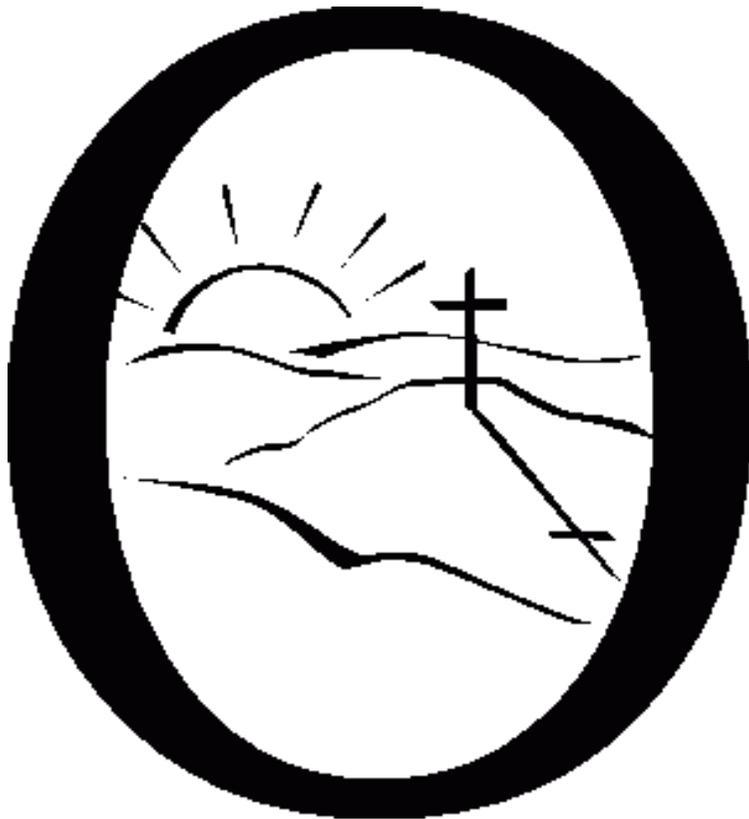


The Chronicle

*Monthly magazine of the
three Hayes Methodist churches*



Jesus is Risen! - May 2019 - Issue 262

The Methodist Church

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

17th April 2019

A letter from the Minister

Dear Friends'

Life is more than an examination

Our household is in revision mode as Rebecca prepares for her GCSE exams in the next few weeks. I wonder if this is the case with your family – whether it is GCSEs, A levels, SATs, Btech, professional, vocational or other exams. There is a desire to do your best but alongside that, there is often huge anxiety. It can be hard to hold on to the fact that exams do not define you as a person and grades are not a measure of your intelligence:

Don't let exams judge you.

Don't let marks define you.

Don't let grades rule you.

Let your conscience judge you.

Let your actions define you.

Let your heart rule you.

(Ruchi Baid)

When it comes to our faith, there are no exams but many people would say that there are times of testing, This is when we have to trust in the God who loves us and rely on his strength and courage, and the care and support of our fellow Christians.

One of my favourite quotes about education comes from Albert Einstein who said something along the lines of "Education is what you remember after you have

forgotten everything you have learnt”. I find there is a lot of truth in that. In church, I have sat through thousands of sermons and have preached hundreds myself. But the ones I can remember I can only count in double figures. I wonder if the same is true for you. How can we remember or make better use of what we hear? Perhaps one of these ideas may help you.

- Always carry a notebook with you, so you may jot down something which catches your ear or eye. Or if you have a mobile phone, you can do with the same with the notes facility. Last month someone showed me the notes that they had made on a sermon they had heard (it wasn't mine) as they told me all about it.
- If you stay for tea or coffee after the service, spend a few minutes talking with someone about the service. I know one church that has put discussion questions on a table after the service to help people start talking. Questions such as “What one thing have you discovered during this service?” or “What would you want to tell your neighbour or a friend about the sermon?” or “How did you meet God today?” (You could also try this with any insight, house group or Bible study that you attend.) When I have done this it has certainly helped to focus my thinking.
- When I was training to be a local preacher, one of the things that was impressed upon me by my mentor was to try and sum up my sermon in a sentence. I still use this from time to time when I feel my thinking is going off in different directions. (You may think I need to do this more.) You could try this with the sermons that you hear. And if you do, then it would be interesting to see whether your sentence was similar to mine.

Regardless of whether you try any of these or have something different that works for you (if so – please let me know), remember that your faith isn't an intellectual exercise it is a life to lead and relationship with a loving heavenly Father and your lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Every blessing
Ken

Our churches' prayer pages



Now, at the end of the fourth month, we have journeyed through both Lent and Holy Week: the week every year when we begin with celebration on Palm Sunday as we read in our bibles how jubilant and rowdy crowds welcomed Jesus when he rode into Jerusalem seated on a donkey. They had gathered for their annual Passover Festival. Then, during the following days the unbelievable abuse, torture, humiliation and pain Jesus had to bear and nailed to a cross on Good Friday when those same crowds mocked him and hurled insults. But, as is said, Sunday always follows Friday so a week ago we celebrated the risen Jesus.

