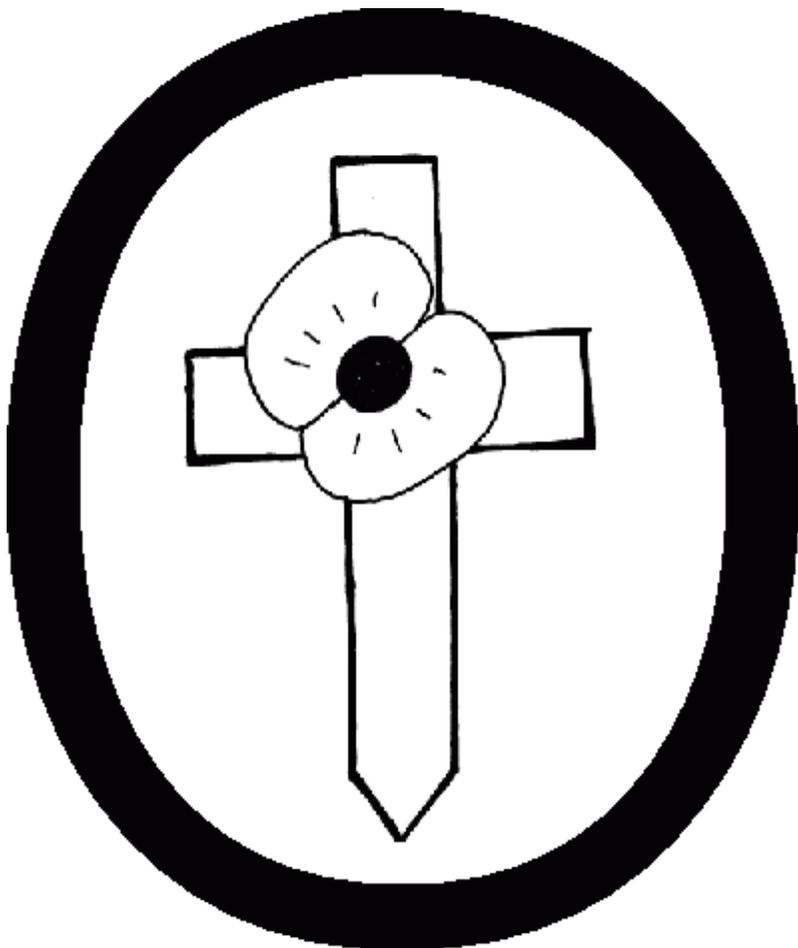


The Chronicle

*Monthly magazine of the
three Hayes Methodist churches*



Remembrance - November 2018 - Issue 256

The Methodist Church

Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit (35/36)

Magazine of the three Hayes Methodist Churches

23rd October 2018

A letter from the Minister

Dear Friends

Lest we forget

This month (November) we celebrate the centenary of the First World War. 'Celebrate' is probably the wrong word – commemorate or remember is far more appropriate.

I am not an historian but I think it is fair to say that the First World War changed the world, or at least the western world. There was carnage on a huge scale and warfare took on a technological edge with developments in machinery and engineering. Although sadly it was called the 'war to end all wars', it wasn't to be.

We live in a world where we can read and see images and descriptions of conflicts in our own homes as they happen. We can even follow events wherever we are through our mobile phones.

That wasn't possible 100 years ago.

News was strictly controlled and censored. Some have said that the best eye-witness accounts came from the poets who were serving on the front line. They had the opportunity to write down their experiences and also the chance to reflect upon them. Perhaps that is something akin to a political commentator or analyst today. Many of the poets were Christians, and what they saw and heard profoundly challenged their faith. They turned to verse to try and make sense of it (or not). In *Gethsemane (1914-1918)* Rudyard Kipling wrote about the use of gas being the cup of suffering from which the soldiers had no option but to drink.

And in the summer of 1918 Wilfred Owen, who was killed just a week before the Armistice, composed *The Parable of the Old Man and the Young*.

It is worth reproducing it in full.

So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,
and took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
behold the preparations, fire and iron,
but where the lamb for this burnt offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
and builded parapets and trenches there,
and stretched forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,
neither do anything to him. Behold,
a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns;
offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.

But the old man would not so, but slew his son,
and half the seed of Europe, one by one.

Here Owen makes use of the story of God's command to Abraham about sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22). It makes sober reading as Owen suggests that the refusal to acknowledge human pride caused the death of "half ... of Europe".

Two points or challenges:

- In terms of our actions and behaviour, what failings are we unwilling to acknowledge that will cause damage to others?
- How do we reflect on our faith in the light of our experiences and news of world (or local) events?

Whatever we do this year on Remembrance Sunday, we must never forget.

Ken

NB Please take a look at page 24

Our churches' prayer pages



For this month of November there are many appropriate hymns relative to the time of year, especially now when, for well over one hundred years, we have given thanks as we remembered the sacrifices made during times of conflict by millions of un-named men, women and children in every land on the planet – not least of course that ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus when he was brutally murdered by being nailed to a cross. Here are words from the brilliant writer Fred Kaan

**God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause – and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.**

**Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, Lord, for women, children, men
who seek to serve in love today, as then.**

**Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.**

**So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower
May we, impassioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.**

... 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

Sheena Avery
Mr Brett
Cath from Iver
Ada Day
Kate Dennis

Valerie Hanover
Pia Kapfeirer
John McSwiggan
Sid Ramsey
Edie Speed

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*

**“Fight the good fight with all your might, Christ is your strength, and
Christ your right; lay hold on life, and it shall be your joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God’s good grace, lift up your eyes, and seek his
face; life with its way before you lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast caste aside; upon your guide lean, and his mercy will provide;
lean, and the trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear, his arm is near; he changes not and you are dear;
only believe and prove it true that Christ is all in all to you”**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell

Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot ...

