

Diary Dates

Abbreviations:

CTH Churches Together in Highgate

TLS LITE Training for Learning and Serving: Local Introductory Training Experience

July

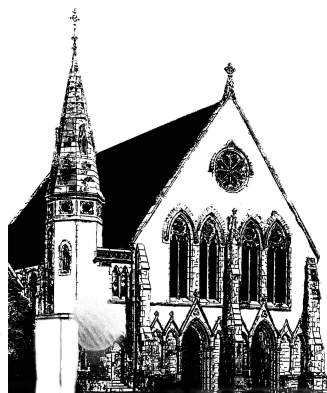
Sunday 11	10:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion and Junior Church Bookgiving led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
	12 noon	Junior Church Picnic
	12 noon	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 14	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 16	12:30 – 1 pm	Christian Meditation
Saturday 17	1:30 onwards	Highgate Horticultural Society Summer Show
Sunday 18	10:30 am	Worship led by Rev'd Donald Macarthur
Monday 19	2 – 4 pm	Open Door Gathering
	8:00 pm	CTH Theology Group, Romans 6, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
Wednesday 21	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 22	9:45 am	TLS LITE, Leading Worship 2, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
	2:00 pm	Elders' Meeting, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
Saturday 24	1 – 4 pm	Church Garden Party, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
Sunday 25	10:30 am	Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton

August

Sunday 1	10:30 am	Worship led by Rev'd Phillip Stewart
Sunday 8	10:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
Sunday 15	10:30 am	Worship led by Rev'd Daphne Williams
Sunday 22	10:30 am	Worship led by Susan Chinn and Elders
Sunday 29	10:30 am	Worship led by Gwyneth Wilson

September

Sunday 5	10:30 am	Worship led by Penny Wood
	1 – 4 pm	TLS LITE Study Afternoon
Monday 6	2 – 4 pm	Open Door Gathering
Wednesday 8	7:45 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Sunday 12	10:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
	1:00 pm	HASM Junior Church and Youth Leaders' Meeting



**July/August
2010**

www.highgateurc.co.uk

outlook

The newsletter of Highgate United Reformed Church
Pond Square Chapel, South Grove, Highgate, London N6 6BA

Climate Change, Deforestation and Population

A presentation of views by Paula Clifford, Marion Uglow, Julian Templeton,
Catherine Budgett-Meakin, and Jonathan Boswell

The following is a summary of a talk given by Dr Paula Clifford, Head of Theology, Christian Aid, given to the Highgate Climate Action Network (HiCAN) on the 22nd of April 2010:

Climate injustice: what are the challenges now?

I want to summarise four challenges related to climate change: two of them, (1) and (4), have always been there. The other two are much more recent – which in itself highlights just what a challenge the whole area is.

1. Challenges for people in poor countries

For most governments in the developing world climate change is not a priority, simply because it is just one of a number of apparently insurmountable problems, ranked in importance below malaria, HIV and AIDS, food shortages and so on. Yet each of these things is made worse by climate change: warmer temperatures mean that mosquitoes are entering hitherto malaria-free regions; people weakened by HIV are unable to cope with the many health hazards associated with climate change; food shortages are made worse by extreme weather events. The effects of climate change vary from one country to the next and there is no simple solution.

continued...

Minister: Rev'd Julian Templeton, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX. **Tel:** 020 8444 5076

Associate Minister: Rev'd Roger Orme **Tel:** 020 8458 2144

Administrator: John Wheeler, **Tel:** 020 8341 5463 **Email:** admin@highgateurc.co.uk

Church Secretary:

Treasurer: Robert Gorrie, 10 Wood Lane, N6 5UB

Outlook Editors: Andrea Protheroe (contact details on back page) & Laura Templeton

2. Challenge of denial post-Copenhagen

The failure of Copenhagen to reach an acceptable agreement, the East Anglia email fiasco, and the fact that life would be much more comfortable for all of us if climate change wasn't happening: all these have contributed to a marked increase in people who refuse to accept that anthropogenic climate change is happening.

Addressing the challenge of denial or scepticism starts with understanding the facts. Not just the science, although we do need to understand that the rise in global average temperatures is not affected by our own cold winter. We need to know what is going on in places where climate change is not an optional belief but a daily reality.

3. Challenges in a time of economic crisis

How does the world economic situation affect responses to climate change? The challenge is to enable poor countries to develop in an environmentally sustainable way: providing communities with no electricity with solar power and the know-how to maintain and develop it, for example. Even this has suddenly become more expensive. When the pound collapsed in 2008, the value of overseas aid dropped virtually overnight by around 30%.

All three main political parties say they support the ideal of committing 0.7% of GDP to international development. It is for the electorate to see that they stand by that promise. But the basic principle of funding climate change adaptation projects is that of additionality: the money contributed to international funds must be for new projects not existing ones. With the economy already under pressure, it will be all too easy for this to be ignored.

