

# The Chronicle

*Monthly magazine of the  
three Hayes Methodist churches*



*Epiphany - January 2019 - Issue 258*

# **The Methodist Church**

## **Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit (35/36)**

### **Magazine of the three Hayes Methodist Churches**

20<sup>th</sup> December 2018

A letter from the Minister

Dear Friends

**Follow the STAR**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2019!

A New Year gives us an opportunity to look forward and look back. I don't think it is any coincidence that January is named after the Roman god Janus. He is usually depicted as having two heads looking in opposite directions – forward and back.

Looking back at 2018 we can remind ourselves of both the joy and disappointments of the last twelve months – what has gone well, and what has gone not so well. I remember this time last year spending Christmas and the New Year waiting anxiously for a phone call from the Methodist Church telling me where I was to be sent. (I wonder if people in the three churches and in the circuit had the same experience) Coming here was a surprise and has been a joy.

But looking back also helps us to look forward. I came across a lovely little mnemonic STAR which can help. The letters stand for:

- Situation (i.e where we find ourselves)
- Target (i.e where we want to be)
- Action (i.e how we might get to where we want to be)
- Review (i.e have we managed to get there, and maybe means repeating the process).

It certainly worked for the Wise Men as they followed the STAR. They began in the East seeing a star (their Situation) and discerned that this was a sign that they see the new-born king (Target). They had to travel (Action) and went first to the royal palace in Jerusalem, but to no avail. They had to Review their Actions and try again before ending up at their final destination where they presented the infant Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The STAR process may help you to look back at 2018 and work out what you would like to achieve in 2019. It may be something to do in your personal life, your work commitments or your faith and discipleship.

All three churches are in the middle of the process of developing a Church Mission/Action Plan where we are looking at realistically where we would like to be in the immediate, short and longer terms. This work began in the autumn church councils and will continue until Easter when we submit our thoughts to the Circuit.

Please help to play your part in it – ask me for details – as it is the church’s plan, not the Church Council’s or the stewards’.

Whatever has happened in the last twelve months and whatever will take place in the next, God always travels with us. And we remember the final words of Charles Wesley’s hymn *This, this is the God we adore*:

“we’ll praise him for all that is past,  
and trust him for all that’s to come.”

With very best wishes for 2019

Ken



# ***Our churches' prayer pages***



Epiphany in some dictionaries is described as “*festival of the announcement of Christ to the Magi celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> January*”. However, as we are not really sure of the exact date when the wise men from the east brought their gifts for the new-born Christ child they are always included in the Nativity services in our churches. ‘As with gladness men of old’ is perhaps the most popular hymn that is sung at this time of year, but this month we’d like to offer a hymn from Singing the Faith that also tells their story and serves as an encouragement to us never to stop following the star that leads us to the King. It was written by Peter Radcliffe:

*Riding out across the desert, travelling over sandy plains,  
comes a company of wise men, moving steadily along their way  
leaving all their friends behind them, guided by the star so bright,  
now they’ve got to keep on going must not let the star get out of sight*

Riding through the desert, gently the wise men go  
onwards to the king who was promised long ago,  
but they don’t know where they’re going to find him,  
there’s many towns to search,  
so they’ll keep on following the star  
for it will lead them to his place of birth.

*Wise men on their desert journey, travelled many miles so far  
though they’re getting tired and weary town of Bethlehem is not too far:  
how they long to worship Jesus and honour him with royal gifts;  
hearts are full of joy and wonder as they’re searching for the new-born  
king.*

## **... In your mercy Lord,**

Creator God,

You have ensured throughout our lives, that words, spoken or written; silent actions or prayers of those we have encountered on our journeyings have quite clearly demonstrated – through our friends and family or even by total strangers – your great love for us in so many, many ways: we have been helped up when we have fallen, given encouragement when we have felt lost, alone or in need of forgiveness.

This month, whether they are already back home and dwelling with you in heaven, or remain here in this your earthly kingdom, may we offer our heartfelt thanks for all the individuals that we name below this month -

Amen

Bernard Bimrose  
Ivan Cross  
Stella Gorman  
Alan Hill  
Eunice Porter

Amanda Boyd  
Derek Christmas  
Derek James  
Sue Merry  
Fred Pratt-Green

**please hear these our prayers**  
**of thanksgiving...**

**and, as always, we ask that friends be kind enough to continue  
to include in their prayers of intercession  
all the following:**

*Friends and members of our church families who,  
due to infirmity and other illness,  
are currently house-bound*

*All those named in our weekly prayer books –  
God will know the needs of each one  
and in His time will respond*

*All who suffer long-term and world-wide,  
who struggle every day, well aware  
that their situation may never improve*

*Families known to be suffering bereavement*

*The ministers and members of our Circuit team  
who work tirelessly in their roles  
as pastors of their congregations*

**“... are we weak and heaven laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge –  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you,  
you will find a solace there”**

**Joseph Medicott Scriven.**

# ***New Year Blessings and resolutions ...***

**“off with the old and on with the new”** - a well-worn phrase related to a new year when not only do we look back on the previous twelve months, but we make plans in the hope that there will be good things ahead for us and, for those whose year has been far from good, that there will be brighter lights at the ends of their dark tunnels.