... just now can't recall the rest of that seasonal rhyme, but it serves to remind us we've reached the pen-ultimate month of 2018 when tradition has it that children engage in 'penny-for-the-guy' and apple bobbing. We let off fireworks and we may have a bonfire (if allowed): we get together with our friends and neighbours and feed on potatoes in their jackets. All good fun.

However, "*remember, remember*" has other far greater and some very sorrowful connotations.

This is the month each year when everyone of us, no matter our faith, or if we are of no faith, remember to give thanks for the countless millions of men and women and little children who have perished as the result of war and conflict in almost every land on earth: innocent human beings who simply wanted to live out their lives as best they could in their own individual circumstances. They have died, writhing in agony and terror beyond our wildest belief through absolutely no fault of their own, but as the outcome of the actions of power crazed megalomaniacs whose greed knows no bounds. Individuals who possess absolutely no feelings for anyone but themselves and who are all strangers to the truth. And, sadly it seems that throughout this world's history, even when one tyrant has been deposed, another will quickly rise and take his or her place.

In 2018 that situation is still with us and we are filled with feelings of helplessness as to how it might be possible to change such horrific situations. Today we sit in our comfortable homes and watch refugees fleeing for their very lives – it all beggars description.

As peoples of faith our role is to ensure we pray without ceasing that God will intervene and re-direct the thinking of those who have authority and power so that ways of peace may prevail and, despite the obvious fact that as mere humans we all have many differing views, beliefs and failings, we should learn tolerance of others and try to have an understanding of their varying circumstances.

However, our glib words will make little or no impression on any of those souls who have suffered under the evils of war; but nonetheless we'd like to share some valuable and thought-provoking words that have come from the pen of Martin Luther King, jnr. and that do speak with some force and eloquence concerning peace. It's entitled

Nobody's business

One of the most persistent ambiguities we face is that everybody talks about peace as a goal, but among the wielders of power peace is practically nobody's business. Many men cry "peace, peace", but they refuse to do the things that make for peace.

The large power blocs talk passionately of pursuing peace while expanding defence budgets that already bulge, enlarging already awesome armies and devising ever more devastating weapons ... before it is too late, we must narrow the gaping chasm between our proclamations of peace and our lowly deeds which precipitate and perpetuate war.

We are called upon to look up from the quagmire of military programmes and defence commitments and read the warnings on history's signposts.

One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. How much longer must we play at deadly war games before we heed the plaintive pleas of the unnumbered dead and maimed of past wars?



‘Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me ...’

words we sing in our churches, but do we always live by those words?

In the supermarket queue do we get irritated and annoyed because the lady on the check-out is chatting to the elderly customer in front of us about her aches and pains?

(could it be that is the only human contact that old person will have today or perhaps the whole week?)

If we drive, do we express in no uncertain terms and questionable language our aggression at the idiot in the car in front who indicates left and then proceeds to take a right turn?

(might that driver be making his way to a hospital having just heard his child has been involved in a bad accident?)

Without exception each one of us is guilty of intolerance and we all need God’s forgiveness for our intolerances.



So this month on the 11th of November which is Remembrance Sunday, and whether or not we are in any church, let us remember the suffering of others the world over, and ask that God help us to live in peace with everyone we encounter – In that way we can at least be sure that peace on earth will really begin with us and, who knows, just like a pebble thrown into a pond the resultant ripples will soon spread to the very edges of that pond.

So what's been happening since our last issue?

First of all, each of our three churches has celebrated Harvest, our Brigades have had their annual enrolment service, and some intrepid souls spent an afternoon tramping round and taking in the delights of Ruislip Lido. Various meetings have taken place and the last 'special' was on Sunday 14th of October, when many members and friends from our Minister's three churches came to Hayes End for a Joint celebration of praise and worship, followed, of course, by food!

So, let's begin by giving a report on Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday at Hayes End – this is offered by a greatly valued young member Amelia Mercer ---

“On September 23rd the Church enjoyed its annual Harvest festival parade, along with a ‘bring and share’ meal!

Amongst the excitement our new minister, Ken, led his first church parade with us! The service focused on how working together and leading a selfless life will bring you closer to heaven! The interactive sermon emphasised how coming together as a community brings happiness to all!

As usual the church collected donations for the food bank, this year our congregation were more than generous allowing us to help even more people across the Hillingdon community.

To start the afternoon many stayed after the service for a delightful ‘bring a share’ meal! It was a huge success! The food provided was collectively delightful – especially the pudding!

The Harvest celebration was full of pleasant company, many of us look forward to next year!

..... thanks a lot Amelia. for taking time in your busy life to do this ... it's very much appreciated.

... then there were those few hours spent at the Lido in Ruislip – that was on the afternoon of 7th October and the main purpose of this outing was to raise funds towards paying for disabled enhancements to the front of church by doing a sponsored walk.

I guess most folk planning to take up that challenge at the Lido had spent the day before looking out all their winter and waterproof clothing – from dawn to dusk it didn't stop raining and it was quite chilly. However, the forecast people got it right – Sunday dawned fair and certainly was the best day of that autumn weekend: there were blue skies, with the odd fluffy cloud, and no wind or rain.

It was good to be a part of this event, and from a wheel chair, to see most of the trees discarding their summer leaves and littering the paths and walkways with gold and yellow ones. As always at the Lido, the swans and the assortment of small waterfowl were extremely busy doing whatever it is that swans and small waterfowl normally do all day, in fact the swan population seems to have greatly increased since last we visited.

