

Thursday 16 December

Carols in Pond Square

6:30 pm



followed at 7:30 pm by

Christmas Reception

with mulled wine, hot chocolate and nibbles

in the United Reformed Church

followed by

Festive Dances

performed by

Highgate Ballet School Youth Dance Company
and Highgate Ballet School



Choreography: Madeleine Wynne-Jones, Julie Cronshaw & Despina Kefalidi

Music: 'A Ceremony of Carols' by Benjamin Britten

RSVP John Wheeler

tel: 020 8341 5463

email: admin@highgateurc.co.uk

Free entry





**Nov/Dec
2010**

outlook

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

From the Minister

"Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:3

When our only experience of church life has been that of shrinkage of membership and decline of activity, it is important to be made aware that church life elsewhere is experiencing substantial growth in membership and expansion of activity. When we are part of a small Christian denomination with 68 000 people nationwide, it is important to be reminded that we are part of a much larger confessional body. The confessional body to which I refer is the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

In June this year, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the World Communion of Reformed Churches was born through an historic merger of the



**World
Communion
of Reformed
Churches**

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World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC). The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) brings together 80 million Reformed Christians worldwide, with 230 member churches in 108 nations. These churches, like the United Reformed Church, are Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed and United churches with roots in the 16th-century Reformation originating in present-day Switzerland.

The theme of the General Uniting Council in Grand Rapids in June was 'The Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace', a direct quotation from Ephesians 4:3. The Holy Spirit, by his action within us, calls us to become part of a united community, the Church, which trusts in Christ to be the mediator of a new relationship with God and with one another, the goal of which is peace. Yet this peace is much more than merely 'the absence of hostility'; it is the shalom of shared wellbeing that a community works at, informed at every point by the community's awareness of God and of what God requires. Such peace requires effort from every one of us; doing what the Spirit enables us to do, according to our circumstances.

The relationship of peace in which Church is called to share is also a relationship of justice. When we confess that God is holy, this is another way of saying that God is just. God's purposes are always just: they are always right and good. God calls us to be holy, and one of the ways we express this holiness is by acting justly. God calls the Church to tackle and transform injustice in its many forms by seeking practical ways of restructuring relationships and resources. Whenever we assist those who struggle to help themselves, we are sharing in the Spirit's ministry of justice and peace.

If you are tempted to think that your small contribution cannot make much difference, remember that you are part of a Reformed body of 80 million people, and that this body is, in turn, only one part of the Church catholic, estimated to be 2 billion people strong. If 2 billion people were to coordinate their efforts, then even the global challenges of climate change, human rights abuses, and economic injustice are not insurmountable.

Julian Templeton



**World
Communion
of Reformed
Churches**

Thoughts from John Wheeler...

On the 15th November 5 years ago I had an interview! It was at Onslow Gardens. Wasn't quite sure what to expect!

I had used the Chapel under the guidance of Ken Smith for our drama group's local production. The Chapel had also been used by this group in the 1980's, so I knew the building.

The interview went quite well and I was offered the job of Administrator that evening. Five years ago uhhh!

I have been fortunate enough to see a few changes at the Chapel, sanding of the floors, new cupboards in the Hall, new carpeting, new lounge furniture, garden revamp ,lamp post and outside lighting, notice boards to mention a few. Plus of course the 150th anniversary of the building.

I just want to thank God, the Elders, the congregation and users for giving me the chance of this special job with wonderful people and in a great building.



Christmas Shoe Boxes

Last year we provided 10 boxes for children through Samaritan's Purse but only one was complete and we needed to supplement ALL the others to bring them to the basic standard. This year it might be easier for interested persons to donate cash and let me have all the fun of filling up our boxes - or

do you think that you or your family could take on the job of making an exciting Christmas Shoe Box for just one disadvantaged child in Britain?

Full details of what is required - and videos of the delivery to children all around the world - are on the **Samaritan's Purse website** (www.samaritan'spurse.org.uk). The information will also be available on leaflets which will be put in the lounge as soon as they arrive.

