



May – June  
2014

# outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**

## What is the Spirit saying to the Church?

Jesus said, 'Whoever drinks the water that I will give will never be thirsty again . . . [it] will be a spring of water within, welling up and bringing eternal life.'

John 4:14

In the interaction that Jesus has with the Samaritan woman at the well, cited above, Jesus moves the conversation from physical to spiritual thirst. Using water as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit, he acknowledges that one's physical thirst, like other physical needs and appetites, requires regular quenching and satisfying. But if we wish to satisfy our spiritual thirst, we need to go to Jesus who gives 'living water', by which is meant: 'God's Spirit'. We can survive on the physical and material level of life; but if we want really to 'live'—if we want more than merely to survive the relentless demands and pace of contemporary life—we must open ourselves to be indwelled by God's Spirit, which, in turn, opens us outward to others.

*continued on page 2*

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[www.highgateurc.co.uk](http://www.highgateurc.co.uk)

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Charity no: 1131691

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

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Much contemporary 'spirituality' seems to pursue either 'self fulfillment' or 'finding happiness by being good'. The problem with these approaches is that fulfillment and happiness are very elusive when pursued directly; they tend to come to us unbidden when we pursue worthwhile activities. Jesus responds to the Samaritan woman's request for fulfillment through obtaining 'living water' by first asking about her significant relationships ('Go and fetch your husband' 4:16) and second by challenging her practice of worship: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth" (4:24). I know from personal experience that my significant relationships can help, or hinder, my pursuit of faith. I know that when I have experienced worship as more than merely 'going through the motions' it is because I have been expectant and open to meeting God.

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church—which is a meeting of representatives from local churches throughout England, Scotland, and Wales—will meet in Cardiff in early July. All the reports are already available online (see [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)). The Faith and Order Committee has produced a report entitled: *What is the Spirit saying to the Churches? Affirming the United Reformed Church's future*. In it the authors acknowledge the "gradual decline and contraction" that has been an undeniable feature of the United Reformed Church's life, and the "sense of despair and negativity that afflicts organizations which feel they are in decline, leading to helplessness and hopelessness." This can inadvertently become a downward spiral and self-fulfilling prophecy. In response to this, the authors issue the challenge to find a "focus on the joy of life in Christ, the energy the Holy Spirit offers, and the vision of what God holds in front of us."

Nearly all voluntary organizations have experienced a falling-off of interest and membership. This does not surprise me at all. Those who are in work have to work twice as hard. Those out of work or retired from work can easily while away the hours mesmerized by the glow of an electronic screen. If a church is to attract some of the limited time that people are willing to give, it has to have a vision from God for its locality that excites people, energy from the Spirit that inspires people, and a joy in Christ that attracts people. When I return from my sabbatical in September, I look forward to working with you to articulate that vision, to find that energy, and to release that joy.

**Julian Templeton**



## Hello...

Julian and I were happy to host Josef Bartosek and his wife Michelle as they holidayed in London. Most readers will be unfamiliar with Josef, but he first visited London over 20 years ago from his native Prague. He came then as a pastor with three car loads of youths who

were on a journey of faith in more ways than one. They had very little money for food or fuel so carried petrol in their cars and relied on church groups such as Highgate to host them. This was the first time they had been allowed to leave their country. Josef had previously got a visa to visit London but when Russia invaded, this was withdrawn. He had to wait another 23 years for permission to leave. So began a relationship that involved some from Highgate visiting Czechoslovakia (which was quite some adventure then). We have continued to keep in touch and enjoyed our visit to Prague a few years ago when Josef took us to places the tourist would not find and introduced us to his lovely family.

## ... and Goodbye



We said goodbye to, and prayed for God's blessing on, the lovely Allshouse family who rented the manse for the last six months. They came from their home in Sacramento as Rob had a half year contract with Intel, and Diane is studying for an MA in London. We will certainly miss this family, not just because they were all delightful, but because they swelled our Junior Church numbers most Sundays. We wish them well.

**Laura Templeton**

# Visiting Ministers

**A long list as Julian's sabbatical begins.  
Do please support our visitors as often as you can.**

**F**irst, the Communion Services. Rev Donald Macarthur leads two of them, on 11th May and 13th July. He is an old friend of the Church and we are grateful for his extra help this year. The June Communion service on 8th will be led by Rev Jonathan Dean, formerly minister of St Andrew's, Frognaal, and now retired to Northwood. His first church as a young minister was in Turin, to a Waldensian congregation, the ancient north Italian Protestant Church, protected by the Kingdom of Savoy and supported by our own Oliver Cromwell.

