



Nov – Dec  
2015

# outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**

## Six New Church Members

Pond Square Chapel,  
South Grove, Highgate,  
London N6 6BJ  
[www.highgateurc.co.uk](http://www.highgateurc.co.uk)



*Congratulations to Beth Chaudhary, Bernard Ralph, John Thompson, Stephen Evans, Martin Atkinson and Helen Roe, admitted as Church Members on Sunday 25 October!*

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# – Fulfilment –

**H**ow do you seek fulfilment? What lifts your spirit? What do you regard as worthwhile? What 'floats your boat'? You will have your own particular activities and causes—work, family, nature, sport, music, art, volunteering—that bring you joy and fulfilment. As I write this I am about to go away for five days to sit in a university library where I will read, think, and write. To some that probably sounds like hell! But for me it brings joy. I think I am blessed because the church allows me to exercise a ministry that I find fulfilling, and also allows me time to read and think and write. How wonderful it would be if each of us were liberated to do those things and pursue the course that brought us joy.

In one of the recent discussion groups on the Lord's Prayer, we discussed the idea of sin as that which frustrates and prevents us from doing the things, and being the people, that God intends us to be. We were thinking about sin not so much as individual peccadillos but as systemic—that is, sin as widespread and powerful systems that force us to go along particular routes in life. Poverty is probably the most obvious effect of systemic sin in that it closes down most options for those who are poor. Yet it is not only the poor who are often frustrated but also those with enough money who are frustrated and hemmed in by their own, or by others', expectations and horizons.

Some will argue that the church best helps people to expand their expectations and horizons by concentrating exclusively on 'spiritual' matters; leaving material conditions to those who have the necessary competence: government, employers, and the charitable sector. Yet Jesus drew some uncomfortably close parallels between the spiritual and the material: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Jesus could be interpreted here as saying:

'What you most value will be where you find fulfilment.' In this case, Jesus was challenging his hearers to find their treasure—their fulfilment—in God. When doing what God wants becomes our first priority, the fulfilment God brings helps us to view everything else in a different light: our work, our relationships, and our activities.

As we approach Advent and Christmas, we will hear again the story of the birth of Jesus, announced by the angels:

**“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord...”**

**Luke 2:10**

Jesus was the fulfilment of God's purpose to save people from purposelessness and frustration by providing a way for people to throw off the chains of sin. And 'sin' here is understood not only as personal, but as the inter-personal conventions and systems that frustrate and limit. Our small contributions to the foodbank and to hosting the homeless shelter are two examples of trying to change material conditions by uniting the spiritual and material in practical service. Please join me in praying: “O God, in your time and by the working of your grace, let these small contributions—like the mustard seed and yeast—bring joy and fulfilment. Amen”

**Julian Templeton**



**Ha  
ha  
ha!**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'

The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

# Married Fifty-Four years ago at Highgate Congregational Church

**A**udrey Wilkinson and a friend came to worship with us on 18 October and spoke to Roger Orme and others after worship. Roger received the following letter and photograph:

Dear Roger,

My friend and I were so happy to visit the Church in Pond Square yesterday where my husband and I were married fifty-four years ago. We were particularly touched by the friendly and warm welcome we received.

It was suggested I send a copy of a photo, taken on our wedding day, for possible inclusion in your magazine. I have pleasure in enclosing this. Denis and I were married on 13 May 1961 and held our reception in a room underneath the Church. The Reverend Jeffrey Plowman officiated.

My best wishes are extended to all the kind people we met on Sunday.

Yours sincerely,  
**Audrey Wilkinson**



# Harington Christmas Sale

## Scheme Sat 12 Dec

55a Chomeley Park  
Highgate N6 5EH

Christmas trees • Decorations • Cards  
Home Produce • Refreshments

Trees can be pre-ordered from 2nd November. Tel: 020 8341 3657



## Winter Shelter

**C**hurch Meeting voted unanimously in favour of hosting a winter shelter again in Pond Square. This will be the 5th season that the shelter has been hosted in Pond Square.

