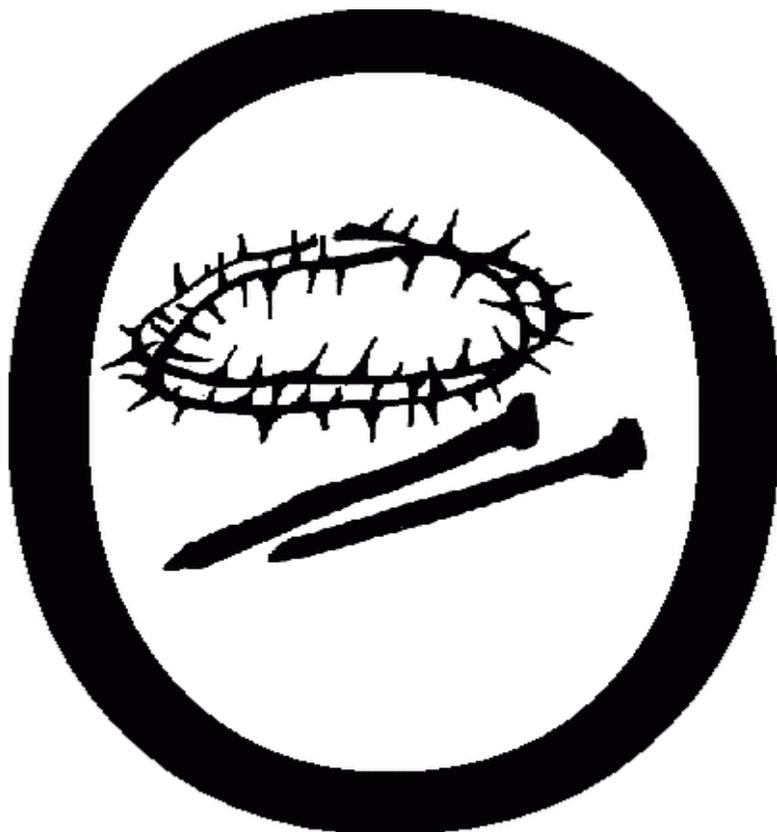


The Chronicle

*Monthly magazine of the
three Hayes Methodist churches*



Lent/Easter - April 2019 - Issue 261

The Methodist Church

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

March 2019

A letter from the Minister

Dear Friends'

How do I pray?

I am writing this on the evening of the second meaningful vote when Theresa May's deal to leave the European Union has been defeated by Parliament. I don't know what will be the state of affairs when this piece is published or when you are reading it. And I don't want to talk about Brexit as I realise that there are people on both sides of the argument who hold views that they have thought through and have beliefs which they hold with sincerity (and there are probably a lot more people in the middle too).

However, one thing I am convinced about the whole situation is that it needs prayer. But in this context, how do you pray and what do you pray for?

Paul writes in his letter to the Romans that when "we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will" (Romans 8:26-27).

I find those words very consoling. There was a time in my life when I found it really hard to pray. I couldn't seem to find any words to express what I wanted to say. But that didn't stop me. Instead I would pray in images. For people or situations that I wanted to pray for I would picture them in my mind and offer them to God. It was my way – without words – of placing them into God's care. And it worked – for me at least.

God hears our prayers even when we do not have words with which to express ourselves. The most important thing is not to stop communicating with God.

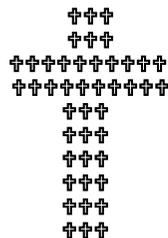
Perhaps in all the muddle and confusion of Brexit, or anything else big in our lives that is just what we have to do – offer them to God. And if you read on to the next verse in Romans there is a reassurance – “We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him”. How great is that!

Have a good month in which we celebrate that joy of Easter where in the crucifixion and resurrection God most certainly does ‘work for good for all those who love him’.

Every blessing
Ken

PS
Having written this, I have just found this prayer from the Baptist Union relating to Brexit.

God of love,
we pray for our divided country in this time of uncertainty and confusion.
We hold before you our Prime Minister, MPs and all in parliament,
that together they might seek a future
where the ‘other’ is privileged and listening is prioritised.
Help us to be ambassadors of your compassion
United in the hope and name of Jesus,
we dare to pray, your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.



Our churches' prayer pages



Having marked Ash Wednesday on the 6th of March with a Service led by our Minister Ken at the North Hillingdon church, we are now almost three weeks into the season of Lent 2019 and, with God's help, are giving action to the decisions we made as a token of denial during the six weeks – six weeks when as followers of the Way we reflect on the suffering and final sacrifice of Jesus Christ; a sacrifice made for all of us. Prolific writer Matt Redman has composed a hymn for this time of the Christian year that we offer this month-

When we were in the darkest night and wondered if our eyes would ever see the light, you were there, Lord. You were there in the struggle, you were there in the fight, you were there all the time.

