



outlook

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

Cold Weather Shelter Report



What a difference a month makes! On the first Friday of our Winter Shelter it was below zero, on the second there was snow on the ground and by the fourth, spring was in the air and the daffodils were in bud. Whatever the temperature outside there was warmth and cheer in the church.

continued

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At 6pm on Friday evening the Hall is a hive of activity with several people in the kitchen sorting out the food, plates and cutlery. Someone's up a ladder pulling down mattresses, duvets and pillows from the high cupboards at the back of the Hall, tables are set up at the "mirror" end near the kitchen and laid for dinner. On a table near the serving hatch there are brightly coloured mugs, tea, coffee, milk, sugar and biscuits for a welcoming drink as our guests arrive.



Each week we were informed by C4WS how many men and women would be coming. Beds for the men were set up in the Hall and for the women upstairs in the Chapel. We also had racks and tables where warm clothing was laid out.

The food was delicious! Special thanks to Charlotte Bradshaw, Valerie Doulton, Jenny Russell, Helen Roe, Anne Macgeorge and the ranks of Butt women – Margaret, Bridget and Mariachiara! Feeding not only the guests, but the volunteers too, meant cooking on a major scale. Washing and clearing up afterwards too – but many hands made light work.

After dinner many guests and volunteers chatted over cups of tea and coffee or had the chance to play a game of Scrabble or cards or even do a bit of sketching. By 10:30 everyone was snug in bed. Each night we had 2 or 3 volunteers staying over either upstairs or downstairs. Both Julian Templeton and Jonathan Trigg had a turn at "sleeping on the job". Saturday mornings found everyone back at the table in the Hall for breakfast before putting



everything away and tidying up before the ballet girls arrived at 9am.

There have been many contributions of money, food, clothing, cleaning materials and people's time and energy. Financial contributions have been used for regular purchases of breakfast items such as milk, bread and butter and for the weekly laundry service.

Many of our volunteers (46 over the four Fridays) have told me how much they enjoyed helping out on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. We asked two of them to write about being part of the Winter Shelter:-

"I arrived to help with my mind full of questions which, like Thomas, I had to get the answers to myself - why provide temporary accommodation - surely it should be longer term? How much can this really help? What type of people are they really? Most of these are answered on the C4WS website and what I had read looked intriguing but I still could not get rid of those niggling questions.

The changes to the normal church hall, described by Patricia, transformed it into a place where we quickly became a family, with all you would hope to have at home - lovely fresh food cooking, a hot drink when you arrive, a friendly and familiar face to greet you and lots of time to talk, tell stories, listen to each other and for the competitive, games to play after supper.

In this context I got to know Fred (name changed) who became homeless when his flat was part of a block sold to a private buyer. As a single man he was the lowest priority for housing. So he became homeless despite still working in the catering industry. During February Camden offered him a one

bed studio flat. His time at the C4WS kept his spirits up and did so much more than keeping him off the streets.

Personally it was fun to work alongside St Michael's folk and to meet the caring C4WS big hearted staff who genuinely had consideration for the guests. Most of all, thanks to Julian for making sure it happened and to Patricia for her tireless energy enabling it to run so smoothly. Recommended."

Helen

"I can still remember the shock from being made homeless myself: 'Where would I lay my head for the night?' became the most urgent question. After helping with this Shelter, I would say that the URC is one of the best places to, 'lay one's head' in these circumstances. From descriptions in Russian novels we can read about homeless people in unendurable cold, and it was on such a night the shelter opened. At the URC one can be warm at night, and the washing and sanitary facilities are good, two crucial practical factors. Equally important were spiritual questions, 'Would the guests feel welcome?' For those of us cooking supper, the evening began with a welcome over tea or coffee. The hot meal that followed was produced by a team of us working together. My concern given the numbers eating was tricky; to make sure the vegetables weren't served up completely soggy and inedible! We said a prayer before the guests arrived each Friday that we may give what was needed and also receive blessings for ourselves. A large team of people helped in the shelter, my experience is that these Friday evenings were blessed."

