

THE CHRONICLE

*Monthly magazine of the
three Hayes Methodist churches*



July/August 2018 – Issue 253

The Methodist Church

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

27th June 2018

A letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

I thought it was only a couple of months since everyone was putting away their Christmas decorations, and looking forward to Lent and Easter, but wrong – I realise it's now the end of June and we 're nearing

July and August

These are the last two months in our Methodist churches' year, when in every Circuit and some of the churches there is much hustle and bustle as both farewell and welcome events are being put in place.

It's the time when many ministers and their families, having served their allotted time of five-years (or sometimes more or less) are off to a new appointment, and other ministers and their families will arrive to continue with pastoral care of another established 'flock'.

Important decisions are being made in the churches involved as to who will bring the sausage rolls and '*we must remember to ask Fred to organize a group to move the chairs*', along with all the very essential organization that is required for both those goodbye and hello services. This is, in part, the responsibility of the incumbent lady or gentleman who is leaving, along with members of the Circuit staff and much care needs to be taken to ensure as many people as possible are involved. It all makes for lots of planning, but that's the way with Methodism.

Forgive if I now (*yet again!*) hark back to my childhood. I was about eleven years old and my first experience of death was that of my grand-father who died at the then ripe old age of 69. I felt bewildered and very sad and told my Grandma it wasn't fair of God to take him away, but she had a saying that I carry to this day "*if there were no goodbyes, there would be no hello's*". She explained and reassured me that Grandpa was now very happily living with God, who was so pleased to have him back home again and that God had replaced him with a new little cousin for me who arrived just days after Grandpa's death. At the time I had a distinct dislike for babies, so took no consolation from this supposedly good news!

Obviously with the passing of many years and hindsight my understanding of leaving and arriving is of course changed and when the time comes for these upheavals in the status quo we need to keep in mind that no matter the ebb and flow of our relationships, God remains constant and he never, ever leaves any of us. My Grandma's very simple, but sincere and genuine faith has sustained me so often at such times.

So back to the here and now, and in our three churches we are facing a 'goodbye' time for our Minister Andrew and his wife Laura and giving a greeting and 'hello' to the Revd Ken Kingston and his family, who arrives to be our appointed pastoral leader as from Saturday, 1st September.

For Laura and Andrew we ask for God's richest blessings on their future and all that lies ahead – know that your teaching, preaching and relaxed companionship have been greatly appreciated ever since the time when you first arrived in 2015 and explained to us that your surname was spelled '*cottage with a capital P!*' Take care of one another and hopefully we'll see you now and again in your new role as our Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit Superintendent – sure you'll be a super Super Andrew.

And now we wish to extend our greetings and a very warm welcome to you Ken and all your family as you join us in just a few weeks' time to live here in Hayes and serve our three churches.

In His name

Enid

(Readers please note that Ken's Welcome Service is at Ruislip Methodist church on Friday 31st August)

Our churches' prayer pages



For these two 'summer' months and bearing in mind that many of our families and friends will be far away from their homes as they take a holiday, we have chosen a relatively modern hymn written by Ian Smale (aka Ishmael) for this issue which tells us that no matter where we may be our Father God is always there alongside us, caring and loving each and every one of his family members that he created.

And, following our Father God's example, our earthly parents never stop to care about us, no matter where we may be, or how old we become

***FATHER GOD,
I wonder how I managed to exist
without the knowledge of your parenthood
and your loving care,
but now I am Your son,
I am adopted in Your family
and I can never be alone,
'cause Father God
You're there beside me –***

***I will sing your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises forever more.
I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises forever more***

... 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

Olive Purle
Peggy Wilcox
Ruth Ratnam
Nurse Bradley
Maud Creek

Joyce Mills
Nelson Mandela
Eddie Askew
Juliet Hann
Frances Berry

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*

**“Listening God, you hear us
when we cannot speak,
when despair and turmoil
leave us faint and weak.
In love you call us
back to you again and
your grace reminds us
how you feel our pain...”**

Marjorie Dobson

‘Getting to know you...’

not only are they four well-known words of a song from the popular musical ‘The King and I’, but they also relate to life in our churches –

we refer to the advantages of belonging to an Insight group.

We are, of course, perfectly aware of all the calls on everyone’s time in these days of so much rush and hurry and that nearly everyone has little, or no, extra time to take part in yet another gathering.

However, as Christians and being part of a church – any church - it is our remit to continue to learn more of the God we worship by studying our bibles. And the easiest way to do this is in the company of a small non-threatening group, where we can relax over a cuppa, discuss what we are studying, ask questions and express our own views, be they controversial or otherwise. All are things that it is not possible to do when we are gathered in larger numbers and seated in serried ranks in a church.

And in this very informal way we really do get to know one another much better: we become more aware and understanding of our differing likes and dislikes, worries and enjoyments – thus learning more of God and at the same time acting as a support network for one another.

Between them Hayes, North Hillingdon and Hayes End currently have five Insight Groups, meeting on different times of the day and on different days of the week. By this means, even if it is not possible to attend a group meeting at your own church, there may be one that suits your lifestyle at one of the other two churches. Please give it a thought and just turn up – you can be sure of a welcome and a drink with possibly a biscuit! All you need is be there as often as you can and bring a Bible (*the one you prefer*) with you.