We praise you the God of our yesterdays, we praise you the God who is here today, we praise you our God as tomorrow comes

So, whatever lies ahead, whatever road our grateful hearts will come to tread, you'll be there Lord. We will fix our eyes on you and know that there is grace enough to see us through. You'll be there Lord in the struggle, you'll be there in the fight, you'll be there all the time.

We praise you the God of our yesterdays, we praise you the God who is here today, we praise you our God as tomorrow comes

We thank you – for grace in our yesterdays, we thank you - for peace in our hearts today, we thank you - our joy as tomorrow comes. We will trust you God You're always closer than we know, always more involved and in control. We will trust our lives to you, the One who was and is and is to come We praise you the God of our yesterdays.

... 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

Adrian Barber
Joyce Davies
Carole Gardiner
Wilfred Owen

Ivan Cross
Don
George Laverty
Marcia Reeves

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*

**“Risen God, you show us love too strong for death,
evil deeds defeated by your living breath.
In love you teach us never to despair,
your new life reminds us hope is always there”**

Marjorie Dobson

An Easter message from our Circuit Superintendent

March 2019

Dear All

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

We are approaching the most important time of the Christian calendar that of Easter. Why does Easter matter?

Easter is so significant because the Cross of Christ frames so much of our faith. Without the Cross the gospel message would be diminished. The Cross places everything into perspective.

Easter is such a special time of year but before we arrive at the great festival itself we must travel through Lent, that period of reflection and self-examination.

There is always the temptation to fast forward our thinking so we focus on the joy but don't experience the difficulties of Lent. By taking time to pause and reflect, as hard as it can be, leads to a time of growth, learning and faith filled self-discovery. The same is true of Holy Week, there can be an urge to rush from the joy and excitement of Palm Sunday to the elation of Easter Sunday and miss what occurs in between. But without the painful journey of Holy Week there would be no Last Supper, no Crucifixion and no great sacrifice.

So, this year I would encourage us all, as difficult as it can be, to travel and experience the events of Holy Week so that on Easter Sunday we can experience a fuller joy to say that truly Christ Has Risen. Through the pain, death and depravity of the Cross, an instrument of torture that was designed for punishment and agony, Christ transformed the Cross into a symbol of hope and love which epitomises the Christian faith.

The Cross gives hope, brings restoration, healing and enables new life. In a world of so much pain, hopelessness and evil, let us celebrate that Jesus has conquered all.



As a Circuit we continue to develop our Mission Strategy for the future. This has not been an easy process and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) did not want to create the strategy and impose this on the Circuit. Rather the CLT wanted a plan to emerge from the churches which in turn would help produce a more constructive and well-planned Circuit Strategy. In the light of the hope of the Cross, please pray for the CLT as it considers the next steps in putting together the strategy in identifying what common themes and ideas come from the Circuit Mission Plan – again not an easy task.

We serve a Risen Saviour and it is His Kingdom we are helping to build so let us look to the future with faith, hope and love and give thanks for the Cross – the symbol that transformed the world.

Yours in Christ's Name,

Andrew

of April, lambs, God and a memory ...

All in the April evening April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road.
The sheep with their little lambs passed me by on the road;
All in the April evening I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary and crying with a weak, human cry.
I thought on the Lamb of God going meekly to die.
Up in the blue, blue mountains dewy pastures are sweet;
Rest for the little bodies, rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb of God, up on the hill-top green,
Only a cross of shame two stark crosses between.
All in the April evening, April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs and
thought on the Lamb of God.

The words of that lovely song, written by Katharine Tynan Hinkson in the late nineteenth century often come to my mind when we reach the month of April and are approaching Easter and Holy Week: they paint a delightful pastoral scene of sheep and their new-born lambs, but at the same time they express the utter enormity and horror of the Cross.

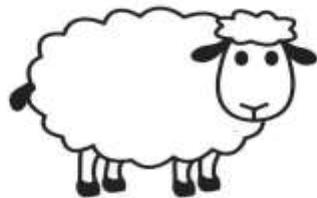
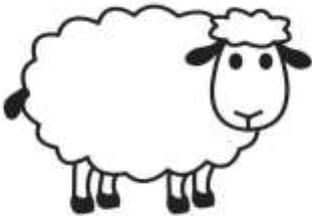
One Easter Monday, back in the mid-eighties, my husband and I travelled to west Wales for a short break. At Hayes End we had just marked Holy Week that had begun with the usual Palm Sunday Church Parade service, ending on Easter morning celebrating the glories of the resurrected Jesus. We stayed in a lovely cottage in Aberystwyth, and although the mornings and evenings were somewhat chilly, we were blessed with five days of clear blue skies and sunshine – much appreciated as our normal holiday weather was frequently wet!

During that week we spent every day exploring much of the beautiful countryside that surrounds the bay of Cardigan (an area of the UK not familiar to either of us) including the famous Devil's Bridge where not one, but three bridges are built one over the other and all spanning a bubbling river far below.

Late one afternoon we parked the car in a designated highpoint that overlooked the Bay and, with our backs to the sea, were leaning on a fence overlooking a lush valley where we saw lots of sheep and their young lambs in a field below.