It was a bit of a shame that there were only five walkers who were able to join in, but nevertheless, those five had a good afternoon with lots of chatter and it's good to be able to say that so far they've raised over £500.00 – mind you it's still not too late to make a donation if you missed the opportunity and wish to make a contribution – John C is the person to contact!



... and almost last of all was that united time of worship on the 14th of last month. These three-church occasional gatherings are a positive way forward as we all strive to build up relationships, discover more about one another and, at the same time, seek ways in which to help others to discover what they are looking for in these somewhat stressful times – so many seem to be searching for they know not what – our Christian role is to find positive ways in which to point them in God's direction - In fact, the theme of Ken's excellent service that very wet Sunday was really looking, and not only looking, but listening too and seeing far beyond our own individual situations. To take a look outside the box.

As an enhancement to his point Ken showed a short film that put the topic across very succinctly and challenged our powers of observation. Not everyone noticed the gorilla that walked across the scene of the basketball players or got the right number of scores made by those wearing white shirts!

There was an excellent beginning as people were invited to search for some hidden sweets and then together the congregation shared a lively and action-packed hymn which a number of folk had not encountered before. With meaningful prayers and some good 'searching' hymns we watched a presentation of that great sketch entitled 'Table Talk' which leads positively into celebration of Holy Communion and so bringing our worship to its close.

It was good to see the church so full, with friends from all three churches, and of course to be able to share in the excellent meal that followed – naturally, it was not possible for everyone at the service to remain for this relaxed time of 'getting-to-know-you', but none-the-less over 50 people were seated in the hall for a well presented and tasty meal – I know a number of friends who were delighted to enjoy second helpings!

So now is time to say thank you – (*no names, no pack drill*) but thank you to all
... those who planned the service and were involved in its content
... thank you to those who shopped and baked
... thank you to those who prepared the food and set out the tables;
... thank you to those who served the food;
... thank you to those who made everyone feel so welcome
and last, but certainly by no means least,
... thank you to everyone who was good enough to do the clearing up afterwards –
you all know who you are and God most certainly does.

In these days of unsung heroes, our churches surely have a plethora of such kind and caring souls who always go the extra mile. God's blessings to you.

And to complete this report, we must not overlook Monday 15th of October - the day when our United Bright Hour met to celebrate their 87th birthday – it's considerably older than a majority of our congregants. Surely Bright Hour has a lesson for us all, that no matter what our differing trials and days of concern and pain, to stay the course is paramount. We keep them in our prayers, knowing that many live their days with constant pain and non-stop worries, but still are accepting of their lot and endeavour to continue in their allotted tasks to the best of their ability.

So let's take this opportunity to give thanks to God and to offer all the members - who not only are from our churches, but a number of friends from other nearby churches - a very cheerful and sincere

*Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday dear Bright Hour
Happy Birthday to you*



But all these events, enjoyable and important as they were, are now behind us and it's time to look ahead as we approach the season of Advent and Christmas and all the regular celebrations of a very important birthday. Our December programme at Hayes End can be found on page 27 – please keep it as a reference. We do hope we may have the pleasure of your company at some (if not most!) of these events.

And, just as reinforcement to all the above, on the opposite page please note the great example of forward planning by our Junior church – there is something for young folk of all ages – do any readers know of youngsters who find Sundays boring? Send them or bring them along to be a part of our Sunday Fundays!

SUNDAY FUNDAY!!!

Junior Church Autumn Programme

Every Sunday 11am to 12 noon

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL— be involved with as many as you like!

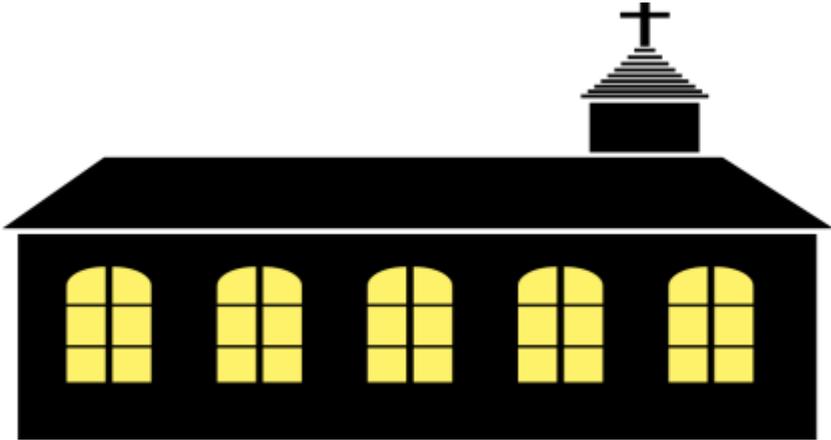
Activity opportunities

- ▣ **CRAFTS:** Harvest festival: fruit and vegetable carving
- ▣ **DRAMAS:** Nativity project: writing scripts and creating props too
- ▣ **DANCE:** teaching and learning - including dancing in services!
- ▣ **ART:** drawings, colouring and paintings
- ▣ **INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICES:** get involved in sketches, readings, prayers and leading sections of the service
- ▣ **COOKING:** activities including food—our favourite activity!
- ▣ **DISCUSSION:** we like to challenge our members but engaging them in some discussions often with topics chosen by the members.
- ▣ **PARTIES:** Our regular members are treated to some sort of party or outing each term. This year the parties will be themed and you will get to invite a friend.

CHRISTMAS AND THE NATIVITY!

It will be hard to beat last year's all singing, all dancing version of the Christmas story but we'll give it a good go and ideas are already taking shape. Come and join in with ideas, script writing, creating props and costumes! Other side activities will include designing your own Christmas cards and making wrapping paper and decorations!





