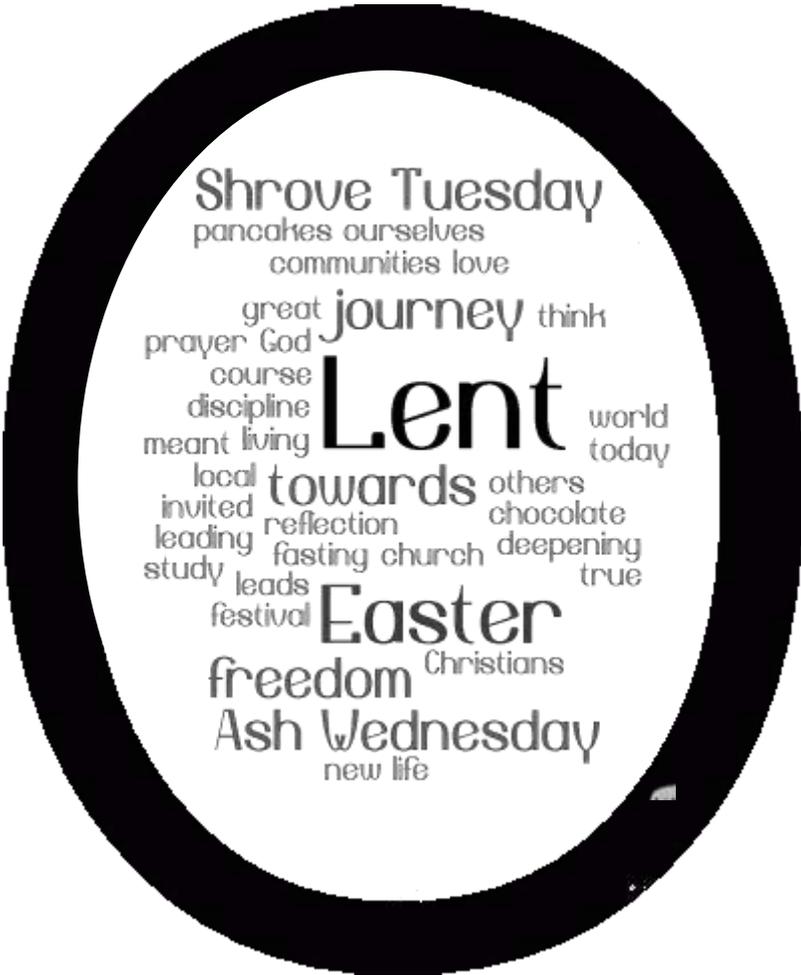


The Chronicle

*Monthly magazine of the
three Hayes Methodist churches*



Lent - March 2019 - Issue 260

The Methodist Church

Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit (35/36) Magazine of the three Hayes Methodist Churches

25th February 2019

A letter from the Editor

Dear Friends'

First of all very many apologies from Ken, our Minister, who, to say the least, is somewhat snowed under with so many demands on his time right now. Naturally a letter to all his congregants is very important to him, but now and again it follows that his priority has to be given to other concerns.

So where are we?

At this precise moment literally rushing to get this particular issue published on time and before it's contents become stale news, especially as one of our members of the production team is off on his holidays.

You will be able to read John C's pages where the news concerning the current refurbishment of our Hayes End church is good. What a relief it must be that after so much hard work to know that funds are finally in place to cover the costs, but, as John has remarked in no way do we stop and rest on our laurels – and as the saying goes – 'the show must go on' and it will indeed go on with our next major events.

As we write our Youth Leaders are making necessary preparations for a special Chill Out night at Hayes End for young folk and we are expecting an extra special guest on to be with us next Sunday morning.

Then it is only a matter of a week before we reach Ash Wednesday, and the start of Lent 2019 – we do hope that you have a note that there will be an Ashing Service at North Hillingdon on the 6th of March.

All our churches will have their individual projects in place during the Lenten Season and it is hoped that whatever course they may follow everyone will be able to give support.

At the same time may we all do our best to travel the forty days thinking on and remembering all the suffering that our saviour Jesus endured – endures to ensure that we could be assured of eternal life. Yes, he must have had some good days that he shared with the disciples, his closest friends, during his three years as a much-loved rabbi, but, at the same time at the back of his mind, there must have been an awareness that a sacrifice would have to be made in order to stay faithful to his heavenly father's demands.

Our churches' prayer pages



Lent. When I first learned the many seasons of the Christian calendar I thought that Advent and Lent had something in common – although completely different in their objectives both are times of forward looking. As all are aware, Advent gives us a feeling of joy and expectation – a special baby will soon be born and we must ensure all is ready: rooms cleaned; sufficient food for everyone; gifts a plenty. When that expected one finally arrives we then give our grateful thanks to God.