We were soon attracted by the sound of whistling and then noticed that a shepherd in the far distance, along with a couple of working dogs, was herding those animals into an adjacent field. Apart from having always enjoyed watching the programme 'One man and his dog' on tv it was the very first time either of us had witnessed such a sight in reality – we were mesmerized and watched that man and his dogs at work until all the sheep and lambs had been safely moved and a gate was closed to secure them in that new pasture.

Once their job was over the man made a great fuss of both dogs and then together with the dogs jumping up at that shepherd off they all went back to their home – afterwards, as we travelled back to the cottage, Vic remarked that scene had clearly brought home the reason Jesus said he was our shepherd – a gentle leader who so obviously cared for all his sheep and his closest followers and helpers who gave him their support .



***So for me the month of April, that song,
lots of lambs and God all belong together.***

much has happened since the last issue - here's what Hayes End has been up to ...

The second of the 'Chill Out' sessions for our young folk took place on the 22nd of February – now maybe a distant memory, but none-the-less of considerable importance in the life of our church. Such times clearly indicate that there are people in our church family who realise just how important and valuable the younger generation is so it is to them we say thank you.

Although not large in number the young folk who were there that evening enjoyed what was on offer – I know few children or adults who do not like chocolate, in any shape form or indeed tasty pancakes, what more could you ask! It was good that there were some new faces enjoying themselves, especially as some of those attending the last chilling experience were unable to take part that time. This is what Nicola tells us was their programme

- making chocolate mice from small Easter eggs and an assortment of sweets.
- a game - throwing the dice and dressing up when a 6 was rolled to then try opening and eating a bar of chocolate with a knife and fork before someone else rolled a 6 and took over.
- transferring Maltesers from one bowl to another only using a straw (it's a lot more difficult than you think until you get the hang of it!)
- Girls' team against the boys' team - putting squirty cream on a team mate's face and trying to get as many chocolates to stick as possible in 10 seconds (a lot of cheating on that one!)
- placing an after-dinner mint on your forehead and getting it into your mouth without using your hands - much easier than we thought it would be!
- then we finished off with savoury and sweet pancakes

The next 'let it all hang out' session will be in May at a date to be decided, but please rest assured you will be advised in good time – meanwhile if you are reading this could you make sure you pass the message on to any boy or girl you know who falls into the 'senior school' category – there's a welcome and more fun awaiting.

Good to see you ...

In today's world, where families no longer live all their lives cheek by jowl in the same town and in adjacent streets, our friends and relations frequently move far away to live in other districts and indeed often move to other countries. And that too is the way with all Methodist ministers whose calling is to serve God and who move from place to place as is required of them.

So it was with one of our previous ministers Revd. Helen Watson and her husband Shaun and their three boys who were with us from 2010 to 2015. However, and this is where modern technology is distinctly advantageous, we are enabled to remain in touch no matter the distance that may divide us and that we have done with Helen and family via our monthly magazine and emails.

That was how Richard, Helen and Shaun's youngest son, came to be with old friends at the Hayes End Methodist church on Sunday 24th of February.

At the present time Richard is working very hard towards gaining a Gateway Gold Award, under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme for folk with learning disabilities. (he has already achieved his Gateway Bronze and Silver). It takes a total of 18 months to complete and the Gold section includes Fitness, Hobby, Lifestyle, Volunteering and Challenge.

For the Challenge section of the award Richard had to book himself for one night into an hotel a good distance from his present home and then engage in an act of service to other people at a voluntary unit

We were delighted that Richard chose Hayes End church for that Challenge.

On that day having made the very long journey by public transport from his home in Kent and spending the night in a local hostelry, Richard arrived bright and early ready to prepare for his tea duties.

He attended morning worship and then, together with one of our tea ladies, served cups of tea and biscuits to those who stayed afterwards for a chat and time of fellowship with their friends.

That act of 'service' was excellent from both angles as Richard remembered many of his previous contemporaries and we had remembered Richard from the times when he was a local, and most especially his engaging smile. (Richard was and still is one of those people who smile with their eyes – a lovely trait)

Then, when all the tea-drinkers had departed for their homes, and still mindful of his quest, Richard stayed on and did not leave until he had assisted with all the washing up that had to be done.

The special tea lady, whose name is Molly, was so full of praise for Richard's help and how very good it was to see him again and see the obvious progress that he has made since he and his family moved away from Hayes. I hear they had some good chats over the sink!

And not only that, but Molly's remarks were echoed by many other members who remembered the Watsons when they were resident in Hayes and when Richard was a well-liked member of our church family.

So thank you very much Richard for completing your challenge so well – know you and your family will always be welcome at Hayes End. Keep going and please don't forget to let us know when you have reached your Golden goal.



NB

Editor's note – when very many years ago I arrived in the Big Smoke, I can still remember being quite bewildered by travelling alone on transport in London – did I need to go east or west? - it was quite a daunting experience and I imagine it still is today!

Farewell to a very special gentleman ...