The Church Modernisation Project

After a long and frustrating period of uncertainty, optimism is definitely in the air concerning our Modernisation project.

Firstly by the time you read this article we will have held our first on-site meeting with our Architect and the Head Contractor to confirm all aspects relating to the project. The work will take in the region of 7 weeks and we plan to be back in the Worship Area by Sunday 17th March.

We have now also received good news on the Grant front with 2 of the grant bodies already confirming that even with a lower budget figure for the work i.e. 96K, not 116K this will not affect the amounts of grants they will offer us.

We are also in negotiations with the Head Contractor to include some other aspects of the project within the main contract, including repainting the front of the Church as part of the project.

Also we now have all the funding in place for this project and will be able to also look to uprate some of the PA/IT facilities in the Church at the same time. Yes, optimism is in the air. To God we give all the thanks.

HAYES END



THANK YOU to everyone who financially supported those who undertook the Sponsored Ramble around Ruislip Lido recently. The good news so far is that over £700 has been raised for Church Funds. We especially thank Pat, Enid, John, Ajayi and Maurice who enjoyed a lovely afternoon meandering around the Lido.

ANOTHER THANK YOU to everyone who completed the “What Gifts Can You Offer our Lord in Thanksgiving this Harvest” questionnaire. It is great to acknowledge the additional offers of help. In due course these offers will be taken up in our efforts to develop the work of our Church.

OUR NEW CHURCH CHARITY “ALL WE CAN” – Please note a collecting box will now sited on the refreshments table after services for your Thank You donations. Already £50 raised for “All We Can”, our next target is at least £100 by Christmas.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN COLLECTION BOXES – If you have an “AFC” box at home which needs emptying please bring to Church next Sunday and pass to John Chamberlain.

IT’S GOOD TO SEE our new Minister, Ken rapidly getting to grips with his new duties. At the same time we must remember our responsibilities to support Ken and his family, especially in the early months of their time in Hayes. To say they are all now facing a complete culture shock is a definite understatement. Also remember always to respect Ken’s study day which is a **MONDAY** and his day off which is a **SATURDAY**.

THE CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION SANDOWN THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER

10 of us from Hayes End went to this Premier Christian Exhibition at Sandown this year and no doubt those of you who didn't or couldn't join us were the losers.

There were well over 200 Stalls, with an unbelievable range of Christian Resource materials. Again this year we made good contacts with various exhibitors, which will be to the benefit of our Church in the future. To be able to meet these folks face to face, provides a great opportunity. But the exhibitors only partially tells the story of what happens at CRE. As well as the stalls you have many other special features, which include Seminars, The Children & Youth Zone, Talks and best of all the concerts. Where else could you listen live to Stuart Townend in Concert for only £3? That experience alone made the day worthwhile.

STOP PRESS NEWS..... At the Exhibition we met a leading Tech. Company who are going to come to Hayes End next month to give a free estimate on a new television screens set up to replace our present Video Screen system. ALSO we spoke to the Company, who now provide the ultimate Worship Music Solution, the latest Digital Hymnal. Again in due course they are coming to Hayes End to provide a demonstration of this equipment for all interested parties.

The two 'Stop Press' examples above provide concrete evidence of the positive influence that CRE does have on churches. I have visited the exhibition in its various forms now for probably over 30 years and in that time have met many exhibitors who in due course have helped us in our efforts to develop the work of our Church.

John Chamberlain



A CHRISTIAN TUNE-UP

1. Adjust your lights so others may see your good works.
2. Set your timing to be in Church on time.
3. Adjust the brakes on your tongue so that you may always speak well of others.
4. Align your direction to follow the straight and narrow path of God's will.
5. Attune your mind to think on pure and holy things.
6. Anti-freeze your heart; be fervent and zealous in the Lord's service.
7. Lubricate your spirit with the oil of joy and gladness.



Deacon Claire's November column

Dear Friends,

Although I have only been with you for just over a month I have greatly appreciated your warmth, welcome and understanding. I have also valued your willingness to learn and listen to different opinions and experiences. In a previous article I tried to explain 'What is a Deacon?' it is not an easy and straightforward answer and so I hope that a bit more information will add to the picture.

Wesleyan Deaconesses were founded by a Methodist Minister the Rev Thomas Bowman Stephenson in 1890. In 1873 he had become involved in a new development the Metropolitan Lay Mission - with lay missionaries and deaconesses working with people not reached by other agencies. He realised that women were an untapped resource: they could visit homes where it was impossible for men to go. However, despite this vision, the Church was not sympathetic to this programme so it was dropped, albeit temporarily. In the 1870s and 1880s Rev. Stephenson developed what was to become the National Children's Home (NCH/Action for Children). Alongside this he founded the Sisters of the Children who worked in the homes and in some way fulfilled his vision of an order of women used by the Church. The Sisters of the Children were part of a widespread movement as churches began to realise the importance of women in evangelistic work. Bands of deaconesses could be found working in London, Manchester, Halifax and Rugby.

In 1890 Stephenson outlined his vision for a deaconess order within the Wesleyan Church in his book 'Concerning Sisterhoods'. *"For any Christian work, except that of the pulpit, the woman is at least the rival of the man. A woman, whose hand is softer than a man's for works of character, and whose heart is warmer in sympathy with sorrow, is in many circles more powerful for good than he."*

Gradually the Wesley Deaconess Institute moved from an informal movement to a structured organisation. In 1900 Stephenson became Superintendent of the Ilkley Circuit. Whilst there, Conference agreed that what had become the Wesley Deaconess Order be fully acknowledged, and Stephenson was appointed its Warden.

In 1902 he purchased a house that was to become the Deaconess Institute College, and it opened that September with 17 students.