Valerie

Post script:

The total number of different people who stayed on the Friday evenings in February at Highgate URC was 21. (There were either 14 or 15 people staying overnight each time). Of the 21, ten people have moved into more permanent accommodation. Nine are still on the scheme, one stopped turning up and one was asked to leave the shelter for breaking the rules.

To give you a bigger picture

- 67 people have stayed with C4WS since November and so far 40 of them have moved into accommodation.
- During the 2010/2011 season 88 guests were accommodated and the average length of stay was 23 nights.
- Of these 88 guests, 97% of those who used C4WS's services were helped to find accommodation, 16 also found employment.

Film Crew in the Chapel

In the depths of the snow and ice the Chapel was taken over by a film crew who were making a feature film, directed by Mike Leigh, at a house in the Grove (working title "Suspension of Disbelief").

The timing was perfect for us as it was over half-term when our regular users were taking a break. Every morning the Chapel was buzzing with the logistics people, caterers, make-up and a varying number of "extras". The Lounge was set up with hot trays – first for breakfast and then for lunch and a tea and coffee station which was used all day. In the Chapel there were tables and chairs for dining and a number of tables where people tapped away at their laptops, using the church's WiFi.

The film crew were a friendly young bunch who worked very long hours. They started at 7am and were often there till 10pm. The caterers included a lovely young woman from New Zealand who was very happy on the Friday to provide a generous helping of the vegetarian lunch option for the Winter Shelter supper that night.

And we secured a nice unexpected payment for church funds!

Patricia Judd



Church Membership

I would like to speak to any recent worshippers, or any worshippers of longer standing, who would be willing to become Church Members. For some, this will involve transferring their membership from a church at which they formerly worshipped. For others, this will involve some preparation. The preparation (approximately 4 sessions) will involve thinking about what it means to commit oneself to following Christ and to being a member of the Church. New and transferring members are received into membership during worship by a short affirmation of faith and promise of commitment. The United Reformed Church regards the membership of each church as an indicator of a church's life. So if you are already involved in the life of our church, the question to ask yourself is: why not?

Julian Templeton

**“A special meeting of the
United Reformed Church and the
Congregational Federation”**

40/40 Vision

Roberta Rominger

General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, and

Michael Heaney

General Secretary of the Congregational Federation,

reflect on the different missions and vocations of our two denominations since our separation 40 years ago, and their hopes for the future.

**Thursday
29th March 2012**

7:30 pm

All welcome



Letter from John Wheeler



I want to belatedly say a sincere thank you to everyone at the Chapel for the send off you gave us on Sunday 11th December. It was certainly a morning to remember and I expect to spend many happy hours in the fabulous chair that was presented to me.

Louise has started her new job and I am overseeing building work at our new house; new central heating, rewiring, knocking some walls down etc! Whilst all this is going on we are living in a small cottage overlooking Sennen Cove (photo below is view from our house). Life is very different from London. Everyone has more time to talk and befriend. After living many decades in London it takes some getting used to, but I think we'll manage! Thank you all once again for the very happy six years that I spent at the Chapel.

Regards from John & Louise



News from Kirsty & Neill



We'd like to let you all know that we're now married! The wedding took place on 30th December in Edinburgh, in the church where we first met. It was a wonderfully festive day with so many of our friends and family. We've hugely enjoyed worshipping with you all at Highgate

URC over the past few years and thank you for the incredibly warm welcome we received. We remember you fondly in our thoughts and prayers and hope to keep in touch and to visit from time to time.