It is with much sadness we report the death of dear Brian Saunders who God gently took back home on Thursday, 28th of February. Many friends will remember Brian and his effervescent wife Bobbie when they were both very active members of our Hayes End church family. Ever since they moved from Hayes to Bournemouth we have remained in close touch and have met one another over the years: they have also continued to know what goes on here via the magazine.

Brian was not only a gentleman, but he was a very gentle man. He was a contented individual with a wife and three children that he so obviously adored, plus seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. And there was also his dog. Here was a man who never sought the limelight, never thought he was better than his fellows and enjoyed the simple things of life. He liked to have a laugh with friends and was an expert drummer, frequently giving of his talent at some of our social events. He did 'property' stuff in and around the church, always quietly and unobtrusively. A very dear soul who was always 'there'.

I can recall many good times when we were privileged to enjoy his company - when we went holidaying together – one remains from before they moved when, with a number of other folk, we went to Bournemouth for a few days. Arriving at the hotel on the Friday night we shared a meal and a drink and then it was time for bed. Vic and I had just donned our pyjamas and heard giggling and laughter outside the door and a gentle tap – on opening it there stood Bobbie and Brian having a good laugh together – they had mislaid the key to their room and had been wandering around looking for it!! On that trip many of the ladies had black handbags – so as Bobbie and I had been seated together, both with black bags, could I have a look in my bag to see if it was there? and yes, it was! Bobbie had dropped their key in my bag by mistake. A totally silly incident from years ago, but a good one enjoyed with dear Brian as we tried not to wake up other residents with our chuckles.

Now, after sixty years of marriage and memories of all that they had shared our Bobbie has to face her remaining years alone, even though we know she will have lots of good support from her family, her one special soul-mate will be missing.

Dear Bobbie, your faith is strong so cling to that and know there will come a day of great reunion and rejoicing when for eternity you will never again be parted from your beloved. Love, prayers and blessings from your Hayes End church family.



Hayes End Methodist Church Action Plan for Mission

The Circuit is now involved in a major initiative for all Churches to establish before Easter their Church Action Mission Plans. This work is essential in establishing the building bricks to enable Churches to grow. The options are stark we either grow or eventually die. We have already started work on this process and our Church Council and Leadership Team have produced this first draft of our Action Plan. At our Service on 9th March led by Deacon Claire Gill in groups we discussed our Action Plan and came up with various ideas to take the process forward. This is vitally urgent work and everyone in the Church has a role to play in this process. So please continue to engage with this process as we continue on the road of ensuring that our Church remains a 'Growing Church'

THE CHURCH ACTION PLAN FOR MISSION

CATEGORY A: WORSHIP		
Immediate ½ to 1 year	Ongoing 1 to 2 years	Future 2 to 3 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Making Worship a time of joy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Incorporating traditions from other cultures and learn new songs •Provide different worship styles including those appropriate for younger people and the unchurched. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop our Music Ministry
CATEGORY B: DISCIPLESHIP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop further Bible Study & Prayer Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maintain The Bible Study & Prayer Groups 	

THE CHURCH ACTION PLAN FOR MISSION CONTINUED

CATEGORY C: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Involve Children & young People in the life of The Church especially in worship. •Support those working with Children & Young People. •Develop regular Chill-Out events for Teenagers & Young Adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Campaign to recruit additional adult staff. •Campaign to increase the numbers of children in the Junior Church. 	
CATEGORY D: PASTORAL		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Radical overall of the groups •Appoint additional Pastoral Carers. •Arrange training for Pastoral Carers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Keep revised system under continual review and amend as necessary. 	
CATEGORY E: MISSION & OUTREACH		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Annually arrange 2 major Outreach Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Make the best use of these events. •Make stronger links with those on the fringe of our Church. 	
CATEGORY F: RESOURCES/PUBLICITY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Look to make better use of Church Web Site, Magazine, Social Media as tools for witness and nurture to our congregation and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue to look at uprating our IT facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review our continuing Copy Printer requirements

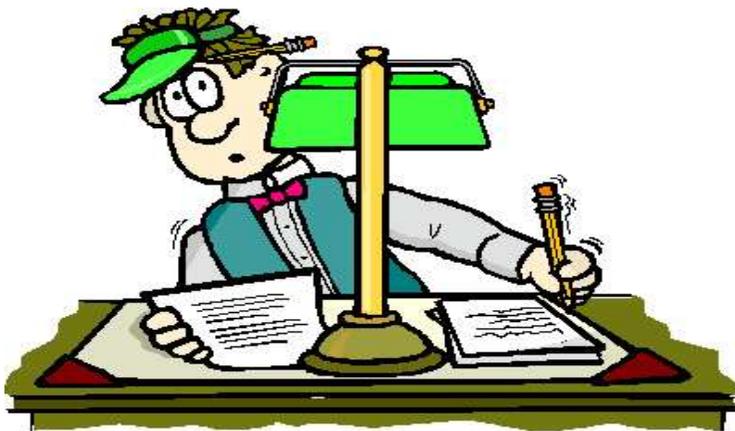


The Church Modernisation Project 2019

Finally, all our efforts came to fruition on Monday 11th March when the Contractors finally completed the last task the lining of the Car Park. The 2 months since they started work on this project has been fraught with many challenges and many meetings, although it must be noted that we were richly blessed by such great support from the Head Contractor and our Architect. But in no way does the completion of this work mean we can now sit back in a complacent frame of mind. In fact, the reverse must be the case. Now the urgent question is what next? The continuing improvements and uprating of our premises must remain a key element in the mission plan for our Church. The Finance & Property Committee are already considering these matters and future priorities include:

