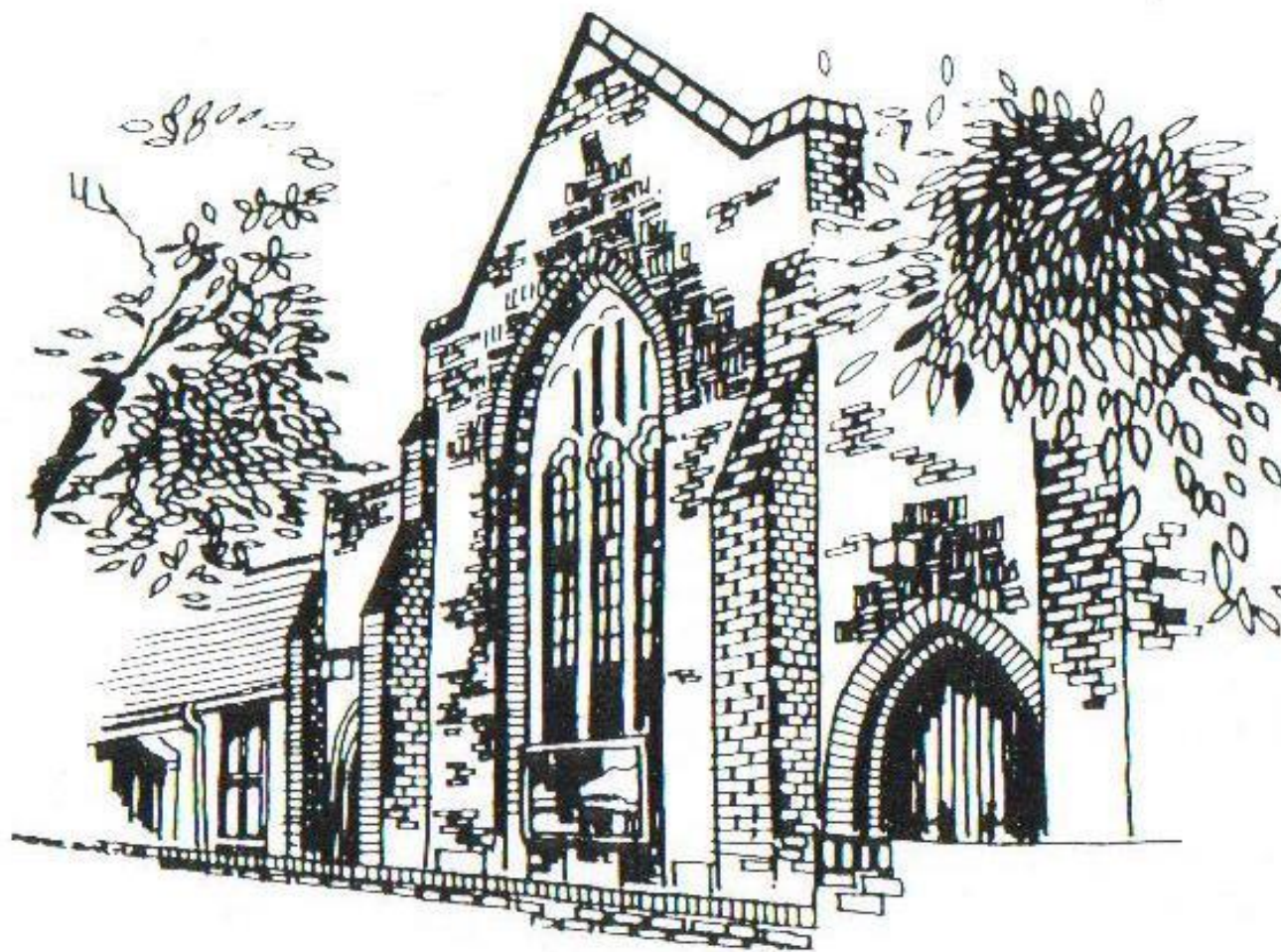




The Magazine
of
**Highams Park Baptist
Church**

Cavendish Road, E.4.



SUGGESTED DONATION £1.00

October / November 2023

1CHURCH PROGRAMME

At the time of writing

Current Covid Safety Arrangements

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

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

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



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 26th November 2023
Editor : Dave Lyus. Email : magazine@hpbc.co.uk



Cavendish Road, London E4 9NG
October / November 2023

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Dear Friends

It is hard to believe that I have been with you for a month now; the time has flown by! It has been good to get settled in the manse, to begin to get to know the neighbourhood and to meet up with so many of you already - a joy and a privilege. (I will get round to all of you as soon as I can!)