On the next page we have detailed in full all the times, days, churches and leaders for each group for the next six months – do hope there is one that appeals to you. Should it be necessary to change any of these dates, the group leaders will ensure you are informed in our regular Sunday notices.

Hayes, North Hillingdon & Hayes End churches

Insight groups meeting details

July – December 2018

Groups A – D meet fortnightly, Group E - meets monthly on 3rd Wednesday

Group A – leaders Angela & Ian

(Mondays at 7.30 p.m. at Hayes End in church porch)

July 2 nd , 16 th , 30 th	August 13 th , 27 th
September 10 th , 24 th	October 8 th , 22 nd
November 5 th , 19 th	December 3 rd , 17 th

Group B – leader Helen

(Thursdays at 10.30 a.m. at North Hillingdon church?)

July 12 th , 26 th	August 9 th , 23 rd
September 6 th , 20 th	October 4 th , 18 th
November 1 st , 15 th , 29 th	December 13 th , 27 th ??

Group C – leaders John & Ajayi

(Tuesdays at 7.30 a.m. at Hayes End church in choir room)

July 3 rd , 17 th , 31 st	August 14 th , 28 th
September 11 th , 25 th	October 9 th , 23 rd
November 6 th , 20 th	December 4 th , 18 th

Group D – leaders Michelline & Gwynneth

(Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. at Hayes church)

July 4 th , 28 th	August 1 st , 15 th , 29 th
September 12 th , 26 th	October 10 th , 24 th
November 7 th , 21 st	December 5 th , 19 th

Group E – leaders Edna & Sheila

(Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m. monthly at Hayes End in church porch)

July 18 th	August 15 th
September 19 th	October 17 th
November 21 st	December 19 th

Question -

What's better than a happy wedding celebration?



Answer -

Two celebrations of a happy wedding!

... and that is just what took place on Saturday, 16th of June.

As everyone knows, our Minister Andrew and his dear fiancée Laura were married at the end of May, and a second wedding party to celebrate their union was held on that date last month at the North Hillingdon church with many friends from our three church families attending.

We are pleased to be able to offer this report on the evening's frivolities for those who were unable to attend it has been gleaned from a miscellany of comments and remarks that we have received from three or four people who were there that night for such a happy celebration.

Of course, it goes without saying that there was Food – and Food in abundance that had involved lots of hard work from lots of people (*why is it that we who are Methodists really do find enjoyment in times of sharing meals – breakfast, lunch, dinner or supper, and times when the weather allows us to share a barbecue?*) Mind you, didn't Jesus get involved in wedding suppers, picnics, evening suppers and, of course that final time he sat at table with his disciples – so what an example we follow.

But back to the 16th June.

It was such a pleasure (*especially to the females in the party that night*) that Laura wore her wedding gown – funnily enough, no one bothered to mention what Andrew wore! However, on the previous page Pat has kindly included one of the pictures taken on their special day.

The invitation to the celebration that night included the words 'bring your dancing shoes' so many folk did just that and those who are nimble of foot had a lot of fun as they danced to the music of a really good MC, staying on the floor until the final record was played. Here we understand that it was so good that one lovely person actually joined in the dance, despite the fact they had need to use a walking stick! (No, I really don't know who it was, but more power to your elbow – that's the way to stay young!)

However, the main thing that was brought to our notice was the fellowship that was engendered on that happy evening – one remark made was that "everyone was talking to everyone else" – and that in itself is the way in which we Christians must go if we really want to grow our churches. More of that elsewhere on another time.

To conclude some final words of thanks to all friends at North Hillingdon, from the organising of car parking, baking and cooking food, moving the furniture and producing some great fun and great music – anyone else planning to get married – we need a reason for more such celebrating together!

Reporting on the Hayes End General Meeting

As has been our practice for the past few years, the annual Church General Meeting was held on Sunday, 24th of June, and was combined with our usual morning worship. We feel that this arrangement is of far greater benefit to all our church members and friends for three reasons. viz

A – as it takes place then, and is a part of our time of worship, more of the church members are able to be present than is often possible on a weekday evening

B – making decisions concerning our church and what is on its Agenda is thus open to a larger number of those members

C – more people in our church family are kept aware of who will be a part of our Leadership Team and representatives to Church Council for the next church year

Everyone should be assured however that in no way does this detract from the main reason for our congregating on a Sunday morning and the fact that we are come to worship God is never pushed into the background.

Both service and meeting were led by our Minister Andrew who opened with one of his amusing stories about finding Jesus – always a great way in which to relax and engage with a congregation. Then we were treated to a showing of part of the TV game entitled 'Total Wipeout' - this is where the competitors face a number of challenging and almost unsurmountable obstacles that test their physical abilities, and the winner is he or she manages to reach the finish line breathless, but still on their feet! And, isn't that just like our Christian journeying?

Included also in Andrew's message was the theme of working together and reconciliation. The reading that morning was from 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 where no matter the trials and tribulations we face we have need to keep our eyes focussed on the goal. It is so necessary to work and learn from one another and is never possible to get things done as lone individuals.