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

John Chamberlain



THE CHURCH MODERNISATION PROJECT

Total cost was £104,000 of which £39,500 was funded from Grant support and the rest from our own resources. We give thanks to all those in the Church who have worked so hard to bring this project to completion within the set time-scale.

DO YOU SHOP VIA THE INTERNET? – If so, please join the group of folks in our Church, who undertake all their shopping via *The Easy Fund Raising Web Site*. Please note this will not incur you any additional costs. Last Financial Year £245 was raised for Church Funds from this source. For more information please speak to Nicola Mercer.



THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR

Sunday Collection Envelopes are now available. Using weekly envelopes helps the Church considerably. If not already using these envelopes please speak to John Chamberlain about now joining the scheme.

Deacon Claire's monthly message

Don't Put all your Eggs in One Basket

I remember hearing that phrase a lot when I was growing up, not in the literal sense of carrying eggs in a basket, eggs came in cartons from the supermarket! but in the sense that you shouldn't pin all your hopes on one outcome.

Whenever I was asked as a child what did I want to be when I grew up I always said a Lighthouse keeper, knowing that was maybe not the most practical of ideas, I was told 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket', a gentle encouragement to think that there may also be other career options open to me. It was said in kindness, to lessen the chances of disappointment, if what I wished for failed to materialise.

In many ways this is similar to our faith journey and experience of church, we are actively encouraged to be risk adverse, to not think too big, to be realistic with our expectations.

At our recent Church Action Plan service (10th March) we looked at things we might like to consider as future possibilities and the timescales in which these might be achievable.

It was really good to see all ages discussing and agreeing on new initiatives for our church, and although tables did not confer with each other it was surprising to see the similarity of ideas. It was equally heart-warming to see people being positive and enthused about future possibilities, rather than adopting a rather negative and disinterested stance.

It struck me that we should be offering the opposite advice to our suggested title and that we should be encouraging everyone to

'Put All your Eggs in One Basket'

if our church or God is the basket, we should be putting everything in, not keeping a part in reserve or hedging our bets in case it all goes wrong.

I remember when I used to teach A-Level Philosophy explaining to the 6th formers about Blaise Pascal and Pascal's Wager, to summarise the essence of which is,

**If you bet that God exists and he does not exist
you have lost nothing
If you bet that God exists and he does exist
then you gain everything
If you bet that God does not exist and he does exist
then you have lost everything**

So it is better to bet that God exists in the hope of gaining everything, in other words it is better to Put all your eggs in one basket, to place all your faith and hope in God, just as God placed all his eggs in one Basket in the sense of sending his only Son Jesus Christ into our world, not to judge and condemn but to offer eternal life.

As we approach Easter and manage to think beyond the concept of chocolate eggs and bunnies, we pray that as a church, we may be willing to take risks for God, just as he did for each of us.

**'For God loved the world so much that he gave
his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him
may not die but have eternal life.
For God did not send his Son into our world to be
its judge, but to be its saviour.'** (John 3:16)

May we continue to be brave like Christ, willing to walk together into the unknown and know that God goes with us.

I wish you all a very blessed Easter, Claire 11.03.19



comments on Deacon Claire's March item –

Well yes, 'pancakes and pilgrimage' – an inviting and intriguing title that made you want to learn more.

As you will read later, at Hayes End church we did the pancake bit a couple of days before the actual Shrove Tuesday: mind you I feel quite sure that didn't prevent the majority of our number having a repeat performance in their own homes on the 5th of March.

(even though I have recently eaten, I'm sure that at this very moment should someone place one before me I could manage to consume it - talk about Lent and temptation!)

But the main thrust of Claire's message this time was not pancakes but the Pilgrimage part – how our very lives are a journey of pilgrimage – and indeed they are also a faith journey. Despite the countless differences between each and every individual in our varying lifestyles and our personal values we are on exactly the same road as one another. There is no other.

For some their journey has been fraught with troubles and their route has meandered from place to place – they have been travelling wearily for ages and look forward to the time when they arrive at their destination.

Others are just at the start of their faith journey and feel able to tackle mountains and rushing rivers and indeed any other obstacles they will be called to encounter. Each one is at a different place on the road and views the passing scene from a different angle. Burdened or not, it is a time of continual discovery, especially if they are observant and open to all they see, hear and try to understand

Then there are the plodders – even though they may (like Pilgrim) bear heavy loads on their backs, they continue on their journey undaunted, knowing with absolute certainty that their travelling is worthwhile. They are the ones who, despite their own burdens, will willingly offer a helping hand to any fellow travellers who find the path difficult.