September is a season of new beginnings in so many ways for many people – the new school year means new classes and new teachers, maybe changing schools, beginning at college, as well as this being a new chapter for us as a church. After the slower summer break, there is often a new enthusiasm and energy to get stuck-in again with the new season. I have certainly found this to be so as I have started my ministry here - and the Induction Service on the 9th September was a wonderful marker for that.

But at the same time, I am also aware of the need not to rush into busyness for the sake of busyness – that is a symptom of our anxious and stressed society. There can be a pressure to feel that we must do something to reverse the decline in church; we must act to attract new members! And we must do it now! The danger is we can end up rushing at 100 miles per hour only to find that we are running on the spot, and that we are not actually moving forward, and that in the process we have exhausted ourselves as well.

At my Induction service, the Rev Lucy Wright, Regional Minister for London Baptists, made this very point. We can be so desperate to do something that we don't take the time to seek God to discern what God really wants us to do rather than just following our own good ideas. As Lucy indicated, it takes time to discern. We need to seek God and we need to pray – prayer is key. Then we can be sure that we are hearing what God wants us to do. So that is my focus for the immediate future, to pray and seek God, alongside getting to know you all properly.

One of the ways I like to do this is through prayer-walking through the neighbourhood. Praying for the people who live in the streets, and asking God to show me what He sees and what He wants to do. I hope to re-start a prayer meeting at church soon for those who wish to pray with me. (Watch out for notices about this.)

But I have also become aware of the need to be still in this season: to be quiet and to let God speak to my heart and mind. This has come through the reading a helpful little book called, 'Flee, Be Silent, Pray' by Ed Cyzewski. His main premise is that our world and life is so pressured that it can even create a spiritual stress and anxiety in our lives – a stress that makes us strive to want to get results and 'achieve' for God and advance the gospel. The Bible actually is clear that we also need to take time out as well to do the very opposite, and retreat. *'Be still and know that I am God'* says Psalm 41:10.

During the summer I made a wonderful discovery – a Christian house of retreat in the village of Pleshey (near Chelmsford) It is a place where you can get away from the busyness of life and focus upon being in God's presence without distraction. As your minister, I will be aiming to take a day of retreat there every six weeks, to take stock of where I am in my own spiritual life and walk with God, and also to reflect on where we are together as a church. This will be of benefit to both me and to you all.

But I wonder, can I encourage you to do the same in some small way – even if just for a couple of hours in a month? Switch off your phone, turn off the television, and be quiet with God. Ask him to speak to you about your journey of faith and where we are as a church. In the book, Cyzewski also encourages us to take a few moments of silent retreat with God every day – even if for just ten minutes in the middle of the day – to turn our full attention to God and not be distracted by the busyness:

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

Psalm 27:4

In this next season, may we all find this time to be with God and to listen to His still small voice.

Blessings,

Cherie

Cavendish Circular



As we greet Autumn, I think we may ask what happened to Summer? Some very hot days but lots of mediocre weather. But our lives have been brightened by the fact that we now, officially, have our new minister, and we warmly welcome her.

Cherie may be new to the church, but we also remember someone who has been part of our congregation for many years and who has just celebrated a remarkable birthday – of course we refer to Doris Thorndyke who has reached the age of one hundred and two and 'as reports have it, is 'still on the ball with conversations!'

We, as always, remember those who for whatever reason are unable to attend church and hope that they might know that they are in our thoughts. Also those who have ongoing health issues.

Please continue to pray for Emma Lewis-Azayear as she awaits the results of an MRI scan, a good outcome will be one step closer to setting a date for surgery. Also please continue to pray for those in our church family who have been lately bereaved especially Karon Jenkins who recently lost her father.

Help wanted

Are you able to poke a key on a keyboard with your finger? If so, then you are qualified to help with the images on the screen on a Sunday morning. We REALLY need help and need people to come forwards to join a rota. You will not be required to do any programming or setting up it is literally moving the images on and flicking the words over during the songs. Full training provided!

We could also do with training up a few people to use the sound system, slightly more technical but not too involved. PLEASE speak to Robert or Mandy so that we can get as many trained as possible on each so that we have holidays and sickness covered and we could possibly have a Sunday off!

The eagle eyed amongst you might have noticed that the weekly home Zoom group has been deleted from the Church Programme. Sarah and Paul have run the group for some four years – firstly at their home and when Covid struck it transferred very successfully to Zoom. They now feel that they would like a rest, but it is hoped that it may revive in some fashion in the near future – watch this space! We do thank them so much for all their hard work and guidance over the years. It has been greatly appreciated and will be even more greatly missed.



As mentioned in the last issue we are to get a defibrillator fitted at the church. The box has been fitted by the front entrance, but we still await the actual equipment.