Lent takes on an oh so different stance – before the glorious finale we have need to contemplate our own daily living: to take time to repent of our many faults. For forty days we try to think on the unbelievable temptations that Jesus had to face in that wilderness – I've stood in that awesome place in the Holy Land and know I'd not survive even four days. We should travel with him, and especially reflect on the despicable brutality and horrendous pain he endured during what we know as Holy Week before we celebrate and give thanks for his resurrection – this month we would like to share a hymn by Ruth C Duck, that is based on Luke 4:1-11 -

**When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers stone
nourish us God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day,**

**When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test, trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.**

**When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope and of prayer,**

... 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

Reg Day
Jack Collins
John Fuller-Rowell
Sophie Mowl

Charlotte Bergdhal
Margaret Bromwich
Sue Merry
Reginald West

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*

**“Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be
for I know I always can trust you”**

Jenny Hewer

'learn your lessons well...'

Yet again I've resorted to using song-words as an opener to an item – those above are from the musical 'Godspell', popular in the seventies and quite controversial at the time. This is not about that Show however, but the fact that from our daily experiences there are always lessons to be learned.

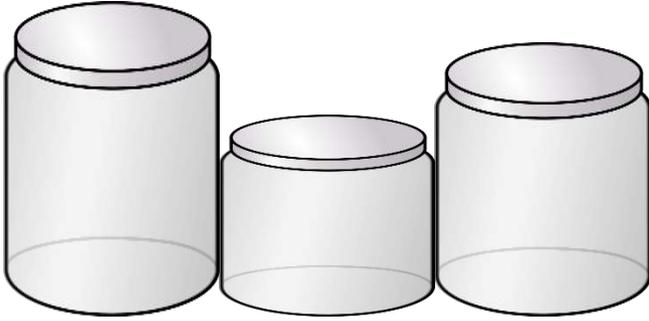
It was on Sunday 20th of January.

Although temperatures were hovering around zero it was a lovely sunny winter's day with cloudless blue skies. In Long Lane there were clumps of golden daffodils already in bloom (confirmed by Pat who had also seen them) and in North Bucks delightful catkins had made an appearance. Members of our Leadership Team had led our morning worship, based on lessons learned from the recently shared Covenant Sunday. It had been a good service, followed by happy fellowship.

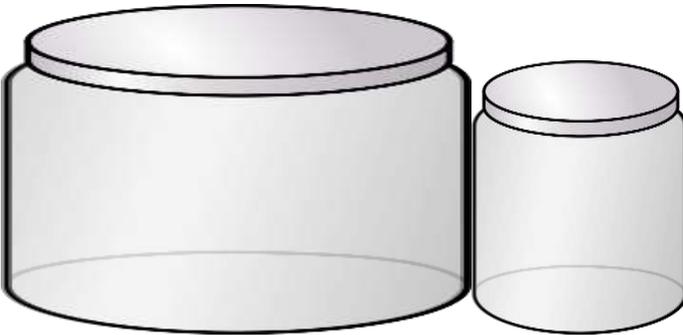
Once home we'd had a snack and I'd settled in a comfortable chair to watch the Snooker finals on tv, while I did some colouring in (one of today's enjoyable occupations for old folk!) Dusk arrived and I switched on lights and closed the blinds when – crack! All was pitch dark - we were having another power cut.

Having located candles there remained nothing to do but sit and contemplate – unfortunately my eyesight no longer allows me to read by candlelight as I once did. For our evening meal we enjoyed ham sandwiches. It was during that enforced sit there was a lesson – a lesson that no matter how aged we become there are always lessons to be learned. My thoughts went to many millions of human beings who have none of the facilities we all take for granted – tv, computers, fridges, hot water etc. etc. For many their lot is to sit in darkness every night and not in comfortable chairs in a centrally heated home.

Those thoughts consequently give even more emphasis to the importance of our Hayes End Lenten giving this year. In just five days we will enter Lent 2019 – please don't forget to fill a jar with any change you save by not buying packets of biscuits or sweets, or whatever may be your particular indulgence and which you may have decided to deny yourself during Lent ... get your label from John C.



**Jars of change for
jars of water**



**Jars of change for
jars of water**

... and to continue with thoughts appropriate to the season of Lent, Pat, who as most know is our Christian Aid representative, has sent a copy of their booklet entitled 'Rise Up against Climate Change' – it contains thoughts and prayers for Lent and we take the liberty to include some that may be useful during the coming forty days ...

Awareness –

Lent is the ideal time to pause, step back, raise our awareness of things we take for granted – Jesus said “truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, “move from here to there” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you

...thank God for each new person you meet today and consider how you can be the light of Jesus to the people you meet ...

...make us aware of the areas in our lives where we have not upheld equality and change our hearts ...

...who would be there for you when you truly needs them? Take a moment to thank God for their presence in your life ...

...the Lord God took the man and put him the in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it – Genesis 12:15 –

...God has called us to look after the earth, but there are times that we haven't taken this calling seriously ...