***‘Off with the old’*** - that brings to mind years long past when it was custom for many families to have new clothes to start a year (*and sometimes at Easter*) and cast aside our old, worn garments – not that they were ever ‘binned’ The better articles were washed and ironed and taken to church – or other places – to offer them at Jumble Sales where the really needy could purchase them for a few coppers. And articles like shirts or jumpers that were really beyond reuse would be carefully sliced up and used as dusters and cleaning cloths! (*my mum even took the trouble to hem those dusters!!*) Nothing was ever wasted. In the year that lies ahead could this serve as a reminder that everyone of us should pay more attention to the wasteful way in which we live in this present century?

**“on with the new”** many people make new year resolutions, but it is not unusual for those resolutions to get overlooked after a few months - or even weeks. But as members and friends of an established church, where we are blessed in so many ways, could we resolve to take on ‘new’ roles at the start of 2019, as we endeavour to follow our Saviour’s teaching. Teaching so clear and simple that all we need do is to care for one another and spread the Good News of God whenever we find an opportunity to do so.

In a matter of days our three churches will gather to share in the annual Covenant Service that is traditionally attended by all Methodists at the start of a new year – please take time to read the details of this Service from our Minister Ken on the following pages - it includes a reminder of the words of our Covenant.

***All members and friends of our  
church families are welcome to the  
Annual Covenant Service at***

# **Hayes Methodist**

# **Church**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
at 11.00 a.m.**

*(with a shared meal to follow)*

***As a reminder here are the words of Covenant***

**I am no longer my own but yours.**

**Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;**

**put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you,**

**or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you;**

**let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have  
nothing:**

**I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and  
disposal.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.**

**And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.**

**Amen**

**Methodists hold an annual Covenant Service – a celebration of all that God has done and an affirmation that we give our lives and choices to God. It is an invitation for people to renew their covenant relationship with God. Most churches hold the service at the beginning of a New Year, but some hold them in September at the start of the Methodist Year.**

**The Covenant Service goes back to John Wesley’s time. He wanted a form of worship which would help people open themselves to God more fully. In 1755 Wesley created such a service, using material from the writings of the seventeenth-century puritans divines, Joseph and Richard Alleine.**

**Over succeeding generations the Methodist Church has made changes to the service so that it continues to be relevant to congregations using it. The aim of the service is to help people hear God’s offer and God’s challenge; to provide space for God to prompt and for people to respond.**

**Yet, more than this, for the Covenant Service is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, it is an act of the whole faith community. Both the Covenant Prayer and Service are regarded as jewels of Methodism and one of the most distinctive contributions of Methodism to the liturgy of the Church in general.**

**Other churches are now discovering it and making use of it in their worshipping life. What God offers through the Covenant is a loving relationship. It is not a business contract set up between God and humanity for the provision of certain goods and services. Rather, it is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship God offers and then seek to sustain it:**

**“The days are surely coming”, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”  
Jeremiah 31.31, 33 (NRSV).**

These words are read out as part of the Covenant Service.

The focal point of the service is the Covenant Prayer (above). It embraces the whole of life, in all its parts. Most people find it quite tough to say this and really mean it. It is uncomfortable and challenging. It asks questions of our faith and demands that we examine our relationship with God.

The Covenant Prayer has been compared by some to a set of New Year resolutions, but ones that emphasise the importance of doing and being as much as believing. But more than that, the prayer represents a commitment to being a disciple and putting God first in our lives and in everything about our lives: what we do, what we say and who we are. It is both a surrender to, and a trust in, God.

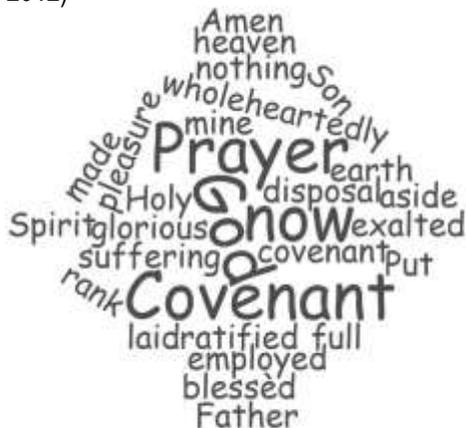
The final few words are a gracious reminder:

***'You are mine and I am yours'***

We don't pray and live just in our own strength – but in God's.

Ken

(and from 'Roots for Churches' 2012)



# **It happened at Hayes End since the last magazine ....**

## ***Welcome ...***

Through this issue we would like to offer a very warm welcome to the family of young Zofia Melody Parchment - it was on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of November that they came to witness her baptism at Hayes End by the Revd Ken Kingston, our churches' Minister. On that somewhat chilly, but sunny day Ken offered a very memorable service that included Zofia's baptism.