The Induction of Cherie



In the last issue we described the Ordination Service for Cherie at which she officially became The Reverend Cherie Rogers. Now we move on some weeks, and, by her Induction, she is officially the Reverend Cherie Rogers of Highams Park Baptist Church.

The Induction Service was held on one of the hotter days of the year and to my regret I was unable to attend due to a long-standing prior engagement. I have heard that there was a full church. However, by modern technology I was able to hear what happened via a link to YouTube. If you would like to hear it too then use the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKsxdp81JIK>.

I found it well worth while...

The service was introduced in what was his last duty by our Moderator, Andrew Willis. He has been a great help in keeping the church going during the Interregnum and we thank him very much for his guidance. There were Opening Prayers and Worship followed by Jason Close describing how, since the announcement of forthcoming retirement by the previous Minister in September 2021, we had arrived at the happy event of the day's celebration. The process takes some time and involves the writing of a 'profile' which lays down who we are, where we are and what we are looking for in a minister – this all



sounds simple, but it is so important that much thought, discussion and prayer was given to it. Once completed it was posted on the Baptist website to see what the response would be. There was some interest, but this came to nothing. We heard later from Cherie that she had looked through the vacancies and for some reason had been drawn to that at HPBC but did not follow it up at the time as she was not allowed to until she had started her final year. When she looked again the vacancy was no longer there – it had probably been withdrawn whilst the applications had been followed up. Very fortunately Cherie looked again and there it was – this time she did something about it and sent her profile. She was invited to come to preach, and it was agreed by the church that she should be invited to 'preach with a view'. The Church Council and later the members of the church decided overwhelmingly (you do not get better than a hundred percent in agreement!) that Cherie should be offered the role of minister.

Happily for us she agreed. Cherie then told of how she had been drawn to HPBC and how she looked forward so much to being our minister.



The next part of the service was taken by Lucy Wright who is responsible for the North East and Eastern districts of the London Baptists. She was coincidentally the minister of Eltham Park Baptist Church in Southeast London where Cherie was based whilst in training. Lucy as Regional Minister had to ask Cherie the proscribed questions as follows below:

THE INDUCTION Statement on behalf of the church Statement by the Minister
Induction Promises

Regional Minister: Seeing that we are about to appoint you to this charge and that you have been called by God to this ministry, I ask you in His name, do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Minister: I do

Regional Minister: Do you believe in your heart that you have been called by God to the pastoral oversight of this church and congregation?

Minister: I do

Regional Minister: As you serve among this church family and community will you be committed to giving to its members and receiving from them? Will you obey the call to lead this fellowship whilst continuing to follow our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Church?

Minister: I will, relying on God's help :

Regional Minister: My sisters and brothers, together you are making an important act of commitment believing that you have been called by God to work with this minister. In God's name I ask you, do you believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Church Members: We do



Regional Minister: Do you, the members of this church fellowship acknowledge and receive Cherie as your minister?

Church Members: We do

Regional Minister: Will you honour and support Cherie, working together humbly and cheerfully as the people of God?

Church Members: We will

The whole congregation is invited to stand.

Regional Minister: As representatives of the wider Church and community, do you support this new chapter in the life of church and minister?

Congregation We do

Regional Minister: Will you continue to offer your support, prayer and encouragement in the months and years ahead?

Congregation: We will

The congregation remains standing for the Induction Prayer

Declaration of Induction: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the name of this church and in the name of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, I now declare that Cherie has been inducted to the pastorate of this church and congregation, to work with the members in the ministry to which Christ has called them all. As a token of this I now give the right hand of fellowship.

The whole congregation joins in saying: May the Lord bless you and keep you The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you The Lord turn His face towards you and give you His peace.

Greetings were received from Iain Duncan Smith the local MP, from Cherie's previous church at Eltham and from Linda Campbell of Spurgeon's College and finally from Rev. Jonathan Somerville representing the local district group of Baptist Churches.



Linda Campbell



Rev. Jonathan Somerville

The Induction service may in some way be considered as being like the marriage ceremony – both minister and the church membership make promises and the

words 'I will' and 'I do' are heard. Perhaps this feeling was amplified by Andrew Willis stating 'whom God has joined together...'



The hymn singing (as heard on the recording) was excellent and accompanied by a music group which included Cherie's younger son Matt on saxophone and his older brother on box drum. Andrew who was the treasurer of Cherie's previous church had agreed to come and support her and also play the piano.