So, as Claire suggests, let's each take a look at our own lifestyles from the Faith Journey angle – where are we on our pilgrimage? This surely is something to contemplate during the remaining days of Lent – and beyond as we work towards church growth. There must be our no.1 priority.

She also drew our attention to a proposal made by Jill Baker, Conference President, who suggested we need to find a rhythm to our lives with time for prayer, contemplation and an awareness of the wonder of what is all around us as we travel.

And so all of this leads to increasing the necessity of taking the best care of what we observe as we walk along - a precious gift without price given by God to his children (us) – a gift we should treasure all the days of our journeying: a totally free present that we should value and preserve for ever.

Now it's time to hoist up our back-packs and keep going – we've had our pancakes, now let's continue on the pilgrimage of faith, prayer and observation and encourage others to come and share with us.



And still on pancakes –

yes, at Hayes End on the 3rd, and following a meaningful service led by our minister Ken, some hard-working Junior church staff and members prepared and cooked these tasty treats for all to share. So, we give a great big thankyou to all who were involved in the feast – mouth-wateringly delicious and much appreciated!

And it was indeed a valuable time of worship that Ken brought us that day – it was all about Care – care for one another, and included the re-dedication of those who take on responsibility of Pastoral carers in our church. As believers, one way or another, we are all connected and should demonstrate that connection with concern for all of our neighbours, both near and far away. That 'connection' was superbly demonstrated as, with the aid of a couple of balls of wool being hurled from one to the other in the congregation, prayers of thankfulness were offered to God by as many 'throwers' and 'catchers' as were involved. Let's keep In mind the words of the hymn 'A new Commandment' - can't remember them? Why not look it up – written by an unknown author, it's no. 22 in Songs of Fellowship.

Many happy returns to all of us!

Currently in our 129th year and to mark the occasion on the 17th March we met to give thanks to God for past years and for all who had gone before us ensuring that we still have a church alive and kicking on the Uxbridge Road in Hayes: and not only for our birthday, but two other good reasons for celebration - firstly, the recent refurbishment, enhancing the upgrading of a more disabled friendly entry was now completed.

The second reason was to welcome a previous Minister, the Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle as our preacher that day. Many will remember it was while the Zihle family were with us eleven years ago (September 2008) that we revamped our worship area into the welcoming and comfortable place it is today. It was a good, joyful pause on our journey, but never should we stagnate and rest on our laurels – just a short time to catch our breath and then on with the next venture and all that may entail. Our work is for the glory of God and for all who follow when we are no longer in situ. Here's a brief report on that day ... weather-wise it was



The first action was when Edna La Mothe propelled her electric scooter up the new ramp and was met at the top by??? Together

with the youngest family member - the delightful little toddler Evie Clark - they cut the ribbon over the door so allowing entry to everyone.

What a transformation!

Gone was the wood and glass screen, enlarging the whole church and now enabling all who pass by the building a clear vision of the Cross and worship area and saying

“Come in, take a seat and know you are welcome”

To our right is now the print room and on the left are disabled toilet facilities – they will be appreciated by folk who have to travel distances and whose first need is often a cloak-room; it will also ensure worshippers no longer have to go to the front of the church when need arises which can be embarrassing. The church office is now located in what was the stewards' vestry (opposite the kitchen) and will be used by all our preachers on Sundays.



It was good to have Jongi as our visiting preacher that day and brought back memories of when he had pastoral care of the Hayes churches, supported by his wife Mmasape and their children. With great hymns and prayers and using readings from Philipians and Luke, Jongi's message to us all came over loud and clear

We must learn to be patient imitators of Jesus who, by all his wonderful words, actions and teaching taught us how to live our lives.

All can be summarised in the chorus of the hymn we sang by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

**“King of heaven, we will answer the call.
We will follow bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name”**



undoubtedly know who you are!

Afterwards, as true Methodists, we gathered for a sumptuous meal and were able to share food and fellowship with each other. Grateful thanks go to all involved in any way on that special day; and most especially to the individuals who bore the brunt of all the planning, plotting, sorting finances, countless meetings etc. etc. to ensure everything would be 'all right on the night' – you May God bless you all.

Lent Darkness

Dragons lurk in desert spaces,
penetrating the mind with evil claw,
Serpents' teeth seek out the chinks insidiously,
relentlessly gnawing on the bone;
searching out the interstices of muscle and sinew.

Such is the pain of the wilderness alone, alone, alone.
Christ sits in the waste space of abandoned pleas and questions
until exhausted.

Finally at last the realisation comes that
in the end there is only God.

*In the night time of our fears and in our questioning be present,
ever present God. Be present with those camped out in the
fields of hopelessness, with refugees and the homeless;
those who live lives of quiet desperation. Be present until
the desert places blossom like the rose, and hope is born again.*

Author unknown

The best mathematical equation

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

Looking Ahead –

Holy Week 2019

You will find a reminder of the various services and gatherings for our three churches in the diary dates on pages 35/36; you can also check other services in our Circuit churches - they can be found on the Circuit Website – www.hah.org.uk

... and beyond ...