Obviously, there was the underlying theme of family love which, as we all know is beyond price, and naturally arises from God's unquestionable love for each one of us. It was also an opportunity to broadcast that love as, included in the service, we heard testimonies from both Nicky and George (our Worship Leader and Local Preacher respectively) speaking of their calls to follow the teachings of Jesus in the Methodist church and in their whole lives.



## ***Congratulations ...***

Many of our church family and friends will already be aware of this piece of good news, nonetheless it remains our great pleasure to report that it was also on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November when we received news relating to one of our most valued members, Mrs Nicola Mercer. Having had countless tests, produced endless pages of written work and received several assessments Nicky was finally rubber-stamped and is now officially one of our Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit Worship Leaders.

I think I can say, without any fear of contradiction, that this certainly is news well deserving of celebration, and we are blessed that, already over many years she has proved herself to be an efficient Circuit Administrator, Nicky is also a loyal member of our church at Hayes End.

Without exception on every occasion when she has been involved in times of worship she has never failed to offer memorable services and even though we know (*as she herself has often said*) her brain was in a whirl, her heart was beating much faster and her stomach churning, her delivery has been calm, right to the point of the theme and totally understandable to all age groups, from the small ones to those who are nearing their sell-by dates.

Including fun and smiles, her sincere messages and prayers clearly indicate the serious and valuable essentials to lead listeners to follow the teachings of Jesus – we're all so happy for you Nicky and ask God's continued blessings on you, not forgetting all your lovely family who are there with their support. Good news indeed.



## **Who will (or did) buy?**

As was explained In the December issue, a number of unforeseen problems prevented our having the usual Christmas Fair in 2018, but we were able to substitute this with some Sunday sales of Christmas bits and pieces – it is good to report that, at the time of writing, and together with sales of cards, we have been able to raise the sum of £140.00 and wish to say thank you to everyone who came to 'shop' and made this possible.



## **“There’s no business like.... “** **entertainment at Hayes End**

A week later than usual this year, our regular evening of Christmas entertainment took place on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> of December. As always this involved members and friends from our churches who were there sharing their varied talents and bringing joy to families and friends at the start of this oh, so very special season.

We had lots of singing, saying and a bit of playing from the very young to the somewhat old, accompanied by giggles, smiles and opportunity to sing well-known carols. It was a lovely evening with a happy message from our Minister Ken, culminating (of course!) by the sharing of Christmas refreshments.

Through these pages we offer sincere thanks to each and every individual who made any contribution whatsoever at Hayes End that night (most *especially to the two lovely people who stepped in with no prior notice to fill in a few ‘gaps’*)

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December -**

was the date of the annual Christmas Gift and Parade Service and once again friends and members made ‘Christmassy’ contributions of items that have gone to our local Food Bank. If you need to make use of a food bank it’s obvious you are unable to get the usual Christmas extras that many take for granted so that was the reason for this year’s mode of giving.

We offer more words of thanks to everyone who was kind enough to bring along an item that may help in some way to reassure the recipients that there are those who want to help alleviate their sad predicament.

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December –**

For over a hundred years, Methodists have sung carols each December in aid of Action for Children (old NCH) and 2018 was no exception. That night many friends gathered to sing carols to shoppers at Sainsburys Supermarket. Today frozen feet and fingers are things of the past – we sang inside the Store, and that’s easier to attract attention to our quest and bring the true message of Christmas to all those who heard us.

## **and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December ...**

As always, this date was awaited with excitement and bated breath. For many years the Nativity Service at Hayes End has been looked forward to – how will they present the best-known story in the world this time?

Young, in the middle or quite old there can be few people who do not know about the birth of Jesus – even if they have no belief or faith in any God, somewhere, and at sometime they have learned of Jesus' birth even if the true message has been lost in today's wrappings, or ignored in the annual frenzied Christmas celebrations.

Thankfully that's not so with our Junior Church members and their leaders. In their presentation there were some larger than life characters and situations that are timeless and the message of our Saviour's incredible birth was there right at the heart of things.

So, did you spot the twist at the end? Do you know who Joe, or Joseph of Arimathea was? I'm sure you will have heard of him but perhaps you can't quite remember where you know the name from. Well, you can either wait until Easter, when his name might come up again, or check out what it says about him in Matthew 27:57-60.

Much of that presentation came from the young people themselves - they are the ones who have the ability to see the wonderful Christmas message from God with their 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes - if you were unable to be at church on that Sunday morning you did indeed miss a great treat.

'Thank you' seems so inadequate, but it's the best we can say – and it goes to each and every one of you! Please keep going and believing – you are the lights that shine in the darkness.