For our hymn this month we'd like to quote the words from a song relative to the crucifixion: it was written in 2005 by Vicky Beeching and we first heard it at Spring Harvest that year – it is in *Singing the Faith* no. 279 – and the message it offers is for all who believe we are promised life eternal ...

***May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross,
May I see it like the first time, standing as a sinner lost.
Undone by mercy and left speechless,
watching wide-eyed at the cost –
May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross.***

**Behold the empty wooden tree,
his body gone, alive and free.
We sing with everlasting joy
for sin and death have been destroyed,
sin and death have been destroyed.**

... 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 who have suffered or still suffer and that we name below this month -

Amen

**Lily Baron
Maureen Gurney
Matt Redman
Nick Skelton**

**Gwen Gould
Alan Hollaway
Brian Saunders
Audrey Waterer**

**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*

**“ ... when our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again, like wheat that springs up green”**

John Macleod Campbell Crum

Who?

I saw him, just once –
as he walked toward me,
slow of gait, head held high.
His eyes open, but seeing nothing –
no focus,
no awareness;
dead.

I wondered, who was he?

His clothes were tidy, but old, and about him
was an air of sadness and despair.

I wanted to say '*can I help?*', but I didn't.

Where was he?
What were his thoughts?
Was he far away, running and dancing on a sun-drenched
beach somewhere, laughing and joking with friends?
Sitting at table enjoying food with a family, talking of old times?
Standing at the graveside of a lost loved-one?
Giving every ounce of his strength as he ran a great marathon?
Dreaming - as we all do - of what might have been?

I'll never know –

could it have been the resurrected Jesus who just walked by?
(But you can't stop a stranger and ask who they are can you?)

But still I wonder – who was he?

OUR MAGAZINE – ITS HISTORY

Following a special service of celebration of our 128th birthday at Hayes End, in March and the completion of the latest refurbishment, my somewhat jumbled thinking led me to the above. It led to a feeling that, in keeping with our church building, this magazine has also known a somewhat chequered past of constant change and renewal – change that is so essential in life itself if we are to progress. *(We are reminded it was in 1891 that we started with just 4 people who gathered to read the bible and pray in the sitting room of a Mr Cox who so obviously changed and progressed!)*

Yes, of course, it's always good to remember past times and how things were, but we are living in the here and now and need to look forward as plans are made for the future. However, please indulge the writer for just a while and permit a page or two on what has led to this, our magazine for the month of May 2019.

I'm not quite sure when the first issue of our church magazine was produced, but the oldest copy I have is dated March 1987. On the front cover is a picture of Worcester Cathedral; it has 8 pages and, as now, the first page is the Minister's letter who was then the late and gentle Revd Ray Hodgkinson. The second page contains a diary of service dates and other events to be held until the end of May that year, and it reminds people of choir practice dates and Thursday Fellowship gatherings. Then fund raising was – as always – in full swing. Sisters Connie and Cath were being paid to eat lots of suet meat puddings; soft toys to sell had been produced by the score and presented by Pat. There were six baptisms, one wedding and a lady named Eva had celebrated her 90th birthday. 8,000 leaflets were printed and distributed at the rate of 500 a week. 7 young folk were received into membership (1 is still with us) and there were 2 transfers – I now quote John C's words from that issue - *"all of us must redouble our efforts to ensure this revival is not just a cruel illusion"*. To date £350.00. had been raised. Also were facts on church growth ideas and, just as now, there were several smiles and anecdotes.

Back then script was typed on stencils using a very old Remington typewriter *(and lots of that smelly pink correcting fluid)* and copies were produced on an ancient and very erratic Gestetner machine that most definitely had a mind of its own. At the end of the eighties it finally gave up the ghost, so John and I took a monthly trip to Hayes town church to use their more reliable printer, always under the watchful eye of a gentleman named Colin. *(I think he felt we might break it!)* We finally got our very own second-hand printer during the early nineties, but still all the collation and stapling had to be done by hand. Then we were issuing 140 copies.

Progress was made at the end of the nineties when a member (Wesley) who had retired from print, kindly gave us a collator, still in use today, and which allows collation of a total of a 40-page document. Our maximum print has been 318 copies - that was at the time when we provided magazines for both Hayes and North Hillingdon, but today has been reduced to 160 per month

Distribution remains for all at Hayes End and since 19th January 1992 each month we have mailed copies throughout the UK from South Wales to Kent; from Northern Ireland to Norfolk, Durham to Dorset and many places in between

That old 1987 copy is entitled 'The Hayes End Church Magazine'. Since then there have been 4 changes of name – The Chronicle, Hayes Ways, Three Ways and now back again to The Chronicle! At first the cover was just a copied picture, but in 2001 Dr Alan Turner-Smith designed a map that depicted Hayes, Barnhill and Hayes End churches. However, with the sad demise of Barnhill church in 2003/4 it had to change again, so our good friend Pat produced a set of illustrations that we still use today – each one depicting the time of year in our church calendar

Now, as then, our Minister offers a two-page letter; we always include a three-page prayer slot of worship in the form of a hymn, thankfulness for those we know and some prayers of petition. Since last September we have been blessed by a regular monthly message from Deacon Claire Gill, a valued member of our Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit Leadership Team, which people always enjoy. We endeavour to report on our church activities during the previous month, and remind people of what lies ahead, (sadly our last issue in April included no less than four obituaries).