The Pound Shops are a wonderful resource as are some supermarkets, charity shops and friends who knit!! And cheerfully wrapped shoe boxes will be gratefully received even if empty!!

Sue and Sara

FREE WILL OFFERINGS

Thanks to all who have signed Standing Orders for their free will offerings to the church. This is working well, but there are some problems. Many of you have signed Gift Aid pledges which enable us to claim back nearly 25% more from the government, but if you have no standing order we have no record of what you have donated so cannot claim.

Would you be willing to use envelopes? This would mean that our records would be accurate for our Gift Aid claim and as every penny counts.....

And if you have not yet signed a Gift Aid form please ask Sue Chinn Robert Gorrie or David Woolcock and a form will be provided.

Thanks from the FWO team.



Ecumenical Thoughts

Three years ago friends in Bavaria took me to visit the Pope's birthplace: the large former police officer's house has been turned into a museum devoted to the life of Pope Benedict XVI. When this April I was in Germany, Austria and north Italy, I read much about the resignations of church members there. Recently my Bavarian friends wrote and asked how well had gone the Pope's visit to Britain; I answered that his visit was much appreciated.

On 17th September, Mrs Val Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, represented the denomination at the historic service of evening prayer attended by Pope Benedict XVI and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Mrs Morrison was one of 12 church leaders presented to the Pope as he entered the Abbey. There were approximately 20 others representing the URC at the service, including the Revd Roberta Rominger, general secretary, and the Revd David Tatem, secretary for ecumenical relations.

On reading the newspaper reports, one felt that the words spoken about shared Christian heritage and the prayers for unity were genuinely felt and meant. Sometimes it seems a tough battle to keep Christianity flourishing in Britain, and we need to work hard at ecumenical relations.

Marion Uglow

Camden Churches' Cold Weather Shelter

We are pleased to report that seven people from our congregation have volunteered to help with the feeding and accommodation of 14 homeless people on Sunday evenings from the 7th of November to the 19th of December, at the King's Cross Methodist Church, Crestfield Street, WC1H 8AT. They will be part of a larger team of volunteers from other churches. Financial contributions to buy the food for dinner and breakfast are to be made in cash to Julian Templeton. For those who would prefer to contribute food, the following will be needed:

Coffee, sugar, porridge, breakfast cereal, tea bags, pasta, rice, hot chocolate, biscuits, bags of crisps, dilute fruit juice



How to get to heaven from Scotland

A Sunday School teacher was testing her children to see if they understood the concept of getting into Heaven.

She asked them "If I sold my house and car, had a big jumble sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?"

"No" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden and kept everything tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again the answer was no.

By then she was starting to smile.

"Well then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweeties to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?"

In unison they answered no.

She was bursting with pride for them and continued, "Well then, how can I get into Heaven?"

She was brought down to earth when an eight-year old boy shouted, "Yuv goat tae be deid."

***'I hear the many tunes of quiet music in the distance,
Such rural counterpoint of constant changing tones.'***
[Westcott]

Turn left off the M5 fifteen miles north of Exeter and you quickly come to the delightful village of Uffculme. Uffculme has three claims to fame. Firstly, it is the home of Willie Harcourt-Cooze's famous chocolate factory; secondly, about ten years ago another factory, making fireworks, exploded, mercifully with no serious injury to anyone; and thirdly, on a farm at the edge of the village lives a cousin of Robert Manning, David Lewis with his wife Beryl.

It is through this connection that we found ourselves driving south from Derby on the motorway one fine September morning. For much of the journey we were stuck behind four lorries creeping along with exceedingly wide and heavy loads. Consequently we reached Uffculme late, but we were in time for lunch and to rehearse for the evening concert that was the object of our journey.

The concert took place in the parish church, a wonderful medieval building which the Reformation seems to have overlooked, for it still boasts its original painted screen and stone altar. It is also the possessor of a pleasing small organ, built by T R Robson in 1841.