**NB**

**Year 7 and up?** Please see the enclosed reminder of the next Chilling Out session in February ...

**... now for John's four pages of New Year News**

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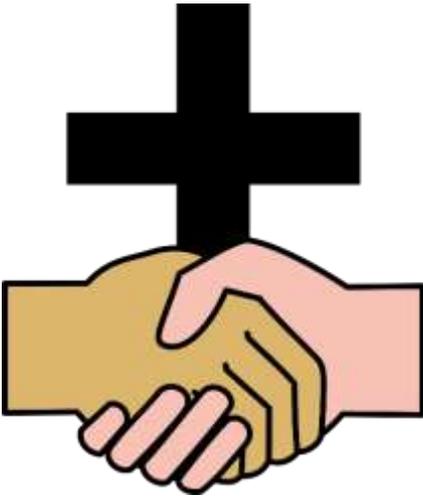
As we move into 2019 there are many issues we face as a Church, but probably number one relates around the whole issue of Pastoral Concerns. Good Pastoral care is a key element in the well-being of a Church and with our increasing membership numbers we urgently need more 'Pastoral Group Contacts'.

Being a 'Pastoral Group Contact' is not an onerous time-consuming task.

The role simply involves being the Church contact and a friend to a small group of Church Members. But it is an essential building block to ensure that our Church is truly inclusive, where everyone is welcome.



**CAN YOU HELP PLEASE ?**



You may still wonder what is really involved in being a Pastoral Group Contact in Hayes End Methodist Church. Well the role is simple it entails keeping in regular contact with a group of normally 6 members and also feeding back to the Minister any Pastoral concerns raised. The role will also involve attending, if possible, 2 or 3 Pastoral Meetings a year. Please note training is also available if required to help you undertake this vitally important role in the life of the Church..

### THE ROLE INVOLVES BEING:

- ◆SUPPORTIVE
- ◆FRIENDLY

- ◆CARING
- ◆TRUSTFUL

We urgently need at least 4 additional Pastoral Group Contacts. Is God Calling YOU to serve our Church in this way? If interested please speak to Revd Ken Kingston, John Chamberlain, Janet Jones or John Rout Junior.

Good Pastoral Care is central to everything we do and it is easy to see what should happen. But without additional helpers our best efforts are hampered. So please help if you can.





Finally, with the Church Modernisation Project we move into 2019 with all systems **GO**

**MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY** and plan to clear the site and hand back to us on **MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**.

- The Contractors will start work on

- We now also hope in the same time frame to include the fitting of large TV Screens in The Church to replace the inadequate Video projector set up we have at present.

- For full details of this 100K Project please see the Church Notice Board in the Hall.

- Please continue to hold up in your prayers all those who are involved in bringing this major project through to a successful conclusion, especially John & Phil who will now act as our liaisons with Rory, the Head Contractor.

- We will be back in the Church for Worship on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, which will also mark our Church Anniversary and the service will be led by our former Minister, Revd Jongi Zihle, now one of the Chairs of the London District of our Church.

# INTO 2019

Next year promises to be a very busy year as you can see with the various issues mentioned in this magazine. But the Modernisation Project represents only the end of the beginning.

Another major item on the agenda, set by the Circuit, concerns the establishment of our Church Action Plan for Mission. Already the Church Leadership Team is working on this matter which will then go for discussion at the next Church Council Meeting in January.

The Action Plan will then be considered by the wider Church congregation at a specially arranged meeting. Following that our Action Plan will be presented to the Circuit Spring Meeting, but it must be noted this is not just an academic process, the emphasis for producing these plans is definitely Action. Our ongoing programme and plans for taking the Mission of our Church forward into 2019 and beyond.

John Chamberlain



Lord, help us live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way  
That even when we kneel to pray  
Our prayer shall be others.  
Others, Lord, yes, others –  
Let this our motto be;  
Help us to live for others,  
That we may live like thee. AMEN

# **Deacon Claire's page and her** **new year message**

I hope that the series of articles I have written so far has provoked some thought and has given us all an increased understanding of what ordained Diaconal Ministry looks like in the 21st century, I have hoped to dispel some myths that deacons are 'second class' or 'not real ministers'; however my real aim has been to show that all of us are called to diaconal ministry - the servant ministry of Christ - whether lay or ordained.

In this new year I would like us all to think about how we combine our daily activities with an element of Theological reflection - asking

Where was God in that situation?

How do we seek God in our daily activities?

How do we relate our prayer life to everyday life?

It is often easy to forget our sense of vocation within the hectic lives we lead. I therefore hope that this will enable us all to pause for a moment and identify where God is working in our lives.

The Methodist Diaconal Order holds a unique position within Methodism as it is an Order of Ministry and a Religious Order, the latter is usually easier to understand and define in that Deacons are recognised as a biblical model of ministry which sits, in the Methodist Church, alongside Presbyteral ministry.

The aspect of the Religious Order is the part which is new to many and over many years it has been our aim as an Order to increase the wider churches understanding of this aspect. When we tell people we are a Religious Order the first question people usually ask is 'Are you a nun?' and the answer is usually 'sort of, but no'.