...one of the beautiful things about God is that he will always forgive – no matter what we've done, forgiveness allows us to start all over again. Humans have repeatedly got it wrong when it comes to the environment – let's bring the environment back to the way it should be – one step at a time ...

...be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you – Ephesians 4:32 ...

...Zaccheus was a tax collector – when he met Jesus, he realized that his livelihood was ruining lives of others – he gave back half of what he had to the poor – think how we can give back what we have wrongfully taken from the environment ...

...God wants to transform our lives and make us more like him- let's pray together that our hearts would be set on things above and that God would put in us a desire for his justice for those in the Philippines and other regions on this earth...

...Mothering Sunday is a day to celebrate what our maternal figures mean and have meant to us – let us pray for all mothers and especially for those who have lost their children...

...the Lord is my shepherd – I lack nothing – he guides me along the right paths for his name's sake – Psalm 23 – God is blessing us every day when we don't even notice it. He cares about our lives because he sees us as his children – take time to reflect on how God has blessed you over the past weeks...

... Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines – if a storm was about to destroy your home what would you take with you?...

...Palm Sunday – do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves – look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others – Philippians 2:3-4 ...

...Maundy Thursday the day when Jesus had his last supper with the disciples – he washed the disciples' feet as a sign of humility – he came not to be served, but to serve...

...we celebrate the finale of the most important event in history – the day Jesus rose from the dead – we remember our guilt and shame were traded for his righteousness – when he rose to life we 'rise up' from our death that we may be fully alive in Christ – think of ways to reflect his love to others – how can you voyage through life with more care for our environment?...



and – with Christian Aid in mind - please make a note that ***Christian Aid Week 2019 will be 12th-18th May*** – details next month

Happy Birthday ...

For over fifty years Hayes End Church has celebrated its Anniversary on the first weekend of March: this year however, due to our refurbishment programme it will be a little later than normal and is planned for the 16th/17th of the month. However, in no way will this diminish or spoil our remembrances of past times when we have marked this important occasion, nor will it have an adverse effect on this year's special day. Members and friends will know that this time our celebratory service will be on

Sunday 17th of March followed by a Birthday Meal

and it will carry special emphasis in that after many weeks of worship in the hall, the Service will be held in our church again as we dedicate to God all the work that has been taking place. And there's more – when last we had to vacate the church for the upgrading of our worship area our Minister was the Revd Dr Jongi Zihle - we are delighted that Jongi, who is now one of the London District Chairs, has agreed to come to lead that Anniversary Service so that will ensure our 128th birthday will indeed be a time of great rejoicing.

But, of course, the reason why we have reached such a ripe old age is due to our own people – the church that had its beginnings in a house in Springfield Road, graduated to a decrepit Nissen Hut when the house became much too small to accommodate the growing numbers: and finally, in 1934, it moved lock, stock and barrel to the premises where we continue to meet to worship God in 2019.

And, with these thoughts in mind may we take the liberty to reminisce and recall some memories, and especially those associated with the oldest of our church Groups – our Bright Hour who will also celebrate a birthday this year – their 87th!

I've absolutely no idea who first coined the title "Bright Hour" (or rather Women's Bright Hour, as it once was), but it is a very apt title. Although without doubt most of its members have stuff in their lives that is far from 'bright'; nonetheless their fortnightly meetings are invariable 'bright' rather than 'dull'.

It was in 1932 that they had their first meeting, and although I was alive at the time, I have no knowledge of any of its original members – everyone now gone back to heaven. I do remember a dear lady named Edie who died a few years ago, who, as a little child was taken in her pushchair to Bright Hour each Monday – back then her mum was the group's President and she would never ever miss the weekly meeting – child or no child!

Back in the early seventies, I can recall some of its then members who were what one could term as 'characters'. One lady named Mary was in her early nineties. Mary had been in Service as a girl in the eighteen hundreds and given half a chance would regale anyone who would listen with tales of 'upstairs-downstairs' and all the scandalous comings and goings of the upper classes in those Victorian days – days of supposed decorum and behaviour that was beyond reproach!! Which was far from the truth and of which those 'below stairs' were aware! That gossip must have given a little light relief from the extremely harsh demands made by those 'above' knowing they were not all they professed to be so far as morals were concerned.

Then there was Olive. Dear tiny Olive Purle. She reminded me of Anna, who never left the Temple in Jerusalem. Nearly every day of the week Olive could be found doing jobs in the church, and when not in church she was doing church things at home in her little terrace cottage - right out of one of Dickens' novels. When you went to visit you were welcomed most warmly but had to wait while a seat was cleared! She had 'stuff' everywhere. Olive originated from east London and was proud of the fact she could class herself a true cockney having been born within the sound of Bow Bells. Olive was our Communion Steward and a totally dedicated servant of the Lord. Whenever I was involved in any of our Team Services, Olive was one person I always observed in the congregation looking happy and content, and not as if she were being bored to death.

