



July – Sept
2016

outlook

Newsletter of **Highgate United Reformed Church**

Thank you

Thank you all for the wonderful farewell events marking the end of my ministry. I enjoyed the Barn Dance in May, and the reception after my final service as Minister on July 10 was overwhelming. The speeches were very moving and memorable, and I was glad to be able to talk to many of you over the delicious lunch. I will miss you all.



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From the Minister continued

Laura and I look forward to making use of the garden bench with its dedication; we treasure all the thoughtful words and lovely photographs in the Book of Appreciation; and we are grateful for the generous cheque.

To reiterate the theme of my sermon: "I am thankful for your partnership in the gospel, from the first day until now". (Phil. 1:5). God has established a covenant partnership with us in Jesus Christ, demonstrating how much he loves us and the world. He now inspires our willing and our doing, enlisting us as partners in his good purpose. What we have achieved as a church in the last 20 years, we have achieved as a partnership of ministers, elders and congregation; with many of you willingly taking on essential roles and tasks that have enabled our church to thrive.

I now pass the baton of leadership to others. I hope and pray that you will give my full-time successor the same support and commitment that you have given me. As you do so, I am confident that this church will continue to grow and flourish as it practices partnership in the gospel.

Julian Templeton

I too was overwhelmed by all the leaving events, presents and speeches. This stunning painting by Roger Scopes of Communion in the church, totally took our breath away. Twenty four years in Highgate has flown by despite all that has happened in that time! There are so many people in the church I hold dear to my heart, so you certainly will not be forgotten. I wish you all the very best for am hugely confident that you'll soon find a wonderful new minister have a great future in store. "I'm only sad that I can't be part of it.

Laura Templeton





General Assembly News

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church met in Southport, 8–11 July. The following is a selection of agreed resolutions and news.

Response to EU referendum

The Revd Tracey Lewis, convenor of the Mission Committee, said that, post-vote, we were in 'days of uncertainty and change ... as we seek the good news ... and challenges of the kingdom of God' we affirm:

- A diverse and multicultural society
- The need for security for EU and other global citizens
- Partnership with European churches
- The imperative to challenge racism and xenophobia
- The need for reconciliation
- Engagement in global justice.

Resolution on Same Sex Marriage

In keeping with the 2007 commitment on Human Sexuality, General Assembly does not consider it appropriate to express a single view on behalf of the whole United Reformed Church on the matter of Same-Sex Marriage.

General Assembly declares that the Church Meeting of each Local Church of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales is the relevant governing authority for the purpose of giving consent for the trustees of its building to seek the registration of that building for religious marriage ceremonies of same sex couples, in accordance with the provisions of Section 26A(1) of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

United Reformed Church joins the Churches' Mutual Credit Union

General Assembly enthusiastically agreed to join the Churches' Mutual Credit Union (CMCU), enabling ministers, elders and congregations to invest savings in it, funding affordable loans to people who might otherwise have to use payday lenders.

Founded in February 2015, the CMCU grew out of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby's determination to compete out of existence high-interest payday lenders such as Wonga. The URC joins existing members including the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church of Britain. Mr John Ellis, Treasurer, said: 'I

am delighted at the enthusiasm which the General Assembly has embraced this opportunity, and I urge local churches to spread the word, join this movement and do something practical in the interests of economic justice."

Churches in Cumbria taking a lead in dementia-friendliness

The Church should be setting the pace of society in responding to dementia, urged Mr David Richardson, dementia coordinator for Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC). The goal of CTiC is that by 2020 all Cumbria churches will be dementia-friendly. Each church must be welcoming and inclusive towards people with dementia and their carers, that they are treated as valued members of the congregation and encouraged to stay involved in church activity.

To that end CTiC have created the role of dementia enabler – a local church member who is trained as a friend and encourages dementia friendliness throughout the church. Dementia friendly churches need to answer three questions, Mr Richardson said: How, what and where?

- How do we communicate with people with dementia and their carers? How do we make people welcome?
- What steps can we take to help people with dementia take part in worship? What might dementia-friendly worship entail?
- Is the church accessible for people with dementia? Are issues such as safety, signage, use of space and lighting addressed?

Summer Madness!

@ Highgate URC

Something for Everyone
ages 0-12 years old



Two dates

For more info email stenhelz1@gmail.com





Mayonnaise Jar and 2 Cups Of Coffee

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.' The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – God, family, children, health,

friends, and favorite passions—things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else—the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.'

So...

- Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.
- Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups.
- Take your partner out to dinner.
- Play another 18.
- There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.
- Take care of the golf balls first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.
- One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.
- The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

Roger Scopes

Persecuted Christians

It may seem strange to commence a small article on persecuted Christians with mention of how British Christians are sometimes treated most unfairly. A few weeks ago *The Times* reported how a Christian Union had been banned from holding prayer and Bible study meetings on college premises as a result of the government's anti-terrorist "Prevent" strategy. There had been no complaints of inappropriate behaviour by the group. "Prevent" was intended to deal with all aspects of the terrorist threat to the UK. Dr Landrum of the Evangelical Alliance said: "We all need to play a part in tackling radicalisation but to bundle Christian groups in with extremists is unacceptable. In a free society this kind of nonsense must be firmly resisted."