John, our very hard-working Treasurer opened the 'business' section –

and yes, although we are not in business in the accepted sense of the word, to make any progress as a church we need to be 'business-like'. John reported that our financial standing is currently good – in fact although we now have funds sufficient to progress with the planned enhancement of the premises, we are still awaiting final tenders from suppliers – so unfortunately the start of the necessary work will not commence quite as early as was planned. However, members and friends will be kept informed in this matter.

For our next church year (1st September to 31st August 2019) our new Leadership Team, who were voted in by the meeting will be –

Mrs Beverley Answer	Mrs Grace Nicholson	Ms Tamiwe Musyani
Mrs Bose Osiloye	Mr Gabriel Baihinga	Mr John Chamberlain
Mr Ajayi Oguntokun		

And the representatives from church to the Church Council are to be –

Mrs Angela Lount	Mrs Nicola Mercer	Mrs Pat Walsh
Mr Jim Ashton	Mr George Kulasingham	Mr John Rout jnr.

Tandy, who has been such a valued member of the Team is now standing down from her duties, but will be replaced by Bose Osiloye, and Carmen who has served for many years as a church representative is also moving on: she is to be replaced by the re-appointment of Jim Ashton.

To both Tandy and Carmen we give our grateful thanks for all the service you have given to God and the Hayes End church family, and we welcome both Bose and Jim in their new roles. May God's blessings be with all four of you.

But, of course, on that important Sunday (even if the World Cup was very much in progress, and England were playing!) the obligatory food was on hand as we shared a barbecue in warm (hot) sunshine outside afterwards – football fan or not, might we take a lesson from our England Team. As we write we have no idea of the final result**, but from where I'm standing they are enjoying success so far is because they all have one goal in mind; they work as a united and friendly unit in harmony and with great determination to be the very best that they possible can for their country – isn't that the way we should all work for our Creator God?.

No more room now, apart from most sincere thanks to everyone involved in any way for Sunday, 23rd June at Hayes End.

**Yippee – it was 5-1!

Two important reminders ...

Firstly, we do hope that members and friends of our churches will take time to share with us on

Saturday 7th July – Carnival Day

as by now everyone must know this will be held in Town Hall park on that day where we will have a united church Stall. It's the once-a-year occasion when not only do we endeavour to raise much needed funds for our church and the Brigades, but even more importantly it's a great opportunity to bring awareness to the local community of the existence of our churches and the Brigades – *there are still a few days left for anyone to volunteer to lend a hand on what is always an extremely busy time – please have a word with John C if that is you!*

and secondly the

Compass courses

that are currently taking place after morning worship on Sundays at the Hayes End church from 12.30 – 1.30 p.m. The remaining sessions, that are being led by Deacon Claire Gill are

<u>8TH July</u>	What is Church? and Why do we have the Bible?
<u>15TH July</u>	Our Faith Journeys
<u>5TH August</u>	What is God calling you to do?

Everyone who wishes to learn more about membership of the church, our faith and the Bible is very welcome.

Please take time to read the important article on pages 30 and 31 which Claire has written to tell us what being a Deacon is really all about.

And here's a Bright Hour Reminder

Not only do our schools 'break up' for a summer holiday every year, this also applies to some of our church groups and not least to the Bright Hour. That popular group which holds the longest-service record in our church!

Their last meeting in this church year will be on Monday 30th July. However, as always, to celebrate summer and keep up to date with their latest news and sundry aches and pains, the ladies and gentlemen will be meeting again for a tea party on Monday 13th August at 2.30 p.m. – weather permitting - in the garden of secretary Eva and her husband Chas.

Then the Group will resume its fortnightly gatherings on Monday the 3rd of September, when they already have an interesting programme of speakers already booked up to the end of December.

You don't need to be in your dotage to come to Bright Hour – any lady or gentleman who is free on the group's meeting day on alternate Monday afternoons is more than welcome to come at 2.30 p.m. for a cuppa, a chat and to listen to a delightful variety of people who come to talk to the group on a vast range of topics from foreign holidays to funerals, from dentistry to dog behaviour and memories of being a fan of one of the Big Bands!

And there's always a bun or a biscuit with your drink!



CHURCH MODERNISATION PROJECT UPDATE

THE CONTUING CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT!

Whenever reporting recently about the Church Modernisation Project it seems to entail both good and bad news and that is definitely the situation now.

First though I outline the good news, so that we don't all become too discouraged. We now have been promised grant support from 5 different bodies, which totals £46,100. As shown on the next page this means that basically the funds are available to complete this work this Summer. We can also report that we have successfully completed the demanding Connexional Property Consent process. Taken together this is indeed great news and so very rewarding to see that all the hard work has produced such a handsome return.

But then we move to the bad news and this concerns the one aspect of this project outside our control. The Tender process and appointment of the Head Contractor. It is now evident, I am afraid, that we will not be able to complete this work this Summer. The Architect went out to tender after Easter, and all 4 applications have proved to be fruitless. This means that the work will now have to be delayed to the 4th Quarter of 2018 at the earliest and that the Architect will now have to enter in a new Tender process.

This is very disappointing, because we are now held up by the one element that seemed at first glance to be the easy part of the process. But we remain positive and hopefully that within the next 4 to 6 weeks we will be able to bring some good news with confirmation of an agreed tender and a start date for the work.

