



May/June
2011

outlook

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

From the Minister

Who are you? An individual, or part of a Body of people.

The phrase 'Damascus Road Conversion' has entered the English idiom. It is taken to mean a sudden and marked change of perspective or life. It is a description of what is supposed to have happened to Saul, a Pharisee intent on eradicating the followers of Jesus. Saul, who had already sanctioned the stoning of one of Jesus' followers, was on his way to Damascus in order to arrest more followers of Jesus there. Suddenly a light flashed around him, he fell to the ground and heard a voice that said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked who was speaking to him and a voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9:1-9). Had Saul been persecuting Jesus? No, Saul had been persecuting the followers of Jesus. Yet Jesus identifies his followers with

Contents

- P. 1 From the Minister
- P. 3 New Zealand trip
Fair in the Square
- P. 4 Functions of Elders in the
United Reformed Church
- P. 5 Easter day Feast
HASM Discussion Group
- P. 6 Diary dates
- P. 8 Home Group
Revised Common Lectionary
- P. 9 Children's Activity Morning
- P. 10 That Green Thing!
- P. 11 Sara Zold
- p. 12 Anyone for Tennis?

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: In vacancy

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

Outlook Editors: Laura Templeton & Andrea

himself. In one of the great ironies of history, Saul the arch-persecutor of the early Church becomes Paul: the early Church's foremost apostle to the Gentiles, whose letters to churches would decisively shape the Christian faith. Paul came to identify himself with Jesus in the closest possible way, his most frequent description of himself and his fellow Christians: we are 'in Christ'.

In the first century AD it would have seemed very odd to regard oneself as an 'individual'. One was a member of a family, a tribe, and a religion. Yet in the developed world in the 21st century, individualism is the default ideology. Individualism is the outworking of at least 5 centuries of philosophical and political thought whereby a person regards her/himself as an autonomous individual. Such an individual voluntarily opts into affiliation with other individuals to gain personal benefit or to contribute to the greater good. Whether an individual remains part of a voluntary affiliation largely depends on whether needs are being met, interest is being sustained, and a worthwhile contribution is being made. Since most of us have been deeply shaped by such thinking, it is understandable why we might regard the Church as a voluntary affiliation. We expect church life to meet our needs, sustain our interest, and to feel that we are making a worthwhile contribution to it. If the Church does not meet these criteria, we can always exercise our choice and join a different group.

"You did not choose me; I chose you. I appointed you to bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16) So writes John the Evangelist in a meditation on Jesus' saying that he is the vine and his followers are the branches. This saying runs directly counter to our contemporary view of the self as an autonomous individual with the absolute right to choose. It suggests that we are chosen *by God* and are joined organically to Christ, as a branch to the vine, and receive our life from him. Christ calls us to heed his commands and dwell in his love. If we separate ourselves from Christ we become like a withered branch, no longer able to bear fruit. To be joined to Christ is to be part of the Church, Christ's earthly and spiritual Body. As part of this Body of people, we are called to meet together regularly for worship and prayer and to contribute to the needs of others. God's choosing of us, over time, liberates us to make good choices governed by love and justice, free from the tyranny of self-centredness. Who are you? If you answer, 'A Christian.' Then you are no longer an individual; you are part of Christ and his Church. This constitutes a Damascus Road conversion.

Julian Templeton

Milford Sound



New Zealand Trip

Many kind people have asked about our recent travels and my response is always that it was amazing! We enjoyed the heat and diversity of cultures in Kuala Lumpur on our 3 day stopover. Once in New Zealand, we hired a car and spent a week travelling down the South Island seeing the sites and visiting friends.

Sea kyaking off the Abel Tasman

was followed by an evening in Christchurch hearing and seeing first-hand the terrible effects of the earthquake. We enjoyed walks near Mount Cook and Wanaka before arriving in Riverton on the south coast to meet up with Julian's very large family! The reason for our visit was to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Julian's great grandfather buying the land the family still farm. Templetons came from far and wide to enjoy the 3 day festivities which included a church service. It was also wonderful to catch up with Alec who is working on his uncle's farm during his gap year. I'd like to thank everyone who helped in our absence to make this trip possible.