4. Challenges for communities

How shall we to embrace the changes that are already upon us?

- **Re-establish the importance of community**

Communities are important because they bring together people with shared interests, beliefs or occupations. They are important to people of faith, because it is in community that we can most effectively put our faith into action. It is in community that we can best show solidarity with people in poor countries suffering the devastating effects of global warming. And it is in community that we can best demonstrate our individual commitment to addressing climate change.

- **Recognise our *interconnectedness***

'Interconnectedness' conveys something of the relationship between human beings and the rest of the created order. But we also need to acknowledge our connections with one another. It means asking the question put to Jesus by a lawyer: "Who then is my neighbour". Our answer will relate both to those within our communities and those outside them. An example is the relationship between the Good Samaritan in Jesus's parable and an anonymous traveller from a rather different religious community.

So communities working together – communities of different faiths, schools, voluntary organisations and so on – may well be the key to combating climate change: enabling us to speak out together, to make connections with other communities worldwide, and to establish a culture of sustainability. It's in community that we can best address the challenges that we

may be talking about in a few years' time: environmental refugees from southern Europe and beyond; responding to food shortages; reaching out to people who have lost homes and loved ones to extreme weather; undertaking a radical change in lifestyle that is so much better done together rather than as individuals.

Paula Clifford

The following is an edited version of an article written by Marion Uglow in April 2010 that arrived too late to be included in the May/June Outlook. We are pleased to include it in this edition.

Commitment for Life sent news of the Copenhagen conference; Bangladesh feels entitled to ask for at least 15% of any climate adaptation fund, since it sees itself as the most vulnerable country to climate change: at least 20 million people (present population just over 150 million) will be displaced if sea level rises by one metre. It is a shame that Commitment for Life then went on to write that "...many more would be affected if glaciers on the Himalayas melted due to global warming." This mistake on the part of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) infuriated serious scientists who accused the IPCC of deliberate disregard for the principles of scientific objectivity, saying that IPCC should know that its account of Himalayan glacier melting was misleading, pointing out that the IPCC cites essays by WWF and Greenpeace as though they were serious academic studies. Understandably, Bangladesh blames wealthy nations for the rise in carbon emissions, but silence is kept over how poor nations themselves contribute to dangerous rising water levels.

Two years ago I wrote how the felling of trees at the foot of the Himalayas (not done by rich Western nations) has caused dangerous results; when the winter snows melt they now bring down tons of silt into the Ganges. I am told that canals and rivers are not regularly dredged, the water level rises too high, the Indians open the dams and Bangladesh is flooded; nothing to do with climate change. Christian Aid and its partner the World Development Fund (WDF) strangely do not mention this long-known fact.

Informed Bangladeshis and South East Asian people also point out that the excessive population growth in Bangladesh is a severe problem; more and more forests are cut down (and deforestation is a considerable contributor to global warming); there simply is not enough land to sustain such a burgeoning population. However, population control/family planning is a very sensitive issue and Christian Aid and WDF appear not to tackle this subject. Thoughtful people are concerned about uncontrolled population growth may be labelled as Malthusians. Yet even David Attenborough thinks that the human race has a moral obligation to reduce the size of families in order to slow animal species extinctions and global warming.

Christian Aid's work in Bangladesh is of real benefit: cyclone shelters are built to provide women and children with protection if a major storm hits the coast; climate change adaptation project encourage new skills such as growing vegetables in floating allotments; tree planting; rearing ducks, etc.

Christian Aid and WDF stress that we must all continue to campaign hard for climate justice, but it is worrying that we are not given the full facts. The USA has hitherto been the largest contributor to CO₂ emissions, but China is shortly expected to overtake the USA. At the Copenhagen conference, China did commit to CO₂ reductions but would not allow any inspections, i.e., no transparency.

In response to this article, Julian Templeton wrote a letter to Marion Uglow:

Dear Marion,

The meeting organised by HiCAN took place at the Pond Square Chapel attended by 16 people (I was the sole representative from the URC). Dr Paula Clifford gave a talk that was both balanced and realistic about the challenges of climate change. She addressed the issue of deforestation by giving a concrete example. Large tracts of Burundi's forest were cut down as a direct result of the civil war between 1994 and 2004 due to rebels and government forces attempting to 'flush the others out'. It is a serious problem, and in Paula's book *Angels with Trumpets* she acknowledges that deforestation may be responsible for up to 25% of global carbon emissions. So you are right to raise this as urgent issue.