**We do have a Rule of life, a daily prayer and a commitment to a life of devotion and discipline, however we are not cloistered, celibate or silent! In an age where many seek modern ways of expressing monasticism the Methodist Diaconal Order offers something which combines the traditions of other Religious Orders with something that is distinctly Methodist.**

**Wesley's Quadrilateral of Scripture, Reason, Tradition and Experience has continued to shape the Methodist Diaconal Order as we endeavour to grow and spread the message of 'Witness through Service', modelling the servant ministry of Christ in everyday life. Living by a Rule, a pattern, a rhythm enables us all to find balance, peace and ultimately God in our lives.**

**I hope that in this New Year alongside the actual building work, that we continue to work on building the Kingdom, that we will continue to reflect on where God is leading us, that we will recommit ourselves to praying daily for our church and the community we serve.**

**My enduring prayer for the coming year is that through our life of Christian service we will enable each of us to find, recapture, and explore what it means to be a Methodist in 2019.**

**Claire**



comments on Deacon Claire's December item –

## **Hope and Possibility**

Some great advice and thoughts from Claire just before Christmas for everyone to take into a brand new year.

When reading the word 'hope' my mind immediately rushed into hymn mode and as I sat at this machine I wondered how many hymns and songs speak of hope; there must be dozens of them (I *might take time to look sometime*) and the first that came into mind was "*oh God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come ...*" it was obviously due to the fact I'd not long finished typing the last magazine that had included the world's annual Remembrance Sunday articles.

### **Hope**

It's a word we all use – '*hope you get well, hope you have a good birthday, hope you enjoy your holiday*' etc. but hope can be so many other things, like a prayer for instance. Without exception each one of us has our own hopes and dreams, for ourselves and for those we love – we cannot exist without hope, and to use those great words from the Liverpool football team's theme song – "*walk on, walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone...*". It's the last four that should give us all hope and encouragement because we have a God who always walks beside us and gives us hope and strength to carry on despite the various and disturbing setbacks that many are called upon to face in life.

During his talk at the Service of Remembrance in Westminster Abbey on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> of November Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, stressed how very important hope is in everyone's life – without hope we are totally lost.

We should keep in our minds the countless regions on this earth, including our own land, where many souls exist with little or no hope.

They can see no way in which to extricate themselves from the misery of their existence. For many thousands of men, women and young people, due to never-ending warring, starvation and abject poverty their lot is purely as a result of their place of birth or the circumstances of their upbringing. And those three evils can only give rise to utter despair and hopelessness and also very sadly to criminal acts – if you have nothing to eat the temptation to steal food must be overwhelming and so you sink even deeper into the mire that is your lot, and you can see no point in living.

So never should we cease to be thankful that God placed us where we are, and as Christians our role is to do our best to pass on and share the hope that by his grace is ours. And this is where the wonderful “All We Can” motto of the Methodist Relief Fund comes to the fore – we can do no less than to offer all we can, and in that way give some hope and optimism where right now there is none.

And **Possibility** surely comes as a natural follow-up to **Hope**

We are taught that all things are possible with God, but sometimes he needs our help to ensure that it is so – if our neighbour is unwell or house-bound we should be the one who makes it possible that they have food in their cupboard. Between us we have been blessed with an abundance of talents and those talents should be shared with others. Of course, we are unable to build toilet blocks in far-away places where they have none – the majority of us are not skilled enough to nurse a disabled child with a terminal illness, but we can, when called to do so, contribute money to provide these facilities for others who can. (*here quite obviously I have in mind the BBC ‘children in need’ project in November each year*) So when a possibility arises we should not be found wanting – and, at the same time remember to use that opportunity to spread the good news of God and his son Jesus – did he not make a request that his followers be fishers of men?

As always, we thank you Claire – may God help us all to live lives that give **Hope** to those who have none, and never miss the **Possibility** to do good – as John Wesley said – “*wherever and whenever we can*”.

## ***Farewell to a very dear friend ....***

We are sad to report the death of one of our valued members, Sylvia Bull. It was on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of December that Sylvia fell asleep while at home and quietly and peacefully went to meet her Maker, and at last be reunited with her beloved husband Jim. We had missed her presence at Hayes End for many months this year, but we thank God that he granted her wish not to take her back to heaven from a hospital bed, but from her own familiar surroundings and at home.

Most of us will have many good memories of this dear lady, a very gentle soul, who loved to have a friendly chat and go shopping – I know for a fact that one of her greatest pleasures was to visit an Edinburgh Wool Shop whenever and wherever she encountered one! Sylvia freely admitted she was a shopaholic, but it was not just for herself: she always had others in mind.

Some of us got to know Sylvia quite well following our visit the Holy Land in 2000 when she and Jim were in our party of pilgrims. In fact, it is hard to recall just how many times they both referred to those unforgettable fourteen days.

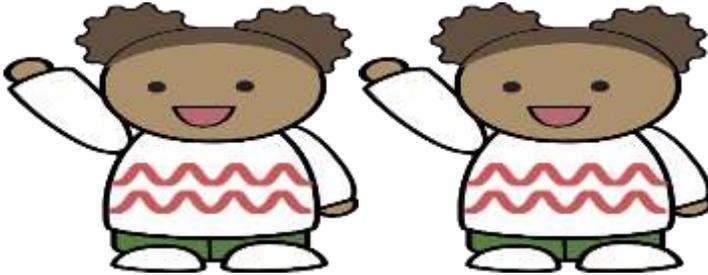
Sylvia was a valued member of our catering team (her mince pies were top class!) an attender at the Bright Hour and she was a friendly addition to the handicraft group until her health prevented her being with us.