The workload of a deaconess was heavy. An account of work for one deaconess in 1905 shows a typical day beginning with breakfast for 100 children at 7.30 am and ending with a concert at 8.00 pm. Her tasks for a 70-hour week included:

Leading three prayer meetings. Playing the organ on Sunday. Choir practice. Extensive young people's work. Drill class. Benevolent society committee. Women's own club. Babies hour. Interview with an employer. A few hours in the office. Cutting out garments for a sewing class. Visiting of homes and hospital with services. Practical help in the home.

Significant Dates

In 1973 the conference decision to open Presbyterian ministry to women led to a working group being set up who suggested that a Methodist Order of Deacons be formed, continuing the existing Wesley Deaconess order, but now opening to men as well as women. In 1989, after a long period of deliberation, the Methodist Diaconal Order was formed and the first Deacons were ordained in 1990 - a 100 years after its inception.

In 1993 Conference agreed that Deacons should be recognised as being both a Religious Order and an Order of Ministry, giving them the same status as Presbyterian colleagues. 2004 saw a conference report 'What is Deacon?' discussed and approved to help churches increase their understanding of Diaconal Ministry and the role of the Deacon. The core emphasis of Diaconal Ministry is Witness through Service. An Ecumenical statement on Diaconal Ministry states: *"Diaconal Ministry is Christ-focused, people-centred and lived out in a lifestyle both active and contemplative...We increasingly perceive our role to be pioneering and prophetic, responding to needs, proactive in opportunity through commitment to mission and pastoral care within and beyond the Church. Opening doors of opportunity, encouraging others to take risks, the contemporary diaconate acting in its capacity as 'agent of change', engages imaginatively and collaboratively with issues of justice, poverty, social and environmental concerns. We often find ourselves spanning boundaries, especially official ones of Church and society."*

I thank you again for your willingness to learn and understand the nature of Diaconal Ministry and I hope that together as a team we can all be witnesses to Christ through our service to one another, the church and the world.

Claire

What was the challenge that Deacon Claire gave us in her October offering?

We are assuming all friends have read her item last month which was based on Mission, and the Circuit's current Mission Action Plan. One remark that hit home and sounded familiar was that at church council meetings we frequently agree on a proposal, but it's not followed through and therefore no action is taken to put it in place. It may have been an excellent proposal, one that required a certain skill, but no one ensured it happened. All our churches have people with an abundance of talents and it's our role to use those attributes to the best of our ability. They are all God given and if we keep them to ourselves, then we insult God.

We have leaders, tea makers, knitters and crafty ones, carpenters, musicians, archivists, singers, prophets, brilliant cooks, dreamers, common sense ideas folk, financial wizards, counsellors, gardeners, scribes, electricians, tailors, drivers, cleaners, nurses, teachers and sporty ones - the list is as long as there are friends and members. Do we always offer church and God of our best or make excuses for being unable to help? Yes of course, we are only too well aware that for most folk going out to work these days is an absolute necessity: and sadly if you are quite handicapped in some way, or elderly and not in good health or a family member has trouble, then naturally your responsibility is elsewhere, but please have a think and see if there is a small task you could offer to help ensure the church does not fade.

And as Claire writes, church is not just for Sundays and, although without question church is an important part of the Christian's remit; it is not where we can play our role in outreach – it would be like preaching to the converted to spread the Good News inside the church – it's for outside. We live in a world where today millions are crying out for change and in dire need of some one or some thing to point them in the direction of where faith will lead – and, in the very action of using our God-given talents to lift others up we can do what we, as believers, are surely here for – spreading that news.

In his hymn "What shall our greeting be?" Fred Pratt Green poses the question

“What is our Mission here?” –

as Claire suggests – let's make our churches

Everyday churches with Everyday Mission

And, now having read the previous page, I regret that I've missed out a most important section of our church family – all those young people who are members of Junior Church and the Brigades. And NO (*as some people will say*) they are not the 'church of tomorrow' – they are very much a part of the church today, and it is to them we must look for fresh and new ideas to ensure our church grows. So– if you have not already done so, please take a look at what they are up to in the hall – it will be a masterpiece of hard work and lots of lovely ideas and thoughts that depict our church in the form of a great mural along one of the walls. They are all deserving of a reward for this thought-provoking and powerful of contributions. I for one can't wait to see what they have in mind to offer us this Christmas time and into the next year. More power to all their elbows and may we never fail to give them our support and, only if asked, the occasional worth of our experiences. Let's all remember not to intimidate or patronise them and give them the credit which is their due.

And as an addendum may we add the following – it's a lovely prayer put together by Nicola and read by Caitlin during an in-house service on 7th October involving some of our young folk. It speaks so clearly of all our shortcomings in today's world a prayer we might all use?

Lord, we're sorry that we sometimes take love for granted.

There are so many ways in which we can hurt one another and grieve your Holy Spirit.

Forgive us when we have treated our lives, and the lives of others, in ways that devalue us and them, not appreciating the gift that life is to us.

Forgive us when we hurt those closest to us; when we do not appreciate their worth.

Forgive us when we have lashed out at someone else, made a joke at someone's expense or under-mined someone's confidence or joy.

Forgive us when we have allowed hate to take root where only love should dwell.

Help us Lord, we pray – wipe away all bitterness and resentment from our hearts and bring us into a stronger relationship with you and with those around us.

Forgive us and help us to be a blessing to others.

May love become our default setting so that, every day, our responses will become more gracious, more compassionate, and more like you.