As in previous years the shelter at Highgate URC in Pond Square will be on Sunday evenings in November and December 2015 and January 2016, providing a hot 2-course meal, followed by tea/coffee, chat, Scrabble, chess and a friendly warm environment, then an overnight bed and breakfast. This year the maximum number of people staying overnight in the church will be 18: 16 guests and 2 volunteers (one man and one woman). In previous years our maximum number of guests has been 15 each evening.

C4WS homeless project runs a jobs club and a weekly lunch and drop-in advice centre throughout the year as well as the winter shelter from November to March. Demand for their services continues to increase.

This year volunteers at the Pond Square shelter will come from Highgate URC, St Michael's, St Benets, All Saints and beyond, as well as those with no other church connections. On 22 November the food for the evening will be provided and cooked by volunteers at the Jewish community centre JW3 on the Finchley Road as part of their "Mitzvah Day", the day of social action for the community.

For those unable to volunteer in person contributions of tea, coffee, sugar, breakfast cereal, and small containers of toiletries will be gratefully received. Donations of warm clothing and coats are also welcome. We have enough bed linen and towels from previous years.

# ••••• Diary Dates •••••

## November

- 8/9 Sun–Mon pm/am **Winter Shelter**  
Monday 9 8:00 pm Elders' Meeting, 10 Wood Lane  
Wednesday 11 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG  
Thursday 12 8:15 pm Management Committee  
Friday 13 12:30 pm Christian Meditation  
Sunday 15 10:30 am Worship led by Rev'd Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub  
5:00 pm **St Martin's Lantern Procession**, Pond Square  
15/16 Sun–Mon pm/am **Winter Shelter**  
Monday 16 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Pond Square Chapel  
Wednesday 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 Rev'd Kate Hackett (HASM Exchange)  
10:30 am Fun Sunday in Hall  
5:30 pm **United Evening Worship** led by Rev'd Julian Templeton,  
Preacher: Rev'd Dr Jonathan Trigg, music led by London  
Gallery Quire  
22/23 Sun–Mon pm/am **Winter Shelter**  
Wednesday 25 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG  
Friday 27 12:30 pm Christian Meditation  
Sunday 29 10:30 am **Advent 1**, Worship led by Rev'd Robert Courtney + Kidz Klub  
29/30 Sun–Mon pm/am **Winter Shelter**  
Monday 30 2:00 pm Channing School Nativity

## December

- Wednesday 2 2:00 pm Channing School Nativity  
7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG  
Friday 4 12:30 pm Christian Meditation  
Sunday 6 10:30 am **Advent 2**, Worship led by Rev'd Roger Scopes with Kidz Klub  
6/7 Sun–Mon pm/am **Winter Shelter**  
Tuesday 8 2:00 pm Carol Service, Trees, 2–4 Broadlands Road, N6 4AN  
Wednesday 9 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG  
Thursday 10 8:15 pm Management Committee  
Friday 11 12:30 pm Christian Meditation  
Sunday 13 10:30 am **Advent 3** Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev'd  
Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub



- 13/14 Sun–Mon pm/am [Winter Shelter](#)  
 Monday 14 2:00 pm Channing School Nativity  
 Wednesday 16 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG  
 Sunday 20 10:30 am **Advent 4, Carol Service with Choir** led by Rev'd Julian Templeton, with Kidz Klub  
 4:30 pm **Carol Service with Choir** at St John's Church, Somerset Road, New Barnet, EN5 1HH
- 20/21 Sun–Mon pm/am [Winter Shelter](#)  
 Thursday 24 6:30 pm **Christmas Eve All Age Carol Service** led by Rev'ds Julian Templeton and Roger Orme  
 Friday 25 10:30 am **Christmas Day All Age Carol Service** led by Rev'd Julian Templeton  
 Sunday 27 10:30 am Christmas 1, Worship 'Carols we haven't sung' led by Susan Chinn