But that was not all, for Sylvia had been a good wife and homemaker, and was a caring mother to Rosemary and Stephen, her daughter and son, and to son-in-law Les and through our magazine, we wish to extend our most sincere sympathy to each one of you. No matter their age, when we lose our mother we are left with a deep hole inside that no words, however kindly meant, can adequately serve to alleviate our grief.

We at Hayes End keep Sylvia's sorrowing family in our prayers and may you, dear Sylvia, now go well with God for all eternity.

(As we go to press we learn that Sylvia's funeral will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January with a Service at Hayes End, followed by internment at Breakspear Crematorium – exact time will be confirmed. If wished flowers in Sylvia's memory can be made or donations made to Harlington Hospice or to Hayes End refurbishment funds).

## About our girls – Netsanet and Shawa



We have received messages from both little girls, thanking us for our letters and support and telling us about things in their lives – we understand they live in different parts of the town. They also both live in houses that are made of wooden panels with mud floors and corrugated iron roofs and are fortunate in that they can get water from a tap (not too sure whether or not the tap is inside their house).

Early in December we sent them greeting cards with wishes from all the church family together with a small gift.

*(For our Christmas sales Pat had made some very attractive woollen 'stars' so we sent them each one of these, hoping that it will serve to remind them of the 'Christmas Star' that we all need to follow)*

We know that both little girls are now receiving a positive and sound Christian education, thanks to Compassion, who is the agency through whom we communicate.



# **Let me tell you a story ...**

*With no other means of communication, we are all aware that Jesus came to earth to spread the news of God's love by the simple telling of stories... here is a story we received a while ago that will obviously appeal to lovers of dogs, but there are much greater connotations – it clearly stresses the importance of making folk aware that the Kingdom of God is for all, with no exceptions ... please read on*

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when he remembered he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall on one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. There was a tall arch glowing in the sunlight and standing before it he saw a magnificent gate like mother-of-pearl; the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold.

Man and dog walked to the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When close enough, he called out

"Excuse me please, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked.

"Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up."

The gate then began to open.

"Can my friend, come in, too?" the traveller asked, gesturing to his dog.

"I'm sorry, sir, we don't accept pets."

The man thought for a moment and then continued on the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence.

As he approached, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

"Excuse me please!" he called to the man. " Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in."

"How about my friend here?" the traveller gestured to his dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump."

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveller filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was still reading his book.

"What do you call this place?" the traveller asked.

"This is Heaven," he answered.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveller said.

"The man down the road said that that was Heaven, too"

"Oh, that place with a gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind."

**Today, in our quest to make everyone welcome in  
our churches may God help us never to  
exclude or leave anyone behind**

The following is from our collection of Christmas bits and pieces –  
best delivered in a Yorkshire accent

## **“Who did you say he was?”**

He was born to an unmarried mother In a small town that very few knew.  
She'd nowhere to stay when it happened, but a pub landlord knew what to do.  
He took her, and her partner, in with him and provided a bed made of hay,  
there being no room in his hostel and it being quite late in the day.

The baby was born the next morning and passers-by called in to look.  
A group of young shepherds were one lot and some noblemen: presents they  
took.

His step dad, a young jobbing joiner, had his workshop up north in the town.  
He made furniture, farm tools and crosses for Romans, when riots were put  
down.

The joiner's lad grew strong and sturdy and followed his dad in the trade.  
He went with his mates to the taverns to spend all the money he'd made.  
He mixed with all sorts of “bad” comp'ny; prostitutes, druggies and so on.  
The authorities set out to get him but, really, they'd nothing to go on.

Amongst common folk 'e were welcomed  
'Cos they liked all the stories 'e told,  
and despite his rough speech and harsh comments  
they all thought, “'is heart's made of gold.”

And, somehow, he made you feel better,  
when your life had collapsed in a heap.  
He could even cure folk of their sickness which,  
compared to *their* doctors, was cheap!

All them that had met him and heard him,  
when he talked of what mattered to them,  
had their self respect put back together;  
so they cried, “Alleluia, Amen!”

They didn't quite know how he did it,  
'cos 'e never made much of a fuss,  
but, once you had met him and heard him  
you wanted to pray, not to cuss.

All them that followed his teachings  
found their lives had completely been changed.  
It's true that it weren't always easy,  
but their lives were no longer deranged

There's much more to this Jobbing Joiner  
than can be written in this little poem.  
But if you really would like to know more  
then how about getting to know 'im?

He still heals the sick and the lonely  
and cares for the sad and the bad.  
As a baby they'd comment by saying,  
"Eee, doesn't 'e look like 'is dad?"

They were nearer the Truth than they realised,  
for his real Dad were someone they knew.  
They'd met Him in every encounter  
with the Beautiful, Loving and True.

