



July/Aug
2011

outlook

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

From the Minister

I would like to express my thanks to so many of you who have been so kind and understanding about the death of my father. In particular, I was very grateful to the Elders of both St John's and Highgate churches who encouraged me to depart for New Zealand, especially when I had been there on holiday so recently. In retrospect, the first holiday we had with Dad was a wonderful gift, as neither he nor we realised that he was ill and we were able to enjoy precious time together. It was only after this that Dad began to feel very unwell, underwent tests, and then discovered that he had advanced cancer of the liver and that his prognosis was very limited. It was on discovering this that we returned to New Zealand to be with him.

What helped all of us was Dad's accepting attitude towards his death. He was 79 and said 'I've

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had a good life! He said he was ready to die and believed that God had more in store for him. He set about planning his funeral and talking to friends and family: often Dad would end up consoling them! We were also very much helped by the palliative care he received at home. It was excellent, allowing him to be pain-free. On the day he died, my mother, brothers, sister and our spouses were all with him, with the GP quietly there in the background. So far as we know, Dad knew that we were there with him. When he died, while we mourned his loss; we were relieved that his struggle was over. He faced death courageously, with faith and hope that it was not the end.

What was overwhelming was the practical care that the wider family and friends showed us. For three weeks we hardly had to buy or cook anything, because food arrived at regular intervals; requiring only to be heated. We were also overwhelmed by the number of sympathy cards we received, and the number of people who came to the funeral service: over 600! Dad had lived in the same area, Riverton, all his life. He was a flax miller and then a farmer. In addition to this he was an Elder in the local church; Captain of the Boys Brigade Company; and was involved in a number of other community organisations. We are all very proud that he was recently awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to Flax Milling Heritage. He was instrumental in getting the old Flax Mill up-and-running again as a working museum: the only one in New Zealand.

In the sermon I preached at Dad's funeral service—the most difficult sermon I've ever had to preach—I focused on the grace of God as I perceived it in his life. Dad had an irritable side that could erupt in a volcanic temper; and because of this, he realised he needed God's grace. Yet through that same grace he was able to achieve so much that was worthwhile and helpful to others. Subsequently, I've been reflecting on why it was that Dad seemed to be so accepting of his sudden diagnosis and short prognosis. I feel sure that his attitude, as well as being informed by his very down-to-earth practicality, was also informed by his Christian faith.

The Christian life is one of mortification and vivification: it is an on-going experience of dying to self in order to live. Jesus said: 'those who lose their lives will find them'. While Paul writes: 'we were buried with Christ in baptism in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, so also we might set out on a new life.' Whenever we we turn from focus on self to focus on others, a small part of the old self dies and the new self lives. Christ's death and resurrection becomes the pattern of our life and death. It is with faith and hope such as this that death need not be feared. Death becomes the doorway to the life of God's new creation.

Julian Templeton

Sara's next chapter by Iveta Olejkova

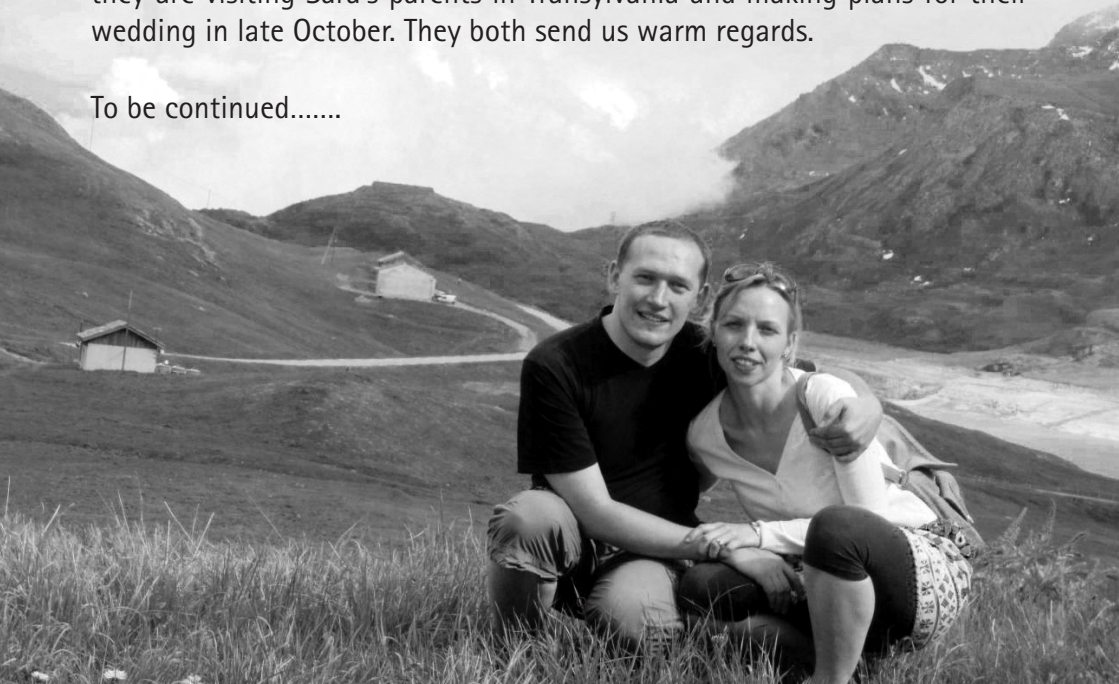
As we all know, Sara, Junior Church leader and member of our congregation, recently left to start a new chapter in her life. On their journey home by car, Sara and her fiancé David visited many interesting sites in France and Italy – not forgetting the romantic destination of Venice.