As he is not only our Church Treasurer but also has responsibility as a Circuit Steward John (as he did back in the eighties) provides 8 pages that concern finances, our Brigades and any Circuit issues and keeps us up to date with lots of other relevant news, both local and Circuit-wise, not forgetting appeals to aid world-wide regions in distress.

As all are aware, there are one or two pages of smiles (*well, God our Creator provided us with a sense of humour so we should use it*) There is an updated diary for the current and following month and finally on the last page we give the month's Lectionary readings - we hope they serve to help folk who like to study the weekly readings, but who are unable to be at church every Sunday

and finally (you'll be pleased to hear!) the following is how our current production team works together so that on the appointed dates of issue at the end of each month our Sunday Door Stewards can hand a copy to everyone who comes into church

- Enid having received copy from Ken, Claire, John and others, sorts out the lot, and types bits of her own – she then emails all 40 pages to
- Pat who proof reads and usually includes an extra picture or two, as she deems appropriate – she prepares the master sheets and sends them all to
- John who prints the copies (in our newly located print room). John leaves them where they are so that
- Phil (our non-stop working Property and Health & Safety man) can do all the collating. Then comes the last bit - certainly by no means least – our dear
- Molly attacks the lot ensuring the pages are stapled together correctly and places them in the front vestibule ready for the Sunday distribution – and, please note every one of those magazines is stacked very neatly and printer-wise in batches of 20! (she also makes sure copies are ready for Enid to collect and post)

But that's enough looking back – we return to today – under the current auspices of the Circuit Mission Plan and the many discussions currently taking place by our own church Leadership Team, there are ideas and plans in hand that will concern many aspects of life at Hayes End and that will, of course, include this monthly Chronicle. And so, dear readers, please watch this space carefully – and as soon as our future Church Mission Plan is known, and how it will affect this magazine, you will be kept Informed.



"Quit worrying about corroborating your sources—it's not as if anyone's going to take all this literally."

A very special March event

... was the Annual Memorial Service held at Hayes End on Sunday 24th March. This normally takes place in January or February, but for the very best of reasons had to be delayed to March until completion of our front of church refurbishments. We waxed lyrical last month regarding the great improvement those refurbishments had made, but friends who came to the church that afternoon for the first time since the upgrading were equally impressed by what had been changed and commented on its new and welcoming look.

For the first time since these memorial services began back in 2002 by our then Minister Judy, and following our Minister Ken's opening prayers, all those in the congregation were invited to come forward and place a flower or two into an empty vase as we remembered loved ones lost to us – such a lovely moving expression of remembrance and the giving of thanks.

Ken offered a most thought-provoking time of reflection as he referred to that oh-so-well-known feeling of a departed one having left a big hole in our lives. But contrary to the idea that in time the hole will diminish the reverse should be true – in fact it should grow and grow as we continue to receive care and support from a circle of family and friends and, indeed given time that hole increases and all those people inside alongside us are then surrounded by the loving arms of God who cares for every living man woman and child and will never let them go. The God who, as our Creator, knows everyone of us by name and all our many hurts and suffering. Ken then gently led into the time of the calling of names and lighting of candles to the memory of those we have loved and continue to miss.

Among other appropriate hymns we sang the words of the 23rd Psalm, that almost always has a place in a service of remembering, followed by prayers for others.

And it was during those prayers that our thoughts were drawn to the current suffering and tragedies in so many lands in this troubled world, especially to those who live and die in shop doorways in the world's cities and streets and who have no home and no one to mourn their death when they are gone. We are so thankful that we are afforded the opportunity to grieve and gather to remember our dear ones, as we had met that afternoon, and who will remain for ever in our hearts and minds.

The Service over and – this is where our versatile church came into play – there was a time of fellowship and refreshment kindly served by our church caterers so there was no need to move far from our seats to tables that had been set up in readiness. It was so good to greet many friends who these days we see less frequently, and during a number of conversations it became abundantly clear that the new action introduced by Ken of the offering of flowers of memory should be included in all future services of remembrance. Something to take on board when we make our preparations for the 2020 service!

Our sincere thanks go to Ken, to the furniture removers, to the caterers and to everyone else who served in many other ways on that sunny afternoon in March.



Don't forget the Bakers –

no, it's not a family unit we now draw to readers' attention, but to the group of first-class cake-makers in our midst at Hayes End who, on the last Sunday of each month, ensure there is a selection of delightful home-made cakes for sale after the morning worship. Although their rewards are not massive there is no doubt that the financial results from their baking labours do build up and are of valuable help towards boosting church funds. We mention no names, but currently the cooks are all female – are there no gentlemen who will admit to having a love of cooking and who could add to their number by baking some buns or constructing jam tarts or whatever happens to be their own speciality?

So, please give the bakers your support and encouragement by bringing some extra cash with you on those Cake Sale Sundays.
Thank you.

Since our last issue

Friday 29th of March was the day that brought many friends from all over the Circuit together, and especially those who have, or have had, any connection with our Brigades. It was the day of the much-loved Alan Hollaway's funeral – the man who, for no less than the past sixty-eight years, had given his all ever since he was himself a boy and first joined the Boy's Brigade. It goes without saying that the extremely large number of people who attended his funeral that day bore sure witness to the fact that Alan was an extremely popular and greatly valued individual.