Another lady from those by-gone days – Stella Gorman. A lovely 'round' lady. I never recall seeing Stella without a smile – in fact mostly she found things to laugh over. Stella played piano for Bright Hour and was much missed when her time came to leave, and most especially for her sense of fun. She always wore a hat on Sundays and had a wonderful collection of head wear. Stella frequently took a turn 'on the door' and we would always have a chat about her hat. I remember one day her hat fell off as she bent down to pick something up and I thought she'd never stop laughing. And ever after that silly incident, when she was on the door, she would remind me of the occasion, and there would more peals of laughter –

... finally the Smith sisters – Connie Wakefield and Cath Smith. What a wonderful Christian pair they were, as indeed were all other members of their family. They taught in Sunday School – Connie with Primary children and Cath with the Juniors.

I had the privilege of working with both ladies on many occasions and – in a couple of words – they were always ‘fun’ and full of ‘joy’ especially in the joy of living. No wonder the children in Junior church loved them both. (*Many I know who are now middle-aged family men and women still remember them*) Just like Stella they too had their glasses half full, never half empty. Dear Cath suffered for many years with serious physical problems and had known the agonies of breast cancer and leg ulcers, but always made light of her situation and never grumbled – when we compared health notes she would say “my leg is being a bit of a bother today”, but never did she moan about her pains or uttered those words “why me?”

One thing I recall the ‘girls’ telling me about was the annual Bright Hour trip to the Methodist church in Iver – they walked, all the way there and back, taking their tea with them, together with push chairs and prams and any small offspring! It was a wonderful treat to visit their home and your stay would never be less than two hours – there was so much to talk and laugh about. Both were members of the Hayes History Society and what they didn’t know about Hayes wasn’t worth knowing. As children they went ‘scrumping’ in orchards that were then on Uxbridge Road where tall blocks of flats now stand, opposite the Bingo hall.

They told of when Gladys Aylward (*portrayed in the film “The Inn of the Sixth Happiness”*) who led dozens of children to safety out of war-torn China, and who narrowly missed being captured and killed had once preached at Hayes End. She was so tiny she had to stand on a box in the pulpit so she could be seen by the congregation, but despite her stature her preaching was second to none.

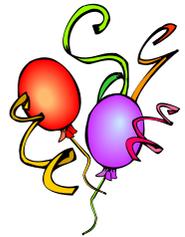
They also recalled a certain Sister Grace – a character involved with Women’s Bright Hour at its very beginning. Another force to be reckoned with - when younger Grace had been a Christian Missionary in countries all over the world and had suffered severe persecution. And, like Gladys Aylward, had had a number of hairy escapes when fleeing from persecutors. (*I once had details about Grace, but sadly appear to have mislaid them*).

Still today, through our monthly Magazine, we maintain contact with members of the Smith family

As in those days there remain 'characters' in our midst, but it would be churlish to mention names so I obviously make no comment about the current individuals or situations!!

However, there can be no doubt whatsoever that, because of years of persistence and loyalty of ladies such as those remembered above, together with countless other men, women and children, our Hayes End church continues to thrive and carry on – God calls home some when and as they become tired and weary of this life, but He always ensures there are others coming along to take their place in that Monday Group and in the rest of the church family . Along the way we have known various ups and downs, but by keeping the faith and despite setbacks we give our grateful thanks that God has always been there for us and it will always be so.

..... so it remains very important to truly celebrate our birthday on 17th of March



It's all about the ability to serve – here are some valuable words from the Revd Martin Luther King (1926-1968)

Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.
You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.
You don't have to know Einstein's Theory of Relativity to serve.
You don't have to know the second theorem of thermo-dynamics in physics to serve.
You only need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love.



The Church Modernisation Project 2019

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

It's taken many months of hard work but now we know that the work will be completed by the first weekend in March. Then we will be able to move on to get the Church ready for our first Service, the Church Anniversary on Sunday 17th March. Also now with the final piece of grant aid support in place we have funds in place to cover the cost of the total project.

There is much work to be done before the 17th and to that end we need help with **THE CHURCH WORK PARTY** on Saturday 9th March between 10am and 12 Noon when we will undertake this vital work. **PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN?**

THEN WHAT – Sit on our hands? A time for reflection? **NO WAY**, as stated above The Modernisation Project is just the end of the beginning, whilst considering our future plans to improve our property. These are matters already being considered by your Finance & Property Committee and our future priorities include-

1. Landscaping of The Church Garden.
2. Installation of an up-rated Video Projector Set-Up in the Church.
3. Installation of an Integrated Fire Alarm System.
4. Uprate both Gents & Ladies toilets.

John Chamberlain



Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name

DID YOU KNOW that our Church in Hayes End remains active supporters of the work of the world wide charity “**Compassion for Children**” The Church in conjunction with various members financially supports the upbringing of 2 little girls in Ethiopia. Looking back on the their life changing work in 2018 Compassion staff and volunteers invested over 28 million hours of contact time in the lives of sponsored children – Sent 168,500 messages of love to the sponsored children – Helped more than 100,000 children to go to school – Gave £923,911 to fund life-saving interventions like heart surgery – Enabled 540 mums and babies to be given the very best starts in life – Ensured that 215,000 Medical and Dental check-ups were carried out & last and not least enabled 4.7 million meals to be dished up at Compassion projects around the world.