Our very first sabbatical visitor will be Rev Derek Lindfield, on 4th May. He retired to Hampstead Garden Suburb from Orpington and is a former chaplain at Caterham School, and, rare today, a former missionary in South Africa, where he helped train ministers in the University of Basutoland. The HASM exchange of pulpits on 25th May brings Rev Ian Tutton, minister of Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church to Highgate, a welcome return.

Another welcome returner on 1st June is John Stibbs, a lay preacher, on his second visit to Highgate. And Susan Chinn, our own lay preacher, or local preacher as the Methodists would put it, ends the month on 29th June. The previous Sunday, 22nd, she will conduct the service at which Tom Jenkins will speak on 17th Century Religious poetry, with special music arranged by Robert Manning. A special thank you to Susan for this double help on consecutive Sundays.

Beth Hartley's annual visit on 20th July means more special music if, as expected, her father comes too. And Penny Wood, an Anglican Reader, will make her annual pilgrimage to Highgate from North Oxfordshire on 27th July. Both these busy people in their own village churches love coming to Highgate and we are fortunate to have such friends.

The observant will have noted a few gaps in the dates. Where would we be without our Associate Minister, Roger Orme? Iveta and I seek his dates

before we start filling the remaining vacancies and he never lets us down. Roger will conduct services on 18th May, 15th June and 6th July.

Thanks finally to Iveta for her help. Filling the spaces is just the first task, of course, sending notes of guidance, finding scripture readers and answering visitors' queries come next, and Iveta does her share of that too.

**John Thompson**

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## **Church Meeting, 29 June**

Please note that one of the Elders will chair the Church Meeting after worship on Sunday 29 June. At this meeting the Elders hope to introduce a proposal for the Church Meeting's consideration about allocating more of the church's financial resources to local mission and ministry.

## **Sabbatical and Holiday**

A reminder that Julian and Laura are having 4 months of sabbatical and holiday from the beginning of May to the end of August. Leaders of worship have been arranged for every Sunday during this period, thanks to Iveta Olejkova and John Thompson. For pastoral matters, please contact Roger Orme (contact details on front page) or one of the Elders. For administrative matters, please contact Patricia Judd (contact details on front page). Julian will resume his duties on 1st September.

## **Outlook**

Andrea Protheroe and Anke Böhme will edit and design the July/August and September/October editions of Outlook. The deadline for submissions for the July/August edition is 29 June. Please consult the address list for their contact details, or contact Patricia Judd.

## **Website**

Andrea Protheroe will be updating the calendar during Julian's sabbatical. She has meanwhile started updating the site and has made available an audio file of Robert playing the organ:  
<http://www.highgateurc.co.uk/worship/music>



Click on this link to hear [Dr Robert Manning playing the organ](#)

# Three new Church Members



We are all delighted that our membership numbers increased this last month as Julian received Enyo Demanya into membership on Palm Sunday, 13th April. As her mum was unable to attend, she was lovingly supported by Christa and Helen Keeler.



On 27th April, Julian received Molly and Roger Scopes, who have transferred their membership to Highgate. Since Roger has periodically led us in worship, he and Molly are well known to most of us. And we look forward to the boost they will give to our singing!

# Revised Common Lectionary

## May – June 2014

- 4 May – Easter 3** Acts 2:14a, 36–41 and Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 *or* Isaiah 51:1–6 and Psalm 34:1–10;  
1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35
- 11 May – Easter 4** Acts 2:42–47 and Psalm 23 *or* Ezekiel 34:7–15 and Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10
- 18 May – Easter 5** Acts 7:55–60 and Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 *or* Proverbs 4:10–18 and Psalm 119:9–32; 1 Peter 2:2–10;  
John 14:1–14
- 25 May – Easter 6** Acts 17:22–31 and Psalm 66:8–20 *or* Ezekiel 43:1–7a and Psalm 115; 1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21
- 1 June – Easter 7** Acts 1:6–14 and Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 *or* Isaiah 45:1–7 and Psalm 21:1–7; 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11;  
John 17:1–11
- 8 June – Pentecost** Acts 1:1–21; Psalm 104:24–34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13; John 20:19–23
- 15 June – Trinity** Genesis 1:1–2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11–13; Matthew 28:16–20
- 22 June – Proper 7** Genesis 21:8–21 and Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17 *or* Jeremiah 20:7–13 and Psalm 69:7–18;  
Romans 6:1b–11; Matthew 10:24–39
- 29 June – Proper 8** Genesis 22:1–14 and Psalm 13 *or* Jeremiah 28:5–9 and Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18; Romans 6:12–23;  
Matthew 10:40–42
- 6 July – Proper 9** Genesis 24:34–38, 24–29, 58–67 and Psalm 45:10–17 *or* Zechariah 9:9–12 and Psalm 145:8–14; Romans 7:15–25a; Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