And, it was not only the Brigades' staff and members who admired Alan – he was also known by many of our church members as the man who would come to give a talk to a group – and those talks never failed to be both interesting and amusing. There was a man who, despite his own unspoken sufferings, never failed to give uplift to those he encountered on his life's pilgrimage. No matter your own worries, if you had been in Alan's company for even a short while you always felt better afterwards and were grateful for having spent time with him.

Alan's wife Kath and the family are now called to face days and weeks in future without their rock that was Alan, but we pray they hold on to the faith that so many men and women have received - through the Brigades - and will come to know a day of joyful reunion that awaits them. We ask that God gives them strength and a positive hope to carry on until that time. Blessings from all friends at Hayes End.



That last Friday of March was also a day of prayer when a silent vigil took place in Hayes as people of all faiths, and none, gathered together as they offered to their own God thoughts and prayers in memory of all who had perished following the horrendous attack on innocent people in New Zealand. Going about their normal everyday activities so many lives were cut down without warning.

Dear God, our prayer is that you enter and change the sick minds of all who senselessly take life, believing they are doing the right thing - take away their hatred and fill them with care – care that we should all have for one another. Amen.

Holy Week 2019

We began the week with a Palm Sunday Service on the 14th of April when, led by Deacon Claire Gill, I think we can safely say that everyone who heard her message learned something – did you know that the cry of “hosanna” not only means praise and worship, but also has a second meaning of ‘save us’? What a relevant thought for each of us, individually and world-wide to take forward from that day. We sang hymns of praise and hosannas like those crowds who greeted Jesus and welcomed him as he rode into Jerusalem. Then on Maundy Thursday, at Hayes church, with friends from North Hillingdon, we gathered, again as Jesus had done with his disciples and friends, to share food; then were led by our Minister Ken in a service to commemorate the Thursday of that horrendous week.

Unlike us, who today know what suffering Jesus was about to bear, he and his followers were in Jerusalem - as were crowds of other Jewish families - to celebrate the annual Passover Festival. However, the mood at the table that night was not so joyful as they had usually known when previously celebrating Passover and sharing supper. There was a tangible sense of bewilderment and foreboding in the air.

When Jesus indicated that he was about to leave them, and then proceeded to wash the feet of all his friends it gave them reason for questioning and concern: and as for telling them that one of their number was about to betray him - we know that all but one protested, very loudly, emphatically saying “surely not me Lord” – but it was as we read, otherwise.

The next day, Good Friday, Ken again led a joint service at the Hayes church, recalling the torture and suffering endured by Jesus: jeered and spat upon as he struggled along the Via Dolorosa carrying his cross, and the shame and humiliation when, watched by his mother Mary, he was put to death on that cross. His final words to all his betrayers – “Father Forgive” – we can only conclude with words by Cecil Frances Alexander, so well-known known to all who follow his teachings ...

“we may not know, we cannot tell, what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us he hung and suffered there”

But with grateful thanks in our hearts Easter Sunday arrived
and with it the glory of being able to proclaim

Hallelujah – Jesus Christ is risen today!



WHAT NOW ?

With the modernisation project at Hayes End now completed, although with various teething problems still outstanding, one conclusion is clear we can't just sit back and admire the progress we have made in the past few years.

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 at various stages in actioning these agreed future priorities, which are

:

1. Landscaping of the Church Garden.
2. Installation of an uprated Video Projector Set-Up system in the Church with two screens.
3. Installation of an Integrated Fire Alarm System.
4. Uprating both Gents & Ladies toilets.
5. Tarmac the front Church Car Park.
6. General enhancements to the rear Premises.

John Chamberlain



WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE DEBT WE OWE TO A FEW

The total cost of The Modernisation project was £104,000 of which £39,500 was funded from Grant support and the rest from our own resources. We give

thanks to those in the Church who worked so hard to bring this project to completion within the set time-scale.



The Church is always looking for ways to raise additional funds to further develop the work of our Church.

Below we confirm two ways in which you can help our Church and with no extra cost to you.



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**. Last Financial Year £245 was raised for Church Funds from this source.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHURCH CAN RECLAIM Gift Aid on your Church donations, equivalent to an additional 25p for every £1 given. To qualify you must be a current UK taxpayer and any donations given must not exceed the amount of income tax you have paid in that Tax Year. In Tax Year 2017/18 we raised £5,750 from this source.

**TAX
REFUND**

For more information regarding either of these two schemes please speak to John Chamberlain.



The Methodist Church

No.2: STATIONING

What's Stationing?

When Ministers move to new appointments it is a special characteristic of Methodism that Ministers are Connexionally stationed to appointments with the expectation of moving on after a time under the system of 'itinerancy'. Minister's initial appointment are always for 5 years, and subsequent extensions when agreed by a Minister and the Circuit are normally for between 1 and 5 years.

Ministers who feel called to move make this known, and Circuits seeking ministers do the same. Being a large Circuit, we have to go through this "Stationing" process with at least one member of staff most years. The Stationing process is further complicated because now each year there are more Churches seeking Ministers than the number of Ministers available.