John Chamberlain

THE CHURCH MODERNISATION PROJECT

Updated Budget 2017/18		As at 3 rd Quarter 2017/18
40,900	Balance brought forward	40,921.28
12,500	General Fund Allocations	9,400.00
2,250	Anniversary	2,481.76
4,500	Donations & Fund Raising	3,246.68
825	Gift Aid (2016/17)	826.25
46,100	Grants	5,000.00
1,000	Per Foul Pipe Fund	1,000.00
5,000	Interest Free Loans	
3,000	Church Funds	
116,075	Combined Total	62,875.97

The budget is based on a cost of the project being 116,000. We await the tender process to confirm the exact figure. Also, the budget was based on completing the work this Summer.

Grants Position

£5,000 already received from David Forrester Trust
 £5,000 promised from Norwood & Newton Settlement
 £11,600 promised from Circuit Model Trust
 £12,500 promised from London District Advance Fund
 £12,000 promised from Connexional Property Fund



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US IN OUR
EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE VITAL WORK OF
THE HILLINGDON
FOOD BANK. SHOPPING TROLLEYS SITED IN
THE CHURCH PORCH.**

Special

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

This Summer we are going to arrange two Work Party events at the Church. There is a whole list of jobs to be done, suitable for all capabilities. But we do need **YOUR** help.

The Work Parties will be held on **SATURDAY 30TH JUNE** 10 am to 12 Noon and also on **FRIDAY 27TH JULY** 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Please book these dates in your diary and help to tidy, clean, renovate our Premises. All offers of help will be gratefully received.

SATURDAY 7TH JULY is the date for this year's Carnival **PLEASE** we need your help in three in ways....

1. We need items to sell on the Stall
2. We need help on Tuesday 3rd July to sort and price the goods for sale on the stall
3. We need help on the stall on the Day. Anytime between 10am and 5pm.





In Autumn 2009 The Circuit Leadership Team requested that all Churches should produce its own "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats report. It is very interesting now at this time in the development of our Church to look back at that report and consider how today we would complete this form.

OUR STRENGTHS

Friendly and welcoming Church in a good location.
 A committee Leadership Team.
 Premises in good condition with new plans in the pipe line.
 Financially sound.
 Well supported work amongst Children & Young people.
 Premises extensively used by the Local Community

OUR WEAKNESSES

Inadequate Pastoral support network.
 Lack of Prayer & House Groups.
 Shortage of workers within our Youth Work.
 Lack of social activities for young adults.
 Age profile of congregation.
 Poor communications.
 Shortage of musicians.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

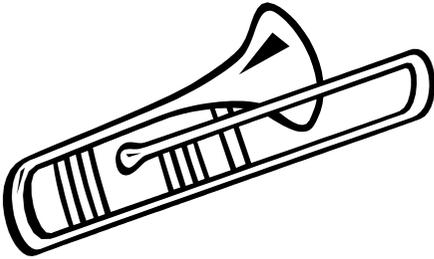
The new worship area.
 To develop links with our Community Groups.
 To become more involved in local Community events.
 Number of new people who visit our Church for Morning Worship.
 The many people linked to our Church.

OUR THREATS

Worship too traditional and exclusive.
 Lack of people prepared to take over Leadership Roles.
 Lack of newcomers becoming regular worshippers.
 Work of our Brigades hindered by Staff shortages.

Blowing your own trumpet ...

that definitely is not an attractive or acceptable activity, but it is permitted when one blows it for other individuals. Here are some people that our own church families have encountered during the past eighteen years ...



I have a feeling that it's either the air at Hayes, or maybe it's the church people here. Have realised recently that, without exception, every minister since the Revd Judy Turner-Smith came to oversee us as our pastoral leader in September 2000 has received promotion.

The Revd Jongi is now a Chair of the London District, the Revd James is working as the Gloucester Circuit Superintendent. When Judy left us she also became a Superintendent, and our current Minister Andrew will be the new Superintendent of the Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit as from September. Now to add to that list we have recently heard that the Revd Helen will also be a Superintendent - of the Dartford District – and, like Andrew, she will be starting in her new role on 1st September.

So Helen, with this issue, please accept our warmest congratulations: we ask for God's blessings on you as you now continue to serve him as Dartford's Superintendent. It is good to hear all your news and that you and Shaun and your three boys are all in good shape in their respective roles. Please give each of them very best wishes from all the folk they knew - and some they still maintain contact with - on this western side of the metropolis.

Our Girls ...



That television programme ‘Our Girl’ has prompted me to keep our readers informed about Netsanet and Shawa, two small girls who live in Ethiopia that we have ‘adopted’ at Hayes End.

In April Netsanet had her fifth birthday and on the 17th June Shawa was also five years old and we sent them birthday cards and small gifts from the church family.

We have heard from them both that they continue to enjoy playing games with their friends and siblings – and in Shawa’s case football - and what they are learning at their churches.

Of course, they are all written in a little child’s hand-writing and in their own language so are obviously unreadable as I have only scant knowledge of just French and German! However, Compassion UK, kindly translate all their messages so that is good, and we continue to communicate by that means.

