

UNITY



The Newsletter of the Ealing Green Church

Ealing Green Church, The Green, Ealing, London W5 5QS.



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November 2009

Last month I wrote about Archangel Michael: that one who is meant to be God's champion, wrestling with evil and protecting humanity. I suggested that it is easy to see why Michael's feast day at the end of September came just as the days were shortening and Autumn drawing in, when people felt vulnerable.

For the same reasons, now is a prime time for advertisers to sell us comfortable food and warm furniture, along with massive televisions to watch as we sit on one and enjoy the other. There is a sense in which the gathering in of things and homes feels right at this time of year, and many retreat into domestic nests to wait out the dark. I think about this kind of thing on my way home in the dusk, when it is very hard to resist looking into lighted windows for a glimpse of people's inside space. It's not just that I'm nosy (guilty) but I'm interested almost longing to see how other people make their safe places and inhabit them. Especially from the upper deck of buses, where a lit window (curtains un-drawn) is like a magnet for my shameless eyes!

Surely, we as church are about the safe space that God has made for us – that safe space which does not shut its door while one person is still sleeping rough, or afraid for their safety, or unable to provide water, medical care, and other basic necessities for their dear ones. And the safe space we speak of should also be like a magnet in a world where insecurity and anxiety are far closer to the norm, however plush the room someone goes home to. God's 'lit window' includes a place for those struggling with immigration status, those grieving beyond the six weeks that others remember to ask about a loved one died, those caught in a cycle of overwork and exhaustion.

Our poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, wrote a poem in 1992 that speaks of a prayer carried in small gestures and noises of life in a city. She writes of people anonymous to each other, whose intimate spaces are nonetheless held by God and gathered together. I find it apt for Autumn:

As we open our doors and lit places to each other and welcome God as well into our own hearts,

every blessing for Autumn.

<p>I have never been given to envy - save for the envy I feel toward those people who have the ability to make a marriage work and endure happily.</p>
--

Paul Getty

UNITY

It's still just like summer as I write this. The sun is out and it is lovely and warm – and that's the clue. It's warm. It's not hot, like it can be in real summer, but it's warm, which isn't, or at least wasn't, what you would expect at this time of year. Maybe it's global warming or maybe it's just that old 'Indian Summer' that we hear about, although, and I don't want any comments about how old he seems to be getting, I do tend to associate October with colder weather. As I sit here writing this (read: fighting with my computer that seems to have other ideas) I am only wearing a short sleeved shirt, which for the middle of October, when I was a lad, would have been supplemented by a thick vest and probably a sweater, although that last item might still be held in reserve for the frosts of November. I have to tell you that I am also wearing trousers, socks and shoes etc. in case you thought it was that warm that a short sleeved shirt was enough.

It all makes it a little harder, at least for me, to envisage Christmas and the dark days of winter that are apparently looming up immediately in front of us. On a brighter note, literally, there are only seven weeks to go until the days start getting longer.

Global warming is something that we have to consider as time passes and the autumns appear to become more benign and we become used to only seeing snow as something in little globes that we shake up for children. Weren't we surprised to see the stuff actually fall out of the sky last winter? Bit of a shock that was. As soon as Transport For London saw it, it became like a rabbit in the headlights and froze (no pun intended). But the same phenomenon that leads to our warm October means a hot, and increasingly dry October to the people of Somalia, other places in Africa and farmers in Australia, to name but a few of those affected. Some of these people haven't seen the previously dependable rains at this time of the year for years. We have a pleasant autumn. Their animals and relatives starve from the effects of the associated changes.

As the temperature cools, or when it does (don't tell me, you are reading this and shivering at the same time) I will be pulling on that longer sleeved shirt, even though there's a tear in the sleeve that I must do something about, and eventually a sweater, so's I can leave the thermostat a bit lower. I'll be walking rather than driving to the shops, saving fuel and avoiding emitting that extra kilogramme of greenhouse gas and I'll be thinking virtuous thoughts about doing my bit to stop, or at least slow down the things that are damaging our planet.

We have it on good authority that the Lord helps those who help themselves, so we all need to do our bit for the planet in terms of recycling, reducing our energy consumption and so on, without necessarily making our lives poorer. He gave us a lovely planet, full of wonder and beauty. It's ours to keep, so let's all do our bit.

And then, while walking home, wearing only a light jacket (plus trousers etc., you get the picture), I heard the latest offering from Robert Zimmerman. A Christmas Album. Now whoodathunkit – and from Bob himself? Surreal.