Laura



**THE FAIR IN
THE SQUARE**

POND
SQUARE
N6

HIGHGATE'S BIG DAY OUT! **SAT 18th JUNE**
12.30-5.30pm

This is a great opportunity to show visitors our wonderful church. Our aim is to invite the users of the building to showcase their activities, which of course means us as a church. Laura will organise display panels so would really appreciate any photographs of church services, picnics and other activities.

We will offer refreshments in the Lounge as on previous years and Patricia Judd has agreed to organise this so volunteers are needed. Face painting will be done by Cheryl, Anke and Laura. Iveta Olejkova has offered to run the Christian Aid Food Stall so she too will be looking for contributions and volunteers. This is a big event in Highgate and if lots of people offer their services, we will all be able to enjoy the day. Teenagers especially welcome!

The Functions of Elders in the United Reformed Church

As requested at the last Church Meeting, we include below some functions and responsibilities of Elders, as listed in the Basis of Union of the United Reformed Church. Note that the Elders and Ministers *collectively* take on these tasks, and in our congregation task numbers 4 and 6 have been largely deputed to others.

- 1) to foster in the congregation concern for witness and service to the community, evangelism at home and abroad, Christian education, ecumenical action, local inter-church relations and the wider responsibilities of the whole church;
- 2) to see that public worship is regularly offered and the sacraments are duly administered, and generally to promote the welfare of the congregation;
- 3) to ensure pastoral care for the congregation, in which the minister is joined by elders having responsibility for groups of members;
- 4) to arrange for pulpit supply;
- 5) to be responsible for the institution and oversight of work among children and young people and of all organisations within the congregation;
- 6) to consider the suitability of any applicant for recognition as a candidate for the ministry, and to advise the church meeting about its recommendation to the synod; to recommend to the church meeting arrangements for the proper maintenance of buildings and general oversight of all financial responsibilities of the local church;
- 7) to act on behalf of the church meeting and bring concerns to the wider councils of the United Reformed Church;
- 8) to do such other things as may be necessary in pursuance of the elders' responsibility for the common life of the church.

Easter Day Feast

10 people gathered after worship on Easter day for a bring-and-share lunch. This was followed by poetry and music. A good time was had by all!



HASM Discussion Group

11 May, 8 pm

Planning for the end of life

Mireille Hayden and Clive Leverton

Elders' Vestry, Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

Mireille Hayden will talk about her work in palliative care and a project to help people to plan for the end of life. Clive Leverton will talk about the role of funeral directors and how they support people. As a society we do not talk about death and dying: only 29% of us have discussed our wishes about dying with our family, friends or carers.

8 June, 8 pm

The New Testament and Challenges in Translation and Literacy

Mary Pearce

Elders' Vestry, Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG

From 1992 to 2002 Mary Pearce was a member of a Wycliffe Bible translators team translating the Bible into the Kera language in Chad. She later returned to Chad as a linguistic consultant, helping language groups to develop a written form of their language. She will present some of the challenges involved in translation.

Events in May – July

May

- Wednesday 11 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
8:00 pm HASM Discussion Group, 'Planning for the end of life'
Free Church, Central Square, NW11 7AG
- Thursday 12 7:30 pm Management Committee
- Friday 13 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 15 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme
6:30 – 9:30 pm Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible. Readings from the KJV of the life of King David by celebrity cast. St Augustine's Church, Archway Road, N6. Refreshment break included.
- Monday 16 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering
- Tuesday 17 8:00 pm New Testament Greek. 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
- Wednesday 18 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 19 9:45 am TLS LITE, 42 Onslow Gardens, ,N10 3JX
7:30 pm Elders' Meeting, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
- Friday 20 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 22 9:00 am Bring-and-share breakfast to farewell Sara Zold.
10:30 am Shorter Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, followed by **Church Annual General Meeting**
- Monday 23 8:00 pm CTH Theology Group, Poems of George Herbert, 17 Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SD
- Wednesday 25 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 26 7:30 pm Area Forum, St Andrew's URC, Frogna Lane/Finchley Road, NW3 7DY
- Fri 27 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 29 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Dr Ian Tutton, HASM Exchange

June

- Wednesday 1 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 2 9:45 am TLS LITE, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
- Friday 3 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 5 10:30 am **1st after Ascension**, Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme
- Monday 6 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering
8:00 pm CTH Theology Group, 'Culture, Scapegoating & Jesus'
17 Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SD

Home Group

After the Easter break, The Home Group resumed its weekly meetings on Wednesday, 4th May. Having completed a most interesting Lent Study course, we are reverting to our usual pattern of Bible study, reflection and prayer based upon the Lectionary readings set for the following Sunday and listed below.