The centrepiece of the programme was a new work by Peter Monk, known to many of you from his visits to Pond Square, and from the cantata which he recently composed to mark the 150th anniversary of the chapel. Peter's Uffculme Suite is not yet quite complete, but Robert was able to play several movements with titles of local relevance, including one depicting the Culm Valley Railway (a work written for Robert could hardly neglect this railway theme) and another inspired by the aforementioned chocolate factory. A movement entitled 'Evensong' evokes the people of Uffculme at worship on a Sunday evening and cunningly incorporates a hymn tune composed by a friend of Robert's with Devon connections, the late John Nicholls Westcott. Peter's music is highly imaginative, but it is intricate and never easy to play and Robert deserves warm congratulations for the assurance with which he brought it off on an instrument with few playing aids. Around the new work Robert and Tom Corfield built a programme of organ duets and solos, interspersed with verses by John Westcott, who was thus represented in the

programme as a poet as well as a musician. Judging from the laughs, 'Salute to a Dustman' struck a familiar chord with many of the audience whilst 'In the Evening' was beautifully read by Peter Monk, and perfectly suited the close of an early autumn day.

Between the two halves of the programme, we all enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee while tucking into the most spectacular selection of cakes, baked by parishioners.

It was altogether a lovely evening and it benefited a charity in which David and Beryl Lewis have a leading role, which supports the suffering Karen people of Burma, caught up in the long-running civil war within the country. Our thanks are due to Robert for making this delightful excursion a possibility.

Next morning found us once again on the motorway, heading north. But this time no wide or heavy loads impeded our progress.

Rosemary and Tom Corfield



Poem

Take time to think, it is the source of power
 Take time to read, it is the foundation of wisdom
 Take time to play, it is the secret of staying young
 Take time to be quiet, it is the opportunity to seek God
 Take time to be aware, it is the opportunity to help others
 Take time to love and be loved, it is God's greatest gift
 Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul
 Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness
 Take time to dream, it is of what the future is made
 Take time to pray, it is the greatest power on earth
 Take time to reflect, on this is wisdom built
 Take time to give of your time, it is the greatest gift of all

Author unknown

submitted by **Marion Uglow**

Events in November/December

November

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| Monday 1 | 2 – 4 pm | Open Door Gathering |
| Wednesday 3 | 7:00 pm | Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG |
| Friday 5 | 12:30 – 1 pm | Christian Meditation |
| Sunday 7 | 10:30 am | Service of the Word and Membership Reception led by the Rev'd Roger Orme |
| Monday 8 | 8:00 pm | CTH Theology Group, 17 Southwood Lawn Rd, N6 5SD |
| Wednesday 10 | 7:00 pm | Home Group, Pond Square Chapel, South Grove, |
| | 8:00 pm | HASM Discussion Group, 46 Creighton Avenue, N10 (see p.?) |
| Friday 12 | 12:30 – 1pm | Christian Meditation |
| | 2:00 pm | Elders' Meeting |
| Saturday 13 | 7:30 pm | Quiz Night, St John's URC, New Barnet (see p.?) |
| Sunday 14 | 10:30 am | Remembrance Sunday Communion Service led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton |
| Monday 15 | 2-4 pm | Open Door Gathering |
| Wednesday 17 | 7:00 pm | Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG |
| | 7:30 pm | Management Committee |
| Thursday 18 | 9:45 am | TLS LITE, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX |
| Friday 19 | 12:30 – 1 pm | Christian Meditation |
| Saturday 20 | 3:00 pm | Minister's Service of Induction at St John's URC, New Barnet (see p?) |
| Sunday 21 | 10:30 am | Service of the Word led by the Rev'd Donald Macarthur |
| Monday 22 | 8:00 pm | CTH Theology Group, 17 Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SD |
| Wednesday 24 | 7:00 pm | Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG |
| Friday 26 | 12:30 – 1pm | Christian Meditation |
| Sunday 28 | 10:30 am | 1st of Advent, Universe Sunday, led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton followed by Church Meeting with Synod Moderator, the Rev'd Dr Andrew Prasad |
| | 4:00 pm | HASM Advent Carol Service, Union Church, Crouch End (see p.?) |