There followed a sermon given by Lucy Wright. She caused some laughter when she described, although not sure why, how she had been to see the film 'Barbie'. I will not spoil your enjoyment of the film if you intend seeing it but Lucy drew a very interesting comparison with the world Barbie found herself in and the one in which we live... it is well worth following the link given earlier and listening to the sermon – definitely food for thought!

The service was followed by refreshments and a time for fellowship.



We are delighted that Cherie is our new minister and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

DL

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The service, on Sunday 24th September, started with that well-known hymn ‘We plough the fields and scatter’ followed by 2 more hymns. Cherie then posed the question “Why do we celebrate harvest” - which generated some interesting responses from younger members of the congregation. A ‘Day of plenty’ video from the BMS Appeal was shown which explained how wildfires, famine, climate change and years of civil war in Uganda had left families rebuilding their lives from scratch. Life in Uganda still isn’t easy but the people who live there can see a brighter future ahead.



Young, and not so young, were then invited to do a bit of seed sowing themselves by putting some mustard seeds onto damp cotton wool inside small cups. Cups to be taken home and results photographed to see how good a farmer they were.

Memories were tested by a short quiz relating to the video and Uganda in general.

The readings from John 16 v 33 and Psalm 37 v3-4 and v 18-19 were read by Joseph and Alice.





Many food items had been placed at the front of the church before, during and after the service. These were taken, and gratefully received, a few days later to the 'Hub' food bank at All Saints Church.

After the service a 'bring and share' lunch was enjoyed by those present - many thanks must be given to all those who organised the lunch, especially Mandy, as there was an amazing variety of delicacies on offer!!



Please remember that we as a church continue to support the Hub Food Bank.

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

With thanks to Dave Kendrick for the words and pictures.

*A Dozen Red Roses - A Celebration of the Life of
Michael John Frederick Ansell (Mike)*

5th January 1934 – 18th July 2023



Family and friends met at the City of London Crematorium on Wednesday August 9th to celebrate the life of Michael Ansell who died recently.

Mike had been unwell for some time. He had a stroke some months ago and was seemingly making slow progress in being able to do a little more. This had limited Hazel's opportunities. Very sadly Mike suffered a further stroke in May and had spent a long period in hospital but eventually decided that he wanted to come home.

Paul Raymond who has been visiting Mike during his time both in hospital and then at home following the second more serious stroke took an excellent role in leading the service in a calm and dignified manner. He noted the fact that Mike and Hazel had spent many happy years together and told how on wedding anniversaries, Mike would always present her with a dozen red roses. Hazel was able to return the sentiment by making a dozen red roses as her floral tribute.

Hazel read a poem entitled 'Love is' by Joyce Lodge. This was not a poem that many people had heard before, but it puts into words what love between two people is and how it should last for ever.

Love Is

*Love is in a tender touch,
A look, a word, a smile,
Love is in a selfless deed,
To go that extra mile,
Love is forgiveness,
When harsh words have been said,
Love is togetherness,
As along life's road we tread,
Love is to be caring,
For the sick and frail,
Love is understanding,
Knowing we can fail,
Love is in compassion,
For those less fortunate,
Love is to see our faults,
Before it is too late,
Love is for the family,
Their cares and worries share,
Love is just to listen,
To show you're always there,
Love is commitment,
For a man and wife,
Love is blessed by God,
Who's there for us in life.
(to which Hazel added 'and in death')*

Paul gave the Bible reading from Matthew Chapter 5 verses 1 to 12 - the Beatitudes. He then remembered how Mike put such effort into learning to speak again after his first stroke and how that was lost after the second. However he was able to bring his hands together indicating that he wished to pray with Paul and always wanted The Lord's Prayer which all those present said together.

It was then the turn of Hazel and Mike's son, Simon, to recall some of his memories of his father. He has been kind enough to let me have a copy so that I can include it in this tribute.

A few thoughts about Dad,

Dad was always helpful, kind, a proper gentle man, loving husband, adoring Grandfather to Poppy, and probably, to his horror, the reason I became an artist!

In the early days I was once shocked and inspired when Dad drew an amazing panorama for the back of my fish tank – not realising at the time that he could even draw. Then came the cameras... Dad was a prolific photographer. There were always cameras around the house, and quite often the lounge would be all moved around, and either mum or I would be sat down in front of a camera whilst dad proceeded to test a new lens or lighting technique. But the cameras were not only for dad, and he would always, and quite happily, hand over his most recent purchase, so that I could have a go and try it out. Even Poppy got to have a go on his latest Nikon – and she was only six!

