



Nov – Dec
2014

outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**

Zurich, Protestant Churches, and the Gospel



What has Zurich to do with London? Politically and religiously, we might answer: 'nothing at all'. But

if so, we would be mistaken. Whenever a city council meets to make decisions about its locality and people, it is adopting and adapting the Zurich model. Whenever in an act of worship the bible is read and preached in one's own language in sequence, and whenever the Lord's Supper is celebrated with bread and wine with an everyday cup and plate (pictured) in a plain church building, we are continuing the reforms begun by Huldrych Zwingli at the Great Minster (Grossmünster) in Zurich.

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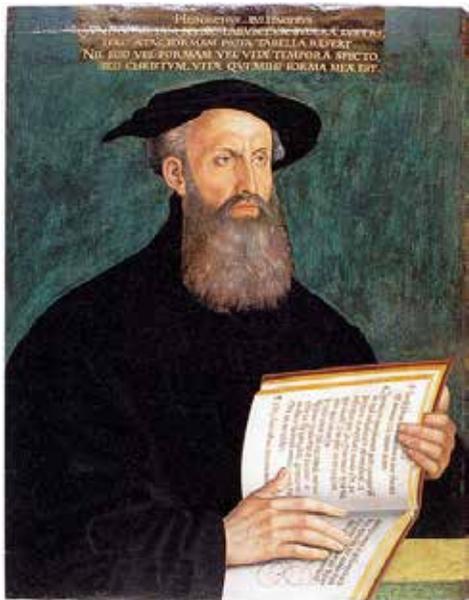
I recently travelled to Switzerland as a representative of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe in a consultation with the British and Irish Anglican Churches. We met at Kloster Kappel, a former Cistercian monastery and Protestant School, now a Conference Centre and Guesthouse of the Protestant Church of the Zurich Canton.



Kappel is upland from Lake Zurich and is the location where the Second Battle of Zurich, 1531, took place between Protestant and Catholic armies in which Zwingli was killed, beheaded, and hacked into four pieces.

One of Zwingli's original protests was about young Swiss men being employed as mercenary soldiers in a variety of European battles, resulting occasionally in young men from the same Swiss village fighting on opposing sides in foreign battlefields and killing

Huldrych Zwingli



Heinrich Bullinger

with monarchs Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Elizabeth I. Some historians count Bullinger together with Martin Bucer as the most influential theologians of the English Reformation. The Second Helvetic Confession, authored mainly by Bullinger, was adopted by Reformed Churches in Switzerland, Scotland, Hungary, France, and Poland.

When I sat down with Protestant and Anglican representatives to talk about how we might pursue the goal of the "full visible unity" of our churches, I realised that the fact that we were able to do so peacefully and respectfully was something not to be taken for granted. We face common challenges of secularism and materialism and cultural fragmentation. The consultation resolved to encourage our churches to work together to counter competitive models of church life and develop Christian confidence in the gospel. The gospel message of the relationship that God offers us in Jesus Christ is the Church's distinctive gift. It is a message of grace: we cannot earn it, only receive it. It is a message of reconciliation: requiring us to work at living peacefully with God and with others. It is a message of good news: God loves us and calls from us an answering love.

Julian Templeton

SINGING at the MENIN GATE



"Thirty minutes to go"! Dressed in our concert uniform (black suit with DJ and black tie for Roger, black blouse and long black skirt for me) and clutching our music in black folders we were off to sing at the famous ceremony which is observed every evening at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The monumental gate, inaugurated in 1927, commemorates more than 54,000 officers and men of the UK and Commonwealth who died defending Ypres during the first three years of WW1, but who have no known grave. It is one of the best known Commonwealth memorials anywhere in the world.

Every evening the road through the gate is closed for a short time while the ceremony of "The Last Post" is performed in memory of the fallen. Choirs from all over the world enjoy the privilege of singing at the ceremony and on the first Sunday of July it was the turn of the choral society we sing with.

The teeming rain of the late afternoon had given way to a clear blue sky and a brilliant evening sun shone as we picked our way along "Sint. Jacobsstraat" and "Menenstraat", the cobbled roads leading from our hotel to the gate itself. We had already sung mass twice and given two short concerts since we arrived in Ypres the day before but this ceremony was the climax of our visit, the event we had come for and which had been central to our tour planning!

The crowds were thickening as we approached the memorial gate, a large building spanning a wide road. A rectangular space under the arch over the road passing through the building was reserved for those taking part in the ceremony and the choir was asked to stand in the middle of one side facing the central space. As we stood, waited and watched the crowd grew and grew, five or six deep on both sides of the road reaching out into the sunlight on both directions and the noise of conversations in many

languages grew with it. We were going to be singing unaccompanied, what would it be like in this situation?