IT IS GREAT TO BE SPONSORING CHILDREN WITH COMPASSION IN 2019 AND HELPING TO MAKE AN INCREDIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY CHILDREN. THIS WORK BRINGS STABILITY AND SECURITY TO CHILDREN LIVING IN THE VULNERABILITY OF POVERTY -

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF NOW WE COULD SPONSOR A THIRD CHILD - IF INTERESTED PLEASE SPEAK TO JOHN CHAMBERLAIN.

Hayes End Methodist Church News

DO YOU SHOP VIA THE INTERNET? – If so please join the folks in our Church, who undertake shopping via *The Easy Fund Web Site*. Please note this will not any additional costs. Last Financial was raised for Church Funds from source. For more information speak to Nicola Mercer.



group of all their **Raising** incur you Year £245 this please



ACTION FOR CHILDREN – We urgently need a Coordinator for this work in our Church. This is far from an onerous task, but if we can find a volunteer then this will aid one of our already over-extended Church Officers. If you can help please speak to John Chamberlain.

One of our key requirements when we return to worship in the Church is to build a team of folks who are prepared to help with the PA and IT requirements for worship. Phil Pindai will start training for all interested later this month. Please let him know if you are interested? Can you help?





The Methodist Church

Being connected - THE CONNEXION

'Holiness' is not achieved except in community. Methodism has a strong sense of community, which is expressed in the way it is organized. It calls itself a Connexion.

No local church operates alone. It is part of a group of churches called the Circuit. A number of circuits make up a District. Like all other levels of the Church, Districts are responsible to the Methodist Conference. Representatives of all Districts attend this governing body which meets annually. This is where Methodist doctrine and policy are agreed and adopted. Conference is led by an elected President (always a Preacher) and a Vice President (a lay person or deacon).

This collaborative structure is important to Methodist belief. We believe that the 'whole people' of God shares the same calling. Ordained ministers do not have a calling that is different in kind from the rest of God's people. British Methodism has two kinds of ordained minister. Presbyters (normally called 'ministers') preach, preside at Holy Communion, and have pastoral responsibility for congregations. Deacons who are members of a religious order have a ministry of service, often of a specialized nature.

Lay leadership is a great strength of Methodism. Most of the leading of worship and preaching is done by Local Preachers who have been specially trained. Many important responsibilities are held by lay people, including various Stewards, who share in guiding the life of the local church or circuit.

The Methodist Council meets regularly through the year to guide the Church between Conferences. The Connexional Team resources the Church in carrying out what Conference has agreed.

All these elements add up to making the Methodist Church a "Connexional" Church.

Deacon Claire's monthly message

Pancakes and Pilgrimage

Dear Friends,

My last article spoke about my dad and how recently I have been reminded to look for Signs of God in the world. This time as we approach Lent and Easter people tend to become quite solemn, after the fun of pancakes - this year we are trying them with Nutella - having had churros with Nutella for the first time at Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park - it was a revelation! (Of course, other chocolate type spreads are available and no, I'm not on commission)

But after the fun of pancake day, which always reminds me of when I was younger and myself and my sister used to have a competition of who could eat the most, I remember once we had 12 each and then felt very sick on the way to Girls' Brigade, they were covered in Jam and some squeezey lemon juice, which I can't remember the name of - I'm surprised we had any teeth left and now looking back rather unsurprised that I had to wear braces on my teeth for a very long time!

But again I digress, after pancakes we are meant to focus on thinking about the temptations of Jesus and then his journey to the cross, I have to confess always being rather frustrated with the Christian calendar. No sooner is Christmas over then we are straight onto the journey to Easter which seems to be packed into one week and then we are onto the ministry of Jesus. I would ideally like a three-year cycle where we go from the birth, then we follow all of Jesus' ministry and then do Easter and the Resurrection and the Road to Emmaus. But I do rather like things in a logical order, I often find that jumping here there and everywhere with the lectionary we often miss out bits and certainly do not particularly follow any chronological order, it must be very hard for those who are new to faith to follow what's happening, when I who have been to church all my life struggle.

comments on Deacon Claire's January item –

... time, and the importance of taking time to stop and reflect ...

That for me was the main thrust of Claire's very human and down to earth message to our readers last month. And in today's frantic rush and tear to cram so much into our daily living, be they long or short, it is an absolute necessity.

There are always deadlines to be met, meetings to attend and, forgive me, in some cases keeping up with the Jones's. What on earth does it matter if next door have just bought some nice new curtains – there's nothing wrong with those that hang at our windows. We should give thanks that we have curtains and a place we can call home.