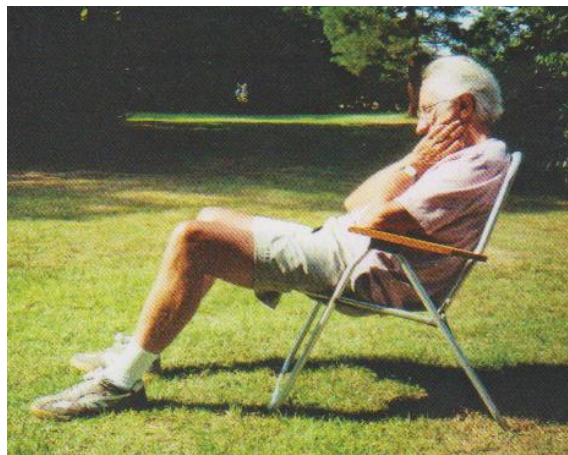
Dad also made things... wardrobes, fireplaces, kitchen cupboards, numerous shelves, boxes, porches, sheds, garages, patios, a square summer house and an octagonal summer house, an awful lot of picture frames, and a darkroom in the loft to name a few.

Dad was always ready to help anyone, never cutting corners and trying to do the very best he could for them. A truly inspirational dad, a loving husband to mum and a wonderful grandfather to Poppy.

Missed but never forgotten.

Hazel's neighbour had very kindly offered to provide a space in her bungalow and garden for refreshments after the service and this was a wonderful gesture giving time to remember Mike and to thank Paul for his hard work in leading the service. WE thank her for it.

Hazel had not been able to leave Mike for very long and was unable to get to church. It is good to know that she has felt able to return. DL





As you will know I have been trawling through the magazines in the archive from the 1930's looking at shops and businesses that advertised in them. I recently found something else of interest! In the January 1934 issue there was as usual an article titled 'The Story of our Church'. In the article there was a description of trying to raise a fund of £500.00. This amount was decided upon as being the minimum in the Building Fund before a pastor could be appointed. In order to 'rally the troops' one of the deacons (unnamed) composed and dedicated a song to the 'Go Forward' movement...

It is sung to the tune of 'Way Down Upon the Swanee River'.

'FORWARD'

Hard by where the Chingford brook is rushing
through Highams Park,
The Baptists forward still are pushing
On past the 'Two Fifty' mark.
By Sale of Work, and Box Collection,
By voucher's aid,
By ev'ry plan in recollection,
Progress is sure being made.

Chorus:

Come and help us swell the volume,
Forward still we move,
Until the building planned on paper,
Becomes the building that we love.

Note: The 'Two Fifty' mark was £250.00.

I am not certain that Churchill copied this idea, but you never know...

DL

We are delighted to wish a belated Happy Birthday to Doris Thorndyke who has recently celebrated reaching the wonderful age of 102! Her son Chris has kindly sent us some details for inclusion in the magazine. Doris is resident at Heathlands Care Home, and they helped her to enjoy her special day:

Celebrating a Century and Beyond: Happy 102nd, Doris!



We tipped our hats and raised our glasses to the incredible Doris, who has graced this world with her presence for 102 spectacular years! Her special day was marked by an outpouring of love, as she was showered with cards, balloons, and flowers.

Born as the eldest in a family of seven, Doris has always had an indomitable spirit and a heart full of stories. She beams with pride whenever she speaks of her two brave brothers, Vic, who ran away to join the No.2 Commando, and Jim, a dedicated serviceman in the Navy. Just recently, Jim was honoured with a medal for his incredible service on the Arctic Convoys. Growing up off the Billet Road in Walthamstow, Doris has a collection of wartime tales. One vivid memory she often recalls is of the time she was engrossed watching Spitfires in action, chasing down German bombers. So engrossed, in fact, that an air raid warden had to pull her off her bicycle for safety!



In 1945, Doris' heart found its match in Alfred, and together they embarked on their life together, blessing the world with two wonderful sons, Michael & Chris. Join us in celebrating Doris, a woman of resilience, love, and stories that span decades. Here's to many more memories and tales of yesteryears! Cheers to you, Doris!

Words of thanks and more...

Our friend Peter Burke has been going through some difficult times recently and wants to thank the many people who have, in some way, given him comfort and support. He has sent some items for the magazine - more next time.



I wanted to leave a big thank you for your love and support this year. Sometimes in life we just can't cope. But when things fall apart, God knows how to put us back together. Art therapy has been really helpful too. We must be gentle with ourselves.

This picture is actually a mural that I captured on my phone in Brick Lane while I was cycling home. I was definitely wearing my helmet and I stopped before taking it!

The picture says so much and has a number of encouraging reminders which lead us to many scriptures too.

God is with us.
He has not forgotten us.
He knows exactly the pit we are in
He will save us.
There is a rescue plan.
The light is still there.
Darkness has not overwhelmed us
although it is there.
Take one step on the ladder at a time
or even just hold firm for now.