He's still around, (even where you live!)  
His followers aren't hard to find,  
showing care and concern and compassion.  
So do join Him; He really won't mind.

## **A couple of Post Christmas thoughts –**

the first triggered by a remark from Deacon Claire during a recent service at Hayes End – NO, as Claire said, Christmas is not just for children - God sent Jesus to earth for EVERYONE ...

### **Christmas is really for the children**

**Christmas is really for the children.  
Especially for children who like  
animals, stables, stars and babies  
wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
Then there are wise men, kings in  
fine robes, humble shepherds and  
a hint of rich perfume.**

**Easter is not really for the children  
unless accompanied by a cream filled  
egg. It has whips, blood, nails, a  
spear and allegations of body snatching.  
It involves politics, God and the sins of  
the world. It is not good for people of a  
nervous disposition. They would do  
better to think on rabbits, chickens  
and the first snowdrop of spring.**

**Or they'd do better to wait for a re-run  
of Christmas without asking too many  
questions about what Jesus did when he grew up,  
or whether there's any connection.**

Steve Turner

Secondly, the decorations, albeit somewhat dusty, are still in situ, waiting for the New Year to arrive: there's cold turkey – or whatever – and other goodies in the fridge, and bulging black bags bear evidence to the fact that there were presents in plenty. Opened boxes of chocolates and other seasonal delicacies are strewn in every room and we've all eaten far more than is good for us. That, at least, would appear to be the normal state of many homes at this time of the year.



But there is another side to the coin.

There are homes where no such 'normality' exists – homes where a much loved one is missing; homes where there is sickness and great concern for the health of a family member. Homes where because of old disagreements members are torn apart with no hope of reconciliation.

“Goodwill to all men” the angels said, and, yes, it's easy to feel goodwill to everyone when you have plenty, when you can go to the shops to buy all you think you need to make sure Christmas is a time of festive enjoyment.

Could we feel goodwill to anyone if we were homeless, stateless and our only possessions were the clothes on our backs? If we were shunned and rejected, and verbally abused by others we encounter as we go about our daily lives - I wonder.

As we enter another new year can we start to look outside our own cosy and comfortable existences and give thought to so many who know nothing of 'cosy and comfortable' in this 21<sup>st</sup> century world?

*Finally – and aware that we have used it in a previous Magazine, we'd like to take the liberty of quoting some well-known words used by King George VI in his final Christmas speech -*

## **The Gate of the Year**

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year

*“Give me a light that I may tread  
safely into the unknown”*

And he replied –

*“Go out into the darkness and put your hand  
into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way!”*

So I went forth and, finding the hand of God,  
trod gladly into the night.  
And he led me towards the hills  
and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins

# ***Some good late news ...***

Almost to the day, we are pleased to say that after four months in hospital in severe pain, Mrs Edna La Mothe returned home on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. Twice during those months, Edna had been discharged from hospital, only to return in just a matter of hours as her condition had rapidly deteriorated.

Although the pain continues it now is under control and tolerable: BUT sadly, following a couple of falls at home Edna had to go to Hillingdon yet again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Thankfully she was home again on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Our prayer now is that before too long she will feel able to return to church, where she has been missing since last July

## **Dedication Prayer to begin a new church year**

*Lord Jesus, I give my hands to do your work;  
I give my feet to go your way;  
I give my eyes to see as you do:  
I give my tongue to speak your words  
I give my mind that you may think in me:  
I give my spirit that you may pray in me.  
Above all, I give my heart that you may love in me:  
I give my whole self that you may grow in me,  
so that it is you who lives and works and prays in me*



The closing date for items in our February Magazine

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

Please write or type your article and hand to Enid Thomas -  
you can also send items by email to

[crummage@btinternet.com](mailto:crummage@btinternet.com)

[www.hemc.org.uk](http://www.hemc.org.uk) is the web site address for Hayes End Methodist Church and <http://northhillingdonchurch.org.uk> is the web site for North Hillingdon Methodist Church.

[www.hayesmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.hayesmethodistchurch.org.uk) is the web site for the Hayes Methodist Church (If you have access to the internet, please remember to use these sites when you need to check what's happening in your Church)

Other web sites of interest:

The Circuit Website is [www.hah.org.uk](http://www.hah.org.uk)

London District Website is [www.methodistlondon.org.uk](http://www.methodistlondon.org.uk)

**Worship dates and other events  
in our church and Circuit during  
the months of January and  
February 2019**



**January 2019**

- 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **Funeral of Mrs Sylvia Bull**
- 5<sup>th</sup>**      12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes  
3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon
- 6<sup>th</sup>**      **Covenant Sunday**  
9.30 a.m. NO Service at North Hillingdon  
11.00 a.m. United Covenant Service at Hayes with  
Holy Communion and followed by meal  
11.00 a.m. NO Service at Hayes End
- 7<sup>th</sup>**      **Refurbishment work at Hayes End commences –**  
**please note all Sunday services until**  
**17<sup>th</sup> March will take place in the hall.**
- 9<sup>th</sup>**      12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters  
11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
- 10<sup>th</sup>**      7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 13<sup>th</sup>**      9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon  
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes  
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End with Communion in the hall  
6.00 p.m. Joint Praise service at North Hillingdon
- 14<sup>th</sup>**      1.00 p.m.. Prima's Management Committee at N. Hillingdon
- 16<sup>th</sup>**      12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 17<sup>th</sup>**      7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End
- 20<sup>th</sup>**      9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon with Holy Communion  
  