The Church has always adopted this stationing process. It is a practice which goes back to the days of Methodism's founder, John Wesley. For Wesley it was a vital mechanism for mission and evangelism. Ministers were sent where needed as an expression of what it is to be part of the people of God, who are all called to journey with Christ. Jesus calls us to follow him, but he also sends us to do his work. Furthermore, for Methodists the stationing of Ministers is an expression of being a "Connexion" and is central to Methodism.

Nest month in this series about "How The Methodist Church Operates" we will look at the key role played by the Circuit Stewards in the above process and in the wider life of the Circuit.



The Staff and Members of our Brigade Companies at Hayes End Methodist Church hope you will join them on **FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2019** for their “**OPEN NIGHT**” for an evening where Fun, Fellowship & Food is guaranteed



www.girlsbrideck.com - 487229331

Deacon Claire's monthly message

The Walk to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

We watch and hear so many people say nowadays it's not where you go that's important but the journey you take to get there. If you have ever watched 'Strictly Come Dancing' - or 'I'm a celebrity Get me out of here', its 'the journey' they have been on whether it be self-discovery or weight loss they say the winning isn't important it's the taking part.

Last year I watched a group of 'celebrities' (term used loosely) take on the Santiago de Compostela – or The Way of St. James. St. James as in James and John the sons of Zebedee told by Jesus 'leave your nets and follow me'. After the resurrection the Apostles wanted to spread the good news to the world so they each travelled, James was given the Iberian Peninsula, if you are geographically challenged like me, that's the southern tip of Europe - Andora, Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar, his remains are believed to be interned on what is now the sight of the Cathedral de Santiago the end of the pilgrim way. Thousands of people from all around the world travel to walk the 500 miles or parts of it, very much hoping that like our reading in Luke that they will experience some opening of their minds, hearts and understanding as they encounter others and take on a journey of discovery for themselves.

The rather odd collection of celebrities included Debbie Mcgee, Heather Small singer from M people, Neil Morrissey from Men Behaving Badly, a soldier who had been severely wounded by an IED in Afghanistan, a journalist who had spent 12 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, Ed Byrne Irish comedian and Rev Kate Botley from Gogglebox and now radio 2 Good Morning Sunday. Some had an interest in faith, others were atheists, humanists, unsure, questioning, the thing they all had in common was they all had a story to share which they did as they travelled, and much like our reading from Luke they were all starting off from a place of grief - not necessarily for a loved one, but a loss of some kind, Heather Small had lost faith in the church as an institution having faced racism and prejudice within it, Neil Morrissey for the loss of childhood and family as he was taken into care, the journalist a loss of freedom and trust having spent years unjustly in prison. The soldier, the loss of a limb and a previous way of life, Debbie Mcgee had been recently widowed and Ed Byrne a loss of faith having being brought up in a strict Catholic family.

Our followers in Luke were mourning the loss of Jesus.

They could not believe what had happened. They had been waiting for someone to come to free them from the oppression of roman rule, all the scriptures have been telling you – keep believing God will send someone to save you - and then someone comes claiming to be God's Son and you follow them, you give up your home, your job, your family and travel with no money, no possessions relying on the hospitality of others. Then the roman authorities crucify him and it's over: this isn't what you expected; how did this happen? How could it all go so wrong so quickly? and so the Passover has ended and you travel back home, on your journey, as you walk you are still in shock, you are grief stricken, confused, and can't even face thinking about what happens tomorrow or the next day and then along comes a man who asks 'What's wrong?' and in that moment of sharing, of opening up how they were feeling with a complete stranger, the conversation begins.

He knew how they felt but Jesus does not say ' Oh I know how you feel', but neither was he passive in the conversation: he directed them, challenged them, didn't dismiss but didn't just accept. He could see their confusion and must have been slightly exasperated verse 25 'How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe'.

I wonder if that is true of us, Do we jump in with both feet or do we hedge our bets? On the Santiago de Compostela a few of them said 'I would like to think there is something out there but it's just an idea, a crutch for people to support them; there's no proof'.

Jesus is saying here - how much proof do you want? He's started with the books of Moses and gone right through to show them the prophecies and that all he has said has now come true, but they still cannot see it or make that connection, not until he sat down to eat and broke the bread. Verse 31 - Then their eyes were opened and suddenly there is the excitement 'wasn't it like a fire burning in us?' a light bulb being switched on. It all made sense but for most of us we don't have or have ever had a light bulb moment it's been more of slow burn a growing up with it, a something we have always done; but however we come to faith it doesn't happen in isolation - we need companions on the road - we need the conversations with others, the challenge, the comfort, the listening, one of the people on the Camino was asked 'What makes this a pilgrimage and not just a nice walk in the countryside?' and they said 'it's both an inward and outward journey – it's undertaking a willingness to be open to share with others to leave the life you know behind, the comforts and the worries and just be, it strips you bare of all the unnecessary things of life and gives you time.

May we all take some time this week to consider our Walk with God.

Every Blessing,
Claire

Comments on Deacon Claire's April item –

As we go to print with this current issue, Holy Week 2019 is behind us, but nonetheless it should have served to remind everyone of the most valuable message that Claire offered in her last contribution to this magazine.

And yes, it was most certainly very Easter orientated in that it was all about eggs. Our own eggs and what they should stand for.