Abbreviations: **CTH:** Churches Together in Highgate **TLS:** Training for Learning and Serving
HASM: Highgate Area of Shared Ministry **StMPR:** St Michael's Parish Rooms, South Grove, N6

December

Wednesday 1	7:00 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 2	8:00 pm	CTH Theology Group, 17 Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SD
Friday 3	12:30 – 1pm	Christian Meditation
Sunday 5	10:30 am	2nd of Advent, Service of the Word led by the Rev'd Roger Orme
Monday 6	2–4 pm	Open Door Gathering
Wednesday 8	7:00 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 9	7:30 pm	Management Committee
Friday 10	12:30 – 1pm	Christian Meditation
	2:00 pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 12	10:30 am	3rd of Advent, All Age worship with Junior Church Nativity presentation, led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton
Wednesday 15	7:00 pm	Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Thursday 16	6:30 pm	Carols in Pond Square followed by Christmas Reception in Pond Square Chapel see back page.
Sunday 19	10:30 am	Carol Service with combined Choir led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton
Friday 24	6:30 pm	All Age Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service led by the Rev'ds Julian Templeton and Roger Orme
Saturday 25		No service at the Pond Square Chapel (see alternatives on p?)
Sunday 26		No service at the Pond Square Chapel (see alternatives on p?)

January

Sunday 2	10:30 am	Service of the Word led by the Rev'd Dr Roger Scopes
Sunday 9	10:30 am	Service of Word and Sacrament led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton

MINUTES of CHURCH MEETING

10.10.10

Attending: J and L Templeton, S Chinn, C. Keeler, M. Uglow, A. Greenhow, J. Music, J. Duncan, R & R Courtney, P. Furse, B. Harrison, G. Wilson, M&P Goldsmith, J. Bullock, R. Orme, R. Gorrie, R. Manning, T. Morgan, P. Judd, H. Rowe. **Apologies:** P Kerr

1. Discernment of New Elders

The Minister reviewed the situation via the circulated letter. The Elders' Meeting was at risk of becoming depleted, and therefore current serving Elders at risk of being over-worked, unless new candidates for the eldership could be encouraged to stand for election. Another concern is that, at present, none of the serving Elders is willing to be Church Secretary. One major challenge to finding new candidates is that many members have either already served, or are currently serving, as Elders, and a large number of worshippers are not eligible to be nominated as candidates for the eldership because they are not yet members. The main issues discussed were:

- Must an Elder first be a church member? (yes, it is required, see below)
- Is the three-year term, sabbatical, plus further three-year term, a barrier? (it may be for some, but is a local arrangement, and therefore could be modified)
- Is it possible for a member to be also a member of another church? (dual membership is possible)
- If I nominate a worshipper, am I also therefore recommending him/her for membership? (effectively, yes, see below)

It was noted that membership is a public statement of commitment to Christ and to the Church and is therefore foundational. It is because Elders offer spiritual and pastoral leadership in the church that they must have made this commitment to Christ and to the Church by becoming a member. However, the decision as to whether one is able to make this commitment is always a personal one.

It was agreed that a letter inviting all worshippers to participate in a process of discernment of potential new Elders should be sent after the Minister and Robert Courtney agreed the wording.

2. Update on Elthorne Road Mission Hall

Robert Gorrie, Treasurer, reported that the tenants had not paid rent since June and that after conferring with Thames North Trust officials (who own the property) it was decided to begin the process to terminate the lease and seek new tenants.

The rental comprises about 1/3 of our income and therefore we had to review our charitable donations (£10,000 last year), our capital expenditure on the building, and the Ministry and Mission Fund which had increased substantially this year.

He suggested that we pay a donation of £5,000 to Pathway this year but advise them that we are not in a position to make commitment to a similar donation next year. No other donation to charities from church funds would be paid this year.

However, anyone who wanted to fundraise separately for any charity was free to do so. The only maintenance expenditure recommended is replacement/refurbishment of the sanctuary radiators (which is essential for the continuation of lettings and worship in cold weather). It was recommended that we not pay the requested increase in the Ministry & Mission contribution to the central URC for 2011 but keep the contribution at the same level as this year. All of this expenditure can be met by our current income and reserves. **All this was agreed.**

3. Camden Churches' Cold Weather Shelter

Julian would meet with Jamie Hall of the Camden Churches' Cold Weather Centre on Thursday 14th October to see what they required by way of volunteers and donations and would then make an appeal to congregation.

