



Nov – Dec
2016

outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**

Progress Report of Search Committee

Robert Gorrie described the stages so far and how it would continue.

After producing a church profile and a minister profile in April and May and putting together a challenging advertisement in June, the advert went public early in July and over the next two months appeared in the *Church Times*, the *Methodist Recorder*, the *Church of Scotland Magazine* and eventually in *Reform* as well as on some Baptist websites.

By the closing date in mid-September there had been more than 20 enquiries, which turned into 10 applications. After the sifting process, a fairly short list of 7 ministers was produced. Interviews began and all except one candidate have been met, greeted, shown around the church and village and interviewed. The last person will be interviewed before the end of October. (Incidentally we have not got the pronouns wrong, only men applied.)

continued on page 2

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Contents

- 2** Role of Church Meeting
in Calling a Minister
- 4** Church Meeting
Prayer Book
Submissions
- 5** Vital Rotas
- 6** Diary dates November
- 7** Diary dates December
- 8** Home Group
Revised Common
Lectionar
- 9** Preachers
Tricky English Words
- 10** Book Revue
- 11** Special Book Group
- 12** Winter Shelter

Charity no: 1131691

Minister: In vacancy

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The rather long list of interviewees helps you to see that that standard of applicants was very high. It will be difficult to discern who will be the best fit for HURC and its congregation and can yet carry us forward to considerable growth in the next few years. That is why we feel it to be necessary to hear a few of them take a service before being able to go further. Ministers already on the programme have said they will kindly step back on the Sundays required.

So the next step is to arrange for three candidates to take a Sunday service at HURC, hopefully in the next few weeks and with no obligation on either side. If people who are at these services feel they have noticed something really important, do tell someone on the search committee and they will feed it into the next meeting.

This is obviously a very different approach than the usual URC procedure where the Moderator puts a name forward for the church meeting to consider. By the beginning of December it should be possible for the search committee to put forward a name to church meeting.

Then the search committee will step back and hand over the rest of the process to church meeting.



The role of the church meeting in calling a minister

Introducing this topic at Church meeting, Robert Courtney spoke of the principle of reaching a "common mind" and of the importance and value that would have to a prospective minister considering a "call". He quoted some examples from his own experience.

In his first church, the congregation had doubled and trebled in size. In an ordinary church meeting there was an issue which went on and on and could not be resolved. Then the youngest and newest church member spoke up and said "Don't you think God would want us to do that?" It was resolved.

In his second church a major change which would have a profound effect on its running and giving was being debated and church meeting was trying to come to a common mind. In the end they would have to vote. Finally only one person was against, he was the church secretary. He said "I can't see this but I can see where God is leading the church. So I will support it too."

Up to now the Search Committee has asked three candidates to lead a service and meet the congregation. After this the Committee will propose one of them to church meeting as someone who could be asked to "preach with a view". At this point members of the search committee will step back. Church meeting takes up the process. After voting on the proposal, it then issues an invitation to the candidate to "preach with a view to the pastorate". This candidate will be visiting the church for a second time.

A letter or email should be sent to the candidate. Ideally the church secretary should deal with it, but as that position is presently vacant, a senior church member not involved with the Search Committee should do this. (The same person should deal with future correspondence with the candidate). If we get to the stage where the candidate has accepted a call, it is no longer so necessary to be careful. Then it would be more appropriate for the treasurer to be involved in negotiations about pension, manse and so on.

After this "preaching with a view" service, another church meeting will be held to think, pray, discuss and hopefully come to a common mind on whether the preaching is truly God's word to us and whether we could work together to find and do God's will for HURC over the coming years.

How will HURC church meeting come to a common mind? Perhaps it won't. But we hope, as in the above examples, that it will listen for what God is saying. If not, and the disagreement is substantial and maintained, a call would not be sent. If there are very few dissentients, and they cannot accept the majority's view as God's leading, a call might be sent specifying the number of dissentients. The potential minister would then have to take his decision with this in mind.

As we are working outside the general URC practice in all this, we have had to make some procedures for ourselves ahead of time, ready for them to be followed when needed.

