

Hazel's Homespun Humour
A garden is a thing of beauty and a JOB for ever!
(oh so true)

The Wellbeing Journey

As you will know, over this last year a few of us from this church and All Saints have been prayer walking on the Aldriche Way Estate, and more recently we have been able to hire the Community Room there on at Thursday Evening. We have been praying, talking to people, and asking God to show us what we might be able to do as outreach on the estate.

We are going to run a course on a Thursday evening, open to people from the three churches and if they want to invite a friend, as well as it being advertised in the estate newsletter. The course is called 'The Wellbeing Journey' and it runs over eight sessions, each with a video to watch and discussion questions. It covers all aspects of our wellbeing from a Christian perspective but is not evangelistic. It looks at emotional, physical, spiritual, financial, vocational and relational wellbeing, We hope to build relationships with people who come along and then signpost them to our churches if they are interested in faith.

The course begins on the 10th of October, and is at 7 pm, in the Community Room. Please ask Cherie or Phil if you would like to know more or join the course.

Take a look at the website: www.wellbeingjourney.org

But most importantly, please do pray that this will be successful in reaching out to people on Aldriche Way.

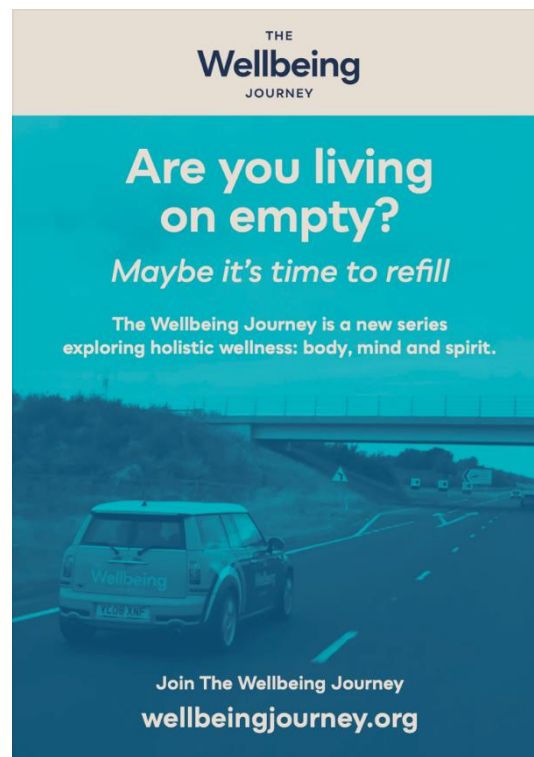
8 week course

Starting 10th October

7 – 8.30 pm

**Aldriche Way
Community Room**

All Welcome!



Coming to a Screen near You

Once upon a time it was the organ playing for the congregation to sing from the words in hymn books. However, organ players became thin on the ground and we had three separate hymn books so a change was needed. We came into the technological age with music from CD's and the words projected on the screen hung from the beams in the right-hand front corner of the sanctuary. The balance of the sound from speakers placed around was sometimes difficult. The CD's were very effective but needed to be placed in the machine and the right track selected – all this took time and was not always easy when two songs/hymns were programmed one after another. Thanks to Rob and Mandy this was overcome by having everything working from a PC. The screen was great for reading the words to be sung but not everywhere had a good view of it!

But now... we have a whole new system with a proper mixing desk and two large television type screens – one on each side so they can be seen from everywhere. This change was under discussion for some time but was eventually green lighted. A friend of Peter Burke. Anthony by name, has the requisite knowledge and understanding and he supervised the fitting of the equipment and provided the follow up training of how to use it! We are indebted for his help.

If you would like to learn how to use the new technology and be part of a group able to use it on a Sunday please see Cherie.



Now, if only I could find the manual...

Let's try 'Testing 1 2 3 4' that always works in the films!

Peter meets Kwaku

We are grateful to Peter Burke for providing articles for the magazine. In this, his latest, we hear about the differences one man made to the well-known (for the wrong reasons) Broadwater Farm Estate.: -



I am sitting in a rather tightly spaced housing association office today with a respectably dressed gentleman, but not just any office and certainly not just any West African gentleman. We are in the middle of a notorious housing estate that we rarely hear of these days, which is a good sign!

Telling me his story among boxes and racks of various supplies, dozens of water bottles plus walls packed with wonderful memories of very important dignitaries who have had the privilege to meet this man, I am fortunate to share an hour with Kwaku. This beautiful Christian is Archbishop Kwaku Frimpong-Manson BEM (British Empire Medal for Hands-on services to the United Kingdom)

In the 1st quarter of 2005, not a single crime was reported in the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham. This was a significant change from the brutally hostile one-way-in, one-way-out Freedom Road, N17 during the 80's.