We'd like to draw everyone's attention to an important service that is planned for Sunday 5th May. On that day worship will include a talk by a representative from "All We Can" (title of the old Methodist Relief and Development Fund)

A gentleman from "All We Can" will be telling us about the modis operandi of that most important unit, and how vital it is that churches continue to support by giving 'all we can' to their appeals. It will be good to learn how our giving is turned into reality wherever there is so much need in today's unfair world.

While we can go to church, to enjoy worship and fellowship with family and friends and engage in countless other pursuits, we should be mindful of thousands of fellow humans who have no hope of ever being able to have such a lifestyle. We need to remember that all our giving gives voice to thanking God for having placed us where we are and has given us the ability to help others.



and the following Saturday – the 11th - there's a

Dave Live Concert!

Farewell to another old friend –

Friends were both shocked and saddened to learn that Barry Mills, a one time member of our Boys' Brigade Company had died. If you were around during the eighties you may recall that Barry was an engaging and popular boy and related well with his peers. Barry was only 43 when he left this earthly life and our many thoughts and prayers go to his nearest and dearest family.

Although it is inevitable in that it will be faced by every individual, death is never a desirable experience but is even more stressful and heart-breaking when a young person succumbs to its call and leaves loved-ones behind

Barry's funeral took place at Breakspear crematorium on Tuesday 5th March, and as tribute to his memory and to recall good days long gone, a total of 3 officers and 15 boys from the 4th Hillingdon Brigade, now themselves all grown men and mostly no longer in the Hayes area, attended his funeral to pay their respects and give tribute to his memory. *(to add voice his worth, Barry's employers gave all their staff time off work to attend his funeral – a kind, caring gesture for one obviously valued)*

Go well with God Barry and know that your suffering and earthly troubles are now behind you for eternity. Blessings from all who remember you at Hayes End.

You choose –

You can shed tears that I have gone
or you can smile because I lived.
You can close your eyes and pray I'll come back
or you can open your eyes and see all I've left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see me,
or you can be full of all we shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember me and only that I've gone,
or you can cherish the memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,
or you can do what I'd want – smile, open your eyes,
love and keep going on.



Our girls

Just a line or to keep everyone updated with news concerning our small girls, Netsanet and Shawa – the little ones who live in Ethiopia and who, thanks to the generosity of some of our church members at Hayes End, we have ‘adopted’.

We write a letter to them about every eight weeks and have received several communications from both children who are enjoying their lives and who tell us how much they appreciate what we are doing for them. They have sent us pictures that they have coloured.

Both children are given love and support from caring members of the Compassion staff from the local church, as well as being taught important skills to help in their day-to-day living

We will be sending them Easter cards and greetings on their birthdays – Shawa’s is on 28th of April and Netsanet will celebrate her special day on the 17th of June.

We are hoping that we may be able to add another little child to increase our sponsored family up to three – so, please, if anyone wishes to contribute towards this, speak to our Treasurer John C who will be able to fill you in with all the details



Christian Aid Week:

'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

Stand with mums

This Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, Hayes End will have collection envelopes available on Sunday 5th and 12th.

Also available will be a devotional to use during Christian Aid Week which contains a pre-stamped post card to send off

Do you remember the Ebola crisis and all the headlines we saw at the time?

Remember how ‘helpful’ we were in solving the problems?

It seems help was not given freely but at a cost and that debt is now costing lives as it must be repaid. Please read, sign and send off the card so that our government can be made aware of our concerns for the poorest in our world and, hopefully, do something about it.

Will you be a partner for change?

If our church raised £300, it could help provide a new delivery bed so more mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.

Christian Aid Week Prayer

*God our Mother and
Father, we praise you
for the blessings you shower
upon us. Bless the lives of
our sisters and brothers and
their precious children.
In life’s saddest moments,
may we feel your love most,
O Jesus. Continue to dwell
in our hearts, Lord. May
your love keep us strong.
Amen.*

Pat Walsh (Christian Aid Rep)

Stop Press –

just starting production of this issue we received even more unhappy news – we had this note from 1st Uxbridge Boys' Brigade Company

Today it is with much sadness that we have to announce that the 1st Uxbridge Company has lost its longest serving member. Alan Hollaway passed away this morning. Alan was the first boy to enrol into the company as a young 15 year-old in 1951. He was Company Captain from 1972 until 2006 and continued to work in the company until now. Alan was devoted to Boys' Brigade and to the 1st Uxbridge Company. His enthusiasm and commitment to advance Christ's Kingdom amongst Boys never failed. He will be very sadly missed by all. God Bless and Rest in Peace Alan.