After their small 'Grand Tour' they arrived in Hungary, where they visited David's parents, and unloaded Sara's London memorabilia at his flat in Budapest. And that is the location where they plan to settle down and make their new home together.

David will be working as a paediatrician at the hospital, and Sara as a teacher at the Anglo-Hungarian nursery.

Both are extremely happy and at peace – as if all has been planned and set into motion by a power from above. Their trust in God's guidance gives them assurance and confidence when thinking of their future together. At present they are visiting Sara's parents in Transylvania and making plans for their wedding in late October. They both send us warm regards.

To be continued.....



Visiting Ministers

Since Rev Roger Scopes's visit on 1st May we have looked after ourselves and I would like to thank Susan Chinn, Rev Roger Orme and Rev Robert Courtney for taking services. Susan and Robert sprang immediately into the breach when Julian had to return to New Zealand unexpectedly because of his father's illness. Laura and Nava conducted an impressive service on 19th June, following their attendance at a Training for Learning and Serving course. We hope they will do so again, and regularly.

Looking ahead, we shall have two visitors in July – Rev Barry Jones, a retired URC minister paying his third visit to Highgate on 17th and Penny Wood, an Anglican Reader from North Oxfordshire on 31st paying her umpteenth visit to us. It is always a relief when her little green car turns into the Square at 28 minutes past 10. It is a long way to come and I hope you will be there to greet her. In August we shall as usual have a service led by the group which meets on Fridays for Meditation under Gwyneth Wilson, but please note that it will not be on the last Sunday of the month this year but on 21st. I have been unable to find a visitor for the service on 7th August. The self-help group on this occasion will be Susan Chinn, Robert Manning and me and all I can say at present is that there will be plenty of singing.

Iveta Olejkova is now helping. She sends out notes to visitors by email and deals with their enquiries, requests for readers etc. and makes a point of meeting them when they come. Marion Uglow will join the team later when we are arranging visitors for 2012.

It is important to be in church on 4th September if you can as we shall have a visit then from Rev Richard Mortimer, who is the deputy general secretary of the United Reformed Church.

John Thompson



Home Group

Our last meeting before the summer break will be on Wednesday 27th July and we shall resume on Wednesday, 7th September. The theme of our discussion is based upon the Lectionary Readings for the coming Sunday (see below). However, our explorations range widely as we seek to understand, reflect upon and apply Biblical insights to our daily lives. The Group generally numbers between six and eight people and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Light refreshments are provided at the beginning and end of the evening.

We shall continue to meet at 7.45pm in 14, Southwood Park, Southwood Lawn Road, N6 5SG unless announced otherwise the previous Sunday.

If you have a spare Wednesday evening, we should be delighted if you would join us. Lifts, door-to-door can be arranged.

Roger Orme: 020 8458 2144 or 07966956160.

Revised Common Lectionary

- 17 July** Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- 24 July** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
- 31 July** Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
- 7 Aug** 1 Kings 19:9-18; Ps 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33
- 14 Aug** Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28
- 21 Aug** Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
- 28 Aug** Jeremiah 15:15-21; Ps 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28
- 4 Sept** Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
- 11 Sept** Genesis 50:15-20; Ps 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35



by Anke Boehme

On 16th May I participated, with my 8 month year old baby daughter Elise, in the London Legal Aid fundraising walk. On a lovely summer evening we walked together with the Asylum Aid team the 10km from the Royal Courts of Justice to the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park and back.

Altogether more than 5,000 people joined the event to raise £500,000 for free legal advice centres in London. The walk was attended by the Lord Chief Justice, the Director of Public Prosecutions, judges, lawyers and law students.

I support Asylum Aid because of their continuous support for vulnerable people. Hopefully this little article will contribute to more people knowing about the charity.

Asylum Aid is an independent charity working to secure protection for people seeking refuge in the United Kingdom from persecution and human rights abuses abroad.

It was founded in 1990 to complement the campaigning work of an organisation called Rights and Justice.