Back to today, among the collections here in this del-boy style office, I spot the official Royal letter sent by the Queen's office which invited Kwaku to receive an award. It is the first time in my life I have seen anything this important.

Locally known as Frimpong, Kwaku (which means 'born on a Wednesday') tells me about his life in the Ghanaian Military after coming away from a life of drug selling in his youth, rising quickly in the Navy Ranks, and using his entrepreneurial skills to set up huge churches in Accra before a one month leave to London changed his life forever.

In 1987, Pastor Kwaku, as I've settled on calling him, was visiting Ghanaian friends and family in Tottenham during his month off when it was spotted that he had a talent for speaking in the residents meeting he attended that his family had asked him to see. He could sense the hostility and contributed from an outsider's point of view. His peaceful understanding went down well on both sides.

Requests for him to stay and assist the local church and housing association soon were made and the work to repair the damages in relationship between the police and the residents of the Broadwater Farm estate began.

He quickly resigned officially from the Navy upon deciding he would stay in London which was eventually granted back home. He could see mission God had called him to in London.

Working on a farm back in Ghana was Kwaku's first job in which he learned how to drive cars without any training. He used this car outside of the farm to transport drugs and became a dealer, and quite a successful one at that.

Kwaku converted after a tree fell on his car in a storm one day. He says he really should be dead but saw it as God sparing his life to work for him. Kwaku surrendered to God and set his life to reaching souls for Jesus and helping to start new churches. He then sought legitimate work by joining the Ghanaian Navy which turned out to be very successful.

Kwaku's career in the military developed quickly and was given the role as a head of Radar engineering aboard Ghana's Navy Ships. The month's leave to visit London I mentioned earlier was the only request in 500 at that time granted by his superiors.

Coming back to the talks on the Broadwater farm estate, these would consist of hours between the hardened residents and youth ready for battle and the police who's control of the area and reputation had clearly lost respect, all the while, Kwaku was leading people to faith in Christ and encourage work and education rather than lives of crime.

Kwaku's residents' meetings were packed and everyone needed their say, and they definitely got it. Yet in the middle of these opposing groups who found the willingness to talk was this gentle but outspoken ex-military Ghanaian man, no more than 5 feet 5 inches tall.



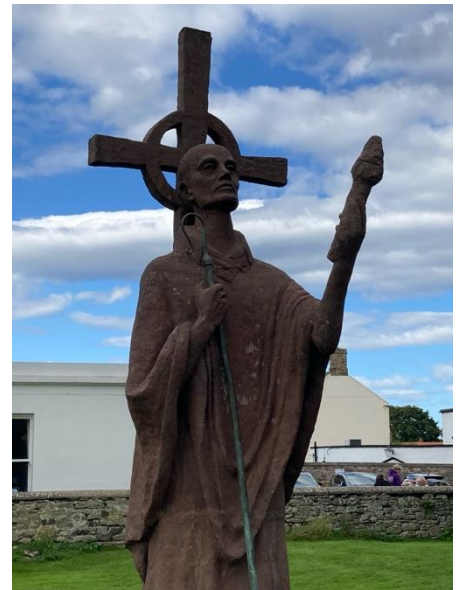
Now, there is little to remind people of the troubles of the 80's if anyone did not know about the riots. More locals work or seek education. Kwaku is known as the Pastor to locals which can obviously see during our walk to his office. The locals are more than respectful as I use the local shop during my visit. I'm greeted with two very kind individuals serving me.

I intend to talk to Kwaku again about actually meeting the Queen but for now, I take the inspiration from, the plan God had for him.

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne

On the Northumbrian coastline, there is a small, tidal island called Lindisfarne, which is separated from the mainland twice a day at high tide but comes accessible via the sand or the causeway when the tide goes out. It is called 'Holy Island' because of its rich heritage in Celtic Christianity, being the place where the St Aiden founded a monastery in the 7th century.

King Oswald had requested that the monks on the island of Iona in West Scotland send over somebody to 'teach the Christian faith' to the people of Northumbria. At first, they sent a monk called Cormac, but unfortunately, he had little success in teaching and converting the local people. It was thought that his manner was too abrupt; he was described as someone as having an austere disposition. When he returned to Iona and gave his report on the failure to convert the English there, it was Aiden who spoke up and said that perhaps Cormac had been too hard on them, and should perhaps have begun by giving them the 'milk' of a simpler teaching, gradually instructing them in the word of God. The monks decided that perhaps Aiden himself should go and teach the faith to the people of Northumbria. He arrived around 635AD along with 12 other monks and built the monastery where they could practice the presence of God. From there, they also went out as missionaries to share the gospel with the people of the far north or England, and the faith spread.