If we don't take time to stop and think before we act there is a distinct possibility that our actions may be wrong and useless – even disastrous. I know I've been guilty of such behaviour on occasions in the past and have had to live with regrets as a result of my own impatience and stupidity.

However, we are all agreed on one point – time really does seem to fly these days – who can believe that we are just about to enter the third month of this 'new' year. When we were children once Christmas was over it seemed an eternity to have to wait for the next one – a whole year – today it seems we remove our trees, as did Claire, one month and very soon it's time to begin making our Christmas lists etc. etc. again.

As that poem of William Henry Davies says

'a poor life this if full of care we have no time to stand and stare'

Something to dwell on the next time we see a cow!

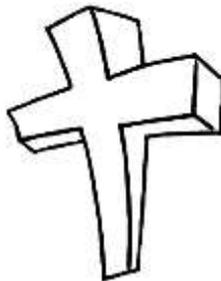
And then of equal importance, Claire touched on signs and symbols. Good or not so good, we should not get confused with what are termed as 'signs' and 'superstition'.

“One for sorrow, two for joy”

an ancient country saying concerning crows – I was blessed with an aunt who would resort to tears if she saw a single crow sitting on a house roof and kept wondering who would be dying in that house – quite idiotic – I imagine it had once happened sometime, somewhere in the past and the saying arose from that situation.

But, just like Claire, we all have our 'robins' and that is surely something to hold on to and treasure – it may or may not help any situation in which we find ourselves, but those little signs do give glimmers of hope which is something that may serve to give us uplift.

Of course, for all who believe and have faith in God there is one positive sign or symbol – one that some wear round their necks or in a jacket lapel – one that is featured in every Christian church on the planet - it's the greatest of all signs and symbols –



Thank you once again Claire – may you and your robins keep giving you hope and may we all remember to “be still.....”

So, in addition to giving thought to Jesus' terrifying suffering, what else might be a good focus for us during Lent?

In the following pages we are including one or two 'tongue-in-cheek' items that refer to the stupidity of mankind and what we have done and continue to do to this planet.

When we were very small children our Sunday School teachers introduced us to Creation, and how in just seven days God had made everything there is from all the galaxies in the heavens to the smallest blade of green grass – such a lovely picturesque story that we read in Genesis, the first book in our bibles - from that we learned that God was very pleased with everything that he had constructed and saw that it was all good.

Whatever our individual thoughts may be about those passages that describe Creation, we should perhaps concentrate on Day Six – may we quote some of the words from the NRSV bible

*“...let us make humankind in our image ...
God blessed them and said to them
fill the earth and subdue it ... see, I have
given you every plant yielding seed that is
upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with
seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food....
And to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has breath of life.....”*

So humankind was put in charge of the lot; it was given total responsibility to take care of all that God had created - but over countless centuries humankind has, in its ignorance, abused that trust. When we created new substances, like asbestos, plastic, fertilizers etc. etc. we thought that was good, but we failed to understand or even realize what problems we would have to face as a result of these wonderful inventions.

There can be little undoing what we have done, but at least may we give thought in the coming weeks how, as individuals, we can subscribe to stemming the downward flow of destruction in our own lives. None of us can change the world, but we can do just a little right where we are

Why not start in our kitchens?

Our mothers and grandmothers were great examples – they managed to keep up very good standards of cleanliness by using soap and water and lots of elbow grease - antiseptic wipes did not exist in their day. Food was never wasted – if the milk turned sour it was used to make a batch of scones, not poured down the sink. Left overs from our Sunday lunches were never ever binned, they were the ingredients that were used to make bubble-and-squeak for our Monday dinner and any left-over meat was minced and made into a pie! Any surplus fruit was made into jam – we never had jam from the local shop.

Let's all stop, think and then act -



We have received the following and it's all about the environment and caring for our planet – were we old folk really that bad?

The cashier in the supermarket told an elderly lady she should bring her own bags as plastic is bad for the environment. The lady apologised and said “we didn’t have the green thing back then” The cashier replied “That’s our problem today – your generation didn’t care enough to save the planet” And she was right – we didn’t have the ‘green thing’ back then ...

... we used to return milk bottles, squash bottles and beer bottles back to the shop. The shop then sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilised and refilled so the same bottle could be used over and over again – they were really recycled – but she was right, we didn’t have the ‘green thing’ back then ...

... we walked upstairs because there were no escalators in many stores or every office building - we walked to the grocers and didn’t climb into a 300 horse-power machine every time we had to go to the next street or the letter box and we walked to our local shop
but she was right, we didn’t have the ‘green thing’ back then ...