God bless you



Letters

From Marian Martin

I would like to thank all friends at Ealing Green for the prayers and kindness shown to my mother, Barbara Ward, during her recent illness and spell in hospital. She is much improved but by no means back to her old self yet. Her energy level is very low and her mobility restricted at present. We can only hope that this will improve in due course.

Thank you
Marian

From Rene and Doug

We would both like to say 'thank you' for your prayers and good wishes, and for the lovely flowers from the Harvest Festival.

Best wishes
Rene & Doug

Quiz Nite

Questions on all sorts of things including:

What is the name of your team (eight can play)?

Haven't you finished yet?

Do you want some more chips?

Would you like a cup of tea or coffee?

.... and many more

Fun, friendship, fiendishly flummoxing questions, fish & chips and a few hours to forget about the November weather outside.

Saturday 21st November 2009-10-19

1900 start (that's 7pm in old money)

£8.00 for those of you who can pay

£4.00 concessions

Buckets will be available for loose change

Bring a bottle (preferably a full one) and some happiness to spread around.

News of the Church Family

David Groves is starting treatment, in a few weeks time, to shrink the lumps in his back.

Pat White has been in Hillingdon Hospital for a week but is home now. She is still having tests.

Ruth Doe's foot remains very painful. Ruth has asked for our prayers.

Doug Edwards is still in Sycamore Lodge, Acton. **Rene** visits every day and gives him his lunch.

Irene Robey has been having hospital investigations and is to have surgery shortly.

We are glad **Helen** is feeling better and back in circulation.

Susannah Robinson, Patsy's daughter, has been very poorly in hospital in Manchester, where she is at University. She is better again now.

Margaret Lewis has had a fall, causing a lot of hip pain. Along with other joint pain, this has restricted her mobility for several weeks. However, she remains determined to get out when she can.

Barbara Ward, Marian Martin's Mum is improving & gradually increasing her activities. We were pleased to see her at Lunch Club.

Ela Trail is very concerned about her son, **Peter**, who is unwell and having tests.

Eileen Greenwood is unwell and is in Ealing Hospital

Alma Baker thanks the Church family for their prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls. She is making progress but not as quickly as she would hope!

Kathleen Sheridan & Kafero Mwanga are leaving the U.K. in the next few weeks. We will miss them but wish them every happiness in their life together in Uganda.

Mosima and Nyimpini Mabunda with baby Nyiko have moved to High Wycombe, as Mosima is studying in Oxford. We are pleased to hear that they still intend to come to Ealing Green once a month. We hope that they will settle happily in their new home.

Congratulations to **Rachel Baker (Susanne & Peter's daughter)** who is engaged to **Dan Webb**. They plan to get married next year.

We pray particularly for those mentioned above, and also remember in our prayers those who are elderly or housebound and their carers.

Gill Hatherall

Updates from the Church Secretary

Diary Reminders:-

15 th Nov	Annual General Meeting
21 st Nov	Quiz Supper

Preachers during November:-

1 st Nov – 11.00am 6.30pm	Our own Minister – Rev Jen Smith Circuit Service at Greenford Methodist – special service celebrating 25 years of Healing Services.
8 th Nov	Mr Jarel Robinson-Brown – a Circuit Local Preacher
15 th Nov	Rev Jen Smith
22 nd Nov	Miss Vera Marston– Local Preacher & member of E.G.
29 th Nov	Mrs K Philips

URC Prayer Handbook

The Prayer Handbook 2010 is now available. You can view it and place orders with Frances at the Bookstall. This Handbook is a collection of unique prayers and meditations and will appeal to individual Christians wishing to follow a contemporary weekly prayer life. It is size A5 and is spiral bound – costs only £4.90.

Also available is **2010 Pocket Diary** comes in choice of 4 colours. £5.95 each

Church Refurbishment –

The Sub-committee has met several times and will present their Report at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 15th November. The Church Council recommends that we have a series of meetings, led by our Minister, to focus on the place of change in the church. The sessions will include the things of worship space, furniture, singing, Word and sacraments, hospitality & welcome to outsiders & newcomers –all with the vision of providing a place for worship for the next 100 years! At the completion of the series, we will put proposals to the Church Meeting. We hope that by doing it this way, nobody will feel that their views have been ignored. Everybody has a voice!

West London YMCA

Jen & I went along to the YMCA, St Mary's Road, last month, where they were holding an Open Day with a presentation "Telling our Story" – putting Christian faith into action. The programme included talks by various employees and Church Support volunteers, but the most moving was by a young resident. She had a difficult background and left home with nowhere to go. She has been under the care of the YMCA Life Skills Officer, who works with the young people and helps them to develop into useful members of the community. She is now more confident and

feels that she has something to give in return, probably helping the work with young people.