Such a call might of course be declined by the candidate. In that situation we should have to start again. The search committee, in trying to provide for such an event, has been trying (and will continue to try) to keep a second and even a third string alive until such a time as that it is no longer necessary. It may not be possible of course. But we have to face, and be aware of, all these eventualities as we go forward.

Let's end on a more cheerful note. The next few months will be interesting, formative, deeply searching and I hope fulfilling for all of us.

Church Meeting

What stamina people must have. Most of them had come for breakfast at 9 a.m. I have heard talk of following on with a Harvest lunch next year, but perhaps that will be a step too far.

A transfer was approved for Molly and Roger Scopes to Thane Methodist/URC church. They are now settled in their first home in Thane, near to one of their daughters. They will move to their chosen home when alterations are completed in 2017. We wish them well and shall miss them a lot.

There was a progress report from the search committee and a discussion on "how to proceed from here" in the process of issuing a "call" to a prospective new minister.

There was a report on the progress of the North London LAG (local area group) which is composed of 14 churches and is destined to share 2.5 ministers between them. Although HURC is not directly involved now, Roger went to the meeting as an observer on behalf of the church.

There is also to be some new lighting for the church using LEDs to replace the current sodium lights. If you are interested and /or would like to know more, have a word with Helen or Martin and you might even get a demonstration, we did.

Submissions for the prayer handbook 2018

Could you write for the United Reformed Church's 2018 Prayer handbook? Deadline for submissions: 28 November 2016

You're probably already familiar with the United Reformed Church's (URC) prayer handbook – our perennially popular collection of lectionary based prayers and meditations. Historically, we've commissioned all prayers from prayer writers across the denomination – but we changed the approach for the 2017 prayer handbook (Feasts and festivals, available now), including non-commissioned prayers for the first time. And we're doing the same for the 2018 prayer handbook. Email phb@urc.org.uk for more information.

Harvest Festival

HURC celebrated the Harvest Festival on Sunday 16th of October. It was a good event, with the Rev Roger Orme taking the service and presiding over Holy Communion and with Robert Manning at the organ.

We started with a thanksgiving breakfast at which about 18 people sat down to have "bacon butties" which turned out to be baps, followed by croissants, muffins and tea or coffee. This set us up for the rest of the day. There were half a dozen more helpers who floated about producing more bacon and more hot filter coffee before sitting down to have their breakfast too.

The church was decorated in record time with a welcome array of flowers. Many of the roses looked more like the flowers of summer than of autumn. The main offerings were tins, boxes and packets of food for the Highgate New Town Community Center food bank.

By the time everyone had arrived for the service we were up to 35+. After the service a good number stayed for the church meeting. All were keen to hear what progress had been made in the search for a new minister.



VITAL ROTAS for Coffee and Flowers

Please remember! Sign the List!

More volunteers needed for the important jobs of preparing refreshments after the service and for bringing flowers to decorate the chapel. They are small but essential jobs which should be shared between more than a few members. It is a wonderful way to meet people and take part in the life of the congregation. This is particularly important with the full houses expected when the candidates come to preach. There will be a lot of sipping and chatting so there should be at least two helpers each Sunday.

..... Diary Dates

November

Sunday 6	10:30	Worship led by Sally Bateman (with Kids Klub) First evening hosting Camden Winter Shelter
Wednesday 8	7:45	Home Group at 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG
Friday 10	12:30	Meditation
Sunday 13	10:30	Communion Service led by Rev. Robert Courtney (with Kids Klub) Camden Winter Shelter
Wednesday 15	7:45	Home Group
Friday 17	12:30	Meditation
Sunday 20	10:30	Worship led by Rev. David Currie (with Kids Klub and Fun Sunday) Camden Winter Shelter
Wednesday 22	7:45	Home Group
Friday 24	12:30	Meditation
Sunday 27	10:30	Worship led by Rev. Rick Mearkle (with Kids Klub) Camden Winter Shelter
Wednesday 29	7:45	Home Group

Children's Fun Sunday



On the fourth Sunday of the month, **Kidz Klub** hosts a Fun Sunday for anyone who comes in. Notices are put in Pond Square and all children and parents are welcomed.