4. Candidate for Membership

Jackie Bullock was unanimously commended for membership.

5. Advent and Christmas Arrangements

28th November: 4:00 pm, Union Church Crouch End Advent Carol Service

16th December: Carols in Pond Square

Refreshments and entertainment offered in our Chapel after (help wanted!)

19th December: Carol Services with combined choir from St. Johns (10:30 PSC, 6:30 St. John's.) Robert Manning involved with Richard Harvey.

24th December: 6:30 pm All Age Candlelight Carol Service

25th and 26th December: the Associate Minister asked, if he were to lead worship on Christmas Day, who would attend? Only 2 people present indicated they would definitely attend. The Minister asked, if worship were to be held on Boxing Day (which falls on a Sunday), who would attend? Only 3 people present indicated they would definitely attend. If those present represented a proportionate indication of the total worshippers that could reasonably be expected at these two services, the Minister argued it was not reasonable to ask a leader of worship to prepare worship for such a small number. Therefore, with regret, and not intending to set a precedent, it was decided not to offer worship on Christmas Day and Boxing Day but to provide worshippers with information of services elsewhere that they could attend if they so wished.

6. Stewards

List to be reviewed and revived.

7. Induction of Minister to additional part-time pastorate

Julian to be inducted at St. John's URC, New Barnet, on Sat 20th Nov 3 pm all welcome.

8. Coffee/Tea Rota

The new rota list was posted and we needed more younger people signed up. Donations had not been sufficient and should be addressed.

9. A.O.B.

Roger Orme commended the presentations and discussion 'A thoughtful approach to God' on Wednesday evenings (plus supper!). The meeting closed with the Grace.

Congratulations

Many will remember seeing Anke working over 4 hours painting faces at the Highgate Festival, despite her tummy bump!

We send our best wishes to her and Tobias on the birth of their daughter Elise on October 6th, weighing 3.24 kg or 7.1 lbs



1 + 1 = 3



Drumdance Sat Dec 4

Monthly, child-friendly "barefoot boogie"
7.30. - 10.30pm
Church Hall

This event is organised by Laurie Temple, a party organiser who is a regular user of our hall. He will be raising funds for a new sound system as well as supporting childrens' charities.

Participants who play musical instruments are invited to join in a live jam session and/or a Drum Circle. Further information can be found by contacting Laurie: Email: ltemple@onetel.com, Tel: 079515096240

Web: www.thepartywizard.co.uk



You've got to laugh

During his children's address an assistant minister asked the children. "What is grey, has a bushy tail and gathers nuts in autumn?" One five-year old raised his hand: "I know the answer should be Jesus," he began, "but it sounds like a squirrel to me."

Muriel Glover

Thanks to East Kilbride Old Parish magazine for these



Fish & Chips Supper Quiz

Saturday 13th November,

St John's URC

Mowbray Road, New Barnet, EN5 1RH

We are cordially invited to a Quiz Night, 7:00 for 7:30 pm start, at £9 per person. All proceeds will go to the North London Hospice. For this reason, many people kindly round up their ticket price to £10, but there is no obligation to do so. Tables are of 5 to 8 people; individuals will be seated with a group to keep these numbers as even as possible out of fairness to all concerned. Tea and coffee is provided, and you are welcome to bring your own wine or beer. Could Highgate URC field a team? Julian and Laura will be attending, with 3 spaces in their vehicle for those who want a lift. Attendance needs to be confirmed in advance for the ordering of the fish and chips, please contact the organizer, **Derek Morley-Slenn** on 020 8441 6162 or delmorley26@yahoo.co.uk

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HASM Discussion Group

Comedy and Farce in Drama

10th November, 8pm

Please note the change to the published programme of the Highgate Area of Shared Ministry Discussion Group.