Best wishes, Kirsty & Neill

Diary Dates

March

- Mon 19 2-4 pm Open Door Gathering
- Tues 20 11:00 am Lent Course, St Joseph's Retreat, Highgate Hill, N19
- Wed 21 7:45 pm Home Group Lent Course, 14 Southwood Park, N6
- Fri 23 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sun 25 10:00 – 1:00 Fun Sunday in Hall, 'Preparing for Easter'
- 10:30 am Lent 5, Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton.
Preacher: Sally Bateman
- 6:30 pm Presentation of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', St Michael's Church, South Grove
- Tues 27 11:00 am Lent Course, St Joseph's Retreat, Highgate Hill, N19
- Wed 28 7:45 pm Home Group Lent Course, 14 Southwood Park, N6
- Thu 29 7:30 pm Area Forum, Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RS
- Fri 30 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

April

- Sun 1 10:30 am Palm Sunday. Worship led by the Rev'd Mark Everitt
- Mon 2 2 – 4 pm Open Door Gathering
- Tues 3 11:00 am Lent Course, St Joseph's Retreat, Highgate Hill, N19
- Wed 4 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thur 5 7:00 pm **Maundy Thursday** Communion Service, Union Church, Weston Park, Crouch End, N8 9PX
- Fri 6 10:15 am **Good Friday** Ecumenical All Age Service, led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton
- Sun 8 10:30 am **Easter Day** Communion Service, led by the Rev'd Derek Lindfield
- Sun 15 10:30 am Service of the Word, led by the Rev'd Roger Orme



- Mon 16 2 – 4 pm Open Door Gathering
- Tues 17 7:30 pm Elders' Meeting, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
- Wed 18 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
 8:00 pm HASM Discussion Group, Social Work & Ministry,
 Union Church, Weston Park, N8 9PX
- Fri 20 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sun 22 10:30 am Worship led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton, followed
 by **Church Annual General Meeting**
 10 am – 1 pm Fun Sunday in Hall
- Wed 25 7:30 pm Management Committee
 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Fri 27 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sun 29 10:30 am Worship led by the Rev'd Kate Hackett (HASM
 Exchange)

May

- Wed 2 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Fri 4 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sat 5 4:00 pm Wedding of Patricia Judd to Andrew Yeo
- Sun 6 10:30 am Worship led by Jean Parton
- Mon 7 2 – 4 pm Open Door Gathering
- Wed 9 8:00 pm HASM Discussion Group, visit to Masorti Synagogue,
 80 East End Road, N3 2SY
 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Fri 11 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sat 12 2:00 pm Wedding of Lucy Stewart to Ian Mcleod
- Sun 13 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion led by the Rev'd
 Julian Templeton

Home Group

The Home Group will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings during the next two months, apart from a break during Easter week. There will therefore be no meeting on Wednesday, 11th April.

If you would like an opportunity to relax and explore the Bible in an informal, warm and friendly atmosphere, do join us on Wednesdays at 7.45 pm at 14 Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, Highgate, N6 5SG. Light refreshments are served at the start and end of the evening.

During Lent, we are following a York course, entitled "HANDING ON THE TORCH". In five sessions, we shall be considering reasons for the relative decline of Christianity in the West, (in contrast to strong growth in Asia, Africa and Latin America) and the implications of this trend for churches, individuals and society. Recorded contributions by Archbishop Sentamu, Clifford Longley, Bishop Graham Cray and Rachel Lampard set the context for our reflections.

After Easter, we'll revert to our usual pattern of following the Lectionary Readings. These combine four passages, one each taken from the Psalms, the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles. The readings follow a different theme each week which is generally challenging, encouraging, informative and inspirational. No previous Bible knowledge or preparation is necessary.

Should the venue of any of our meetings change, this will be announced the previous Sunday in morning worship. Lifts, door-to-door, can be arranged. Please contact **Roger Orme: 07966956160 or 020 8458 2144.**



Revised Common Lectionary

- 25 Mar** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
- 1 April** (Palm Sunday) Psalm 118:1-3, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11
- 6 April** (Good Friday) Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25;
John 18:1 – 19:42
- 8 April** (Easter Day) Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:1-11;
John 20:1-18
- 15 April** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 – 2:2; John 20:19-31
- 22 April** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
- 6 May** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
- 13 May** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
- 20 May** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, 1st April.