But that writing was far removed from extolling the virtues of those mouth-watering delights that are constructed from chocolate and decorated with Easter bunnies and spring flowers - or even those laid by chickens, ducks or other birds; eggs that are a popular item on any breakfast menu, a necessary ingredient in the making of cakes or a tasty sweet pancake or an omelette. No. Claire had most aptly used the egg symbolically as our way of living and what, as people of faith, we should put into that living.

When we are children and it's time for examinations and tests at school our parents always encourage us to do our very best (I remember that mine did), but so long as you had tried your hardest there would be no recriminations if you failed to come top. It's putting all your best efforts into your work and it's that which really counts.

It was also good to read what Claire had written regarding that Sunday back in March when she was our preacher and when the Church Action Plan was put to the congregation at Hayes End for their comments and ideas for the future of the church - she was supporting us in our aims and objectives. We must always take the positive stance and put aside any negative thoughts. It goes without saying none of us really likes change of any sort, but staying as we are is not an option and never should it be. Each one should give his or her whole-hearted support to whatever is decided as our future Mission, even if we may not be in total agreement with some of those plans. As believers we should keep in mind the promises we made at Covenant.

Currently, with so many signs of decline of all types of faith in this troubled world, it becomes even more vital than ever that we play our individual roles by doing our level best to ensure what we have been taught is passed on and is spread as widely as is possible by our deeds and, as John Wesley said, also, if necessary, by our words as well.

So, if the efforts we make in our daily living, and most especially in the exercise of our faith both inside and outside the church, are the eggs we produce and we hold nothing back, but give our all, we will have offered the very best we can to the glory of God, and so be it.

We owe no less, not only to God of course, but to the countless steadfast and unnamed folk who have ensured we are here today and who surely did *'place all their eggs into the one basket'*



'SOMETHING DIFFERENT' SUNDAY 12TH MAY



'We'd like something different!' said our Junior Church members when we asked them about what they would like in worship. So that's what you're getting for the Youth Anniversary Parade Service.

Come and help us ***celebrate*** the Young People in our church at our ***uplifting*** and ***high energy***

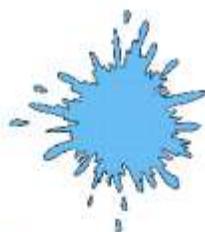
YOUTH ANNIVERSARY PARADE SERVICE

Led by those aged 3 to 30 years

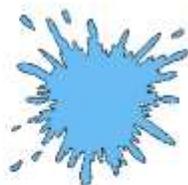
Plus those young at heart!



SUMMER CHILL



Free Event



6 – 9 PM

burgers & chips

Come along and invite your mates for an evening of messy summer fun and games

For Years 7 & up

**@ Hayes End
Methodist Church**

Uxbridge Road UB5 8JW

Call Nicola on 07765 585836
www.hemc.org.uk



Farewell dear friend

The funeral of the late Maureen Gurney took place on Friday 26th of April – for a number of years Maureen had been far from well, and to ease her pain and suffering it was on Saturday 16th March that God finally took her hand and led her back home to live with him in heaven.

The Service was held at Breakspear Crematorium. Maureen's funeral had been delayed until last Friday because her husband Dave had to go into hospital, and we are pleased to report he is now recovered from his operation and so was able to say his own farewell to the wife he loved.

Some of our number will have lovely memories of when our children (now in their fifties) went to school together, played together and all belonged to our Girls' and Boys' Brigades – and some of us may even be able to recall the fun occasion when their dad played football at a Brigade Display night held in a local school and dear Maureen was there, smiling as she always did, giving her support to the family she loved.

No trite words of sympathy or messages of condolence, however kindly meant, can alleviate what Dave and his children and grandchildren are feeling at the moment, but please know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of the Hayes End church family who have known you for so many years. May God stay close to you now and always.



O, happy day!

Even when there is bad news about any member of our church family that makes us feel sad, we believe it is also important to share the good things that take place as well and that give a lift to our spirits.

Many friends will remember – and especially those connected with Boys' Brigade – Michael, younger son of BB Captain David Kingston and his wife Alison. Michael was an enthusiastic member of BB from a very early age, and he was the singer with the music group Kryptic who played for our times of worship on a number of occasions in past years. All this he did to the best of his ability until he went away to University where he met Karen, a very special lady.

It was in the middle of May 2016 that they were married at Pulner Baptist Church, which is near the New Forest, and where Karen was a member. What a wonderful joyful service it was with families from both that church and friends from Hayes End. Included that day was the well-known song "O Happy Day".

Well – there's another such happy day to report for Michael because on Easter Sunday he is to be baptised by total emersion at the Kings Street Baptist Church which is in Thetford – and not only that, his dad has been invited to accompany him at that special service, when Michael will commit himself to following the way of Jesus and so confirm his faith.

We are aware that self-praise is no recommendation, but perhaps it would be acceptable for this church, and not least the staff of our Boys' Brigade to give themselves a small pat on the back, because this surely is positive evidence of the value of bringing young people to a belief in God – our prayer now is that on the 21st of April there will be another

Happy Day

for Michael, Karen and all their family and friends. May God bless you all.