.. we washed our baby’s nappies because we didn’t have the throw-away kind. We had to dry our clothes and bed linen on a washing line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 230 volts – wind and solar power really did dry all the washing; our kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters or we made them ourselves only rarely did they have any brand-me clothing
but she was right, we didn’t have the ‘green thing’ back then ...

in our homes – if we were lucky – we had one tv or a radio and not one in every room. If we did possess a tv it had a screen the size of large handkerchief, not one the size of a football pitch and the picture was often a fuzzy black and white one ...
but she was right, we didn’t have the ‘green thing’ back then ...

in our kitchens we blended and stirred ingredients by hand because we had no electric machines to do everything for us – we washed and prepared all the vegetables; ready washed and chopped veg didn’t exist ...
but she was right, we didn’t have the ‘green thing’ back then ...

**When we packed a fragile item to be sent by post we packed it in screwed up newspaper to protect and cushion it – there was no bubble wrap then ...
but she was right, we didn't have the 'green thing' back then ...**

**In those days we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn – we used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by that and other ways so had no need to go to an expensive health club to run on treadmills that operate on lots of electricity ...
but she was right, we didn't have the 'green thing' back then ...**

**when we were thirsty we drank from a fountain and didn't use a plastic cup or bottle every time we needed to drink; our water came from a tap, not from a large bottle of sterilised water In a fridge (which only the affluent had) ...
but she was right, we didn't have the 'green thing' back then ...**

**we refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen and we replaced razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor when the blade got dull
but she was right, we didn't have the 'green thing' back then ...**

**back then people took a tram or a bus; children rode bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service
but she was right, we didn't have the 'green thing' back then ...**

**we had just one electric plug in a room, not a bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. No one had a computer that received a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles in space in order to find the nearest pizza place ...
but she was right, we didn't have the 'green thing' back then ...**

**Isn't it sad that today's generation lament how
wasteful we ancient ones were because we
didn't have the green thing back then?**

And then there's this one about the mad, mad world of today

(contributed by Eva and Chas – thank you)

God and St Francis are having a chat -

God You know all about gardens and nature Frank – what in the world is going on down there on planet Earth? What has happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and other stuff that I started aeons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance plan. All those plants grow in any type of soil, they withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now, but all I can see are lots of these strange green rectangles.

Francis It's the tribes that have settled there, Lord. The suburbanites – they started calling your plants 'weeds' and go to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God Grass? That's so boring; it's not colourful. It doesn't attract birds and bees, only grubs and earthworms. Do all these suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

Francis Apparently so Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing it and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

God The spring rains and warmer weather probably make grass grow really fast so I suppose that must make the suburbanites happy?

Francis Apparently not. As soon as it grows they cut it, and sometimes twice in a week.

God Do they bale it, like hay?

Francis Not exactly Lord. Most of them rake it up and bag it

God Why? Do they sell it?

Francis No, Lord they pay to have it taken away

God Let's get this straight – they fertilise grass to make it grow and when it grows they cut it and pay to throw it away? (Francis nods) These suburbanites must be happy in summer when we cut back on rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the grass growth and saves them work

Francis Well, no Lord, you're not going to believe this - when grass stops growing they hose it and pay more money to water it and they then continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God What nonsense! I see at least they kept some trees that provide beauty and shade in summer then in autumn their leaves fall and make a natural blanket, keeping moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes

Francis Oh dear no Lord. As soon as the leaves fall they rake them up and pay to have them taken away too.

God Then how do they protect tree roots and shrubs and bushes?

Francis They buy stuff called 'mulch' and spread it round the roots.

God Where does this 'mulch' come from?

Francis They cut down trees and grind them to make 'mulch'

God I've heard enough! (God turns to St. Catherine)
Catherine you're in charge of arts – what film have you scheduled for us to watch tonight?

Catherine It's called "A Mad, Mad, World" and it's all about ...

God STOP! I've just heard the whole story from St. Francis

Jim Ashton has sent the following for this month's issue, that clearly draws attention to the way in which our lives often give us surprises -

Life's Twists and turns

Many years ago I was at the 8th Hayes Scout Club headquarters and was taking part in a first-aid course and examination I was a Cub Scout leader, and as it was an all-day course I decided to have my lunch break there During the break I was busy doing some studying when I encountered a man named Tom Venning, one of the first-aid examiners. We had a chat and from then on I lost contact until just recently.

I am a member of a variety group called "Bus pass to Broadway" an over-sixties club who offer shows around local care homes. Last year we were doing one of our shows at a home in Ruislip and the group was shown into a room in which to change and I noticed that the name and picture on the door was Tom Venning. It brought to mind the Tom Venning I had met all those years ago.

Later I realised I had left my stick behind so I returned to the home and had a word with the lady in charge and asked her whether their Tom Venning had once been a first-aid examiner – she said that was so and then showed me to his room. It was indeed that same Tom Venning so we had a few words and I left. On the way out the lady said to me "why don't you visit him – as you can see he is blind".

I got him a card, but as I'd missed the post decided I would take it to him, together with some other items of memorabilia, which I did on Christmas Eve and we had an enjoyable time together.

Life really does have lots of twists and turns.

Had you heard the happy news?