# ••••• **Diary Dates** •••••

## **May**

- Sunday 4      10:30 am    Worship led by Rev'd Derek Lindfield, with Kidz Klub
- Tuesday 6     4:00 pm     Making Melodies
- Wed 7         7:45 pm     Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 9      12:30 pm    Christian Meditation
- Sunday 11    10:30 am    Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Donald Macarthur, with Kidz Klub
- Tuesday 13   4:00 pm     Making Melodies
- Wed 14       7:45 pm     Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 16     12:30 pm    Christian Meditation
- Sunday 18    10:30 am    Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub
- Monday 19    2:00 pm     Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
- Tuesday 20   4:00 pm     Making Melodies
- 7:30 pm     Area Forum, Christ Church, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3EP  
(see p 16)
- Wed 21       7:45 pm     Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 23     12:30 pm    Christian Meditation
- Sunday 25    10:30 am    HASM Exchange Worship led by Rev'd Dr Ian Tutton
- 10:30 am    Fun Sunday in Hall
- Tuesday 27   4:00 pm     Making Melodies
- Wed 28       7:45 pm     Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 30     12:30 pm    Christian Meditation

## **June**

- Sunday 1      10:30 am    Worship led by John Stibbs, with Kidz Klub
- Monday 2     2:00 pm     Open Door Gathering, Trees, 2-4 Broadlands Road, N6 4AN
- Tuesday 3     4:00 pm     Making Melodies
- Wed 4         7:45 pm     Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

- Friday 6 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 8 10:30 am **Pentecost** Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Jonathan Dean, with Kidz Klub
- Tuesday 10 4:00 pm Making Melodies
- Wed 11 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 13 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Saturday 14 12:30 pm **Fair in the Square**
- Sunday 15 10:30 am **Trinity** Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub
- Monday 16 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel  
8:00 pm Management Committee
- Tuesday 17 4:00 pm Making Melodies
- Wed 18 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 20 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 22 10:30 am Worship led by Susan Chinn with talk by Tom Jenkins on 17th Century Religious poetry  
10:30 am Fun Sunday in Hall
- Tuesday 24 4:00 pm Making Melodies  
8:00 pm Elders' Meeting
- Wed 25 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 27 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 29 10:30 am Shorter Worship led by Susan Chinn, with Kidz Klub, and **Church Meeting**. Deadline for submissions for next edition of Outlook.

## July

- Tuesday 1 4:00 pm Making Melodies
- Wednesday 2 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 4 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 6 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme, with Baptism of Roman Bygrave and Kidz Klub

# Church AGM Sunday 27th April

Twenty four attended this most informative and positive meeting. This is a summary – complete minutes are available on request from Patricia Judd.

**Minister** Julian said the move to New Barnet Manse was successful and he can now host any guest – even wheelchair users. He continues to attend meetings in both churches as before. During the past year, there was one baptism, four were received into membership and one family transferred their membership back to St Albans. Sadly Norah Spencer died in November. Highgate continued to host the Winter Shelter with help from St Michael's. Julian also held services at Trees Residential Home at Christmas and Easter. Discussions were ongoing about the opportunities which the increased income of HURC provides – both to minister to the existing congregation and to reach out beyond. Julian and the Elders are seeking a conversation with the Area Committee about how we could put more URC ministerial resource into growing and sustaining our church.

**Treasurer** Robert Gorrie reported that 2013 had been a good year financially, and the published Annual Accounts demonstrated this. Income had been above budget due to increased lettings both of the church and the Manse. Expenditure had also been above budget due mainly to the refurbishment of the Manse. The important issue was how best to invest surplus funds in the ministry of HURC. Robert also noted his intention to pay the charitable givings agreed at the last church meeting to Pathway, Highgate Newtown Community Centre and Barnabas.