God is with us. *Peter*



Special Places - Where time Stands still or does it?

Recently Dave and I spent a few days in West Sussex with my sister and brother-in-law. My family moved to Chichester when I was 13 years old so much of the area is well known to us all.

We met up to see a new production of The Sound of Music in Chichester Festival Theatre but stayed in Havant due to sky high prices of accommodation in Chichester. On the day that we arrived we were able to visit various places which were near to Havant.

It was about 4.30 in the afternoon when we turned into Cott Lane. It had been very breezy up to this point but suddenly the sun shone low in the sky and it became peaceful and calm. We were heading to a village called Chidham. There is a single lane running to the village with ditches on either side. On a clear day, as this day was, you can see the waters of Chichester Harbour glistening in the distance and the boats sailing along.

Chidham is a very small village with about 1,003 residents, a Care Home called Pinewood, an Inn called The House at Home and a very old church which I shall review. It is built on a peninsular jutting out into Chichester Harbour so it is a place with many walks and therefore visited for this purpose by many who would then frequent the Inn.

Why visit such a small place you may ask? It is because the village and church are close to our hearts. Our mother was in the Care Home there for 18 months, 13 years ago and lies in the churchyard close the church.

We visited her grave first of all. The newer graves were in the overspill area of the church. It is such a beautiful place surrounded by a hedge with golden wheat fields on the other side of it. We were amazed to see that part of the hedge had been removed and a new grave had appeared; wreaths still intact - one of which was in the shape of a tractor. This grave was partly in the graveyard but also spilling into the wheat field. It belonged to the farmer. It seemed so fitting. Such a special place. After spending a while there we crossed over the lane and walked into the main churchyard hoping that the church would be open. It was 5.30pm by this time. God must have been with us as the door was, fortunately, open.

St Mary's Chidham Is quite a plain church from the outside. It resides in a well-kept churchyard housing ancient gravestones. It is a 13th Century church, being built around 1210. It was built from flint and rubble; these being brought in from various quarries.



Some stones came from the Roman Wall in Chichester. In the summer sun it is honey coloured. There is a possibility that before this church was built there was a wooden church construction on the same site dating even further back. There is a bell Cote on the roof, which was added in the 19th Century, housing two bells and the wooden porch at the entrance was added in Victorian times.

At the back of the church there is a gate leading to a 17th Century Manor House. There are even older gravestones there covered in lichen and ivy. It is thought that the people of Chidham were mainly farmers and not fishermen as was originally assumed. The ground around there is extremely fertile.

Entering the church through the wooden porch a heavy wooden door leads into the cool interior and the main Chancel. The flooring is of red and black flag stones. You pass a christening font made from ancient stone which had been rediscovered in the 19th Century. It had been hidden under the floor during the Reformation and only came to light when work was being done in the church. The pews are wooden in keeping with building. Above the altar in the main chancel there are stained glass windows which seem to cut out the light making that area darker. On the walls are stone carved memorials to local families and people who would have been an influence in the village. There are also a series of shields along the wall.



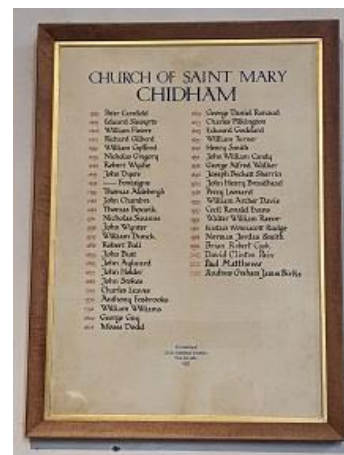
To the side of the main chancel is a smaller chapel called St Cuthman's Chapel. This had an addition of a beautiful more modern stained-glass window, designed by Mel House in 2010 which was the year that our mother had passed away and we had donated money towards it in her memory. In that year a special celebration took place to mark the churches 800th anniversary. The window is in a vibrant cobalt blue and plain glass depicting St Cuthman pushing his disabled mother in a wheelbarrow for 30 miles between Chidham and Steyning [you may ask why - I've yet to discover] and also St Wilfred, the patron Saint of fishermen. The sunlight reflects beautifully through the blue making this chapel lighter. It is quite a small chapel with seating and a prayer tree. The small altar holds a book of those who had passed away and donated to the window as a memorial to them.