Our Communion Steward Anne E. has become a great grandmother!

Anne, who has been part of our Hayes End Church Family for over sixty years, received news of the birth of her great grandson last month.

His name is Harry James Edward and his mum and dad are Katie and Jacob. Katie is the younger daughter of Kay and Clive Avery, and Kay is the younger daughter of Anne and her late husband Alan. So, there you have it – please join all the church family with your prayers for this little one – another of God’s wonderful creations - and give love and congratulations to Anne.

Thanks be to God



and, while on the subject of giving thanks to God, we would like to remind readers that we would still like to receive names of any individual for whom you may wish to give your thanks - as we do each month on page 6 of our prayer section. We have a list of names, but it would be good to add more to that list – just email or phone any names you may have – contact details can be found on the back cover of every magazine.

Time for a laugh -

we wish to thank Eva and Chas again for the following giggles and silliness

**A man asked an American Indian what his wife's name was and he replied - "She is called "Five Horses".
The man said, "that's an unusual name – what does it mean?
The Indian replied "It is a very old name –
it means 'nag, nag, nag, nag, nag'**

**I recently decided to try out a new dish for our evening meal. It made me laugh when I came to the instruction
"peel the tomatoes easily by standing in a bowl of hot water"
As I had no desire to suffer any serious burns I obviously did not follow that instruction.**

If you are feeling a bit lonely and would like to have some visitors don't bother to tidy up your house – it always works - without fail someone will turn up.

The teacher in the Nursery class was asking her class what happened in certain rooms in their house – a four-year old replied “in the bathroom you clean your teeth and wash your face and in the bedroom you go to sleep” – asked what happened in the kitchen the little girl replied “that’s where mummy scrapes burnt toast”

Two men were talking in a pub – one asked the other how he had acquired his black eye.
“my wife hit me because of the TV“
“How come?” asked the other “well, she asked me what was on the TV and I replied ‘dust’

Chinese Proverb -It is better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool, than to open it and remove all possible doubt!

And finally, our thanks to Tasha who has forwarded the following discovered on a notice board outside a French church

When you enter this church it may be that you hear the call of God. However, it is unlikely he will call you on your mobile. If you want to talk to him please find a quiet place, switching off your mobile.
If you would like to see him send him a text while you are driving



The closing date for items in our April Magazine

Wednesday 13th MARCH

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

crummage@btinternet.com

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 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
London District Website is www.methodistlondon.org.uk

**Worship dates and other events
in our church and Circuit during
the months of March and
April 2019**



March 2019

- 2nd 12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes
3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon
- 3rd 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 a Pancake Party
- 4th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
7.30 p.m. Circuit Leadership Team meet at Ruislip
- 5th Shrove Tuesday
- 6th **Ash Wednesday – the start of the season of Lent**
12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
7.30 p.m. Ashing Service at North Hillingdon
- 7th 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 10th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
6.00 p.m. Praise and Worship service at North Hillingdon
- 12th 7.00 p.m. Local Preachers & Worship leaders meet at Pinner
- 13th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
- Last date for items for April magazine items**
- 14th 7.15 p.m. Circuit Grants Committee meet at Hayes End
7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End
8.00 p.m. Circuit Meeting at Eastcote church
- 16th 10.00 a.m. Church stewards meeting with Super. at Ruislip

- 17th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon with Holy Communion
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Anniversary Parade
Service at Hayes End and return to worship in
refurbished church followed by Sunday lunch
- 18th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
- 20th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 21st 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 24th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
4.00 p.m. Annual Memorial Service, followed by afternoon tea
April magazines out
- 27th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 28th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft Group meet at Hayes End
- 31st **Mothering Sunday**
 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

April 2019

- 1st 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
- 3rd 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 4th 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 6th 12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes
 3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon
 District Synod at Westminster Central Hall
- 7th **Passion Sunday**
 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Parade Service at Hayes End
- 10th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
- 11th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft Group meet at Hayes End

- 14th **Palm Sunday**
 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
 6.00 p.m. Praise and Worship service at North Hillingdon
- 15th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
- 17th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters

Last date for items for May magazine items

- 18th **Maundy Thursday**
 7.30 p.m. United Service and Maundy meal
- 19th **Good Friday**
 Services and Walks of Witness at all three churches – check times
- w21st **Easter Sunday**
 8.00 a.m. Breakfast & Holy Communion at North Hillingdon
 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 with Holy Communion
- 22nd Easter Monday
- 27th Film Night at North Hillingdon – “Risen’
- 28th 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
- 29th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End

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



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
(3rd Wed, monthly Contact): Edna – Tel: 0208-573-8564
11.00 – Holy Communion (2nd 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 March 2019

3rd March	Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36(37-43) Psalm 99
10th March	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
17th March	Genesis 15:1-12 Philipians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35 Psalm 27
24th March	Isaiah 56:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-3 Luke 13:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8
31st March	Joshua 5:9-12 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Psalm 32

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