And not only was Alan very well-known throughout all the Brigades in our Circuit and beyond, but in many of our churches too – Alan was a frequent teller of stories at Hayes End to both our Monday Bright Hour gatherings (*and it was very recently he had been with them*) and at our Thursday Fellowship Group: in addition, Alan's wife Kath (a valued officer in Girls' Brigade) is a member of our Monday Rambling Group and, as often as she is able, walks in local ways with other members from several churches Many of us have some precious memories of times spent in Alan's company and especially sharing laughs with him – his cup was never half-empty.

Via this magazine may friends at Hayes End add their sincere condolences to Kath and all the family at this time of very mixed emotions. Now Alan may you walk safely and well with God.

And there is even more sorrow for the church family at Hayes End when on Saturday 16th of March we learned that a much-loved member had also departed this life and will be greatly mourned by her family and all who knew her.

It was Maureen Gurney, wife of Dave Gurney and both had had association with Hayes End since the early seventies with our two Brigades and on many other occasions. Maureen had been unwell for a considerable time and had soldiered on despite her suffering. Both were members of our Bright Hour, and whenever she was able Maureen would come with Dave in her wheelchair – If you enquired how she was the answer would always be “fine”.

Many of our number will have some good memories of the Gurney family and their three children Rachel, Ruth and Richard – in fact the writer first met Maureen while waiting to collect children at school gates and it was from Maureen first learned of the existence of the Hayes End Brigades.

All their children were members of the Brigades and well-involved in their miscellaneous activities like Displays and sporting events – and always supported by their mum. Together they had provided Maureen and Dave with ??? grandchildren.

Maureen will leave a gap in all their lives that cannot be filled, and all we can do is ask that God will give them the strength to cope with the months and all the years that lie ahead.

Dave and family, please accept this as expression of sadness from your Hayes End church family and know you and your family are in our prayers.



An apology to all readers –

some may notice that the Editor's letter last month came to an abrupt and terse ending – it was not intentional. For some reason the last paragraph was omitted – if you still have your copy please read again, adding the following

'From all the lessons that Jesus taught everyone may we too not be found wanting in fulfilling the needs of those around us and the resultant demands that are made of us as we endeavour to follow that teaching.

With blessings and in his name Enid



The closing date for items in our May Magazine

Wednesday 17th April

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 April 2019 and
May 2019***



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

Start of Holy Week

- 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. Maundy meal and United Service at Hayes church

- 19th **Good Friday**
Services and Walks of Witness for all three churches – check
times with your Leadership teams

- 21st **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
- May 2019**
- 1st 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 2nd 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 4th 12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes
 3.00 p.m. ‘Young at Heart’ Club at North Hillingdon
- 5th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
 with invited speaker Matt Forsyth from “All We Can”
- 8th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
- 9th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft Group meet at Hayes End
- 11th 7.30 p.m. Concert - ‘Dave Live’ at Hayes End
- 12th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Youth Sunday Church Parade Service at Hayes End to
 be led by the Junior Church
 6.00 p.m. Praise and Worship service at North Hillingdon
- 13th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
- 14th 7.30 p.m. Hayes End Youth Leaders meeting
- 15th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 Last date for items for June magazine items
- 16th 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End

- 18th 11.00 a.m. North Hillingdon Spring Fair
Church Family Outing to Bournemouth
- 19th 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 with Holy Communion
- 20th 7.30 p.m. Circuit Stewards meet at Ruislip Manor
- 22nd 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 23rd 7.30 p.m. Handicraft Group meet at Hayes End
- 26th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
- 27th Spring Bank Holiday
27th to 31st Schools' Half Term Week
- 29th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 30th 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End

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

**God of the pilgrim way, travel with us on our journey;
be with us at every turn of the road,
draw us ever closer to you.
Make glad our hearts with the radiance of your love;
nurture our understanding of your faithfulness that
our security may be only in your goodness and mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Christine Walters

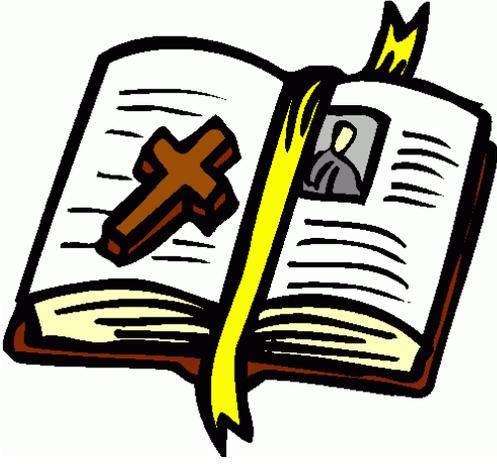
Following church policy, we reserve the right to amend or omit any item or part of any item submitted that is deemed to be unsuitable for inclusion in this church magazine.



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 April 2019



7th April
Passion Sunday

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8
Psalm 126

14th April
Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-9
Psalm 31:9-16

18th April
Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4(5-10) 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 12:1-17, 31b-35
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

19th April
Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 10: 16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42
Psalm 22

21st April
Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
1 Corinthians 15:19-26, or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

28th April

Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 1:4-8,
John 20:19-31, Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

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