Called to care

As Christians, and following the teachings of Jesus, those words above should be uppermost in our thoughts as we journey through life, and not just by caring for one another, which is most definitely of paramount importance, but for all living things on this planet. The recent series of TV programmes entitled Blue Planet 11 was I feel quite beyond words and certainly went to reinforce the urgency for each one of us to do whatever we can to preserve this remarkable earth that is on loan to us from God to care for as his stewards.

It brought home one particular action that no matter our inability to make any world-shattering inroads towards preserving God's world – it is something we can all engage in. Apart from human bodily waste and toilet paper nothing, and absolutely nothing else, should ever be disposed of down our toilet bowls. This applies most especially to wet-wipes that, despite the manufacturers' assurances which are totally untrue, do not dissolve when they are flushed down the loo. The programme that included this fact and showed us pictures of the resultant blockages was totally revolting and of course added to the disgusting habit of pouring oil and fat down our sinks, which we already know is wrong - wet wipes and all other cleansing items just go to increase the problems. A bit late for a new year resolution, but one we could all start right now. So, no wet wipes or any other toilet items in the loo from now on please – it's just for your own personal body waste and toilet paper.

Having said all that, the programme presenters Liz Bonnin, Steve Brackshaw and Chris Packham and their teams of superb photographers et al really brought home to us just how vital it is that we all do what we can to stop polluting our wonderful world. Some of the filming was totally mesmerising and we were taken to places around this planet where, even the most affluent in our midst can ever tread.

Thankfully there are still areas where work is being carried out today in order to preserve both vegetation and creatures on the earth and animals in the sea – where plastic is the biggest problem – so, another resolution for us all – avoid any plastic-wrapped goods whenever it is possible.

All root vegetables are just as good unwrapped, (film-wrapped carrots and other veg. go mouldy very fast – if unwrapped they just go limp): it also saves losing your temper by struggling to open plastic wrappers which can be so exasperating.

And never mind Brexit – as people of Christian faith we have a more urgent duty to unite in our efforts to do whatever we can to halt the pollution of God’s earth. Some of us receive regular bulletins from A Rocha, the well-known unit of Christian Conservationists and just to reinforce all the above, we would like to quote an extract from their latest news that needs to be studied and absorbed by everyone -

Accelerating Crisis, Accelerating Solutions

February was the hottest since records began in the UK; ice-cream vans came out at the seaside.

The UN released terrifying research on the global decline of biodiversity and its implications for future food supply.

Also in February there were wildfires on the usually wet and chilly Yorkshire moors.

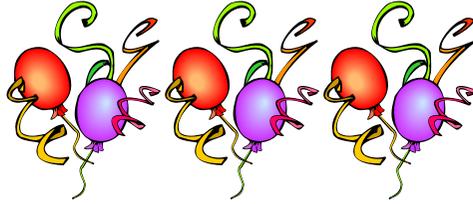
In March, a whale washed up in the Philippines, was found to have died of hunger from eating the dozens of plastic sacks still in its stomach.

In Southern Africa monster cyclone, Idai, combined with deforestation to produce wholesale death and destruction by flooding.

Back in the UK, new research suggested that the government figure of 40,000 premature deaths a year from air pollution is a considerable underestimate.

Piece these news fragments together and they form a picture of environmental destruction accelerating on nearly every front.

How is a normal Christian meant to respond?



Pentecost

Regarded by many as the birthday of the Christian Church, this year we will be celebrating Pentecost on **Sunday, 9th of June**. On that day we are inviting friends from our sister churches at Hayes and North Hillingdon to join us as together we worship and give thanks to God to mark this event - one of the most important dates in our church calendars. **Prior to the service at 11.00 a.m. we will be serving a Breakfast Brunch for everyone at 10.00 a.m. when all are welcome and invited.**

We read in our bibles that having appeared to his disciples following his crucifixion Jesus led them out to the village of Bethany: there he told them what to do and they then witnessed his ascension to heaven. They then returned to Jerusalem where thousands had gathered to celebrate the Jewish festival, Pentecost.

As those men and women met together, obviously deciding what they should do next, they felt a sudden rush of wind and it appeared that flames were hovering over their heads and they discovered they had the ability to speak in tongues other than their own! Led by Peter, they went out into the street and began conversing with the crowds who had come to the city from countries all around the middle east and obviously spoke in many different tongues. Incredible – some folk who heard the disciples were bewildered, others thought they must be drunk! It was then that Peter, the rough uneducated fisherman stood and addressed those crowds telling them all that he had learned from Jesus. As a result, others came to believe in God and who then spread the good news when they returned back to their homes.

So Pentecost is very important because it illustrates to us in this 21st century how we should broadcast God's love – not by making speeches to crowds of people in our local market, but by the way we live and act and care for one another. May God help us all to do just that – hope to see everyone on the 9th of June as we celebrate and give thanks to God for the 2019th birthday of Christianity.