## January

- Sunday 3 10:30 am Christmas 2 Worship led by Rev'd Roger Scopes  
 Deadline for submissions for next edition of Outlook.
- 3/4 Sun–Mon pm/am [Winter Shelter](#)  
 Monday 4 2:00 pm Open Door Gathering, Trees, 2–4 Broadlands Road, N6 4AN  
 Wednesday 6 7:45 pm Home Group  
 Friday 8 12:30 pm Christian Meditation  
 Sunday 10 10:30 am **Epiphany 1** Worship led by Rev'd Julian Templeton with Holy Communion, and Kidz Klub  
 10/11 Sun–Mon pm/am [Winter Shelter](#)



# Thank you! Card from Former Homeless Guest

Earlier this year Julian received a postcard with the following:

Thank you along with the volunteers for taking care when we visited your church. It was cold and scary, but the volunteers worked tirelessly providing a warm, delicious meal, warm bed and excellent hospitality. I appreciate everything that was offered. I'm not homeless anymore. God bless you today and always.



**Providing Christian Education for children in North London**

## Exciting times for Pathway as our ministry continues to expand.....Please pray!

Sometimes in the Pathway Office we talk of the 'dark days'. It was a time when we were struggling to the point that some of us wondered if Pathway would survive. If someone had told me then that a time would come where we would be in a position to have more staff I would have found it difficult to believe them..... and yet by God's grace here we are!

**We are so thankful for those of you who commit to regularly pray for the ministry and support us financially.**



Whilst we can't thank you all personally, we hope you will be encouraged as you hear how God is continuing to bless the ministry as the team grows.

*Darren*



# Highgate Newtown Community Centre Foodbank

**O**ur food parcels go out each week, we never have a store of food. We work with Brookfield Primary School, which refers parents who struggle to make ends meet. Some of these may have been working and new to benefits, which can take 4-5 weeks to start.

The homeless hostel at the end of our road typically accommodates people who have been ill or in hospital or disabled. Some who enter the hostel have only the clothes on their back, so we support those in the hostel with crisis food parcels.

In our under-fives sessions we discover that some mothers need support with food and children and clothing. As well as providing access to children's services, we are able to provide food as well.

We also serve the general public. Sometimes local people know who is going through a crisis and come to ask for support for them. We have distributed 162 crisis food parcels so far this year. We try to look at a person's overall needs and get them back on course.

We work in a therapeutic way. We do not give out vouchers. In my opinion there is nothing worse than pushing a child in a buggy to a foodbank, an experience that some will remember for the rest of their lives.

We also provide a daily community hot lunch costing £2, and a laundry facility costing £2 per wash.

Your support makes this possible. Thank you for supporting us with your gifts of food and you are welcome to visit anytime.

Andrew Sanalitra *Director*  
Highgate Newtown Community Centre  
25 Bertram Street  
N19 5DQ  
[www.highgatentown.org.uk](http://www.highgatentown.org.uk)

Tel: 0207 272 7201

# Dear Friends

*I thought it was about time I wrote to say how much I enjoy receiving “Outlook”. I enjoy reading names of those I have known for so many years and learning the on-going story of HURC.*

*For those who remember Walt and me and two little boys, I can tell you that Ben and Mark have both passed the 40 year old post and both their boys (only two months apart!) have just finished their 11+. How time flies.*

*Church life at Chesham is very busy and we are so enjoying our newly refurbished church. How could this happen twice in my church life! At this time we are undertaking renovation (at great cost) of our church organ which has a unique action powering it. Do I remember another rebuild some years ago??! I certainly do.*

*With all the concerns taken to Synod from our churches I learn of the contributions of HURC to the discussions and of course the Chiltern Group of Churches is under enormous pressure and the future – especially for Chesham – is so uncertain. We are in the process of creating an “advert” for a Communications Link Worker – ghastly title – but hope such a person will be a great help with the outreach work we try to do.*

*I do hope you find a few more “gardeners”. I remember bringing all the family to its opening several years ago now. We don’t have a garden but we do have a bank at the back of the church– totally unstable and full of buddleia and thistles. Great for wildlife but hard to know what to do with it without spending a fortune!*

*I am so grateful for “Outlook” and send you all blessings and greetings from Chesham URC .*

*With fondest memories,*

**Kate Weber**



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

# Lantern procession

Pond Square, Highgate, N6 6BJ

St Martins Festival on Sunday

15 November 2015

at 5 pm