In Jesus' name. Amen

LEST WE FORGET



readings,
reflections
and prayers
to remember
the end of the
First World War

**Sunday 11 November
at 6.00pm**

North Hillingdon Methodist Church
260 Long Lane, North Hillingdon UB10 9PB

The **Methodist** Church 

**‘Earth is the Lords; it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as God’s steward’s, to farm and defend.
From its pollution, misuse and destruction,
good Lord, deliver us, world without end!’**

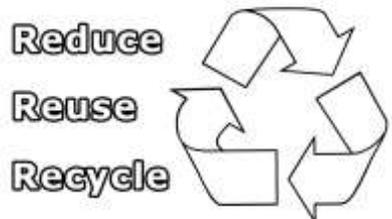
Many will recognise this last verse from Fred Pratt Green’s wonderful hymn that today should speak volumes to us all.

Those who watched the BBC on the evening of Monday 1st October and the in-depth programme concerning pollution that has overtaken the entire world from north to south poles of all rivers, seas and oceans (although it may appear to be too late to save them) must realise it is now the immediate duty of each one of us to do what we can to at least stop making things any worse.

Obviously, few of us can scour beaches or rivers and collect deadly plastic, but there are many ways in which we can do our little bit just where we are – we should stop using plastic cups and plates, stop buying goods encased in plastic (*where’s the problem in buying potatoes and vegetables that are unwrapped?*) It may mean needing to do a little more washing up and spending more time at the sink giving the spuds a scrub, but I have no knowledge of anyone ever being made ill or losing their life as a result.

And what about the world’s health, especially that of our children and all the generations that follow? What sort of example are we setting them, and what is this legacy that could obviously endanger all their lives?

No, we alone cannot change this downward path, but we should all endeavour do what we can to make it much less slippery and, in the meantime, let’s keep on praying to God that scientists will soon discover an antidote to this sorrowful and worrying problem that, in our own ignorance and innocence, we ourselves have caused.



NOVEMBER

Season of bonfires, swirling mists – early frosts and dense fog –
or at least that's how once it was. But not today – it's quite warm

I get into the car and drive to keep an appointment along roads
choked with fume-emitting vehicles – are we hell-bent on destruction?
Have we no care in our urgent and frantic race to achieve –
achieve what?

Make more money, gain more power,
up-grade our standing in society –
is that what we're all about?

Routinely I turn off the main road into a tree-lined street –
I'm on auto-pilot having made this journey every
week for the past seven or eight years.

There's time to lift my eyes from the road for a
second or two – and – hey!!

All is still as once it was after all!

The sky is the colour of a tropical sea

(or a field of cornflowers)

the trees are decked in shades of gold, yellow
with little bits of red –

the paths too are carpeted with discarded foliage
covering the concrete of paving stones.

Gathered around the base of each tree are
haphazard yellow splodges.

Leaves lie thick, dishevelled and deep,
awaiting small feet to come along and crunch,
kick and skate their way through
this ankle-deep annual mystery.

God is, after all, still working His purpose out and
His autumnal transformation
as He has always done.

Let's take another look and really see –
why should we be afraid?

Nov. 2006

Christmas is coming ..

.. never mind about geese putting on weight, it's of greater importance to remind everyone of all the church dates that are planned for December – *(anyway, maybe you prefer turkey or chilli con carne)*



Please use this page as a seasonal diary – our hope is that you will be able to be at some (or all) of the events. Everyone is invited and is assured of a warm welcome (plus refreshments) as together we mark a Very Important Birthday

2nd – 11.00 a.m. we light the first of the five *Advent Candles*

8th – 7.00 p.m. Church Family Christmas Concert – we've got talent!

9th – 11.00 a.m. Parade and Gift Service, plus Christmas Praise & worship at
6.00 p.m. at North Hillingdon church

10th - 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour Christmas Tea with invited guests

18th or 19th? – 7.30 p.m. United Carol singing at Sainsbury Supermarket -
bring all the family!

23rd – 11.00 a.m. *Junior Church Nativity – never a service to be missed!*

24th - 7.00 p.m. Carol Singing in the wards at Hillingdon Hospital (meet in chapel)

11.30 p.m. Watchnight Communion Service at Hayes End as we gather to
welcome the Christ Child

25th Christmas Day services - 9.30 a.m. at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. at Hayes

our Brigades, Junior Church and all other groups who meet on a regular basis will be planning their own individual celebrations.

Joy to the World!

Grace in odd places

In the first service that our Minister Ken led at Hayes End his theme was storytelling and, as we all know, it was the method used by Jesus when talking to the crowds about his heavenly father, God. And as Ken said, each one of us has a story to tell – as people who know me are aware, I have a mine of them – may I please share a couple, which are both true, and from a very long time ago?

I once called for, and received, total silence in an extremely busy restaurant!

It was the early days of December 1930 and with my parents (my sister was yet to arrive) we were having our once-a-year trip to visit Father Christmas and, even more exciting 'eating out!' Back then there were few food outlets – a Black & White Milk Bar and one of those Lyons Corner Houses for the plebs: proper restaurants were where only the affluent were patrons. Having told FC I wanted a pony, and he wisely saying unless we had a field it might be a problem, we made our way to the Cambridge Lyons Corner House for high tea. The 'Nippy' (*then the name for all Lyons' waitresses*) had brought our food – plates of fish and chips no less - and a pot of tea when, to the great embarrassment of mum and dad, I climbed up on to my chair, and in an extremely loud voice yelled "*quiet please everyone for Grace*" and then at full blast I recited the one we used each mealtime at home.

A hush fell over the entire restaurant and all the Nippies stopped serving and stood quite still. At the end when I sat down everyone applauded – that was my very first taste of people clapping at the end of a performance!!

But there was a lesson to be learned from that occasion - four months later I lived with my Grandma (*mum was ill*) and she took me to an ice-cream parlour in Newmarket, where a local dairy sold only home-made ice cream. A very small shop with just 3 or 4 glass-topped tables and that day we were the only customers.