The Reverend Mark Everitt will lead worship

Maundy Thursday, 5th April, 7:00 pm

The Rev'd Lynn Davidson will lead a Communion Service at Union Church, Weston Park, Crouch End, N8 9PX. Roger Orme is willing to provide transport to those who wish to attend, Tel. 020 8458 2144.



Good Friday, 6th April

Churches Together In Highgate Procession of Witness will begin from All Saints' Church, Corner of Church and Talbot Roads, N6 4QH at 9:30 am, and will terminate at the Pond Square Chapel with an ecumenical all-age service led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton, beginning at approximately 10:15 am.



Easter Sunday, 8th April

10:30 am, the Reverend Derek Lindfield will lead a service of Word and Sacrament celebrating the Resurrection of Christ.

Visiting Ministers

We have two visitors who have never been to Pond Square before, so I hope you will do your best to be present to welcome them – the **Rev Mark Everitt** on 1st April and **Rev Derek Lindfield** who will be leading our Communion service on Easter Sunday, 8th April.

Mr Everitt is a former chaplain of Merton College, Oxford, and taught Russian in the University. He is very bravely conducting his first full service in a Nonconformist church, and travelling from Bognor Regis, largely out of reverence for Josiah Viney, the minister who built Pond Square Chapel. Mr Lindfield is a URC minister who has recently retired to Hampstead. He is a former chaplain of Caterham School (of which Congregational school Josiah Viney became treasurer when he left Highgate) and he has also worked as a missionary at the University of Botswana and in Western Samoa.

We welcome the **Rev Robert Courtney** on 18th March and the **Rev Roger Orme** on 15th April. Though they are hardly visitors, we need to show them how much we value their services. There will be a HASM exchange on 29th April when we shall welcome the Rev'd Kate Hackett. The now annual visit of Jean Parton from Derby will be on 6th May. We are so fortunate that her friendship with Jean Duncan brings her here but we recognise that our gain is a loss to her usual Methodist congregations.

John Thompson



Congratulations...

Patricia Judd and Andrew Yeo will get married in the church on Saturday 5 May at 4pm. Andrew and Patricia would be delighted to welcome all members of the congregation to take part in the service.

HASM Discussion Groups

Social Work and the Ministry,
the Rev'd Lynn Davidson
April 18, 8:00 pm,
Union Church, Weston Park, Crouch End,
N8 9PX



Lynn Davidson is Minister of Union Church. Before entering the Ministry, Lynn had several years experience in social work, with responsibility for domestic violence, child protection, sheltered housing, young offenders, ex-offenders, and women's refuges. She also served for 10 years as a special constable with Warwickshire Police. She will talk about her experience in social work and policing, and her experience as a Minister.

Visit to New North London Masorti Synagogue **(www.nnls-masorti.org.uk)**

May 9, 7:45 for 8:00 pm,

New North London Masorti Synagogue
Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road,
Finchley, N3 2SY. If you wish to take part
in this visit, please contact Jenny Stonhold in advance (Email stonhold@msn.com or Tel 020 8883 4509) as security staff at the synagogue will allow entry only to those whose names are on a list.



Masorti is traditional Judaism practised in a spirit of open-minded enquiry and tolerance. Masorti Judaism accepts the binding force of Jewish law, but understands that it has developed throughout history. It seeks to bring traditional Judaism together with modern science and thought. Rabbi Wittenberg and members of the Synagogue will show us around the new synagogue complex and talk about Masorti Judaism and its dialogue with other groups.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March was our turn as a church to host the Women's World Day of Prayer for the Highgate churches. Every five years it is our turn. This year the service was prepared by the Christian women in Malaysia.