Both our parents' names are included. During the same celebration another modern and somewhat amusing creation are the Teasel People. On the sills and ledges are a series of people whose heads are made from the Teasel plants. They were dressed in costumes and each one represented someone who had left their mark in history: A crusader, St Richard of



Chichester, Genghis Khan, Joan of Arc, the black death, Leonardo Da Vinci, Shakespeare, right through to our late Queen Elizabeth II and even the Beatles. They have stood the test of time to be enjoyed by all who visit today. Walking to the back of the church beyond the font is a small organ with pipes, water colour and sketches of the church in frames and

pictures of some of the Vicars who had served in the church over time. Nearby is a list written in italic of all the vicars dating back to the very first one.



Last of all, above this was something that we hadn't seen before. What had been a plain leaded window now carried a new design by Jane Young. It's drawn on cellophane using acrylic paint. It's called "Life Cycles in Chidham" and represents the footsteps of our ancestors all the way back when St Mary's was built in the 13th century before the Black Death. [The picture of it makes the meaning clearer]

After saying our prayers and leaving a message in the visitor's book, we left this church so steeped in history and yet had moved forward to blend in the ancient with the modern in a way in which it delighted rather than offended those who visited it. We were so blessed to have the opportunity to go inside and relive our memories.

The Sound of Music was an incredible production and that took place on the next day when it poured with rain nonstop!!!!

Di Kendrick

Favourite Hymns

Something slightly different this time. At a recent service (the last before Cherie was inducted) Dr. Paul Davis had prepared a service around the fact that we, as a church, would soon have our own minister again. He explained that both we and Cherie would have to come to understand each other and that is likely to be a 'running in' period (this will only mean anything to motorists of a certain age). He also introduced the hymn by saying that he always tried to choose a hymn that few if any would know and that this one seemed very appropriate – what he did not expect was the fact that Cherie was in the congregation!

*There is joy in serving Jesus — living Lord and present friend.
Through the work to which he calls us, God's great reign of love extends.
We proclaim what we've been given: Jesus came to set us free!
We are called to love and serve him; there is joy in ministry.
There is joy in seeking justice for our neighbours near and far.
There is joy in showing kindness, meeting people where they are.
There is joy in walking humbly with our God who guides the way.
God has called us to this journey; there is joy when we obey.
There is joy in caring gently for our neighbours and for earth.
There is joy in helping churches value every person's worth.
There is joy in faithful preaching and in teaching of God's love,
at the font, at feasts for sharing, in our songs that rise above.
At this time of installation, joy is great and hopes are new.
Bless this loving congregation; bless this loving pastor, too.
God, bless what we do together; by your Spirit may we be
faithful in this new adventure, joyful in this ministry.*

Carolyn Gillette

The annoying thing is that it was sung to a very well-known tune and I cannot remember what it was... DL

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



As we approach the end of the year, we start to see those many volunteers that are only too happy to accept a contribution towards what has become known as 'Poppy Day'. On that one weekend in November we as a nation remember those people who, over the years, have been killed or injured in the line of duty. And we use the poppy as a symbol of that remembering.

However, I found out recently that this goes back beyond the normally accepted timeline starting from the first world war. Several anonymous documents have been found that compare the abundance of the red poppy on the battlefields with blood spilt during the conflict. Part of the reason for the poppy growing so well under such circumstances is that the seeds grow very well on ground that has been churned up as it is in warfare. These documents do not refer to 'Flanders Fields' but to another battle site – that of Waterloo and the Napoleonic Wars about a century earlier.

War is not something that we normally associate with humour but many of you will be aware of the comedy series 'Blackadder Goes Forth' which took place during the Great War. There was indeed a lot of situation comedy – that is until the very last scene which showed Blackadder who had been trying desperately to get out of the war zone eventually having to 'go over the top' with all his colleagues in a show of bravery. As was so often the case in those times they were met by a hail of machine gun fire. The scene gradually shifts from slow motion of people charging across the rutted terrain to the calm of a picture of fields of poppies. It was unstated but you assumed that all had been killed. It was a very poignant way to show the futility of war and attracted much praise for the handling of a difficult subject.

Originally the idea of Remembrance Day was to mark the toll taken on those in the armed forces who in many theatres of war have been killed or injured. The Royal British Legion use the monies raised in 'Providing Help & Support to Service Men and Women and Their Families Since 1921'. This has been seen as a very worthy cause, but some people contend that we should be remembering all people killed in conflict both forces personnel and civilians. To some extent this is met by The Peace Pledge Union who issue white poppies although this is a pacifist organisation opposed to all wars.

Poppies play an important role in the national act of remembrance – there is The Festival of Remembrance shown on television on Saturday night from The Royal Albert Hall where there are displays from all the various branches of the services. This ends with a drumhead service and during the following two-minute silence the release of poppy leaves from the roof of the Hall which fall on the assembled men and women. And how many petals fall? – one million.