However, whether it is legitimate for the developed world to point the finger at developing nations about deforestation, I'm not so sure. Let me give you an example. It is now acknowledged that the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has been cumulatively building up over a considerable period, almost certainly since the industrial revolution, and quite possibly well before that. After Easter, Laura and I went north to do some walking in the Peak District and then to the Lake District. While driving from one to the other we took a detour through the 'Forest of Bowland' in Lancashire. We did not see any forest! Later, examining a map, there does seem to be some small pockets of green, but they are relatively small. Either someone named it as a joke; or, as I suspect, it was once a great forest that has largely been felled. In doing some further research, I discover that almost all the British Isles were heavily wooded but gradually have been deforested by humans. Indeed, where you and I live, all that is left of what was a vast ancient woodland is the small pockets of Highgate Wood, Queens Wood, Cherry Tree Wood, and Coppetts Wood; and compared to many parts of London we are lucky still to have these!

In comparing New Zealand to the British Isles, I reflect that it is only a matter of historical accident—namely, the relatively late colonisation of New Zealand by European Settlers (1840–90 mostly)—that more of New Zealand's native bush and woodland was not also felled. Farmers and developers (including my ancestors) felled bush over vast tracts of land in order to make the land 'productive'. However, the population of NZ is only just over 4 million people, and, thank God, the Conservation movement got going just in time to ensure that NZ still has sizeable tracts of native bush relatively undisturbed in National Parks (yet with native species threatened by exotic imports).

You will understand, therefore, why I would be hesitant to lecture developing countries about deforestation; we may first need to listen to that lecture before we are entitled to give it. Indeed, our pleas may be better received were we to embark upon an extensive programme of reforestation.

Regarding comparative emissions of CO₂, Paula Clifford claims that per capita developed nations still emit far more than developing nations. I have no reason to doubt this, since it is only the relatively well-off who have regular access to electricity, gas, motor vehicles, air travel, and it is the developed nations that still have most of the heavy industry.

Paula Clifford quoted the theologian Karl Barth in her talk when speaking about the Church

as a community. "The Church is that community that takes combined action to love its neighbour." The point I raised following her address was that if/when the church is persuaded to take combined and coordinated action to ameliorate the effects of climate change on our neighbours, we will achieve far more than a series of individual actions, some of which may effectively cancel each other out.

Julian Templeton

Marion Uglow made the following response:

The Forestry Commission is sometimes fiercely assailed for its regimentation of the landscape, but over 50 years ago it planted in Northumberland 70 000 acres of forest with a variety of species: the great Kielder Forest. Some are planting new woodlands, for example at Sandridge near St Albans, Hertfordshire. In Germany the dense Black Forest continues to be nurtured, and the great Bavarian Forest which stretches far into the Czech Republic is lovingly preserved.

Marion Uglow

In a letter that Marion wrote to Catherine Budgett-Meakin, who organised the HiCAN meeting at our Church at which Paula Clifford was the speaker, Marion raised similar points that she stated in her original article, to which Catherine Budgett-Meakin replied:

Dear Marion,

You raise a number of points. I would like to respond to just three:

1. Deforestation: you are quite right to highlight this problem. Of course our country did its deforestation a long time ago. It is largely the demand for wood and wooden products, and for the cleared land that drives deforestation. Our insatiable desire for palm oil, for land to grow cattle and the feed for that cattle drives loggers to want, quite understandably, to cut down trees on an enormous scale to make money. Only if we did not make the demands for the crops or meat that can then be grown would this problem start to be addressed. The consequential smog is a result of the whole unfortunate cycle.

2. China and India and responsibility for climate change. We in the rich north are the principal emitters of CO² the USA emits about 19 tonnes per annum per capita; in the UK this figure is about nine tonnes pa, pc. In China the figure is between four and five tonnes, and in India it is between one and two tonnes pa, pc. Of course both countries are developing fast at the moment. But in the case of China, in particular, they are producing goods for Europe at an enormous rate and volume which is driving up their CO² emissions. Europe is, in effect, exporting its CO² emissions across the world. The calculations of emissions would be much more accurate if our CO² emissions total took account of all the exported emissions to China. It is of course a serious global injustice that those who have done least to bring about climate change are already suffering from its effects. For those of us who are Christian, that must be an issue of overwhelming importance and urgency, which should be far more central to our Christian witness than it currently is.

3. Population growth: you are quite correct in saying that this has become an unaddressed problem – in fact, as it happens, it has been my professional concern for the last nine years. One of the reasons that it slipped off the international agenda and off the agenda of such

NGOs as Christian Aid was the unfortunate period of coercion in the 1970s when force was used to sterilise women and to carry out vasectomies on men. The UN conference in Cairo in 1994 worked hard to put human rights into discussions about population and that was a very good thing. But unfortunately an unintended consequence of that was that the funds for family planning declined, at the same time that funds were being required on an enormous scale to deal with HIV/AIDS – a scourge of unimaginable scale in many parts of the world, but particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, causing enormous suffering and anguish.

My organisation, the 'Population and Sustainability Network', is working hard to get population growth back on the international agenda, with strong emphasis on reproductive and human rights. We hope that as a result of various changes, more money will be allocated for voluntary family planning for the 230 million couples in the world who would use family planning if they had access to it. Population growth is occurring in the poorest countries, with the smallest carbon emissions. It remains a scandal that 20% of the world's population (us in the rich world) consume 80% of the world's resources.