December



Friday 1	12:30	Meditation
Sunday 4	10:30	Worship led by Rev. James Karren (with Kids Klub) Camden Winter Shelter
Wednesday 9	7:45	Home Group
Friday 11	12:30	Meditation
Sunday 13	10:30	Communion Service led by Rev. Jon Dean (with Kids Klub) Camden Winter Shelter
Wednesday 15	7:45	Home Group
Friday 17	12:30	Meditation (Last until January 7th)
Sunday 18	10:30	Communion Service led by Rev. Roger Orme with Nativity Play Camden Winter Shelter Christmas Dinner
Saturday 24	6:30	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service led by Rev. Roger Orme
Sunday 25	10:30	Christmas Day Worship led by Rev. Roger Orme



January

Sunday 1 10:30 Carols We Have Not Yet Sung. Worship led by Sue Chinn

The Home Group

The Home Group has continued to meet weekly, apart from three occasions when two of its regular participants were required to interview prospective new Ministers.

We follow the Lectionary Readings set for the following Sunday. Often these prompt interesting and wide-ranging discussion, reflection and personal reminiscences. No previous Bible knowledge or preparation are necessary. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Light refreshments are served at the start and end of the evening.

Meetings take place at 14, Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SG, starting at 7.45 pm. The last gathering before Christmas will be on Wednesday, 14 December. We shall resume on Wednesday, 11 January 2017.

Lifts, door-to-door, can be arranged.

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



Revised Common Lectionary

Nov 6 Job 19: 23-27a, Psalm 17: 1-9, Luke 20: 27-38, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 and 13-17

Nov 13 Malachi 4: 1-2a, Psalm 98, Luke 21: 5-19, 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Nov 20 Jeremiah 23: 1-6, Psalm 46, Luke 23: 33-43, Colossians 1:11-20

Nov 27 Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Dec 4 Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11 Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18 Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 25 Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20

Jan 1 Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 or Philipians 2:5-11 Luke 2:15-21

Preachers

As we start the month of November there are few important dates to make a note of. Firstly we will be welcoming three candidates for the ministerial post, who will be with us on the 20th and 27th of November and on the 4th of December. Do come if you can.

The communion services will take place on 13th of November, which will also be Remembrance Sunday, and on the 18th of December led by Robert Courtney and Roger Orme,

For the second time this Autumn we will be welcoming Sally Bateman from Muswell Hill, who will be with us on the 6th of November.

Reverend Jon Dean, who was with us in the month of October, will lead service on 11th of December and for those who didn't have a chance to meet him he is the retired URC minister at Northwood, whose last charge was St Andrew's at Frognaal.

The rest of the month of December will be led by our Associate Minister Reverend Roger Orme, and that will include the Christmas Eve Carol Service on the 24th at 6:30.

Sue Chinn will lead the New Year's Day service with her nearly famous annual collection of the Carols We Have Not Yet Sung This Year.



Tricky English Words

The bandage was **wound** round the **wound**.

The farm was used to **produce** **produce**.

The dump was so full it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.

We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.

He could **lead** if he let the **lead** out.

The soldier decided to **desert** the **desert**.

As there is no time like the **present**, it was time to **present** the present.

A **bass** was painted on the **bass** drum.

I did not **object** to the **object**.

Book Revue

All the Light We Cannot See

By Anthony Doerr

Roger Orme very enthusiastically recommends this fantastic book (as does Sue Chinn) and gives a summary.

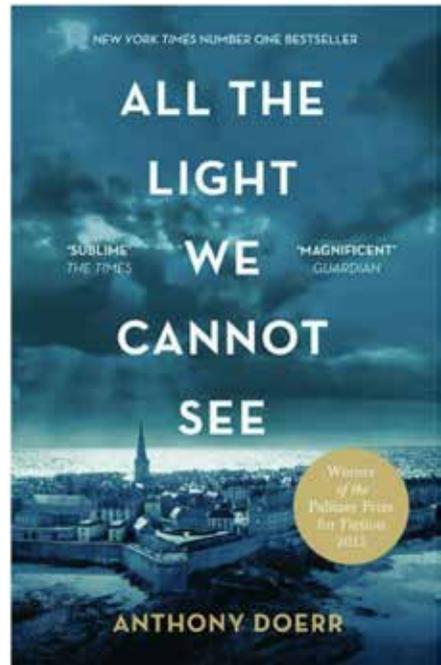
This Pulitzer prize-winning work of historical fiction was recommended to me by Richard Keeler. It is long, 530 pages, but wholly absorbing and well worth reading.