On the following Sunday there is the national opportunity to remember the injured and fallen. Here the poppies are again on display as part of the wreaths laid by the good and famous as well as those many groups of ex service people who make up such an unforgettable ending to the proceedings.



And finally did you know that poppies sold for Remembrance in Scotland have four petals and no leaves compared with the more usual two petals and a leaf.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

Very quickly it would seem from the supermarket shelves filling up with goodies from August! However, we have some dates for your diaries...



If it all seems to be getting too much, then perhaps this version of Psalm 23 may come in useful:

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind,

And his guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish this day,

I will not fret, for his presence is here.

His timelessness, His all-importance, Will keep me in balance.

*He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
by anointing my head with the oil of tranquillity.*

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,

for I shall walk in the place of my Lord, and dwell in His house forever.

Toki Miyashina

Those were the days.

Over the past months I have been telling the story of businesses and companies that used to advertise in the magazines of the 1930's. Whilst there may be a little more to come of that topic, I felt it might be interesting to look back on the wider area of Walthamstow (as it was then). This was prompted by my discovery of some cuttings that I made from the Walthamstow Guardian of 1984 - I must have known they would come in useful nearly forty years later...

They called the series of articles 'Reflections of the Past' and this is what I hope to revive. School days is a subject which all of us will have experienced in our past lives. We go back to 1915 when a gentleman who lived in Alma Avenue first started infants' school in Wood Street – he writes, *'they were a good group of teachers, rather heavy with corporal punishment but as there were 60 in a class there may be some excuse. There were no relief teachers at this time, and if a teacher was absent two classes were combined, with three boys in a desk designed for two and some sitting on the floor. A highlight of those days was an hour once a week at cricket or football at Chestnuts Farm, (where the Town Hall now stands). There were a number of football pitches available on weekdays but usually a shortage of footballs; seldom more than one a class, so we played 30-a-side football. My father told me that he would buy me a pair of football boots if I got into the school football team. This raised some difficulty as the teacher in charge of the team said no boy would be considered for the team unless he had a pair of football boots! (Good to know Catch 22 was alive and well in the early 1900's). In fairness I do not think I was good enough to be one of the chosen few...*



Another person born in 1904 describes how *'the milkman in those days pushed a heavy three wheeled truck containing an enormous brass churn, gallon buckets and metal cans for milk hanging on the side, rain or shine twice a day. Then there were the dustcarts manned by employees of the Urban District Council. Their contents were spread liberally around especially on windy days – as were the end products of*

horse propulsion, for which I earned a farthing a bucket.' (Whatever can he mean?).

The same person describes being a commuter – *'I got a job at 7/6 (37½ pence) in the City – the weekly return from Hoe Street (now Walthamstow Central) to Liverpool Street was 4/4½ (about 22 pence). What terrible carriages they were.*



Our journeys were accompanied by a blind man playing an accordion in the centre compartment whilst his companion thrust a long-handled bag to each side compartment for offerings. They got out at Hackney Downs to join another carriage. Come 1926 and the General Strike, dad and I walked six miles to and from Upper Thames Street since we could not afford to lose our jobs.'

And they called them 'The Good Old Days!' - more next issue. In the meantime (no pun intended) do not forget:

Whether you have a small watch or a very big clock



do not forget that on Sunday October 29th they:



So an extra hour in bed - which means no reason for being late for church!

CHURCH DIARY

October

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Sunday 1st | 10 am | All Age Morning Service Led by Cherie Rogers <i>How to think and love like Jesus</i> |
| Thursday 5th | 7.30 pm | Church Council at the Manse |
| Sunday 8th | 10 am | Morning Service with Communion Led by Cherie Rogers, Lucy Wright (Regional Minister for London Baptists) preaching <i>Knowing the importance of unity.</i> |
| Sunday 15th | 10 am | Morning Service Led by Cherie Rogers <i>Knowing God's perspective</i> |
| Sunday 22nd | 10 am | Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School. Led by Cherie Rogers <i>Knowing the importance of community</i> |
| Sunday 29 th | 10 am | Morning Service Led by Cherie Rogers <i>Knowing the value of friends in Christ</i> |

November

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|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Sunday 5th | 10 am | Morning Service Led by Bob Jenkins |
| Thursday 9 th | 7.30 pm | Church Council at the Manse |
| Saturday 12th | 10 am | Remembrance Sunday Service with Communion and Sunday School Led by Cherie Rogers . |
| Sunday 19th | 10 am 11.30 am. | Morning Service Led by Cherie Rogers Followed by Church Members Meeting |
| Sunday 26th | 10 am | Morning Service with Communion and Sunday School. Led by Cherie Rogers |