The YM needs the support of the community and ideas for volunteering are shown below:-

Carers benefit project Ealing

This is a project run by the Community Benefits Team at Ealing Council, to encourage carers (people looking after someone who is ill or disabled, either a family member or friend for 35 hours or more) to claim carer's benefit.

We are asked to encourage people to get in touch with Chris Thomas if they need help or just want more details. The contact numbers are:- 020 8825 8588 or mobile 07545412261 – see posters on notice boards for details.

Chris will also arrange to hold a 'surgery' if there are people who wish to discuss problems.

There is more information on Page 11 of this **UNITY**.

Annual General Meeting- 15th November at 12.30pm

This is an important meeting, when as well as hearing about ongoing church matters including the financial report, we also hold an election for church officers.

This year the following Council Members retire:-

Anne Morris, Des Beylefeld, Carien DuPlooy, Valerie Jokosenumi

Under the terms of our constitution, Carien & Valerie are eligible & willing to stand for a further term of 4 years. We therefore have 2 other vacancies to fill. If you are a church member and willing to be considered as a Church Councillor, please ask John or Colin for a nomination slip.

Please do make an effort to attend this annual meeting.

Christmas Services

Full details will be available in due course but please note in your diaries:-

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm will be our annual 'Carols & Candles' service

Christmas Eve at 5.00pm – informal service 'around the Christmas tree'

Christmas Day at 10.00am – service for all the Family

Colin Hatherall

People used to think we just faked all that stuff... it was all written and rehearsed. The fact that it looks as cobbled together as it does is just that we weren't very good.

Terry Gilliam

Church Flower Fund and Rota for 2010

I will shortly be preparing the Flower Rota for next year. You are invited to remember any special anniversary, birthday or occasion for family or friends, by donating money for flowers on a Sunday of your choice.

If you would like to give the flowers on a specific Sunday, please let me know. Occasionally the date clashes with a date chosen by someone else, but I will do my best to accommodate your request. You will not need to arrange the flowers as well, if you do not wish to, but if you could be persuaded to 'give it a go', that would be wonderful – it can be a simple arrangement – just a bunch of flowers is fine.

The Flower Fund relies on your monetary support for floral decoration, Sunday by Sunday, to enhance our worship.

Thank you for your continued support.

Contributions would be welcome and may be handed to Gill Hatherall.

Prayer

Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer
utters itself. So, a woman will lift
her head from the sleeve of her hands and stare
at the minims sung by a tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth
enters our hearts, that small familiar pain;
then a man will stand stock-still, hearing his youth
in the distant Latin chanting of a train.

Pray for us now. Grade 1 piano scales
console the lodger looking out across
a Midlands town. Then dusk, and someone calls
a child's name as though they named their loss.

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer –
Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre.

The Times Saturday Review, 1992

Street Pastors – Fancy being someone’s Archangel Michael?

STOP PRESS! Street Pastors has launched in Acton, with a goal of rolling out across Ealing. The launch was at Acton Hill Methodist URC, on 9 October, and was attended by the police, the Mayoress, and a bunch of noisy and celebrating church people from all different denominations.

Street Pastors is a non-denominational Christian servant presence on our streets on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 pm to 4 am, and anyone over 18 and having been a member of a faith community for more than a year is eligible to train – there is no upper age limit, and they especially value older ‘pastors,’ as their presence can sometimes diffuse situations where a younger person would not. Street pastors work with (and are part-funded by) the police, and council: in the areas where they operate measurable reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour have resulted. The police quote a 30% drop in street crime in Lewisham, within the first 13 weeks; a 95% reduction in Camberwell, and 74% in Peckham. And no street pastor has ever been hurt on their patrols, in six years across the country.

What street pastors ARE: highly trained teams of 12, divided into groups of 3, patrolling streets and visiting pubs, night clubs, and parties in their locality and seeking to build a relationship with everyone: shop keepers, schools, businesses, families, local police, youth clubs and their leaders, etc. A street pastor’s main role is to make themselves available to care, listen, support and help vulnerable people, especially young individuals.

What street pastors ARE NOT: Bible-bashing, judgmental, castigating, or promoting church. A street pastor might help a young person who has been sick or lost their friends, and is confused about how to get home by waiting with them for the right bus and seeing them onto it. A street pastor might give someone underdressed for cold weather a shiny blanket to see them from place to place during their evening, or a pair of flip flops if stilettos get too hard to walk in. A street pastor might comfort someone who has had a hard night and needs a cup of tea, and diffuse conflict between different groups in the street at night.