Suddenly at 8.00pm a bugle sounded away to our left, the familiar sound of "The Last Post" rang out and there was instant respectful silence. From the right a colour party of three soldiers marched slowly forward and dipped their standards to rest on the ground, wreaths were brought forward and laid and the familiar words introducing the "two minutes silence " were spoken (in English).

At a signal, a single quiet chord was sounded on the small portable key board which we had brought with us to set the musical key (prepare, listen carefully, breathe deeply, think in E major), and the familiar verse flowed from us with reassuring ease; the words from Laurence Binyon's poem "For the fallen", set to music by Douglas Guest.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them, we will remember them."*

A brief pause and another quiet chord (focus on G Major this time) before, in a contrasting serious but exultant, mood Hubert Parry's setting of "My soul there is a country far beyond the stars---- Thy God, Thy life, Thy Cure" rang out over the crowd.

The final words were spoken, the bugler sounded "Reveille", the colour party lifted their standards, turned silently and marched steadily away; a last pause and then everyone started talking, the crowds were milling around, the noise swelled and as we slowly made our way out into the evening sunshine, hands were thrust out from the crowd with thanks and congratulations.

It was a truly memorable occasion and for me the impact of the silence was the most significant feature, when so many people of diverse nationalities remembered together the sacrifices made by a previous generation so that their countrymen might live in peace.

Suddenly it was all over; but the owner of the hotel where our party of 50 was staying was so pleased to have hosted our visit that he gave us a drinks reception "on the house" afterwards!

Molly Scope

My Favourite Church

I was born in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, where my parents were very active in the Methodist church; they worked closely with local Quakers in humanitarian projects. Sundays were really busy for me – church in the morning, Sunday school in the afternoon, church in the evening. And for a few years after World War 2 I would have to be at church very early on Sundays as I played the organ for the Lutheran service for the protestant Germans imprisoned at the Harpenden P.O.W. camp.

Parents and I transferred to the Congregational church in 1950.

From 1942 – 49 I attended school in St Albans. The history teacher, a Quaker, made sure that we knew the history of the Roman city Verulamium built by the river Ver, and that we appreciated beautiful St Albans Abbey. (Actually it is a cathedral, but no local calls it that.)

During the rule of Roman Emperor Diocletian (3rd century A.D.) a Roman soldier named Albanus was executed for protecting a Christian priest who had converted him. Some time later local Christians built a shrine on the site of the soldier's martyrdom. Then in 793 Offa, the King of Mercia, founded a Benedictine Abbey where the shrine of Albanus had stood.

After the Norman Conquest the Abbey was rebuilt; in one transept there remains a little of the Saxon clerestory, but more outstanding are the huge impressive Norman arches. The great tower is built of local flint and Roman bricks brought in cartloads from the ruined Verulamium.

By the 13th century the Abbey had become one of the richest and most powerful religious establishments in England and was renowned as a wonderful centre of learning and historical composition. It had a great library, a guest hall for reception of important visitors, and stabling for 300 horses.

The Reformation meant the end, of course, of the Abbey, and much damage was done to the High Altar, probably later by the Puritans. Over the years the great nave became practically a ruin.

In 1880 a wealthy Yorkshire man, Sir Edmund Beckett (later Lord Grimthorpe)



offered to restore the Abbey at his own expense. He had the west front pulled down and rebuilt in yellow stone in Victorian Gothic, and put a circular window in the north transept. Thirteenth century wall paintings were discovered under their Puritan white paint. The medieval shrine to St Alban can still be seen and, too, some remarkable tombs.

A girl in my class at school was friendly with the Dean, and we were allowed to see parts of the church not then open to the public. St Albans hosts a biennial Organ Festival. My hands are now too damaged to ever play again the piano and organ, but I still love to go to organ recitals at the Abbey.

Perhaps next spring, if anyone is interested, I would gladly go with them to St Albans; it is a short journey from St Pancras then a 25 minute walk to the Abbey. The visitor centre has a good café. I have loved St Albans Abbey since childhood and never tire of its beauty and history.

Marion Uglow

Christian Meditation

The last Meditation before Christmas will be on Friday 12th December.

We will resume in the New Year on Friday January 9th.

On Friday 19th December I plan to attend, 'The Gift of Christmas 1', at the Meditatio Centre, Saint Marks, Myddleton Square. There is a Meditation at 6:30pm followed by a conversation between Rowan Williams and Laurence Freeman. This is followed by responses to the participants. Booking is essential. Call 020 7278 2070, or email meditatio@wccm.org. There is a charge of £10.