**Management Committee** Helen Roe reported that the £25,000 spent on fully redecorating the manse including a new kitchen fitted, meant it was ready to let immediately. New boilers were installed and the hall redecorated over the summer. Damp proofing and replastering on the downstairs toilets was completed over Easter, and the toilets will be completely refurbished over the summer. The sound system is now working well, mostly, and we await a new cupboard to house the various controls panels.

**Children's Ministry** Ste Rainford reported an interesting year as Children's Leader. The weekly after-school "Making Melodies" group initially aimed at 5-12 year old but was now refocused for younger children with a regular attendance of between 5 and 11 children. Sunday Kidz Klub attracted regular attendance between 2-6. Fun Sundays on the 4th Sunday of each month – arts and crafts activities with a seasonal theme – usually attracted around 10 children per session. There followed a debate about how best to involve both adults and children on these Fun Sundays.

**Christian Meditation** Gwyneth Wilson offered thanks to HURC for the use of the building – some of the people who attended the group were "drop-in", temporary attenders who welcomed the opportunity to deal with whatever issues or problems they were facing. Many commented on the positive and peaceful atmosphere of the chapel. The group regularly numbered around 12 people, half of them young, often unemployed.

**Open Door Gathering** Christa Keeler said this aimed to provide hospitality and friendship to people living alone. It takes place at Trees residential home on the first Monday of the month and at Pond Square on the third. The group attending Pond Square had reduced in numbers due to death and health issues, but she considered this was still a very worthwhile activity when many older people are increasingly isolated. Sue Chinn commented on Christa's valuable contribution to outreach activities and Julian thanked Christa for her involvement in both this and her support for Making Melodies.

**Home Group** Jo Music reported that the group usually met in her home on Wednesday evenings, numbering 8-10, half of whom were young people. It was a time of prayer, hymns, Bible study and friendship – both serious and fun. Julian thanked Jo for hosting and Roger Orme for his leadership of this group and his support of many other activities at HURC.

**Visiting Ministers and Lay Preachers** John Thompson said all the dates up to December, apart from four Sundays, were now filled. The aim was to find interesting leaders with a good degree of variety – it was not easy finding more women leaders. Pam Furse commented that the calibre of leaders of worship was consistently good. John invited comments about individual leaders at any point. Julian thanked John and Iveta for their work

**Music** Julian thanked Robert Manning for his leadership of music at HURC. He also drew the meeting's attention to the existence of an "audio clip" on the church website of Robert playing the organ (see page 5). Julian also thanked the four serving Elders and the "non-serving" Elders for all their work in supporting the life of HURC.

**AOB** John Thompson drew attention to the five war memorials in and outside the church, commemorating the deaths of 87 people from the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the Great War. He suggested that we should discuss at a future church meeting some way of marking these people in the period 2014 -18.

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# The Home Group

**H**aving completed a study of the Acts of the Apostles earlier this year, we have decided to extend our knowledge of the life and teaching of St. Paul by exploring the Pastoral Epistles.

We are following the excellent Scripture Union Life Builder Bible Study series and embarking on "Ephesians - Wholeness for a Broken World". This study guide assumes no previous Bible knowledge. It explains the content and purpose of Paul's writings in a very clear and concise manner.

For those of a discursive temperament, the questions posed provide the opportunity for lively discussion. Others may prefer a more contemplative approach. The relaxed, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere caters for all tastes. So, if ever you have a spare Wednesday evening, we shall be delighted if you would join us.

Our meetings are held at 14, Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SG, We start at 7.45pm and aim to finish at 9.45pm. Light refreshments are provided at the start and end of the evening. Lifts, door-to-door, can be arranged. Please contact **Roger Orme**: 07966956160 or 020 8458 2144

# Children's Work Update

**O**n the 16th of April we had a great day at "Invincible" holiday club. We had 11 children and babies coming along and had a number of crafts and games. We taught the children about the Easter story. Sadly we said goodbye to the Allshouse family as their 6 months in the UK was over.



## Kidz Klub

On the 11th - 18th of May we be having a Superhero's theme which is where we will be dressing up as Superheroes and we will also be learning about Gideon! The 1st - 8th of June we will be learning about the healings of Jesus.