Interested? Speak to Jen, look at <http://www.streetpastors.co.uk/> or email the local coordinator, Lehoma at ealing@streetpastors.org.uk. One pastor even uses an electric wheel chair...

Ealing Green Players

Plans are already in full swing for our next production, which will be performed next June. Although the play has been case, we will need lots of help with props, costumes, lighting etc.

If you feel you can help in any way, please contact Helen Harper on 020 8575 2623 or helenharper@hotmail.co.uk

The Players AGM will be held in the hall at 7.30 pm on Sunday November 29th. All members and interested parties are urged to come. Does a glass of wine and a mince pie tempt you?

P.S. Please hang on to all your unwanted Christmas presents and donate them to EGP’s ‘Good as New’ sale on February 13th 2010!

More about that later.

Helen Harper

Faith in Action



Why support West London YMCA?

West London YMCA is a charity which seeks to bring people together to put Christian faith into action. What that means for us in practice is that we are passionate about making a lasting difference to young people and their communities and about creating opportunities to transform young lives.

Supporting the work of WLYMCA is a practical outworking of Christian faith in action. And West London YMCA will provide you with a means to do that in your local community.

Time	Ideas for volunteering	Ideas for fundraising	Ideas for prayer
Weekly	Gardening Mentoring Life skills Helping run computer clubs	Regular giving	Pray for residents and staff
Monthly	Life skills Helping run computer clubs	Coffee morning Table sale	Meet in small groups to pray for particular projects
Annually	Events Christmas party, BBQ Hostel room refurbishment	Annual giving plan Special event – e.g. YMCA Sleep Easy " Big Sing " 17.12.09	Meet with other supporters at West London YMCA
Individuals	Any other volunteer role!	Sponsored events Individual giving – " Friends " scheme	Prayer book marks to pray for WLYMCA residents



Support YMCA Sleep Easy

Sleep rough
so others don't have to

Friday 30th January: 6pm – 6am

National YMCA sponsored sleep-out event to raise awareness about and funds for youth homelessness. Information packs, sponsorship forms and publicity available.

What next?

1. Tell us you're considering getting involved.
2. We'll meet with you to explore some possibilities.
3. You decide what you'd like to commit to.
4. We'll draw up a partnership agreement and make it happen.

Please contact:

Jan Lewis
Marketing Resource Manager
45, St. Mary's Road
Ealing W5 5RG
Email: jan.lewis@londonymca.org
Phone: 0300 11 11 500 ex. 6572

Turning Hope into Action in Indonesia



A major earthquake struck West Sumatra, Indonesia, during the afternoon of 30 September, causing major damage to the provincial capital of Padang and the surrounding Pariaman District.

Padang is a city of 900,000 people and sits on one of the world's most active fault lines along the so-called 'Ring of Fire'. The epicentre of the earthquake was located 57km west of Pariaman, and its effects were felt around the region, as far as away as Singapore and Malaysia. Another earthquake hit Jambi, the neighbouring province of West Sumatra the following morning, 1 October.

Schools and hospitals have been badly hit and thousands of homes have been damaged or completely destroyed. Over a thousand people are known to have died, and the death toll is expected to keep rising. Men, women and children are in desperate need of shelter, clean water and food.

This disaster comes less than five years after the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami struck in 2004. This was along the same fault line, killed more than 220,000 men, women and children, and left two million homeless.

We might ask where God is in the face of such horrifying statistics of death and destruction in an area of the world that has already suffered so greatly.

But the Christian story is one of hope, and, as people of faith, we believe that new life is possible in the darkest of situations. We can already see signs of hope in the tenacity and compassion of our partner agencies in the region, who responded immediately to the disaster.

The Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU) sent doctors and nurses as well as emergency supplies such as blankets, tents and hygiene kits to the area. The YTB (Disaster Response Foundation) will start distributing rice and blankets to survivors through its network of member churches. The Church World Service (CWS) is airlifting supplies to the Padang area.

These organisations are all Christian Aid partners, and Christian Aid has released emergency funds to support them. Once they have helped to meet the immediate relief needs, they will begin to rebuild the lives of people affected by the earthquake, and carry out disaster-preparedness work.

Our partners are an inspiration, refusing to give up in the face of widespread destruction and frequent disaster. Jim Wallis says: 'Believers have to choose between hope and cynicism. Cynics get disillusioned and end up a few steps back from engagement... hope is a decision... believing in spite of the evidence and watching the evidence change.'

Please play your part, through your prayers and gifts, in turning hope into action for the people of Indonesia, as well as all those affected by disasters across Asia Pacific, including in the Philippines.