On Wednesday 26th November at the Just This Day Central Event (free), 9:30am to 12:00 in Saint Martin-in-the-Fields there will be Meditation led by Laurence Freeman, followed by a discussion by a panel of speakers on, 'Stillness as a Living Value, and Meditation as a Tool for Transformation'. There is also an evening event at Saint James Piccadilly. You will find all details and how to register at www.justthisday.org. Since 2007 people across the world have taken part in, 'Just This Day', to come together in stillness to that space without division.

Meantime, maybe not as intriguing, but we would always enjoy your company at our Meditation on Fridays at 12:30 to 1pm.

Gwyneth Wilson

••••• **Diary Dates** •••••

November

- Sunday 2 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Robert Courtney, with Kidz Klub
- Monday 3 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Trees, 2-4 Broadlands Road, N6 4AN
- Wed 5 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Thursday 6 8:00 pm Management Committee
- Friday 7 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 9 10:30 am **Remembrance Sunday** Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub
- 6:00 pm **Evening Worship with gospel music of Bob Dylan**, led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Wed 12 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 14 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 16 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme , with Kidz Klub
- 5:00 pm **St Martin's Lantern Procession**, Pond Square
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Monday 17 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
- 8:00 pm Elders' Meeting
- Wed 19 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 21 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 23 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
- 10:30 am **Fun Sunday** in Hall
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Wed 26 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
- Friday 28 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
- Sunday 30 10:30 am **Advent 1**, Worship led by Rev'd Robert Courtney with Kidz Klub
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter

December

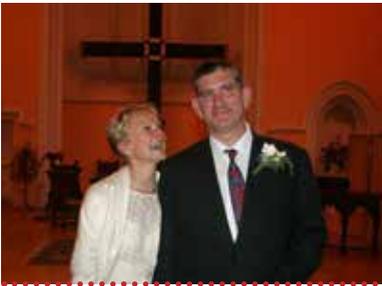
- Monday 1 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Trees, 2-4 Broadlands Road, N6
Wed 3 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 4 8:00 pm Management Committee
Friday 5 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
Sunday 7 10:30 am **Advent 2**, Worship led by Rev'd Roger Scopes, with Kidz Klub
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Wed 10 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 12 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
Sunday 14 10:30 am **Advent 3** Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Monday 15 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel
Wed 17 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Sunday 21 10:30 am **Advent 4, Carol Service with Choir** led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Wed 24 6:30 pm **Christmas Eve All Age Carol Service** led by Rev'd Julian Templeton
- Thursday 25 10:30 am **Christmas Day All Age Carol Service** leader TBA
Sunday 28 10:30 am **Christmas 1**, Worship led by Susan Chinn
Deadline for submissions for next edition of Outlook.

January

- Sunday 4 10:30 am Worship led by John Stibbs
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter
- Friday 9 12:30 pm Christian Meditation
Sunday 11 10:30 am **Epiphany 1** Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton with Holy Communion, and Kidz Klub
- 12 noon **Bring-and-Share Lunch**
1:30 pm **Charity Piano Recital** by Carl Bahoshy in aid of Iraqi Christians
- Overnight pm/am Cold Weather Shelter

Wedding

It was with great delight that Julian officiated at the marriage of Rebecca Dowman and Alex Zeman on 4th October. For those that don't know, they are the couple that live below the manse and are both dear friends of ours.



Patricia Judd was present to authorise the marriage register entries.

Laura Templeton

Harington Scheme

Christmas trees

Support your local charity and buy your tree from the Harington Scheme

Trees can be ordered from 1st November and picked up at the Scheme's Christmas Sale or delivered to your home.

Contact Simon Tye on 020 8341 3657 or simon.tye@harington.org.uk

The Great Harington Bake Off

If Mary Berry has inspired you, please bake a cake or make some jam for the Friends to sell at the Harington Christmas Sale on Saturday, 13th December.

To contribute, please contact Char Weinberg at

charweinberg@btinternet.com or 020 8883 9260, or

Rosaline Laurie at rosalindlaurie@talktalk.net or 020 8883 0615

Pam Furse

News from Jackie

Dear friends,

It is now one year since we moved away from Highgate and I cannot believe how the time has flown. I thought I would share a little of the news of our family. I have started a new job and have been able to see a lot more of my parents who live close by, which is a genuine blessing – we celebrated my dad's 91st birthday this year! Derek is getting used to the world of commuting, part of which includes all 4 of us enjoying doing a lot more by bike these days! Joe started senior school this week, in his traditionally ENORMOUS school uniform (they keep telling me he'll grow into it...), and Sam is getting to know a new head teacher at his school, who has so far been reassuringly smiley and kind. Between their involvement in cubs, scouts, football and learning drums and guitar they are certainly keeping busy!