Catherine Budgett-Meakin

Marion Uglow wrote a reply to Catherine Budgett-Meakin, of which we included this edited version:

Dear Catherine,

Like many Germans and Austrians, I don't fully agree that Europe's consumer-demands are a reason for China's dirty industrial development (China builds endlessly dirty coal-fired power stations). South East Asian friends tell me that masses of China's production goes to Malaysia, Singapore, the Middle East, Scandinavia; not just Europe. Furthermore, although at present the USA is top of CO2 emitters, China is a very close 2nd and is expected to overtake the USA soon.

At the Copenhagen Conference, Chinese and Indian negotiators were determined to resist any treaty that included binding emission-reduction targets.

In Bangladesh, forests are cut down more and more because of over-expanding population. You are right that many forests are cut down, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia to plant and produce palm oil: yes, used in Europe; but also in India and Middle East, etc. And in South America valuable forest is cut down for mining and cattle-grazing. In Africa much forest is cut down for fuel and housing.

I am glad that you are involved in the Population and Sustainability Network. Alas, the 1970's scheme to enforce sterilization and vasectomies in India was disastrous for schemes for population control. I know how difficult it is to recommend planned parenthood.

Marion Uglow

Dr Jonathan Boswell, a member of HiCAN, addressed the Churches Together in Highgate AGM on the 29th of June on Climate Change, the following is taken from Julian's Templeton's notes of his talk:

Climate Action As Our Common Good - What Can Highgate Christians Do?

The 1941 Malvern Conference advocated the need to recover reverence for the Earth and its resources. The World Council of Churches has issued a series of warnings against despoiling

the Earth. Others have argued that humans are living inhumanely due to our addiction to finite resources.

The Christian doctrine of Creation understands that humanity is commissioned to care and manage the Earth. The doctrine of the Incarnation affirms matter. The Doctrine of the Trinity points us to the interrelatedness of all things.

The present rate of consumption by developed nations is unsustainable. Scientific evidence for widespread and significant climate change is cumulative and, to many, convincing. The future projections based on this evidence are well founded but cannot be certain. There is a widespread consensus about a rise in average temperature. This would very likely lead to a significant increase in water stress, extreme weather, and extinction of species.

The following practical actions were advocated that could, if adopted by many, ameliorate the effects of climate change:

- Install eco-efficient boilers
- Install proper insulation in lofts and walls, use draft-resistant curtains
- Use a water-butts
- Alter diet to eat less meat
- Use public transport wherever possible
- Holiday closer to home
- Use renewable energy
- Turn-off unused electrical appliances
- Use tele-conferencing technologies as an alternative to foreign business meetings

Christians concerned about climate change need, on the one hand, to avoid Pharisaic displays of self-righteousness ("Let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing"); and, on the other hand, set a good example ("Let your light shine before others.").

Jonathan Boswell

Marion Uglow, who was present at this talk, comments:

Dr Boswell's practical climate actions are admirable, but a reduction in foreign travel would seriously affect the economies of many developing countries. Learning about other countries from books, TV, films is not as instructive as travelling to and within the foreign country, seeing for oneself and talking with local people.

Marion Uglow

The Christian Ecology Network advises that if you must fly, donate £50 – £100 to sustainable energy projects and/or to disaster relief agencies. www.christian-ecology.org.uk

Do you have any views that you would like to share on the climate change debate or related issues? If you do, please send your submission to the Editor.

A different kind of FURY...



URC Highgate **FURY** (Fellowship of United Reformed Youth) – a group of around 8 to 12 young people, meet every couple of months usually for an evening of games, table tennis, or a movie, and always some refreshments. On 23rd of May the group met up for a very special evening organised by David Woolcock, Robert Gorrie and Julian Templeton.

As the youngsters arrived, the tables in the hall were being set up for a very special dinner party and it became clear to me that this evening was going to be a very different kind of FURY.

As they started nibbling the food it gradually became clear that we were going to be taking part in a mystery game. A crime had occurred and it had to be solved by acting out the roles of different people who'd been there when it had been committed.

We all became a character and started to act out the roles that we were given with fantastic role-play e.g. German spy.

It was a great fun to see so many clever and talented young people in the church hall doing such excellent acting. I think that the youngsters really enjoyed the evening and I really believe that this kind of occasion can bring young people closer.

I hope that in the future we will be able to find a way to involve these talented youngsters more and more in the life of our church.

(**FURY** is open to all young people and the group is welcome to bring along friends who are from different churches or who don't attend any church).

Sara Zold

**Free Church Hampstead Garden
Suburb Centenary Celebrations**

Flower Festival

Saturday 10, 10am - 6pm

Sunday July 11, 12noon - 6pm

Centenary Celebration in Flowers with beautiful flower arrangements done by many local organisations, churches and synagogues. A selection of church archives will be on display, the new Centenary banners and paintings done by Temple Fortune Art Club.