We will keep everyone posted – meanwhile, have a word please with our Treasurer John should you feel able to add to our contributions – he will be pleased to give you all the details.

We thank Anne H. (from Hayes) for the following two reports of Ascension Day, 16th May and that special united Pentecost Service on Sunday on the 20th of May ...

ASCENSION DAY – AN ECUMENICAL GATHERING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF HAYES

On the evening of 15 May, it was good to get together at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with members of other Church congregations (Methodists, Anglicans, Baptists, Catholic) as part of the “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer campaign. This is where all Christians are urged to spread God’s word and witness empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the King and do the work of God’s Kingdom.

Through the service led by clergy from the Catholic, Anglican and Methodist Churches we were led in prayer, bible readings and hymn singing and it was uplifting to realise again that although we meet in different buildings, with different traditions, God’s word is the same. The reading together of Psalm 67; then someone reading verses from 1 Corinthians 12 4-7 starting “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”, the prayer asking “Draw your Church together O God into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life”. All show that God is there for us all and we were urged to realise that together we can make a difference. May this restart of Churches Together Ecumenical gatherings continue – an extension of our 3-Church celebrations one of which was our.....



PENTECOST SUNDAY SERVICE - 20 MAY 2018

Extra chairs were the order of the day for accommodating those attending our three Churches gathering on Pentecost Sunday at Hayes. It was good too to have with us members of the Ethiopian Church congregation who meet on our premises.

How lovely to see the Church full and so much activity.

The “warm-up” of singing before the start of the service got us singing “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness” with the chorus declaring Christ alone being the cornerstone and that He is Lord, Lord of all. We started fairly quietly but finally sang with gusto ably led by Jean on the piano.

An atmosphere of celebration continued with Rev Andrew’s warm welcome and more singing. The message of the Holy Spirit being sent by God to be our helper throughout our lives ran through the service and was explained in various ways, not least by the Hayes Sunday School children’s contribution of a terrific lively song of the fruits of the Spirit “Love Joy and Peace” in which the congregation were then asked to join in singing and with lots of singing, clapping and dancing, the Church was filled with joy.

Hannah a tiny 4 year old then bravely stood at the front of the Church and recited all the books of the New Testament. What an example! The children were captivated by Ian’s talk with the use of a hair dryer, garden blower and ‘magic’ tricks of cleaning a dirty piece of material all used to show how despite not being able to see things, we are affected by them, and although we cannot see the Holy Spirit He is there to influence us.

The Y group from Hayes End brought a sketch explaining the relevance of the Holy Spirit as an Advocate for us, then in his message Rev Andrew reminded of the Holy Spirit’s constant presence and Simon giving his very moving testimony of how he gave his life to Christ and the Holy Spirit’s constant help through his life. The service was drawn to a close with all celebrating together with Holy Communion and more lovely singing with “Love Divine, all love’s excelling”.

But...that was not the end! A delicious lunch had been prepared by our Hayes team and this was enjoyed by all who stayed.

Thanks to all who helped in any way through the service, before and after – a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and one from which we could go into the world assured God is with us.

Anne Hensman

Stewards of Creation – that’s Us!

On Saturday 5th November about a dozen years ago (*sorry I can’t remember the exact year*) Pat and I took a journey to Cambridge to attend a Lecture headed by ARocha, the Christian conservationists. We were given the option of two groups to join and we chose the one entitled

“Is saving the planet part of Christian mission?”

The Revd Dave Bookless opened that session and delivered a very colourful presentation, using modern technology to facilitate ***“The Bible and the Earth: Christian faith and the environmental crisis”***. There are no two ways about it – we are the Stewards of Creation, and as Christians we do need to seriously consider what we are doing to preserve God’s amazing and wonderful gift. There was some lively discourse as saving the earth came under debate, and the five marks of Mission were brought to mind –

***to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom –
to teach, baptise and nurture discipleship –
to respond to human need by service and care –
to seek to transform unjust structures of society and
to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation,
thus sustaining and renewing the earth.***

These marks apply to Christian and non-Christian alike, but as Christians who and what we are should always shine through our actions. Jesus demonstrated the good news – and did not only speak it, but he offered himself as our role model as he proclaimed that the news was for all, and that included the sick, the displaced and the under-privileged. As was quoted ‘*Jesus comforted the disturbed and disturbed the comfortable*’ – we should keep this in mind and all do our utmost to follow his teaching. This Planet which is on loan to us is ecological and we do well to read 2 Chronicles 7:14 when God speaks to Solomon:

“if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”

To conclude this session Dave left us with a great quotation from Rob Frost... ***“When Christians take the earth seriously people take the Gospel seriously”***. We need to be seen to lead the way, and not leave it to others.

So may this recollection and the message from a most worthwhile away day many years ago serve as yet another reminder that each one of us is a Steward of Creation, and that a Steward’s role is to take care of another’s property – i.e. our heavenly Father God.