The subject for this meeting will not be 'In the steps of saints and pilgrims', but will be instead: Comedy and Farce in Drama

Speaker: Lilli Segel (Tel. 8883 4137, former university lecturer in drama)

Venue: Muriel Clarke's home, 46 Creighton Avenue, N10 1NU Tel. 8883 4470

From Aristophanes to Shakespeare, from French Farce to Alan Ackbourn, comedy and farce have long entertained audiences. But do they always invite laughter? Has their appeal changed over the ages, and if so, why? And what is the difference between comedy and farce?

If you have seen plays by any of these playwrights, come along and discuss what is in them that makes you laugh out loud or smile inwardly or simply leave you cold.

Induction of Minister
 to the part-time pastorate of
 St John's United Reformed Church, New Barnet
Saturday 20th November, 2010

All our regular worshippers and members should have by now received a personal invitation to this service of Induction. Most will be well aware that Julian has been Interim Minister part-time at St John's for some time now. Both he and St John's are pleased that they are able to make this arrangement permanent. This also means that his part-time ministry at Highgate will be able to continue.



Sunday 21st November:
our Directors of Music Exchange

Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music, is celebrated on the 22nd of November. On the day before this, Sunday 21st, an exchange will take place between Directors of Music: Richard Harvey will accompany worship, led by the Rev'd Donald Macarthur, at Highgate URC; Dr Robert Manning will accompany worship at St John's URC, New Barnet.



Escape from Planet Earth:
FURY 17th of October

On a Sunday evening in October, Jackie Wilson presented our young people with a conundrum: if the survival of the human race depended on 5 people escaping Earth on a spaceship, but they had to choose which of these 5 people should go from a group of 10 candidates; who would they choose and why? The lively discussion that ensued made for a most memorable evening!

Revised Common Lectionary

- 7th Nov** Haggai 1:15b-2:9 & Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Job 19:23-27a & Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
- 14th Nov** Isaiah 65:17-25 & Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a & Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- 21st Nov** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
- 28th Nov** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
- 5th Dec** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
- 12th Dec** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- 19th Dec** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
- 24th Dec** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
- 25th Dec** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14
- 26th Dec** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23
- 2nd Jan** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
- 9th Jan** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Home Group

After participating in Julian's excellent series "A thoughtful approach to God", the Home Group will resume its weekly Wednesday meetings on 3rd. November. The themes will be based upon the following Sunday's Lectionary Readings, separately set down by Julian in Outlook.

The last meeting before Christmas will be on Wednesday, 15th. December. We shall resume on Wednesday, 12th. January 2011. With the exception of Wednesday, 10th. November, when we shall meet at Pond Square Chapel, all gatherings will take place at 14, Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SG.

Will you please note that all meetings will begin at the earlier time of 7pm and end by 9.15pm.

As always, if you would like to join us, we will be delighted. Lifts, door-to-door, can be arranged - please let me know.

Roger Orme : 020 8458 2144 or 07966956160.



Advent and Christmas Worship



First Sunday of Advent, 28th November, theme: The Universe, plus Moderator's Visit

On the First Sunday of Advent, Julian has decided to pursue a rather ambitious theme: 'The Universe'! He was very inspired by seeing a video with narration on The Guardian website about the Hubble Telescope showing some astounding images of stars and constellations. He wants to explore the implications of the vast universe for our faith in God as Creator and Sustainer. Among the hymns already planned are: 'Every star shall sing a carol' and 'Lord of the boundless curves of space.' If you have any books or images or models of stars, suns and planets, please bring them with you and we will use them in our worship. We will also welcome the Moderator of the Thames North Synod, the Rev'd Dr Andrew Prasad, as a visitor to our worship. The Moderator has agreed, in response to concerns raised by the Elders about the medium-to-long-term provision of ministry, to have a conversation with us. Therefore, after coffee has been served we will hold a Church Meeting, the major item being this conversation. We will deal with any other essential business after this.