In June, worse news from North Yorkshire. A Catholic teenager, an apprentice at a shop-fitting company in Selby, was tied to a wooden cross and hung from a wall by a bullying gang of four work colleagues; he was also tied to a chair and locked in a room, suffered cuts and bruises, and when asleep in bed one colleague used permanent marker to draw crosses on his face and body. Three of the defendants said that the incidents were part of general workplace "banter". (For years I belonged to Quaker-founded Howard League for Penal Reform, but now feel that such disgusting bullying should be punished with severe sentencing). Very sadly Yorkshire was again in the news after the shocking murder of a fine MP, Jo Cox, who worked so hard for her constituents and many humanitarian causes. Her murderer espoused far right-wing views.

Once we raised money at church for Christian Aid work in Bangladesh. Recently police there have arrested more than 5,300 suspects as part of a crackdown on violence towards minority groups. Foreign aid workers and religious minorities have been targeted, so Christians and Hindus have been killed.

In Istanbul the great magnificent church of the Divine Wisdom – Hagia Sophia – is in trouble. The church is of huge significance to Orthodox Christianity; it was the jewel in the crown of the Byzantine empire until the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. It was converted into a museum on the orders of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Now

Muslim religious rites are being regularly performed in Hagia Sophia; Turkish nationalists have been intensifying their campaign to turn the church back into a mosque. Many governments in Europe would take that as a clear sign of unwillingness by Turkey to engage with Europe and its values.

Christianity is much under threat everywhere. We must stand firm whilst showing understanding of others' views, but always showing Christian compassion, love, faith and tolerance.

Marion Uglow

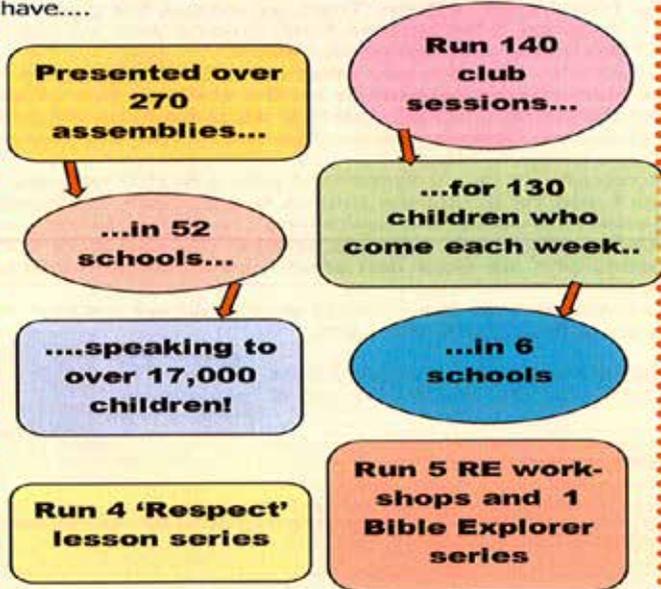


Providing Christian Education for children in North London

A BIG thank YOU!

to YOU—our wonderful supporters for praying and giving your money and in some cases your time to support our work of telling children in primary schools about Jesus!

During the 2015/16 academic year the Pathway team have....



June 2016

••••• Diary Dates •••••

July

- Sunday 17 10:30 am Worship led by Sally Bateman, with Kidz Klub
Wed 20 7:45 pm Last Home Group before summer break
Friday 22 12. 30 pm Last Meditation before Summer break
Sunday 24 10:30 am Worship led by Alison Bond, with Kidz Klub
Wednesday 27 1–3pm Children's Holiday Club, Down by the Sea. Activities for children see page 6
Sunday 31 10:30 am Worship led by Susan Chinn, with Kidz Klub

August

- Sunday 7 10:30 am Worship led by John Stibbs, Christa Keeler presiding
Wednesday 10 1–3pm Children's Holiday Club, Treasure Hunt & Disco.
Activities for children see page 6
Sunday 14 10:30 am Worship led by Beth Hartley
Sunday 21 10:30 am Worship led by Robert Gorrie and David Woolcock
Sunday 28 10:30 am Annual Meditation Service led by Gwyneth Wilson

September

- Sunday 4 10:30 am Worship led by Penny Wood, with Kidz Klub
Deadline for submissions to next Outlook to Su Chinn, Email: sbchinn@btopenworld.com
Wed 7 7:45 pm First Home Group after summer break
Sunday 11 10:30 am Holy Communion, Worship led by Rev Roger Orme, with Kidz Klub
Friday 16 12. 30 pm Meditation resumes
Sunday 18 10:30 am Worship led by Rev Dr Walter Houston, with Kidz Klub
Sunday 25 10:30 am Worship led by Sally Bateman, with Kidz Klub