The remains of the monastery that grew and flourished there still remain. The island is still tidal, and retains a peace and tranquillity, as well as a sense of the presence of God. It feels special to be walking where these early pioneers of faith and mission in this country first walked. Holy Island is well worth a visit.

A few dates that you may wish to make a note of - of course you must be aware that Christmas is approaching - the shops seem to think that September has it just around the corner - but here are some other noteworthy events...



Sunday 6th October	Harvest Festival 10 am
Thursday 10th October	Church Social, Royal Oak, 7.30 pm
Sunday 24th November	Church members AGM (after morning service)
Sunday 8th December	Advent Evensong (joint with Hainault BC) 4 pm
Tuesday 10th December	Church Christmas Dinner (tbc)
Sunday 15th December	All Age Christmas Service, (including a Nativity of sorts!) 10 am
Sunday 22nd December	Carols by Candlelight 4 pm
Tuesday 24th December	Midnight Communion 11.30 pm
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day Service 10 am

COFFEE FOR A GOOD CAUSE...



On Friday September the 27th we were invited by Cherie, ably assisted by Jenny Cove, to a coffee morning at the Manse in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Charity. There was coffee (or tea!) and a wide selection of cakes on offer and a good number from HPBC, as well as some of Cherie's neighbours, spent a very pleasant time indulging in said coffee and cakes along with just a smattering of conversation – actually, there was a lot of conversation! The excellent sum of £210.00 was raised so much thanks goes to all who took part.



The idea of a coffee morning to raise funds was dreamt up by Gillian (Jill) Phillips, who had worked for Macmillan from 1980 and the first small coffee morning took place in 1990 and involved people across the country gathering for a coffee and donating the cost of their drink to the charity.

Very sadly she never knew how her idea had blossomed as she later suffered with dementia. Over the years the charity has raised well over £300 million pounds with 2023 being a great year with £18,041,302 raised, which is enough to fund 288 Macmillan nurses for a year. All this from one small idea...



Let us raise our cups to Jill for her splendid brainwave

DL

A time for giving

Charities are such an important part of our communities and country. Needs are great and we as people are wonderful at supporting either with gifts or financially. Some charities give support in times of crisis e.g. when there are floods or fires, with a coming together of people who donate in so many ways in order to give whatever is needed during a particular time.

We have recently taken part in hosting MacMillan Tea Parties to raise money for a Cancer charity, which is well known, and gives support to those suffering from many forms of cancer and their families when they are at their most vulnerable.

Most of us in our lives have come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with cancer. Whether it is a family member, friend colleague or acquaintance we may have given support emotionally, prayerfully and generally showing love through our words and actions. We may be doing it from afar sometimes but however we do it, it means the world to that person and can give so much comfort in the knowledge that they are being thought of.

Dave and I want to thank our Zoom group for the prayers which have helped our nephew and his beloved Maggie, who both lived in Switzerland. They met 5 years ago and at their time of meeting Maggie was in remission from her cancer. Three years on, her cancer returned in her brain and body, whereby she was given just 6 months to live. She had an operation on her brain to remove a tumour and from then on chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy at regular intervals. Her strength was incredible. It is amazing how those suffering find an inner strength to continue on a path which is quite lonely and frightening and yet keep fighting. Many find God in these situations if not before.

Maggie loved visiting Einsiedeln Abbey, which is not too far from Zurich, where they lived and is one of the largest places of pilgrimage in Switzerland. The main chapel is very ornate and beautiful. She would sit alone near the altar and found peace there. She loved to walk in the woods and nature also gave her strength.

Maggie passed away recently in a hospice with David by her side having lived for 2 years longer than predicted. He said of her that she lived life as a celebration, with no modicum of self-pity. He thanks everyone for their prayers.

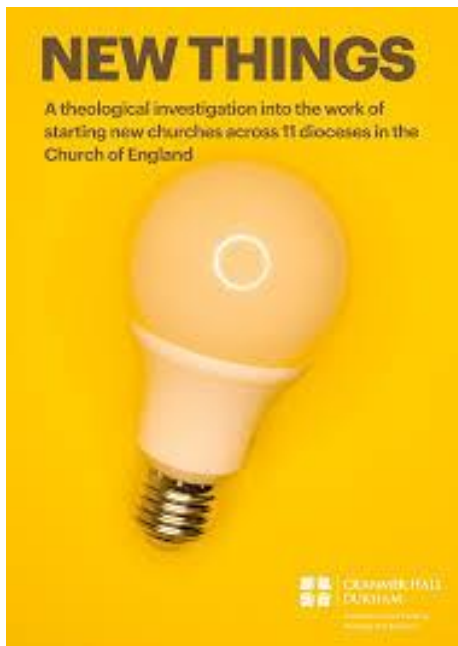
Wherever people are, here - or in other parts of the world - our prayers can reach those who are suffering. Often, there is very little that we can do other than pray but in doing so we are sharing in the love of a God who knows each and everyone of us. He is the one that we can rely on for the comfort that we need.