Since moving we have been attending the URC church near where we now live, which for me is a rather special place, being also the church I attended when growing up and being full of happy memories of junior church and many important milestones in my life. The current church building was opened in 1964, so is a modern style building, and I particularly love the generous and clever use of stained glass and wonderful modern 'tapestries', created by various church groups over the years, that decorate its walls. We are currently in a time of change where a sizeable group of URC churches in our area are going into a 'shared ministry' arrangement. Three new ministers will share the responsibility between them for a group of churches spread across ours and other nearby towns and villages. It will be an interesting time now as the congregations become much more involved with each other!

We hope all our friends at Pond Square are keeping well, and I do enjoy keeping up with your news through Outlook. As we all start preparing for Christmas and all its special celebrations we do send you especially all our best wishes!

Jackie Wilson

The Home Group

Throughout the autumn, we have continued our weekly meetings on Wednesdays. Our last gathering before Christmas will be on Wednesday, 17 December and we shall resume on Wednesday, 7th. January 2015.

Generally we meet at 14 Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SG, unless other arrangements are announced at the previous Sunday morning's service. We start at 7.45pm and aim to finish at 9.45pm.

Our Bible Study is based upon the Lectionary Readings set for the following Sunday. These provide a varied but themed diet of Scripture and include passages from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Gospels and the Epistles. It is a great way to become familiar with the Bible, many of whose teachings are as relevant today as two thousand years ago. God and human nature have not changed! No prior knowledge of the Bible is required.

Additionally, we sing a hymn, share news, pray for people and activities within our group, the church, the community and the world and enjoy refreshments in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Many of us value this time together to deepen our faith and our fellowship.

All are most welcome. If you would like to join us, we shall be delighted. Lifts, door-to-door, can be arranged.

Please contact **Roger Orme**: 07966956160 or 020 8458 2144

Revised Common Lectionary

Nov 2 Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thess 2:9-13; Matt 23:1-12

Nov 9 Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13

Nov 16 Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

Nov 23 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Nov 30 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Dec 7 Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Dec 14 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 21 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Dec 28 Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

Jan 1 Isaiah 61:10-62; Psalm 148; Galatians: 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Jan 4 Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Jan 11 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Persecuted Christians

At the time of writing this report (18.10.14) a newspaper article tells of a Christian mother of four in Pakistan who is sentenced to death on a charge of blasphemy after an argument with a Muslim neighbour. The Christians in Pakistan represent a very small minority, often subjected to harassment, discrimination and antagonism.

Meanwhile in the Middle East the evil Isis (Islamic State) terrorists continue to try to wipe out all religious minorities. The whole region is filled with such minorities, the remnants of the intermingling of many faiths; in the land known as the "fertile crescent" were born three of the world's great monotheistic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Isis also threatens with death or conversion the Yazidis who peacefully practise a very old religion, probably based on Zoroaster; they have a deep belief in transmigration, that each life gives the chance to move gradually forward towards a better future; they see all evil as man-made.

Christian leaders in Iraq have said that their faith would be wiped out in communities as old as the church itself unless international troops and more airstrikes drove Isis from the country. Syria, too, has some of the oldest churches of Christendom (one thinks of the Syrian Orthodox church of St Thomas, which centuries ago spread as far as South India); the destruction of Syria is horrific, and churches and priests have been destroyed.

We should try to think of and pray for persecuted Christians in all parts of the world, and if possible contribute to humanitarian aid. Personally I think, too, that we should be aware of the greatly increased anti-Semitism, not just in the Middle East but in Europe, especially France and Hungary.

The Isis beheading of Alan Henning, a gentle compassionate man who went to Syria to ease the suffering of innocent victims, led to a robust condemnation from the British Muslim community. Hanif Qadir said: "The fact they have chosen to commit this barbaric act on the eve of the Eid al-Adha, a global expression of forgiveness and mercy among Muslims, only demonstrates the extent of the evil and barbaric nature of these criminals."