Bearing in mind our Minister Ken's message this month (well you must have read it if you've got this far) - we again ask indulgence for even more verbosity. Ken asks us if we can recall past sermons and/or messages and I know a number of us have very clear recollections of a Pentecost Service back in 2006

That was extra special in that we began the celebrations on the Saturday when around about twenty-five young folk spent the whole day doing craft and fun things (along with eating lots of food) and some even had a sleep-over on a church floor. We made posters, blew up balloons, played music and generally had a good time as befits a birthday. Then, next morning, after a full-English and along with their work on display it was time for Sunday worship. We shared the 'spirit' by drinking lots of Adam's Ale (from old spirit bottles no less!) our Minister re-enacted Peter's famous speech and that certainly hammered home the necessity of spreading the Good News in every which way and when and how we could; – we even composed new words to a well-known hymn viz:

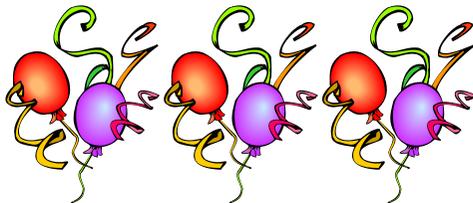
Chorus -

*Come and join our celebration, it's a very special day.
Come and share our jubilation – this is Pentecost Sunday*

*See His people gathered in that tiny room;
watch in wonder as the Holy Spirit moved amongst them –
so chorus -*

*Now they're talking, speaking lots of different tongues.
Peter's preaching - now the Christian Church had just begun –
so chorus -*

*Lots of people joined disciples that first day –
they're still joining, that is why the Church is here to stay –
so chorus -*



Schoolboy (or schoolgirl) howlers....

The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony,
which is another name for marriage.

and smiles from the Age of Innocence!!

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese. He wanted the young ones to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook.

"Now", beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence a small child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up.

"Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart" he answered, "God made me a very long time ago!"

"Oh" – she paused – "Grandpa did God make me too?"

"Yes dear" said Grandpa, "God made you just a little while ago".

Feeling their respective faces once again she said

"God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

... and this is my great niece having a chat with her grandmother

Georgie "Grandma, Jesus said when we die we will have a place in heaven – can I ask you something please?"

Grandma "Of course you can dear"

Georgie "Will I get my own room or do I have to share"

Grandma "well I really can't answer that one Georgie"

Georgie "you see Grandma, Danny (her small brother) is such a nuisance if he goes in my room when I'm at school – he keeps moving all my stuff around and just laughs when I get cross"

and another dialogue from those two –

“When you were a little girl grandma, what was your favourite programme – did you watch CBBs?”

“When I was a little girl there was no television or even a radio”

“Oh dear, you must have been so bored – whatever did you do when you came home from school before tea? I feel so sorry for you.”

And more ‘diary’ gems from the last few weeks –

That summer I finally got my leg operated on,
and what a relief – it had been hanging
over my head for years

Seen in a Beirut hotel –

“ladies are requested not to have
their babies in the cocktail bar”

Mr Peabody was elected and has
accepted the position of church warden;
We couldn’t get a better man

Q – where was the security officer in relation
to you when you were struck by a car

A – to my left

Q – How far to your left?

A – I don’t really remember.

I was getting run over at the time.

In a Budapest Zoo –
please do not feed the animals.
If you have any suitable food
give it to the guard on duty.

Q – have you ever tried to commit suicide?

A – Yes Sir.

Q – Were you ever successful?

Same Day Dry Cleaning –
All garments ready in 48 hours.



The closing date for items in our June Magazine

Wednesday 15th May

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 May 2019 and
June 2019**



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
CLT meeting at Ruislip
- 9th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft Group meet at Hayes End
- 10th Brigades' Open Evening 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
and Junior Church Anniversary
6.00 p.m. Praise and Worship service at North Hillingdon
- Start of Christian Aid Week**
- 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
10.00 a.m. CLT meeting at Ruislip Manor

- 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
 6.00 p.m. Circuit Easter Offering Service at Pinner Church
- 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 End with monthly cake sales
- 27th Spring Bank Holiday
27th to 31st Schools' Half Term Week
- 29th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 30th **Ascension Day**
 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 31st **Chill-Out Night for teens at Hayes End**

June 2019

- 1st 12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes
 3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon
- 2nd 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
- 5th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 6th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft Group meet at Hayes End
- 9th **Pentecost Sunday**
 No service at North Hillingdon
 10.00 a.m. Breakfast Brunch and Joint Service at Hayes End
 No service at Hayes
- 10th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
 7.30 p.m. Prima's Management Committee at Hayes End
- 11th 2.00 p.m. Resources Network meeting at S. Ruislip
- 12th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
- 13th 7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End



DURING THE WEEK IN HAYES END CHURCH

- SUNDAY:** 11.00 - Morning Worship & Junior Church
18.00 - Evening Services - monthly at North Hillingdon
- 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
19.30 p.m. Insight Bible Study Group A (Alt. weeks)
(Contact: David 0208-581-9594
- TUESDAY:** 19.30 p.m. Insight Bible Study Group B (Alt. weeks)
Contact: Ajayi – Tel. see above
- WEDNESDAY:** 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- 581-9594



Lectionary Readings for May 2019

5 th May	Acts 9:1-6(7-20) Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19: Psalm 30
12 th May	Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30 Psalm 23
19 th May	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35 Psalm 148
26 th May	Acts 16:9-15 Revelation 21:10,22-22:5 John 14:23-21 or John 5:1-9 Psalm 67
30 th May <u>Ascension Day</u>	Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53, Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

The Chronicle

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