... and here's another thought in our role as God's Stewards –

we are also his fisher folk

Recently I was reading Luke 5 - the time when the disciples had been fishing all night and had caught nothing, and that in turn brought to my mind a poem by an unknown author that I've had for many years. It's rather long, but I decided to include it in this issue anyway as it tells the story in language that may appeal to people who are not too familiar with biblical text -

Calling the Disciples

***What a night! I'd a head-ache and arm-ache and cramp
and back-ache from working all night in the damp.
My hands were red raw from hauling the net and my tunic was
soaked with the waves and the sweat.***

***"Andrew" I shouted, as we reached the shore
"What was your catch like – I hope you got more
than we did last night?". He shrugged "not a sausage.
"Not even a sardine to make me a sandwich".***

***You win some; you lose some. But that night was bad.
The worst night of fishing that we'd ever had.
The crews were as grumpy as wintertime whales
as we shipped all the oars and we shook out the sails.
We let down the anchor and splashed off to clean the
nets where our great catch of fish should have been.***

***And, to our surprise – there on the sand
was Jesus with huge crowds of people at hand.
"You're up early master" I said with a grin
"Have all of these come for their free medicine?"
"Eh, Simon! I'm so glad to see you" he said
"Can I talk to these folk from your boat there instead?
"Just row me a little way out from the beach
"then the crowd will hear every word that I preach".***

*“You’re on Lord”, I said. “Hop in and we’ll row
“just tell me how far you would like us to go”.
I thought that he smiled and was going to say
something important, not just “Row away”.*

*Well, he talked as we lay in the warmth of the sun.
I tell you that Jesus, he talked like no one
had spoken before – it was like he knew God
like the palm of his hand; like we fishers know cod,
plaice and haddock – that man knew his God inside-out,
in his stories he told us what life’s all about.
And everyone groaned when Jesus had to say:
“Sorry guys – that’s your lot for today”.*

*He looked down at us as we lay in the prow,
“Thanks Simon; I think what I’d better do now
“is to pay you some rent – row your boat a bit farther,
“then let down your nets when we’re out in deep water”.
Now he was a carpenter – we were all pros
at fishing. I frowned and I said, “I suppose
“you think you know more than the rest of us do?
“We’ve fished all night, Master, and caught half a shoe!
“There’s not a fish out there – you take it from me.
“You stick to your God work, we’ll stick to the sea”.*

*But he gave me a wink and a mischievous smile.
I sighed. “Give him an inch and he’ll send you a mile!
“All right Master, as it is you we’ll put down the nets
“as you told us to do, but don’t expect anything!
“Cast the nets men – now watch
“and you’ll see us catch nothing again”*

*But my words faded out – we could hear a great thrashing
of tails against scales, and we saw a huge splashing
from out in the nets, and the boat listed over.
“Heave, lads”, I yelled, then we all ducked for cover.
Each muscle was straining, each face drenched in sweat
from the weight of the thousands of fish in those nets.*

*There were oarfish and sawfish and swordfish and bogfish
and goldfish and flatfish and catfish and dogfish
and cockfish and codfish and jelly and trunkfish
and lionfish, stonefish and whitefish and monkfish.*

*“Andrew! Ahoy there! Bring out your crew!
“and give us a hand – we need each one of you!”
We dragged in the nets, but what do you think?
There were so many fish, both boats started to sink!
I’d never seen anything like it before,
and I’d been at sea now for twelve years or more.
I don’t mind admitting that I was scared stiff.
It was unnatural, it was as if
Jesus had ordered the fish where to swim
and the fish, against nature, had all obeyed him.*

*I fell to my knees. I was all of a panic,
and I said in a voice that was more than half manic.
“Stay back from me, Lord – I’m a sinful man”
If he could do this – and I saw that he can –
what power he had! I was shaking with fear.
“Stop being afraid” he said. “Now listen here,
forget about fish” – and I watched the lake ripple –
“I’m going to make you a fisher of people”.*

*I looked at the catch piled high where it lay
and the fishing I’d loved seemed a lifetime away.
I forgot about plaice, didn’t care about cod,
and I just looked at Jesus and knew he was God.
When we got to the shore I left my boat there.
From that day I followed Jesus everywhere.
Adventure and danger, more vast than the sea
were round every bend, after Jesus called me.*

**... that was the time when Jesus told the disciples he’d
make them fishers of men, so with our current mission in
mind to grow our church, let’s agree to go out and do
some fishing –**

Are you prepared to stick out your neck?

Following the necessity for all believers in God to play their part towards church growth, here is an item adapted from an old Cambridge Church Magazine, that I feel is worth taking a look at

“..... I was considering relationship between animals and people; whether you thought you were like one particular animal and, if asked, which animal you would adopt as your personal mascot (dogs, cats rabbits are not allowed!) I decided that my mascot would be the giraffe, and I chose it for three reasons

Firstly, every giraffe has different markings and by studying them you can recognise every individual. Each of us is different and so I thought I should be brave enough to be myself and strive to use my personal individual gifts.

Secondly, the giraffe has learned to stick out his neck to reach its goal. It must have taken courage and perseverance to keep on reaching towards that goal. And so I thought I should have courage enough to stick out my neck, even if it meant disturbing those around who might disagree with me.

And third – it took the giraffe millions of years to develop into a giraffe. So when I get discouraged that Christianity isn't making much of an impression on the world I remember that only two thousand years have passed since Christ set us on the road to create heaven on earth so I must be patient and be reassured that we'll reach our goal in God's good time”

**Worth thinking about?
Are we prepared to be 'different'?
Are we prepared to profess our faith?**

Let's stick out our necks a bit for God' s sake. He needs our hands and feet to work for him.