All meetings are held at **14 Southwood Park, Southwood Lane, N6 5SG**, apart from those falling on 8th and 15th June when we shall meet at **1, Brookfield Park, Dartmouth Park, NW5 1ES**.

Please note that from 11th May we shall begin at the slightly later time of 7.45pm but still aim to finish at 9.45pm.

Light refreshments will be served before and after each meeting and all that we do is set in an informal, relaxed and friendly atmosphere. All are welcome and lifts can be arranged, door-to-door, if you will let me know.

Roger Orme: 020 8458 2144 or 07966956160.



Revised Common Lectionary

- 15 May** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- 22 May** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- 29 May** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 5 June** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- 12 June** Pentecost. Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
- 19 June** Trinity. Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- 26 June** Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
- 3 July** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- 10 July** Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Mat 13:1-9, 18-23

Children's Activity Open Morning



As some of you might know we organised a Children's Activity Open Morning on 27th March. The aim of this morning was to welcome to Pond Square all the different groups which use the church's premises during the

week, and to let local families know that there is a small, but very welcoming URC at Pond Square.

We also wanted people to find out that we have a children's group, and that it has a special place in the church's life.

At the Children's Activity Open Morning we had different activities: painting jewellery boxes, making cards and decorating cupcakes – all connected to the theme of Mother's Day (which was the following Sunday). We had over 30 visiting children taking part and they added their handprints to the "Hands of friendship" wall.

It was a fun, dynamic, entertaining and creative morning. Thank you to all the helpers for their support and hard work, and we look forward to this being the first of many such events.

Sara Zold

Sue Chinn sent this item which she'd received from contacts in the States.

That Green Thing....

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older-woman plastic-bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to her and explained, "We didn't have the green-thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green-thing in her day. Back then, they returned their milk-bottles, soda-bottles and beer-bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled using the same-bottles over and over so they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green-thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked up stairs because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks.

But she's right; they didn't have the green-thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts; wind- and solar-power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters; not always brand-new clothing.

But that old-lady is right, they didn't have the green-thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one television or radio in the house; not a television in every room and that television had a small-screen the size of a pizza dish not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you.

When they packaged a fragile-item to send in the mail, they used wadded-up newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble-wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline to cut the lawn. They used a pushmower that ran on human-power.

They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to the health-club or run on a treadmill operating on electricity.

But she is right, they didn't have the green-thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic- bottle every time they had a drink of water.

They refilled pens with ink instead of buying a new pen.

They replaced the razor-blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green-thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service.

They had one electrical-outlet in a room, not an entire-bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances.

They didn't need a computerized-gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space to find the nearest pizza joint; there was a kitchen in the house used to fix-your-own or eat what Mom cooked.

It's a crying-shame that we didn't have the green-thing back then!



Sara Zold's Departure

We extend our congratulations to Sara on her engagement to David. Sara will be moving to Hungary in June. There will be an opportunity to say farewell and thank Sara for her work with the Junior Church on **Sunday 22nd May at 9:00 am onwards in a bring-and-share-breakfast**, and also in the **AGM to follow the service**.

"Generation Game" Tennis Tournament!



Sunday
26th June 2011

12.00-14.00

Waterlow Park
Tennis courts

doubles tennis tournament with a twist!!

Your pair can be men's, women's, or mixed BUT
there should be at least 15 years difference in age
between you!

For example if you are 35 years old your
partner needs to be 20 or younger, or 50 and older!

You do not need to be related!!

You don't have to be the next Tim Henman and we don't mind if
you've two left feet... just so long as you can get a ball over the net most
of the time! We hope that the younger children and those unable to play
will come and cheer the teams along.

Bring a picnic and join in the fun!

'Voluntary entry fee': £5 per pair -
to go towards the heating system for church.

Let Patricia Judd or Jackie Wilson know if you would like to play - and
don't worry if you can't find a partner - we will try to match up anyone
who would like to take part.

Patricia.Judd@bis.gsi.gov.uk • jacwilson@hotmail.co.uk
(if it rains we will have a ping pong tournament in the church hall instead)