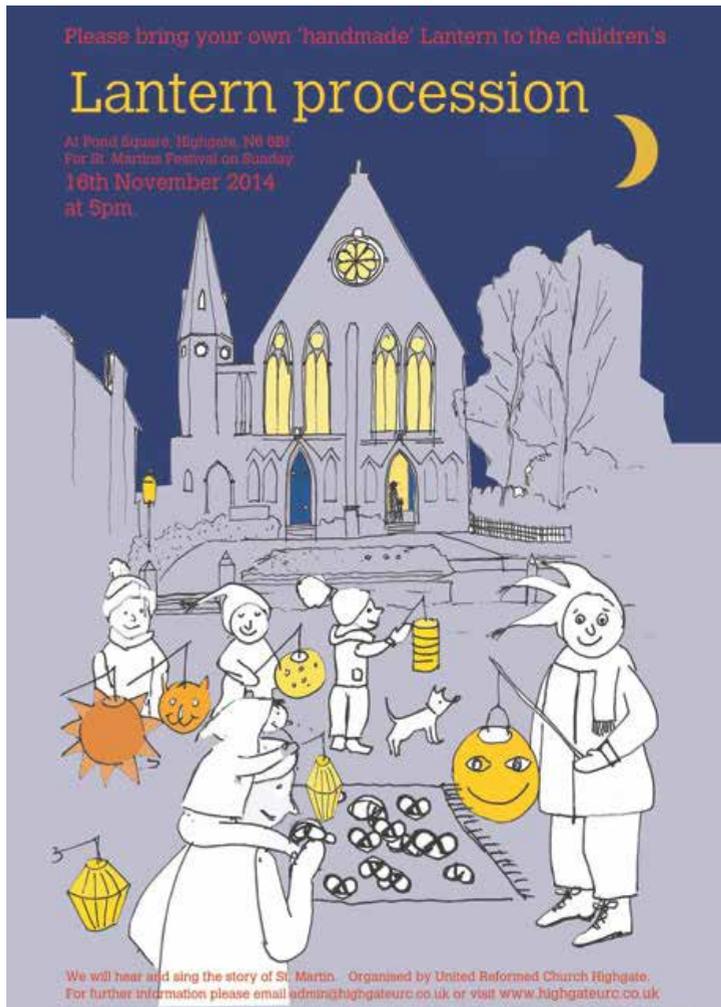
Marion Uglow

St Martin's lantern procession 16 November 5pm

I am organising a lantern procession at Pond Square in Highgate on 16th November at 5pm. St. Martin's processions are quite popular in Germany. The idea is that everyone brings a lantern and all hear the story of St. Martin. We then walk and sing together and finally eat some Weckmännl or Brezels. The whole event will not take longer than an hour, but the children find it usually really exciting to go out in the dark with the lantern.

It would be lovely if you could all come and help singing. Songtexts will be distributed, so there is no excuse! There will possibly be a prize for the most original lantern. Please let others know who might be interested in.

Anke Boehme



Please bring your own 'handmade' Lantern to the children's

Lantern procession

At Pond Square, Highgate, NW 601
For St. Martin's Festival on Sunday
16th November 2014
at 5pm.

We will hear and sing the story of St. Martin. Organized by United Reformed Church Highgate.
For further information please email admin@highgateurc.co.uk or visit www.highgateurc.co.uk



Winter Shelter

Pond Square chapel is set to host the winter shelter for its 4th season. Our slot will be Sunday evenings from 9th November to 21st December 2014 and then 4th, 11th and 18th January 2015.

We will provide a welcoming hot drink then a hot 2-course meal, with the guests and volunteers enjoying each others company. This is followed by more drinks and snacks, chat, Scrabble, chess and a friendly warm environment. The guests stay overnight in clean bedding and wake to a lovely breakfast provided by a different set of volunteers. There will be space for 15 guests as well as one male and one female volunteer who will sleep over.

Pond Square training session was led by Becky and Amanda from the organising charity, C4WS. 26 people attended the training and more sessions will be run during the period of the shelter for new volunteers or those who were not able to make the initial session.

In the group of volunteers we have a number of "old hands" from HURC, St Michael's and St Anne's. This time we will also be joined by several new volunteers from St Benet's in Kentish Town, led by Father Peter Anthony and his pastoral assistant, William Hamilton-Box, who will both be doing a number of overnight slots.

Most of the food for our main meals is donated by the volunteer cooks, but we do use a lot of tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits as well. If you can donate one of these items, or some breakfast cereal, they would be gratefully received.

Here are a few suggested items that people might like to provide:

Waterproof jackets

Rucksacks/backpacks

Socks, gloves, hats & scarves

Small sizes of toiletries

Tea, coffee

Sugar, biscuits

Breakfast cereal

Patricia Judd

SUNDAY NINTH NOVEMBER

FEATURING THE GOSPEL SONGS OF

BOB DYLAN

EVENING WORSHIP

SUNDAY 6PM

POND SQUARE CHAPEL

WWW.HIGHGATEURC.CO.UK

POND SQUARE, SOUTH GROVE, N6 6BJ