Let me tell you a story ...

We received this from our friend Ajayi some time in the past. Based very roughly on the story of Gideon, it's all about Love ...

A woman came out of her cottage and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her garden. She did not recognize them.

She said "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry. Please come in and have something to eat". "Is the man of the house home?" they asked. "No", she replied. "He's out". "Then we cannot come in" they replied.

In the evening her husband came home, and she told him what had happened. "Go tell them I am home and invite them in!" he said. So the woman went out and invited the men in again. "We do not go into a house together" they replied "Why is that?" she asked One of the men explained. "His name is Wealth" he said, pointing to one of his friends and, pointing to the other, said "He is Success, and I am Love" He then added "Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home".

The woman went to tell her husband what was said. He was overjoyed. "How nice!" he said "Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth in. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!" The wife disagreed. "My dear, why don't we invite Success?"

Their daughter-in-law, who was listening, jumped in with her own suggestion "Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love!" The husband said "Let us heed our daughter-in-law's advice – go out and invite Love to be our guest".

The woman returned to the old men and asked "Which of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest" Love got up and began walking to the house and the other two followed behind him.

Surprised, the lady asked Wealth and Success "I only invited Love. Why are you coming as well?" The men replied "If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would've stayed out. But since you invited Love, wherever He goes we go with him.

Wherever there is Love there is also Wealth and Success!!"

Here is a message for all our church friends and members from Deacon Claire Gill – many will have had the pleasure of listening to Claire on Sunday mornings in our churches and on other occasions – Claire writes:

What is a Deacon? I am asked that question a lot! And as of 12th June it is now official that from the 1st September I will be working with the 5 churches south of the A40 - Christ Church, Hayes, Hayes End, North Hillingdon and Yiewsley for 50% of my time and the other 50% will be spent across the Circuit leading Training and Development, including Safeguarding and Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. Phew!

What that does mean is that I will be working alongside Nick and Ken and all of you to look at how we can work together and continue the excellent initiatives that Andrew has started, as well as looking for new opportunities to develop our missional outlook and connect further with the communities we serve. However, feel I perhaps need to offer some explanation as to what a Deacon is before I start!

Perhaps I should start with ***what a deacon is not:***

A deacon in the Methodist church is not the same as a deacon in the Church of England, it is not a stepping stone to ordained ministry as I am already a fully ordained Methodist minister

I am not an assistant to the minister, I am a minister in my own right.

I am not paid less.

I am not trained in a different way and therefore not less educated.

I am not stationed into circuits because they cannot get enough Presbyters.

Instead a deacon is:

Called to Witness through service - following the example of the servant Christ as one who washed the disciples' feet.

Called to 'Assist God's people in worship and prayer, hold before them the needs and concerns of the world, minister Christ's love and compassion, visit the sick and the suffering, seek out the lost and lonely' (extract from the MWB Ordination of Deacons)

Bridge the gap between the community and the church

Encourage the church to participate fully in the life of the world and respond to calls for justice

To be the voice for the voiceless and the churches public representative.

Some may still say 'I don't see what the difference is?' and I agree there are not clear boundaries which say a Presbyterian can do this and not this and a Deacon can only do this and not this. The ministries are meant to be complimentary but equal, we are each called to ministry and to serve in our own way, some are called to be ordained to those ministries and be public representatives of the church and God. I have always felt a strong call to Diaconal ministry, to be alongside people, to encourage and enable people to deepen their relationship with each other, God and their communities. I have never felt called 'to word and sacrament', my call to become a local preacher was completely separate and much later than my call to Diaconal ministry,

I am now in my 14th year of ministry and every day is different; every day is a new challenge and a new opportunity.

I hope I have given you a brief insight into What a Deacon is - I hope over the coming months and years we will be able to grow and develop together so as to enable the work of the Kingdom of God. I will endeavour to write a regular piece for the magazine to keep you updated with the work I am involved in and trust that God will lead us and guide us now and always.

Yours in Faith,

Claire

**NB –
currently leading the Compass Course at Hayes End, and if you have not already attended, Claire would make you welcome at any of the remaining sessions – please see details on page 14.**

And here is even more good news – Claire has just agreed to include a monthly column in this magazine reporting on her activities, starting in September – thank you so much Claire – surely it will be a wonderful way in which to ensure that all five southern Methodist churches that you will oversee are kept aware of one another.

Good idea?

Here are nine requisites for contented living:

Health enough to make work a pleasure
Wealth enough to support your needs
Strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them
Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them
Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished
Charity enough to see some good in your neighbour
Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others
Faith enough to make real the things of God
Hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future

Goethe

and a wonderful prayer from Kate McIlhagga:

Creator of rainbows,
come through the closed doors
of our emotions, mind and imagination;
come alongside us as we walk,
come to us at work and worship,
come to our meetings and councils,
come and call us by name,
call us to pilgrimage.

Wounded healer,
out of our dis-unity may we be re-remembered,
out of pain of our division may we see your glory.
Call us from present pre-occupation to future community.