Advent Carol Service Union Church, Crouch End



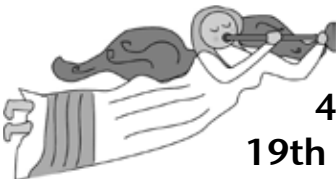
We have also been invited later that same day to an Advent Carol Service at Union Church, Corner of Western Park and Ferme Park Road, Crouch End, N8, starting at 4:00 pm. The service will take the form of Advent lessons and carols with prayers for the local community. Singers and musicians are welcome to add volume and interest to the musical content! After the service refreshments will be provided.



3rd Sunday of Advent 12th December, Nativity Service



At this service, led by Julian Templeton, the Junior Church will give a nativity presentation.



4th Sunday of Advent 19th December, Carol Service



The 10:30 am Carol Service will be led by Julian Templeton and will feature the combined choir of St John's and Highgate United Reformed Churches with Richard Harvey and Robert Manning directing and accompanying.

Christmas Eve, 6:30 pm

Julian Templeton and Roger Orme will jointly lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight All Age Carol Service starting at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Day and Boxing Day: No services at the Pond Square Chapel

As agreed at the Church Meeting, due to lack of advance commitment by worshippers, we will not be holding public worship on Christmas Day or Boxing Day. However, there are alternatives for those willing to worship elsewhere:



Christmas Day

Julian will be leading a 45-minute all age service at **St John's United Reformed Church**, Somerset and Mowbray Roads, New Barnet, EN5 1RH, starting at 10:30 am. The Rev'd Kate Hackett will be leading a service at **Muswell Hill URC**, Tetherdown, N10, starting at 10:00 am. For those local to Highgate without transport, **St Michael's Church**, along the road from our Chapel in South Grove, will be holding services at: 8:00 am Holy Communion



(Book of Common Prayer); 10:00 am Christmas Nativity; 11:00 am Holy Communion (Common Worship).

Boxing Day (Sunday)

Muswell Hill URC will be joining the **Methodist Church**, 28 Pages Lane, N10, for worship starting at 10:30 am.

St John's URC, New Barnet, will hold a service starting at 11:00 am led by the Elders. **St Michael's Church**, Highgate, will be holding services at: 8:00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer); 10:30 am Parish Communion (Common Worship).



A Thoughtful Approach to God: Retrospective

A total of 14 people attended at least one of the 5 sessions held on Wednesday evenings in our Chapel; 3 of these not being regular worshippers with us. Julian presented an approach to thinking about God and the Christian life that endeavoured to be reasonable, coherent and practical; avoiding the strident claims and counter-claims that tend to dominate much debate in the news media. A good proportion of the time was devoted to discussion in pairs and small groups. A delicious buffet supper was provided from 7:15 pm. Those who were able to attend expressed their appreciation at how helpful they had found the whole experience. If you were unable to attend this series but would be interested in taking part if the course were offered again, say, on a Sunday early afternoon; would you please let Julian know.





**to be broadcast on
12 December 2010**

John Wheeler enjoyed being in the congregation on 17 October at this recording held at Union Chapel, Islington. Sarah Thompson from our church also attempted to join them but was unable to stand for the 3 hours it took for the queue to get into the church. See if you can spot John or anyone else you know singing the carols with great gusto!



Summer Re-decorations

I don't know how many users of the building have noticed all the hard work that was done over the summer holidays. The entrance area, corridor, stairwell and the downstairs lobby were in a terrible state with dirty walls and peeling paint. This a heavily used area and roughly treated by some children who love to see how high their feet can go up the sloping walls! It is also the first place that many visitors see and therefore where they get their first impression of our church.

I'd like to thank John Wheeler who oversaw the work and for persisting when the job became a much bigger project than first anticipated due to damp. It is imperative that we keep the building in good repair and decoration as we are dependant on the letting income to keep the church open.



No More Tea and Coffee after the Service?

Jean Duncan and a small number of others have kept this most welcome treat after the service going for many years. However, it has become extremely difficult to maintain because so few offer to help out. Can I please ask everyone who enjoys their welcoming cuppa to volunteer to keep this tradition going. There is a rota on the lounge noticeboard that covers several months, so please make sure you sign up to do at least one duty.