As no-one else volunteered, Laura and Julian have put up a display to represent Highgate URC, nothing to compare with the exhibit on the left, which is amazing, but we did our best! I can highly recommend this, I for one have never seen such an fantastic display of flowers.

Light refreshments will be available.



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Visiting Ministers

We welcomed Rev Dr Alan Argent on 4th July. He is the minister of Brixton Congregational Church and last year's President of the Congregational Federation. (He is fortunately one of those ministers for whom audio systems are unnecessary as ours was on the blink.)

On 18th July we shall welcome Rev Donald Macarthur, associate minister of St Andrew's, Froggnal, and a regular visitor to Highgate.

In August two ministers will be visiting Highgate for the first time - at least to conduct services. First, Rev Philip Stewart, who has just retired from Totteridge Union, on 1st August, and then, on 15th August, Rev Daphne Williams who is a chaplain at the Whittington Hospital. She will be making a special journey from her home in Buckinghamshire that day to be with us and I am very grateful.

Susan Chinn will take the service on 22nd August, assisted by other Elders, and Gwynneth Wilson, the leader of our Christian Meditation Group, is organising a service mainly of meditation on 29th August. I know you will make a special effort to support these visitors and friends, remembering that so many will be away on holiday.

John Thompson

Camphill Village Trust

Most charities involve us making financial contributions but often we're not sure where the money goes.

The Camphill Village Trust provides work for disadvantaged people who still have a lot of enthusiasm and skills. House Fathers/Mothers give training and supervision, which reduce the amount of subsidy needed from local sources. Residents enjoy a social life and a measure of independence.

There are 11 centres of the Trust throughout the UK and visits can be arranged.

Many residents spend most of their lives in one of the villages. Some marry and some have children. Camphill was founded by Karl Koenig in 1955. He was an Austrian doctor who started off wanting to establish a community for children with special needs. The first was in Aberdeenshire in Scotland. Later, communities for adults were set up and his vision of a 'sheltered' village community based on love and trust has spread throughout the world.

As it says on their website: "The Camphill philosophy is that no matter what anyone's outward disability may appear to be, the spirit - the essential core that makes us all human - always remains whole. So everyone is deserving of equal respect and opportunities in life so that all may be able to fulfill their potential. Artistic and cultural themes run through the daily lives of all our communities where life is based on Christian values and inspired by the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner."

Funding comes from local authority social services budgets and residents receive state benefits as per entitlement. As funding becomes more difficult to get, bequests from individuals are invaluable.

The Camphill Village Trust's fundraising programme is called 'The Camphill Family'. A video, DVD and literature are available to learn more about their work. A Direct Debit or standing order form is provided for those with further interest.

You can also visit their website for further details and to give on-line.

The Camphill Family, Botton Village, Danby near Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 2NJ

Tel 01287 661294 • Web
www.camphillfamily.com

Peter Goldsmith

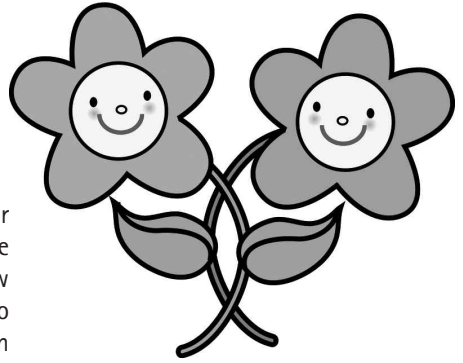


Church Garden Party

Saturday 24 July, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

The Manse, 42 Onslow Gardens,
Muswell Hill, N10 3JX

As in previous years, we invite you to bring food or drink to share. We will meet in the back garden of the Manse, weather permitting. Come through the yellow gate on the left of the house to the garden at rear (two steps down). If the weather is not fine the Garden Party will become a House Party. Access is by the front door and up a full flight of stairs.



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ORGAN DUETS

Robert Manning and Tim Corfield gave a lunch-time concert of organ duets at Crown Court Church of Scotland, Covent Garden, on Wednesday 30th June. Tim Corfield we know from his taking part in recitals in our own church with Robert: he is the sub-organist of Derby Cathedral. Robert needs no introduction here!

The programme was a series of short pieces, but well varied in period, with Samuel Wesley and Thomas Tomkins at the classical end and two contemporary composers (who were both present) Peter Monk and Alan Gibbs excitingly unpredictable. We had a clog dance from Percy Grainger and to conclude a whimsical piece from the modern French composer, Julian Bret.