Today, more than 20 years later, Asylum Aid is a distinctive organisation, mainly for two reasons. Firstly, they focus on the legal process of asylum and, in particular, on the problems facing the most vulnerable and excluded asylum-seekers. Secondly, they make sure that their casework and campaigning go hand in hand.

The Refugee Women's Resource Project at Asylum Aid is an example of this integrated approach. It was established in 2000 as it was recognised that women who have fled their homes in search of safety have particular problems and their needs and circumstances are not adequately addressed by the UK asylum system.

Support Asylum Aid's 2011 fundraising

Walk with us...

Royal Courts of Justice, 16 May 2011 | 5:00 pm



The traditional image of a refugee is of a male political activist, persecuted for his involvement in protests against the state. Women's political activities often take a different form, perhaps giving shelter or food to those in hiding or refusing to abide by restrictions such as dress codes. Women also face forms of persecution that are particular to them. These include domestic violence, rape, sexual violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation, from which they are unable to get state protection.

The Project provides a unique blend of legal casework, information, research and policy work and campaigning for asylum-seekers who are women.

Asylum Aid has helped people like Susan. Susan's husband supported the opposition leader in Uganda. When the president was re-elected opposition leaders were violently persecuted. Susan was no exception. Surviving rape and torture, she managed to flee the country. Susan was helped by Asylum Aid to gather the necessary evidence to make a successful claim for asylum. She is now studying nursing, and is hopeful for a future free from fear.

More information about Asylum Aid can be found:

www.asylumaid.org.uk



A Financial Update

There has been good progress on the two key financial items discussed and supported by the Church Meeting at our May AGM.

First, we now have possession of the Elthorne Road building and at the beginning of July it was put on the market for lease or sale. We hope to have an idea of the level of interest in early September at which point we will evaluate any options and bring them to the Church Meeting for discussion and ultimately decision before anything is finalised.

During this period we have to bear the significant costs of insurance and security on the property. At the same time we are receiving no income from it. This means that church finances, while not a cause for alarm, do remain under pressure.

The second financial item is the project to replace the Chapel heating. This is underway with a total budget of £15,000. We have received anonymous donation* towards the cost and are approaching neighbouring churches and the Synod for further grants or donations.

It goes without saying that any donations towards this important project, essential to keep our chapel a welcoming place of worship and a rentable venue, would be very welcome and would limit the stress on our limited financial reserves.

*The anonymous donor was so moved and inspired by reading an account of our volunteers at the Cold Weather Shelter for the homeless at Kings Cross in 'Outlook', as well as reading about the need to raise money for the cost of renewing the heating system in the sanctuary, that a cheque for £1000 was written and presented to the Minister!

Robert Gorrie

We had another successful year at the Fair despite the changeable weather.



The chapel was busy all afternoon with teas being organised by Patricia Judd. John Wheeler invited users of the building to display their work, so there were ladies from the Highgate Hand Embroiderers, Ivel Muller exhibiting her paintings as well as the 'Open Rehearsal' from the Highgate Ballet School. Laura updated the display boards with information about church life and Yoga and The Spiritual Healers were in the Hall downstairs. The stall selling edible donations for Christian Aid, organised by Iveta raised £118 The teas took £280.00 and Face Painting £285.00. Well done to the numerous people who worked hard to make it all happen.



SONGS OF PRAISE - 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

If you've always wanted to be in the choir for Songs of Praise, and have the opportunity to sing with international soloists, this is your chance! Singers are wanted for a spectacular concert and sing-along celebrating 50 years of broadcasting for BBC One's Songs of Praise. The event will be recorded on Sunday 25th September at Alexandra Palace in London – the place where regular television broadcasting first began. Also taking part will be Aled Jones, Pam Rhodes, Diane Louise Jordan and Sally Magnusson.

Please do join us as part of the Songs of Praise massed choir of harmony singers – this group will be pivotal in providing excellent harmony singing, leading favourite hymns and songs for the 7,000-strong audience in the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace.

Members of the massed choir will receive free entry to the event and will be seated together, with sight lines to conductor Paul Leddington Wright and the Songs of Praise orchestra. Music will be sent to you in advance for pre-rehearsal and you will be required at Alexandra Palace on the afternoon and evening of Sunday 25th September. Full details and call times will follow.

We have only a limited number of seats available so while we can't guarantee that you'll get a place, we will be able to let you know by the end of August whether your application has been successful. Please do not over-subscribe, it is extremely difficult to re-allocate returned tickets.

If you would like to take part, please complete the ticket application form (available on the desk in the church hall) and return by email to songsofpraisefifty@bbc.co.uk or post to Songs of Praise (50th), Room 5012, BBC, Oxford Road, Manchester M60 1SJ by Thursday 4th August 2011. If you have any queries, please contact the Songs of Praise Ticket line on 0161 244 3473 or email: songsofpraisefifty@bbc.co.uk.