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes  
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
- 22<sup>nd</sup>**      7.30 p.m. Hayes End Church Council

- 23<sup>rd</sup> 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters  
 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. CLT meeting at Ruislip  
 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End  
 27<sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End followed by Cake sales and  
 'Come & Share' meal  
 30<sup>th</sup> 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters  
 31<sup>st</sup> 7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End

## **February 2019**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 2.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes  
 3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End with Holy Communion,  
 and followed by "Bring & Share" meal  
 4<sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End  
 6<sup>th</sup> 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters  
 8.00 p.m. Circuit Property meeting at Ruislip  
 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End  
 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes with Holy Communion  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End  
 6.00 p.m. Praise and Worship service at North Hillingdon  
 13<sup>th</sup> 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters  
 11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House  
 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End  
 17<sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon with Holy Communion  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes  
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End  
 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Schools' half-term week  
 19<sup>th</sup> 8.00 p.m. Circuit Treasurers meeting at Ruislip  
 20<sup>th</sup> 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters  
 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End  
 22<sup>nd</sup> 6.00 p.m. "Chocolate Chill Out" for secondary schoolers

- 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon  
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
- 27<sup>th</sup> 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End followed by cake sales  
10.00 a.m. London District Synod for Presbyters at Wesley's Chapel  
12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End  
7.30 pm. Meeting of Hayes Church Council

**all dates listed are as known at time of going to press  
but not included are any 'regular' Brigades' meetings**

***from a book of Celtic prayers –***

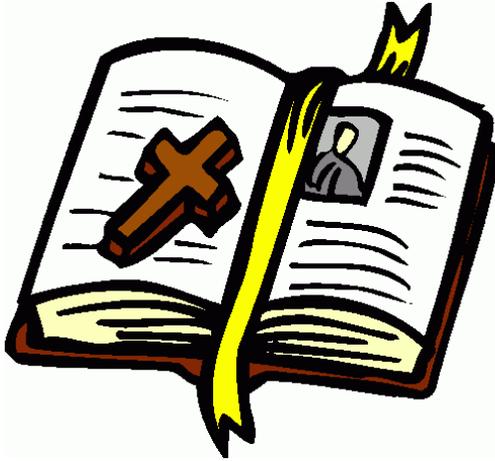
The terminus is not where we stay,  
it is the beginning of a new journey  
It is where we reach out beyond,  
where we experience new adventures.

It is where we get off to enter new territory,  
to explore new horizons,  
to extend our whole being.  
It is a place touching the future.  
It opens up new vistas.  
It is the gateway to eternity.



## **DURING THE WEEK IN HAYES END CHURCH**

- SUNDAY:** 11.00 - Morning Worship & Junior Church  
Evening Services - Held at various locations  
for details please check the Church Web Site
- MONDAY:** 10.00 – Ramblers Club (meet in Car Park)  
Contact: Ajayi - Tel: 07738-709595  
10.00 – The Parent & Toddlers’ Group  
Contact: Janette - Tel: 0208-845-3485  
14.30 – The Bright Hour (Alt. weeks)  
Contact: Eva - Tel: 0208-581-5853  
7.30 p.m. Insight Bible Study A – Choir room (Alt. weeks)  
(Contact: David 0208-581-9594)
- TUESDAY:** 7.30 p.m. Insight Bible Study Group B - Church porch  
(Alt. weeks) Contact: Ajayi – Tel. see above
- WEDNESDAY:** 10.30 a.m. Insight Bible Study Group C - Church porch  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Wed, monthly Contact): Edna – Tel: 0208-573-8564  
11.00 – Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. Monthly)  
held at Aston House Care Home  
Contact: Anne - Tel: 0208- 573-5602  
18.00 – The Girls’ Brigade  
Contact: Colleen - Tel: 07928-231254
- THURSDAY:** 10.00 a.m. – The Parent & Toddlers’ Group  
Contact: Janette – Tel. see above  
19.30- The Craft Group (Alt. weeks)  
Contact: Pat - Tel: 0208-561-3134  
19.30 – All Sorts Club (Alt weeks)  
Contact: John - Tel: 0208-573-3607
- FRIDAY:** 17.30 – The Boys’ Brigade  
Contact: David - Tel 0208- 581-959



# Lectionary Readings for January 2019

6<sup>th</sup> January  
Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:11-12  
Psalm 72:1-7

13<sup>th</sup> January

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17,21-22  
Psalm 29

20<sup>th</sup> January

Isaiah 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2 :1-11  
Psalm 36:5-10

27<sup>th</sup> January

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21  
Psalm 19

# ***The Chronicle***

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