Part of the challenge in these concerts is to entertain an unknown audience who are only there for thirty minutes and need to have lunch as well. Each piece can only last on average three to four minutes, given time for Robert's introduction and on this occasion a short valedictory word of thanks by Revd Dr Denis Duncan whose ninetieth birthday year the concert marked. But the gathered company of forty or fifty seemed to fill this little piece of Scotland in London and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Pond Square was well represented in the audience and I was able to give our greetings to Dr Duncan whose age now precludes him from taking our services from time to time. It was good, too, to see Robert Manning in a wider setting than Pond Square. Just one complaint: in the nature of church organs, it is hard to see the player, so one can't easily empathise with him in the way one can with a solo pianist at a concert who is prominently on view. The organist is buried away from sight - good perhaps for the shy violets but in some of the pieces we heard on Wednesday I wanted to see the organists enjoying themselves!

John Thompson

Minutes Of Church Meeting

held after Service 27 June 2010

Present: Rev J Templeton (Chair), Rev R Orme, Rev Et Mrs Courtney, Mr Et Mrs P Goldsmith, A Greenhow, T Morgan, C Keeler, P Kerr, M Uglow, J Music, S Zold, J Bullock, R Manning, I Olejkova, P Furse.

Apologies for Absence: J Duncan, L Templeton, J Thompson, S Chinn, B Harrison.

Opening Devotions: Led by the Minister

Minutes of last meeting (AGM). Minister gave resumé of last ordinary meeting on 24th January. Agreed that Minutes of Church Mtgs. (including last meeting 24 Jan) be circulated in future. There were no matters arising.

Pastoral The death of Mr Jim Ingram was recorded with regret. Family had given a generous donation to the church and his daughters had attended a recent service. Both Mrs Mary Silvester and Dr Walford Harrison had moved to Nursing Homes, the addresses of which would be incorporated in the revised Worshippers' Address List. Minister led the meeting in prayer for these and their families.

Homelessness The winter homelessness initiative in Haringey had been fully reported in Outlook by HURC volunteers. The Minister asked the meeting to think about what we might do as a congregation next winter. Last winter we gave Haringey a £1000 donation (about which HURC would obtain statement of accounts from the Haringey organisers) and two members of our congregation volunteered to help, therefore a core of people committed, to this need. National Government budgetary restraints now may increase number of homeless. Minister asked whether meeting would consider offering our Hall one night per week over the winter (Saturday being only free night) and could perhaps mount this project with help from other Highgate Churches (as was the case with Haringey Churches)? Comments from meeting were that we were situated in Camden and should investigate what Camden churches have done; ascertain where real need is; provide a costing including gas, lighting, insurance, loss of rent, etc. Matter would be raised again at a future Church meeting.

Area Committee Recommendation regarding Re-scoping. (Note: Scoping is the method adopted by the United Reformed Church nationally to allocate a percentage to each congregation or pastorate, indicating what proportion of a Stipendiary Minister's time can be devoted to each). St John's URC New Barnet Vacancy committee have recommended to the Church Meeting to call Julian Templeton as part-time Minister, and St John's Church Meeting meets on 4th July to decide this matter. Area Committee recommends to reduce St John's scoping from 75% to 60% and HURC's from 50% to 40%. (St John's URC's membership is 130; HURC's is 30). Elders met during week to discuss matter and wish to have more time to discuss further as this would mean less time that our Minister can give to our church. Roger Orme would continue as Associate Minister. Robert Courtney pointed out that Highgate URC had already had its scoping reduced from 75% to 50% in 1996 and the effect on the congregation's membership and mission was not beneficial. Caution was urged, along with a

full consideration of what ministry we needed in order to be effective. The allocation of scoping is a Synod responsibility, deputed to Area Committee, which takes decisions carefully. Julian agreed to meet with Robert Courtney to discuss implications of scoping recommendation and related issues before the next Elders' Meeting and then afterwards convene a special Church Meeting if required.

Notice of new course in Autumn. The Home Group is proposing a Refresher Course, to be run in the Autumn, in the central beliefs of the Christian Faith e.g. Christianity Explored; Alpha; our own course.

Charities To be agreed at next Church Meeting. Currently £5,000 to Pathway; £1,000 to Camden Listening and Counselling Centre; £750 to Commitment for Life: Bangladesh; £750 each to Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Barnabas Fund; £500 Bible Society, (plus one off payment £1,000 to Haringey Churches Winter Shelter). Total £10,000. Anyone wishing to suggest another charity should write to Minister with a proposal, and this, along with existing charities, would be considered at next ordinary Church Meeting.

Manse Garden Party Sat. 24 July 1-3 pm.

A.O.B. Minister reported, that Elthorne Road Learning Centre is behind in rent payments (which form a substantial part of our income). Treasurer and two members of Management Cttee. had met with the Elthorne Learning Centre staff and have asked for draft accounts and are taking advice from the Thames North Trust, URC, the owners of the property, as to what action is required.