Part of its charm is in the way it is presented – short chapters in a broken time/location sequence – and it is wonderful for a book group discussion. Anthony Doerr has researched the historical background meticulously and his attention to detail is magnificent. A great read and a worthy stocking-filler.

Briefly, the story is about a blind girl named Marie-Laure and her father living in Paris in 1934 and the events which befall them as they are driven out by the Nazi occupation to the house of Marie-Laure's great-uncle in Saint-Malo, on the coast of Brittany.

Whilst in Paris, her father works as a locksmith at the Museum of Natural History, where, hidden in the vaults for the past two hundred years, is a greyish-blue sea diamond with a red hue: the Sea of Flame. Her father also creates small, detailed models of the houses and streets of Paris and, subsequently, of Saint Malo, by which, using her fingers as eyes, Marie-Laure is able to navigate the city. On their escape from Paris, her father is entrusted with the Sea of Flame.

In Saint-Malo, when her father is investigated and taken away, Marie-



Laure is left virtually all alone with her eccentric great-uncle, Etienne, who uses his radio transmitter, hidden in the attic, to broadcast messages on behalf of the Resistance.

In a parallel story, a young, orphaned German boy, Werner Pfennig, is noticed by the Nazis for his astonishing skill at mending radios. They send him to a national school that trains, ferociously, an elite cadre for the Third Reich. Werner's genius is used by the Nazis to track radio transmissions across Russia and Central Europe and eventually he is sent to Saint-Malo, where the two stories merge.

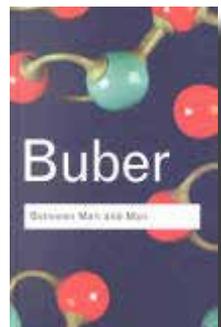
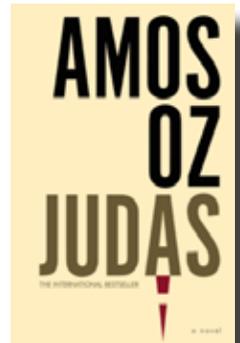
The pursuit of the Sea of Flame (begun in Paris by both sides) continues as the U.S. Air Force destroys the walled city, two months after the D-Day landings.

Roger Orme

Special Book Group

Does HURC need a book group focused on those books that escape the ordinary?

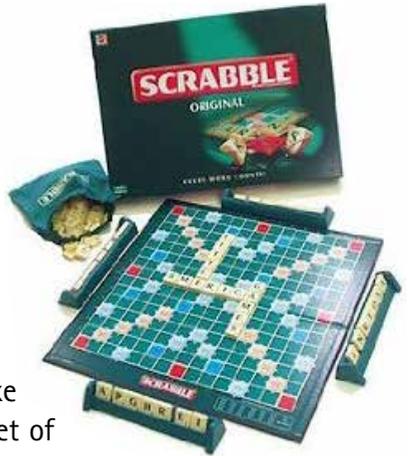
- Have you read the latest biography of Judas? Would it be interesting to compare with the Gospels or other views on that gentleman?
- Are you interested in Martin Buber –who is often referred to by Roger Orme in his sermons?
- Would you like to discuss how Paul 's letters have been authenticated in various times?
- Shall we create our own book group next year? Let Sue Chinn know what you think about this (with any suggestions for books!)



Winter Shelter

Pond Square chapel is now hosting the winter shelter for its 4th season. Our slot is Sunday evenings from 6th November to 21st December 2014 and then 4th, 11th and 18th January 2015.

We 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 also use lots of tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits. 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 | Tea, coffee |
| Rucksacks/backpacks | Sugar, biscuits |
| Socks, gloves, hats and scarves | Breakfast cereal |
| NEW MEN'S SOCKS! | Small toiletries |

Patricia Judd