**Ste Rainford**



## JUMBLE Sale Highgate United Reformed Church

This was held on 12 April and raised £325. However, it did require a lot of effort, especially by Patricia. The event had brought several of our "old" young people back to the church to help, giving Julian and others a chance to catch up with them. Most of the customers had never been inside our building and were very impressed, not just by the jumble and the beautiful space, but by the fantastic home-made cakes. Thanks to all who baked, sorted and served. Many of us enjoyed the day, but none more than Gracie who was in her element with all those different things for her favourite game of dressing up!

**Laura Templeton**

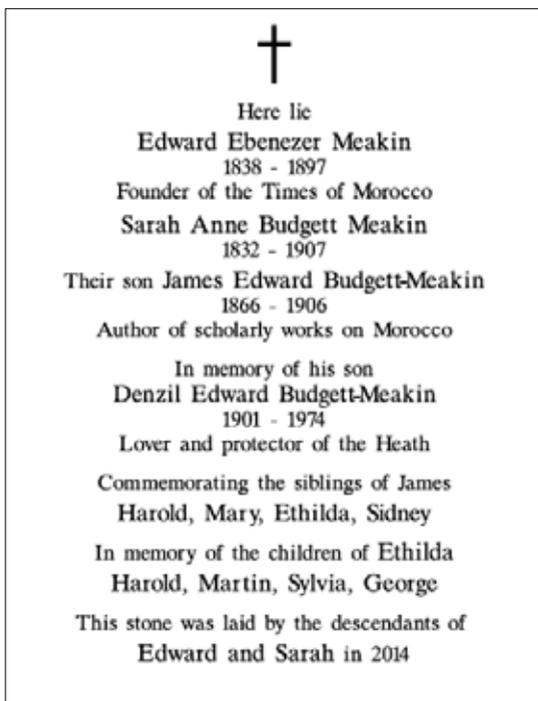
## Dedication of Budgett-Meakin Gravestone, Highgate Cemetery

*Julian writes:*

On the 26th of April, I gathered with some of the descendants of Edward and Sarah Meakin to dedicate a new gravestone with the wording below:

Of those listed, the person with the strongest historical connection to our church is Denzil Budgett-Meakin, a Director of Unilever, founder member of the Highgate Society, and campaigner for the protection of Hampstead Heath. He was also a Deacon of the Highgate Congregational Church and one of the influential figures in the union between the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in Highgate. His daughter, Catherine, lives in Bisham Gardens, and hosted a lunch prior to the dedication ceremony.

Edward Ebenezer Meakin was an ardent Methodist and a kindred spirit with his wife, Sarah Budgett. Edward was a merchant, writer, and preacher who went out to India, became a tea-planter, and traveled widely. Sarah Budgett sailed to join him and they were married in Calcutta Cathedral. His *English and Persian School Dictionary* for the Calcutta School-Book Press was printed in 1855. They moved to Tangiers, and there Edward was vitally concerned to counter the exploitation of poor people by the rich and powerful. To further this cause he founded *The Times of Morocco*. This work was greatly assisted by his eldest son James Edward Budgett-Meakin.



The people and culture of Morocco fascinated James Budgett-Meakin. He adopted local clothes, gave himself a local name (Tahar bel Mikki) and learned the local customs and language. In 1891, at the age of 25 he published an English-Arabic dictionary – *An Introduction to the Arabic of Morocco*. He eventually became editor of *The Times of Morocco*, traveling widely in North Africa, and was honoured by the Turkish Sultan. His books, *The Moors*, *The Land of the Moors* and *The Moorish Empire* are still standard works.



The photograph above shows Catherine Budgett-Meakin (on right) with a cousin at the newly dedicated gravestone in Highgate Cemetery East.

## Highgate's Fair in the Square Sat 14 June 2014



We hope to open our church not only for teas and cakes but also as a place of sanctuary on this very busy day. Iveta has kindly volunteered to run the food stall to raise funds for Christian Aid. We also have another as yet unallocated stand. The success of the day always requires a team effort, so many volunteers are needed. Please contact Patricia who will hopefully put her amazing organisational skills to use – yet again!



# Church growth

where the riches of our traditions meet the  
mission opportunities of the 21st century

Speaker: **Tim Reith** Synod Mission Enabler

Worship led by **Rev'd Caroline Rogers**

**Tuesday 20 May**  
**7:30 pm**

**Christ Church**  
New Southgate and Friern Barnet  
Friern Barnet Road  
London  
N11 3EP

Car Parking available in church  
car park and surrounding roads

Buses: 34, 43, 382

Train to New Southgate Station