Robert Courtney expressed concern at the decrease of child worshippers. What is being done to address this? It will be on agenda for Elders' Mtg. 11 July, (Sara Zold to be invited for her views)

CHURCH BIBLE RESTORED

The Bible, which for many years was carried in at the start of the service, and carried out at the end, in the Presbyterian Church and then here, has been restored and rebound. The work was undertaken by Jane Giscombe, the conservator at Dr Williams's Library in Gordon Square. Only one page, early in Genesis, defeated her efforts to remove all signs of wear, dirt and sellotape and even here only one word is illegible. It is an amazing feat, taking several months of work. We are grateful to her and to Tom Jenkins who arranged for the work to be done in memory of his father, Rev Dr Daniel Jenkins, sometime our minister and fellow member. A simple dedication

panel on the inside of the front cover records Dr Jenkins' connection with us.



The Bible was used in procession once more on 4th July when Dr Argent, a long time friend of Dr Jenkins, took our service. Tom Jenkins, and Philip, whom Dr Jenkins baptised, were present.

John Thompson

This is an edited extract from the URC Thames North Synod Central and North London Area Committee Newsletter May 2010

Dear friends in the churches of Central & North London Area,

It was good to see so many people at the Area Forum on 29th April at Highgate, 15 churches were represented, we listened to an excellent and challenging presentation on Mosaic of Ministry : what picture can we create by Rev. Anne Sardeson the new synod Training Officer. This was followed by a time of group discussion and by sharing of news from churches.

The Area Forum is a way of maintaining contact and support between our churches now that there are no District Council meetings. We do hope that some of you that have not attended will try and join us in the future. The next forum will be at Kensington URC on Thursday October 14th at 7.30 pm. The main speaker will be Simon Rudiger , newly appointed CYDO [Childrens and Youth Development Officer] for the synod.

News of the Area Committee

During 2009-2010 Rev Robert Courtney stood down from AC for health reasons. We thank him for all his contributions to the work of the committee and wish him well. At the March synod Rev. John Danso was elected to the committee in Robert's place.

Each member of the committee has responsibility for a small number of churches (Viv Barthram is responsible for Highgate), if you have any concerns you wish us to know about or any questions to ask the first person to ask is your AC rep, their contact details are in the Synod Year Book.

News from churches

Christ Church, Whetstone:

Things have been looking up at Christ Church @ Whetstone since the arrival of the Rev. Richard Wells, the first Minister solely serving our Fellowship in more than a quarter of a century. We continue to have an Evening Service at 6.30pm. nearly every Sunday, which is growing in attendance having found a demand from new friends who attend other churches, and members who cannot always come in the mornings, and like to worship broadly in accord with the Reformed Order later in the quiet of the Evening.

Trinity, Mill Hill:

The long awaited development of the Mill Hill Broadway site is at last going ahead, the builders moved in on May 8th. The church will have the challenge of making best use of the new development at its two sites. The Watling site, Eversfield Gardens , is already being used as a community resource by Age Concern and other organisations, and for initiatives such as ESOL classes and a Homework Club.

Muswell Hill:

The church has good things to celebrate after the first few months of Kate Hackett's ministry. The first infant baptism for some time took place in March, a young man who had himself been baptised in the church came back with his partner and baby son. It was a joyful occasion and much renewal of old friendships took place and new people felt welcome. The young family have since begun to attend regularly, which has been a double blessing. Kate has taken over as chairperson of Muswell Hill Churches Forum and new links are being formed with other local churches. At a recent Coffee Morning to raise funds for Christian Aid two other churches joined us and had stalls.

Chesterfield Road:

The church hosted a Community Barbecue on Bank Holiday Monday , May 3rd. They have also begun an Alpha Course , on 10th May. A group from the church and Pilots company attended the national Pilots Fun Day at Warwick Castle on 15th May.

St John's New Barnet:

The church is following the URC Vision4Life prayer year programme and this is going well. Some members have been following the TLS Lite course with members from Christ Church, Enfield, under the leadership of Rev.David Atkinson.

Askew Road:

While their buildings are being renovated the church has been 'lodging' with another local church for some months. The congregation has kept together well and has also welcomed new people to the fellowship. Excavation for a new lift shaft has recently revealed a river underneath the building which is currently posing a problem.

Lumen:

Our Cafe opened on Easter Tuesday to the public - and the Cafe would be happy to see any central London/Church House visitors between 8 and 4 Monday-Friday.

With good wishes and every blessing to you all, **Heather Floyd**, *Area Committee Secretary*

93 Nightingale Lane, Hornsey, London N8 7QY.

Tel. 020 8348 5963. Email thefloyds93@yahoo.co.uk

Sound system and hearing aids

The church is buying new speakers and looking at the Induction Loop to improve the sound system for the hard of hearing. It would help the managers to know whether members of the congregation use digital or analogue hearing aids.

Please let **Andrea** know by the end of August.