Through modern treatments and research more and more people go onto survive and their lives continue. Research is so important for progress for all illnesses.

Di Kendrick

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

You may have read recently that The Church of England is dropping the word Church. This came from an article in the Church Times entitled 'New churches are dropping the word 'church, report finds'. This seemed worthy of investigation.



It appears that the snappily titled '*New Things: A theological investigation into the work of starting new churches across 11 dioceses in the Church of England*', does not indicate that the Church of England will become 'The New Things of England. Rather it seems that where there have been new initiatives in the eleven dioceses of the Church of England these are not including the word 'Church' in the description of these 'New Things. In the report it is noted that each of the dioceses is 'working with a unique ecclesiology' which I take to mean is that they are doing their own thing and not standardising their thoughts. It tells that instead of the word 'church' the main

descriptor of 'new things' the words 'congregation', 'worship' and 'community' are being used.

The report covers at least four pages of A4 and is very in depth. If you really want to read it it can be found on the internet. I found it hard going – the lengths I go to in my research! – but underlying the actual reason for the report is the fact of the many other aspects which come into play. Part of the report reads: -

Setting the context for the research, the report notes that one of the three priorities of the national Vision and Strategy for the current decade is: "To be a church where mixed ecology is the norm — where every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith by adding new churches and new forms of Church to our parishes, cathedrals, schools and chaplaincies." In 2021, plans to establish more than 10,000 new worshipping communities over the next decade were announced (News, 2 July 2021). At least £82.7 million in Strategic Development Funding (SDF) was invested in starting new churches.

Who knew?

Having worked out that the word church was not in imminent threat of becoming an ex-word I thought a little more research on what and where the word came from and is now used. Again, the internet provided much help.

In Greek the word church in the New Testament is '*ekklesia*' which literally means 'a called-out assembly'. In etymology the word 'church' means 'house of the Lord'. The modern usage of the word comes from the Old English word '*cirice*' or '*circe*' first recorded in the thirteenth century and even at that time it could mean 'a body of Christian Believers' or the place where they gathered.

There is a connection from the Ancient Greek term of *kurikon oikia* which means 'the Lord's house'. This was later shortened to '*kurikon*' and the via the German '*kirika*' it became the Old English '*cirice*'. This goes further as '*cirice*' was borrowed by Old Norse as '*kirkia*' which eventually became the Scottish '*kirk*'.

Perhaps the Quakers beat the Anglicans to the idea of not using the word 'Church' - the early Quakers, as a matter of principle, refused to call the buildings where they met "churches," since the biblical word church biblical referred to the people, not a building.



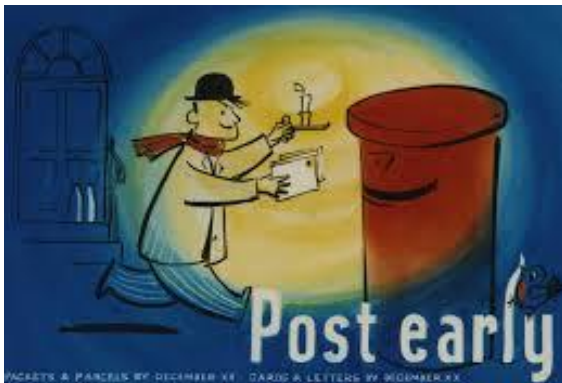
The Quakers instead called a building designed for Christian worship a "steeplehouse." That term is now archaic, as many church buildings no longer have a steeple. They now use the term 'Friends Meeting House' which does have a nice ring to it indicating that those attending are friends.

A phrase little heard these days is 'Being Church'd'. The obvious meaning refers to someone who is affiliated with a church. However, in the Catholic faith it is a traditional ceremony that takes place after a mother has recovered from childbirth. The ceremony is a time to give thanks to God for the safe delivery of the child, and to ask for graces to raise the child in a Christian way. The ceremony typically takes place around four to six weeks after the birth. The mother may kneel in the church or vestibule, carry a lit candle, and wait for the priest. The ceremony may include prayers, blessings, the priest saying the 116th Psalm, and the woman making offerings.