Spirit of Unity,
challenge our preconceptions,
enable us to grow in love and understanding,
accompany us on our journey together,
that we may go out with confidence
into your world as a new creation –
one body in you, that the world may believe.

Just to prove that there's nothing new under the sun –

when we reach middle age how many of us find ourselves repeating words we heard from our parents and grandparents? Here are just a few memories – and smiles – to recollect

How many times do I have to tell you?

No! we're not there yet

If you don't stop grizzling, I'll give you something to grizzle about

Just tell me why you did it, but I don't want any excuses

*If you fall out of that tree and break your leg,
don't come running to me for sympathy*

*If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times –
just stop it*

Don't eat the chocolate now, it'll spoil your dinner

If you say that once again I'll wash your mouth out with soap

*Get back into bed at once both of you and stop the noise –
you'll be sorry if I need to come up there to sort you out*

*Just because Mary told you it was okay to eat it,
it doesn't mean she was right*

Two wrongs don't make a right

... because I say so

The things children say:

The answer to everything –

the Minister asked a junior class one day

“What is white, has big ears and is fluffy all over?”

A small boy replied

“It sounds just like a rabbit to me, but I suppose the answer has to be Jesus”

A bugging question –

“Please Miss” the child asked in Sunday School, as the teacher paused in telling the story of Lot, fleeing from the destruction of Sodom, “you said God told Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city – what happened to the flea?”

Forever fun –

“What does Jesus promise us?” the teacher asked her class.

“Ever laughing life” a small girl responded cheerily.

A good question –

“Always remember we’re here to help others” said the teacher.

A puzzled girl put up her hand and asked “Please miss, so what are the others here for?”

and here’s another –

Several illustrious guests were invited to an Admiral’s retirement party. His granddaughter was allowed to say goodnight to them before she went to bed. She came to a bishop, resplendent in purple robes – “oh”, she said “I do like your dress. Do you have knickers to match?”



The closing date for items in our September Magazine

Wednesday 15th August

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.

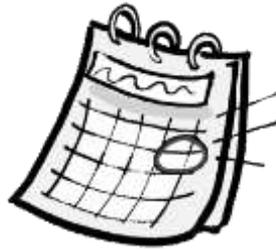
www.hayesmethodistchurch.org.uk is the web site for the Hayes Methodist Church. *(If you have access to the internet, please remember to use these sites when you need to check what's happening in your Church)*

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 July & August



July

- 1st 9.30 a.m. Parade service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes with Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End
- 2nd 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 3rd 7.30 p.m. Insight Group C meet
- 4th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet
- 5th 7.30 p.m. united Allsorts group at Hayes End
- 7th 12.00 p.m. Table Top sale at Hayes
North Hillingdon “Young at heart”
All day – Annual Hayes Carnival
- 8th 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Anniversary service at Hayes with General Church Meeting
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End
6.00 p.m. Praise service at North Hillingdon
- 9th Leadership meet at Ruislip Methodist church
- 11th 11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
12.00 - 300 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 12th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
- 15th 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End
4.30 p.m. Tea and Farewell service for Revd Sue Male at Pinner M.C.
- 16th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
7.30 p.m. Youth Leaders meet
- 17th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group C meet
- 18th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
10.30 a.m. Insight Group E meet
- 19th 7.30 p.m. united Allsorts group at Hayes End
- 22nd 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End
- 25th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 26th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet

- 29th 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End with Holy Communion
- 30th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 31st 10.30 a.m. Insight Group C meet

August

- 1st 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet
- 4th 12.00 p.m. Table Top sale at Hayes
 North Hillingdon “Young at heart”
- 5th 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End
- 8th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 9th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
- 12th 9.30 a.m. Farewell service at North Hillingdon with Holy Communion
 and reception of new members
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes
 . 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End
- 13th 2,30 p.m. Bright Hour Garden Party
 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 14th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group C meet
- 15th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 10.30 a.m. Insight Group E meet
 7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet
- 19th 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Farewell service at Hayes with Holy Communion and
 reception of new members
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes End followed by Family Picnic in the Park
- 22ND 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 23rd 10 .30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
- 26th 9.30 a.m. service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Farewell service at Hayes End with Holy Communion
 and reception of new members
- 27th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 28th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group C meet
- 29th 7.39 p.m. Insight Group D meet
- 31st 7.30 p.m. Welcome Service at Ruislip Methodist church

all dates as known at time of going to press



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 C - Church porch
(Alt. weeks) Contact: Ajayi – Tel. see above
- WEDNESDAY:** 10.00 a.m. Insight Bible Study Group E - 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 –
currently the group is full)
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 July and August 2018

1 st July	Lamentations 33-33 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43 Psalm 30	8 th July	Ezekiel 2:1-5 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13 Psalm 123
15 th	Amos 7:7-15 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29 Psalm 24	22 nd	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Ephesians 2:11-12 Mark 6:3-34, 53-56 Psalm 23
30 ^h	2 Kings 4:42-44 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21 Psalm 145:10-18		
5 th August	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35 Psalm 78:23-29	12 th	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51 Psalm 34:1-8
19 th	Proverbs 9:1-5 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58 Psalm 34:9-14	26 th	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69 Psalm 34:15-22

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