Elders Training



Three elders, Christa, Cheryl and Laura, gave up a Saturday at the end of June to meet with eighty other elders from the Thames North Synod to take part in a day of training. The day started with worship led by Anne Sandeson, our new synod Training Officer and followed with a choice of fascinating workshops. Julian not only helped organise the day but led a workshop entitled "Steps to a Sermon". This was enjoyed by all including the Synod Moderator who thanked Julian for reminding him about the focus of a sermon.

The day was a great opportunity to learn a lot more about the varying roles that elders are called upon to do, including the leading of worship. It was also a good opportunity to catch up with some of the

elders from St John's New Barnet, and hope that there will be many more opportunities for the elders and congregation of both churches to get together.



Junior Church Book Giving and Picnic Sunday 11th July



As is our tradition we will be having a Book giving Sunday, and this year it'll be on 11th July. As you know 2010 is a special prayer year in the URC churches, so on this occasion we thought that we would give to our children and young people age-appropriate books of prayers as an end of year present. We hope that these books will be a help in difficult times and that they will enable our children to get closer to our Heavenly Father.

On the same day after the church service we would like everyone to join us for a picnic in the Waterlow Park. You are more than welcome to bring your friends too!

WEDNESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

7.45 – 9.50pm

Our last meeting before the summer break will be on Wednesday 21st. July and we shall resume of Wednesday, 8th September. The theme of our meetings is based upon the Lectionary Readings for the coming Sunday (see below).

The Group generally numbers six to eight people and the atmosphere is informal and friendly. Our discussions range widely and provide a time of exploration, reflection and fellowship, which we find really valuable.

During the autumn, we shall start a structured course looking at the meaning and relevance of the Christian faith today. Further details will follow. All will be welcome.

We shall continue to meet at 14, Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SG unless otherwise announced the previous Sunday. Do join us for an evening. If you would like a lift, please contact Roger: 020 8458 2144 or 07966956160.

Roger Orme



Revised Common Lectionary

- 11 July** Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- 18 July** Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-44
- 25 July** Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13
- 1 August** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 13-14, 2:18-24; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
- 8 August** Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
- 15 August** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2; Luke 12:49-56
- 22 August** Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
- 29 August** Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14
- 5 September** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
- 12 September** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Summer quiz

Famous People: The world of politics

1. What was the name of the President overthrown by Fidel Castro in 1959?
2. For what was Nancy Astor famous?
3. Mahatma Gandhi qualified in England for which profession before practising in South Africa?
4. Who was the American Negro leader who was assassinated at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968?
5. George Washington was the first American President of the United States of America. Who was the second?
6. Who was known as Welsh Wizard?
7. Which leader's statue was pulled down from its place in Red Square in 1991?
8. Who was the architect of the British National Health Service?
9. Who was hailed as the founder of the Mongol Empire?
10. Which Canadian newspaper magnate held important Government offices in England during World War 1 and World War 11?
11. Who, at the age of 43, became the world's first female President and the youngest Head of State in Latin America in the seventies?
12. Who was the 18th century Irish politician who was called the 'Liberator'?
13. Which two men were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993?
14. Who was the President of the NUM at the time of the strikes in the 1980s?
15. Who was known as the Iron Chancellor?

Answers

1. General Fulgencia Batista
2. First female MP
3. Lawyer
4. Martin Luther King
5. John Adams
6. David Lloyd George
7. Lenin
8. Aneurin Bevan
9. Genghis Khan
10. Lord Beaverbrook
11. Eva Peron
12. Daniel O'Connell
13. Nelson Mandela/FW de Klerk
14. Arthur Scargill
15. Bismarck

In Memoriam – Jonathan Monk

Peter Monk, whom many will know or remember as a periodic visiting musician to our chapel, and who was also the composer of the Pond Square Cantata premiered last year for our anniversary celebrations, has suffered the tragic loss of his son Jonathan.

Private Jonathan Michael Monk from the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment died in an explosion in Afghanistan on 9 June, 2010. He was attached to 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment at the time. Spokesman for Task Force Helmand, Lieutenant Colonel James Carr-Smith, said: "He was involved in an operation that was seeking to improve freedom of movement for ordinary Afghans when tragically he was killed in an explosion. He will be sorely missed by us all but his courage in the face of danger will not be forgotten."

Hundreds of mourners gathered at the West Croydon Baptist Church on Thursday 8th of July to honour one of the borough's finest soldiers in a poignant funeral service. His family, music teachers Diana and Peter Monk and psychology student sister Michaela followed just behind a military escort made up of Private Monk's old platoon. Pallbearers from the regiment carried his coffin, draped in the Union Jack, into the church as his family followed closely behind.

The congregation sang the hymns Amazing Grace, and For All the Saints and listened to Jonathan's favourite song's 'Don't Cry' by Guns and Roses. The funeral procession left the church to a moving piece music written by his father Peter, called 'The New Heaven and the New Earth'.

The organist at Jonathan's funeral was our Director of Music, Robert Manning.