Grandma collected the ices and as we sat down she said to me "*yes, dear, you can say Grace, but you must remain seated and do it very quietly – God will hear you just as well*". (*She'd obviously heard of the time in Lyons Corner House*). So I did.

Was she teaching me the lesson of Pharisees who prayed in loud voices standing on street corners? Knowing her as I did so very well in later years I guess she was! She was one of my life's mentors. It was wonderful and delicious ice cream – with two wafers - then we caught the bus back to the small village where she and Grandpa lived.

and a reward for observation

Fast forward to September 1937. It's the first week of the new term and I'm at the start of my final year at the Milton Road mixed Junior school. *(we were always known as 'mixed infants' or 'mixed juniors' back then)* Our class teacher was a lovely, caring Christian lady, named Miss Spall.

The class of 42 children were set a challenge – on our trips back and forth to school we were to find a tree or a large shrub and keep a weekly diary about our chosen tree or shrub for the rest of that year. Then the following July, when we were to leave the school for ever, Miss Spall would check our diaries and the best one would receive a prize! Every child was given an exercise book and pencil for the job, so no excuses please. As all of us had to make four journeys every day to and from school *(no school canteens or eating facilities then)* this should provide ample opportunity for the task. I lived a mile from that school and, at the end of Scotland Road, there was a large sycamore tree so that became my chosen item.

(Side track to revert to saying Grace – at 11.55 a.m. each day we had to down pencils, stand up and 'hands together and eyes closed' and would say Grace before we went to our homes for dinner. I was not best pleased and said so, explaining that we always said Grace at home, but Miss S. explained that it was for the benefit of children from homes where this didn't happen, and she wanted everyone to give thanks for what they all had and never to forget people who had nothing: as I said a good, caring lady)



Back to my sycamore – I collected leaves and those aeroplanes that are shed from its branches in abundance each autumn and wrote something every week – snow and ice, wind and rain, excessive heat or freezing cold, I liked Miss Spall a lot and was determined to meet her challenge – end result – in July 1938 I won the first prize which was a bar of Cadbury's milk chocolate! More lessons in thinking of others and staying the course?

Three Good Samaritans

We offer a tale from Jim Ashton of his experiences of Good Samaritans

(apologies Jim; this has been condensed a little to get it all in. Sorry the picture didn't reproduce well enough to be included – will pin it on the notice board)

An unknown lady

Recently while on a bowls tour in Kent I had some time off so as I knew Manston Airport was nearby and has two museums, one especially devoted to the Spitfire and the Hurricane, fighters in the last war, I decided to go and pay a visit. I studied my map and thought I'd got the directions right but ended up in a petrol station forecourt. I asked the man at the counter for directions, but he couldn't help me. Fortunately, a lady with a small child heard me and said if I liked to follow her she would take me there. She took me right into the middle of the car park and I told her she was an angel – I wanted to reward her but the only thing I had to give her was a Cancer pin badge and key ring, which she accepted with pleasure and then went on her way. I went to the museums and discovered that getting back to Cliftonville from Manston was easy.

Tony Bond

This gentleman is a member of the Rosedale Bowls Club and my second Samaritan. At a recent Club dinner I noticed some good posters on the walls that had obviously been done by a computer wiz kid and I asked who it was. It was Tony. I'd recently got a new computer, but it didn't work with my printer so I approached Tony who agreed to take a look. He came to my house after work one day and put it right and so saved my bacon! I thanked him very much for his kindness and can now continue with my story writing.

The greenhouse builder – Samaritan number three

This was of course the late Wesley Mason who helped put up a new greenhouse in my garden – this was reported in the tribute to Wesley in the September magazine.

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE – HERE ARE SOME A-POLITICAL APHORISMS

(most appropriate to today's political mayhem
so many thanks to whoever sent them!!)

**The problem with political jokes is that they get elected.
(Henry Cate, VII)**

**We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.
(Aesop)**

**Politicians are the same all over.
They promise to build bridges even where there is no river.
(Nikita Khrushchev)**

**Why pay money to have your family tree traced;
go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.
(Author unknown)**

**Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel,
go out and buy some more tunnel.
(John Quinton)**

**A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.
(Tex Guinan)**

**I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a
matter to be left to the politicians.
(Charles de Gaulle)**

**Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city,
it might be better to change the locks.
(Doug Larson)**

We've all heard of the Edinburgh Fringe – Tasha has kindly sent the following collection of word jokes from that event for The Chronicle and our entertainment - thanks Tasha

I'm not a fan of the new pound coin,
but then again, I hate all change" - Ken Cheng

I
I've given up asking rhetorical questions.
What's the point?" - Alexei Sayle

I'm looking for a girl next door type, and I'll keep on
moving house till I find her" - Lew Fitz

I like to imagine the guy who invented the umbrella was going to call it
the 'brella'. But he hesitated - Andy Field

Combine Harvesters, and you'll have a really big restaurant - Mark Simmons

I have two boys, 5 and 6.
We're no good at naming things in our house" - Ed Byrne

I wasn't particularly close to my dad before he died, which was lucky,
because he trod on a land mine - Olaf Falafel

For me dying is a lot like going camping. I don't want to do it" - Phil Wang

I wonder how many chameleons snuck onto the Ark" - Adam Hess

My dad suggested I register for a donor card.
He's a man after my own heart - Masai Graham

Brexit is a terrible name, sounds like cereal you eat when
you are constipated - Tiff Stevenson

Elton John hates ordering Chinese food.
Soya seems to be the hardest word - Phil Nicol

And finally more giggles, via Pat, from poet Don -

Your age is just a number. Check what you can do.