As the representative of our church on the WWDP committee of the Highgate and Muswell Hill churches it was up to me to make it happen in our church. I must admit I felt very anxious about this responsibility. The day before the service my Christian calendar had this verse: "The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands .. you have not lacked anything." (Deut. 2:7) So I claimed it for the Friday service praying: "LORD, let your word also come true for the service tomorrow!"

On Friday, during the hour before the service, Pamela joined me with flowers – I felt much relieved, then Patricia arrived to help with chairs and trestle tables – I felt even better, then Andrea came to deal with the Malaysian spread for refreshment after the service. Sue, Jean, Peggy, Julian, Laura, Nava, Marion, Gwyneth – I began to rejoice for God had blessed me indeed with so many helping hands and voices!

It turned out to be a very good service for the 45 strong congregation turning up from many other churches. For those of you who couldn't come: Malaysian music was playing before the service, during collection time and after the service. Banners decorated with colourful paper flowers and butterflies were hanging from the pulpit. A small exhibition was set up on the side with Malaysian photography, pewters, samples, silk and cotton batik. The speaker was wearing a Malaysian silk shirt, I wrapped a Malaysian silk scarf round my shoulders, and the lectern was covered with a silk kaftan from Malaysia. The flag of the country was displayed. As refreshment we offered finger foods and cakes that are popular in Malaysia. A young Malaysian had taken me to Chinatown to shop for the right foods. Everyone got a real flavour of Malaysia.

How can I ever thank you all for your support? Also, thank you Pamela and Marion for the Malaysian goods that made the exhibition so colourful and interesting. And thank you, Robert, for helping us find an organist, for not everybody is free on a Friday morning to take part in a church service.

Your much relieved and grateful Christa

Christa Keeler

Companion Trios

There are currently around 15 people involved in Companion Trios. These are groups of three people (sometimes more, sometimes less) who meet at a time, location, and frequency suitable to each. Resource material is provided, consisting of a Bible passage, some questions relating to it, and some brief suggestions for prayer. Each Companion Trio decides whether it wishes to use, or adapt, the resource material. Some follow it closely; others ignore it completely! The main purpose is to provide an opportunity for people who might otherwise find it difficult to meet to have Christian companionship. The beauty of the scheme is its flexibility. Housebound? Your companions can come to you. Too busy to make a regular commitment? Your companions can meet at times and intervals suitable to you. Please contact me if you would like to be part of a Companion Trio.

Julian Templeton



Queen's Park Charity Shop

Queen's Park United Reformed Church, under the enterprising leadership of Reverend Timothy Poh, has just opened a charity shop at 610 Harrow Road, London W10 4NJ.

Situated a few doors away from the church, manned by a paid member of staff and volunteers, the shop sells donated goods, mainly clothes, and bric-a-brac, from Monday to Saturday. The aim is to raise sufficient money to fund a homeless housing project to help single people get started in life.

A year or two ago, several Elders, including Julian and myself, visited the church to see their social outreach in action. We were all most impressed by the practical ways in which the church was responding to the needs of their neighbourhood. This new venture is a further step of faith and another example of bridge-building between Queen's Park URC and the local community.

Apart from that visit, I lead worship at Queen's Park several times each year. In view of these links, members might like to support this valuable and valued project by donating any unwanted articles to the Queen's Park charity shop. I will arrange transport, so please let me know if you have anything I can collect.

Roger Orme – 07966956160

A row of five decorated Easter eggs in various patterns (stripes, polka dots, zig-zags, and a cracked egg) is positioned at the top left. A cartoon bunny wearing a small hat and a bow tie is sitting on the right side, holding a small egg. The text "Children's Fun Sunday" is written in a large, bold, rounded font across the center, with the bunny and eggs integrated into the design.

Children's Fun Sunday

25 MARCH, 10 am – 1 pm

Fun activities for all the family.

Arts, crafts, cookery, games and snacks.



"EASTER"

A horizontal row of ten decorated Easter eggs in various patterns (stripes, polka dots, zig-zags, and a cracked egg).

Join in the egg hunt



Highgate United Reformed Church

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