In whatever way you use the word CHURCH it still has the meaning of being most important in your life...

DL

EARLY WARNING!



The Christmas Post Box is back again - Dianne and David Kendrick are donning their postie costumes once more - we are very grateful to them. These are the delivery and collection dates:

Sunday, 8th December - EARLY BIRD DELIVERY
(no collection available)

Sunday, 15th December - DELIVERY. COLLECTION
after Service only.

Sunday, 22nd December - LAST SUNDAY FOR DELIVERY
Collection available after Service only

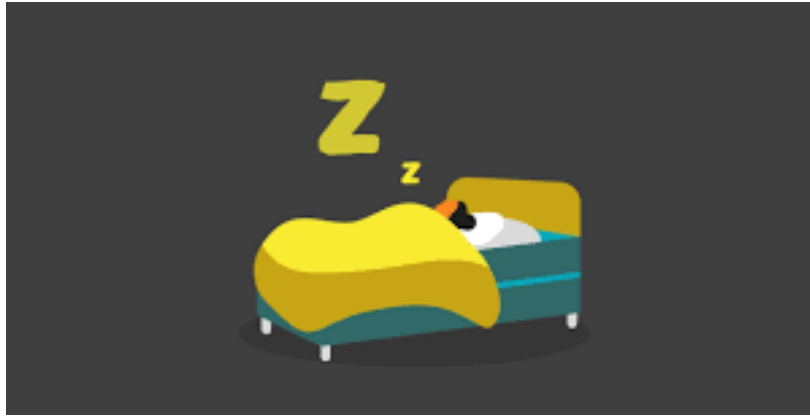
Wednesday 25th December - LAST MINUTE COLLECTION ONLY. Please DO NOT deliver cards to Church on this day as there will not be time to sort them for collection.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

PRINT names with Surnames clearly and put your cards in **alphabetical Surname order**. This helps the organisers to sort the cards quickly and easily, whilst also enabling them to get to some of the Morning Service.

Please note that this service is for the exchange of cards that are for personal collection or that can be collected on behalf of somebody - it is not for cards that need posting on as normal mail. Cards that are not collected will not be sent on.

Remember also that the money saved on postage by using this system can go to the Christmas offering!



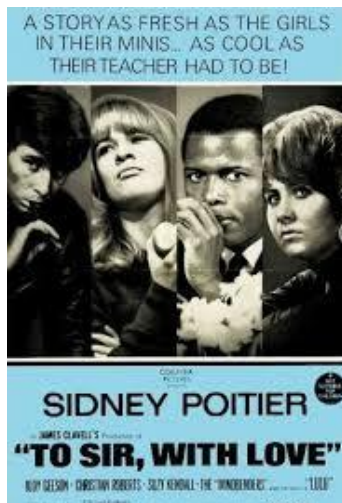
Do Not Forget – You Get That Extra Hour in Bed



The Clocks Go Back One Hour on October 27th

The Highams Park Film Society

The Society are presenting three more films this year to be shown at the Baptist Church. Everybody is welcome. Doors open at 1:30pm and the film starts at 2pm. Entrance is £4 for members and £6 for non-members with children free. In December the film starts at 2.45 pm - A lunch will be served for which a charge is made. The films are: -



28th October



25th November



16th December

CHURCH DIARY

October

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

Sunday 6th	10 am	Harvest Festival Service
Monday 7th	10.30	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 8 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Thursday 10th	7.30 pm	Church Social, Royal Oak
Friday 11th	7 pm	Youth Evening 7 pm
Sunday 13th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 14th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 15th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 20th	10 am	Morning Service 10.0 led by Dr. Paul Davis
Monday 21st	10.30 am	Coffee Morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 22nd	7.45 pm	Home group via
Sunday 27th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Sunday 27th	4 pm	Live worship and prayer in church
Thursday 31st	7.30 pm	Church Council meeting

November

Sunday 3rd	10 am	Morning Service
Monday 4th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 5th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Friday 8th	7 pm	Youth Evening
Sunday 10th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School
Monday 11th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 12th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 17th	10 am	Morning Service
Monday 18th	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 19 th	7.45 pm	Home group via Zoom
Sunday 24th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School followed by AGM
Sunday 1st	10 am	Morning Service Led by Dr Paul Davis
	3 pm	'Hurt and Hope Memorial Service (for those bereaved this year)

December

Monday 2nd	10.30 am	Coffee morning till 12 pm
Tuesday 3rd	7.45 pm	Home group via zoom
Sunday 8th	10 am	Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School