If you've had lots of birthdays, don't let that worry you.

Choose instead a function, that you need to do each day.

You're old when you can't do that and must find another way.

I have picked a function to use as my check-up.

If I still can put my pants on, whilst I am standing up.



Being old is not much fun with skin that wrinkles in the sun
and putting on pants is really hell – I don't do that now very well
But best of all is eating toast with teeth that are more brittle than most
So getting old Don isn't good and soon we'll all be encased in wood

But being old can be great fun If healthy you can stay.

What jiggers it up is all the stuff you've picked up on the way!

Happy days.....Ski's and Scruff's x



info

The closing date for items in our December Magazine

Wednesday 14th November

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.

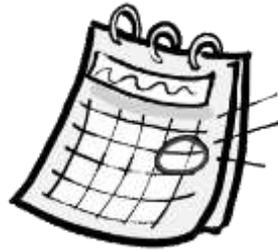
www.hayesmethodistchurch.org.uk is the web site for the Hayes
Methodist Church (If you have access to the internet, please
remember to use these sites when you need to check what's
happening in your Church)

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 November and
December***



November

- 1st 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 3rd 12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes
3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon
- 4th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes with Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
- 5th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 6th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group C meet
- 7th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet
- 8th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End

- 11th **Remembrance Sunday**
9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Parade Service at Hayes End
6.00 p.m. Praise Service at North Hillingdon

- 12th United Bright Hour at Hayes End
- 14th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
7.30 p.m. Circuit CLT meet at Ruislip

Closing date for December magazine items

- 15th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 18th 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
- 19th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 20th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group C meet
8.00 p.m. Circuit Treasurers meet at Ruislip
1.30 p.m. Prima's joint management meeting at Hayes
- 21st 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet

- 22nd 7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End
7.30 p.m. London District Treasurer's meet at Central Hall
- 25th 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
followed by 'come & share' meal
- 26th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour at Hayes End
7.00 p.m. Local preachers & worship leaders meet at Hayes End
- 28th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
- 29th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End

December

- 1st 12.00 p.m. Table Top Sale at Hayes
3.00 p.m. 'Young at Heart' Club at North Hillingdon
- 2nd **First Sunday of Advent**
9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
- 3rd 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
- 4th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group C meet
- 5th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet
8.00 p.m. Circuit meeting at Northwood
- 6th 7.30 p.m. Handicraft group at Hayes End
- 8th 7.00 p.m. Church family Christmas Concert at Hayes End
- 9th **Second Sunday of Advent**
9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Parade & Gift Service at Hayes End
6.00 p.m. Praise Service at North Hillingdon
- 10th 2.30 p.m. United Bright Hour Christmas tea party at Hayes End
- 12th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
11.00 a.m. United Holy Communion at Aston House
- 13th 10.30 a.m. Insight Group B meet
7.30 p.m. United Allsorts Group meet at Hayes End
- 16th **Third Sunday of Advent**
9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End

- 17th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group A meet
 18th 7.30 p.m. Insight Group C meet
 17th or 18th? Carol singing for Action for Children at Sainsburys' Supermarket
 19th 12.00 – 3.00 p.m. North Hillingdon Crafters
 7.30 p.m. Insight Group D meet
 23rd **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Nativity Service at Hayes End
 24th 7.00 p.m. Carol Singing in the wards at Hillingdon Hospital
 11.30 p.m. Midnight Service at Hayes End
 25th **Christmas Day**
 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 No service at Hayes End
 30th 9.30 a.m. Service at North Hillingdon
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes
 11.00 a.m. Service at Hayes End
 31st New Year's Eve



**May we learn to love with the perfect love of God and angels.
 May we receive this priceless gift from them – and pass it on.**

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



DURING THE WEEK IN HAYES END CHURCH

SUNDAY:

11.00 - Morning Worship & Junior Church
Evening Services - Held at various locations
for details please check the Church Web Site

MONDAY:

10.00 – Ramblers Club (meet in Car Park)
Contact: Ajayi - Tel: 07738-709595
10.00 – The Parent & Toddlers’ Group
Contact: Janette - Tel: 0208-845-3485
14.30 – The Bright Hour (Alt. weeks)
Contact: Eva - Tel: 0208-581-5853
7.30 p.m. Insight Bible Study A – Choir room (Alt. weeks)
(Contact: David 0208-581-9594

TUESDAY:

7.30 p.m. Insight Bible Study Group B - Church porch
(Alt. weeks) Contact: Ajayi – Tel. see above

WEDNESDAY:

10.30 a.m. Insight Bible Study Group C - Church porch
(3rd Wed, monthly Contact): Edna – Tel: 0208-573-8564
11.00 – Holy Communion (2nd Wed. Monthly)
held at Aston House Care Home
Contact: Anne - Tel: 0208- 573-5602
18.00 – The Girls’ Brigade
Contact: Colleen - Tel: 07928-231254

THURSDAY:

10.00 a.m. – The Parent & Toddlers’ Group
Contact: Janette – Tel. see above
19.30- The Craft Group (Alt. weeks)
Contact: Pat - Tel: 0208-561-3134
19.30 – All Sorts Club (Alt weeks)
Contact: John - Tel: 0208-573-3607

FRIDAY:

17.30 – The Boys’ Brigade
Contact: David - Tel 0208- 581-959



Lectionary Readings for November 2018

4th November

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34
Psalm 119:1-8

11th November

Armistice Sunday
1 Kings 17:8-16
Hebrews 9:24-29
Mark 12:38-44
Psalm 146

18th November

Daniel 12:11-3
Hebrews 10:11-14(15-18)19-25
Mark 13:1-8
Psalm 16

25th November

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37
Psalm 93

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