If members of your family, friends or congregation would like to come along as part of the audience, we'll be announcing how to apply for tickets in the edition of Songs of Praise to be broadcast this Sunday 10th July. From that time you will be able to get all the details and apply online for tickets via the Songs of Praise website: www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise

We look forward to seeing you there.

Lindsey Hammond *Researcher* Pamela Hossick *Producer*



Lillian Judd

"Generation Game" Tennis Tournament!

Sunday, 26th of June saw the first ever Highgate URC Generation game tennis tournament, held in Waterlow Park. We'd prepared ourselves for being rained off (in what was one of the wettest weeks we have had recently!) but on the day the sun shone gloriously and the challenge was keeping enough water going for the contestants as they put their all into scoring points!

We had a fantastic turnout, with doubles pairs made up of cross generational teams, and several of the younger children being ball boys/girls.

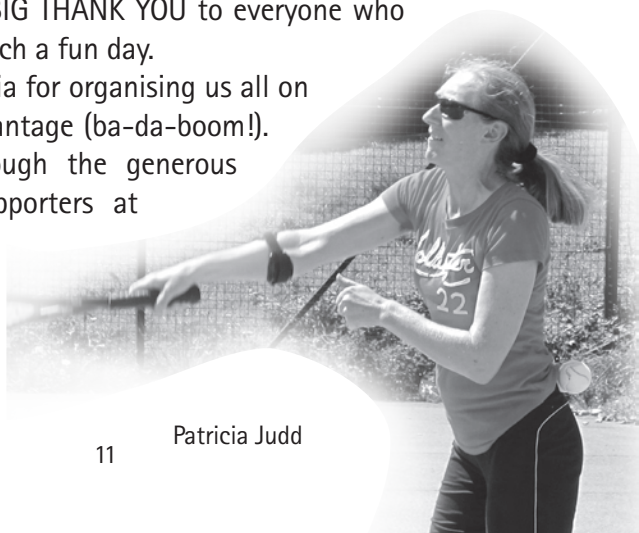
Some of us played like Venus Williams, some of us (author included) looked more like Venus fly traps. There were brilliant rallies, ACE serves (you know who you are!) on one hand, and Laurel and Hardy style shenanigans on the other (we know who we are!), but everyone put in a good effort, and the winning title was well deservedly scooped by the awesome pairing of Patricia and Lilly, with Adam and his dad in a close second place. Not only were there generations of the same family on the courts, but we had 3 generations of both the Judds and the Templeton/Kinghorns, including spectators.

I want to say a particular BIG THANK YOU to everyone who took part and helped make it such a fun day.

Hearty thanks also to Patricia for organising us all on the day, it put us at a real advantage (ba-da-boom!). We were delighted that through the generous donations of players and supporters at church we raised £60 towards the church heating appeal.

Well done everyone!

Jackie Wilson



Patricia Judd

Events in July – September

July

Sunday 10 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Junior Church
Bookgiving led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton

Tuesday 12 6:00 pm Management Committee

Wednesday 13 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Thursday 14 9:45 am TLS LITE, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX

Friday 15 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Saturday 16 Afternoon Highgate Horticultural Society Summer Show

Sunday 17 10:30 am Worship led by the Rev'd Barry Jones

Monday 18 2 – 4pm Open Door Gathering

8:00 pm CTH Theology Group 17 Southwood Lawn Road

Tuesday 19 8:00 pm New Testament Greek, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX

Wednesday 20 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Friday 22 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 24 10:30 am Worship led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton

Wednesday 27 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Friday 29 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Saturday 30 9:30 am TLS LITE Study Day, Tetherdown URC, N10

Sunday 31 10:30 am Worship led by Penny Wood

August

Sunday 7 10:30 am Songs of Praise Worship led by Susan Chinn

Tuesday 9 8:00 pm New Testament Greek, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX

Saturday 13 1:00 pm Manse Garden Party, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX

Sunday 14 10:30 am Holy Communion led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton

Sunday 21 10:30 am Meditation Service led by Gwyneth Wilson

Sunday 28 10:30 am Worship with the Baptism of Elise Boehme led by the
Rev'd Julian Templeton

September

Friday 2 12:30 – 1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 4 10:30 am Worship led by the Rev'd Richard Mortimer, Deputy
General Secretary of the United Reformed Church

Tuesday 6 7:30 pm Elders' Meeting, 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX

Wednesday 7 7:45 pm Home Group, 14 Southwood Park, N6 5SG

Friday 9 12:30–1 pm Christian Meditation

Sunday 11 10:30 am Holy Communion led by the Rev'd Julian Templeton