You can help by donating on Sunday the 1st of November, to the DEC appeal on 0370 60 60 900 or online at www.dec.org.uk

The secret to true happiness is a combination of low expectations and insensitivity.

Olivia Goldsmith

News

Christian Aid alarmed at Euro finance let-down on climate change

By staff writers
21 Oct 2009

Christian Aid says it is alarmed that the European finance ministers' meeting in Luxembourg to discuss climate finance has broken up without agreement.

Eliot Whittington, the senior climate justice adviser for the UK-based international development NGO, declared: "Money is crucial. If the European Union can't agree a finance package, then they condemn the Copenhagen conference to failure. They need to offer at least 35 billion euros a year as their fair share of a global deal."

He continued: "There is only one week of formal negotiations left before Copenhagen. Brinkmanship of this nature is a betrayal of millions of poor people in developing countries who are already suffering the severe effects of climate change."

Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities in nearly 50 countries. It emphasises that it acts "where the need is greatest, regardless of religion, helping people build the life they deserve."

The agency has put pressure on the British government to play a positive role in climate negotiations and to take the lead wherever possible.

Climate change is already depriving poor people in many developing countries of their livelihoods, says the charity.

Christian Aid is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition - the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on the issue.

The coalition is 11 million strong and claims to be "the committed supporters, campaigners, hearts, minds and voices of more than 100 organisations."

Together with faith-based development agencies in a number of other European countries, Christian Aid has joined a new climate justice campaign called Countdown to Copenhagen.

You can follow their work on www.christianaid.org.uk/copenhagen

This article is reprinted from Ekklesia.co.uk

A politician is a person with whose politics you don't agree; if you agree with him he's a statesman.

David Lloyd George

Collection Point Collection Point



Our collection this month is for Christian Aid for the people of Indonesia, who have suffered yet again. There is another article in this newsletter giving more background of this natural disaster.

Indonesia

On Wednesday, 30th September, an earthquake struck Indonesia and left more than 1,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands injured.



Our partners are working to help as many people as possible and reach those most in need. They are delivering blankets, tents and emergency medical supplies to the area.

If you go to the Christian Aid web site, Arshinta, Director of our partner Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU), explains over the phone from Sumatra what the situation is like on the ground in the affected area of Padang and how her organisation is responding and some of the logistical problems they are facing. It is literally devastating.

Donations needed

Please give what you can to help survivors of the earthquakes, tsunamis and floods that have ravaged Asia Pacific region in the last few days.

Your donations will be used to help the people of the Philippines and Indonesia not only survive natural disaster but re-establish their livelihoods.

A prayer for those in need

God of compassion,
in Jesus you came among us, and sat beside us,
and heard our stories and healed our pain.
Be with all people suffering,
with all who have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones;
bring strength to all who are afraid.
Be with us as we work to build your Kingdom.
Where mourning and crying and pain will be no more.
Loving God, your story tells that life is stronger than death.
When we lose sight of hope and possibility,
Give us faith.
Amen

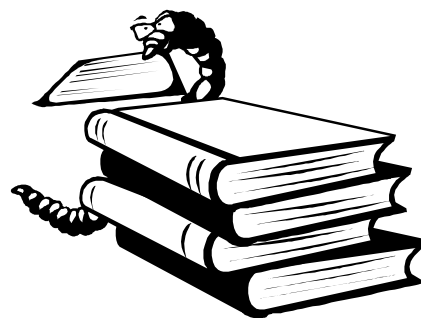
Please give generously - Thankyou

Trust yourself, then you will know how to live.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

From the Bookstall Books and Sundries for November 2009

As you are probably aware, Frances has been running the bookstall at Ealing Green for many years now. Sad to report, the sales have been tapering off over the last few years and it has come to the point where very few books or pamphlets have been sold or are expected to be sold, so it is not clear whether the Bookstall will be continuing.



This may be a rude surprise to some of you, but David and Frances would appreciate any feedback you are able to give on how to proceed for the future, so please contact them and let them know what you think

*Ealing Green Bookstall
Frances J. Groves*

Ealing Green Players

Ealing Green Players are putting on 'Waiting in The Wings' by Noel Coward early next year

It's about elderly leading ladies in a residential home who through age or misfortune have been reduced to poverty.

Please keep a note of it for your diary – and if you have any wish to help,

Please contact Helen.

This was handed to us recently. I hope the newspaper, The Observer, I think, doesn't mind us reproducing it here.



November Rotas

Remember - Remembrance Service 10.45am on the 8th

November		Preacher	Readers	Prayers	Communion Stewards	Coffee Duty *
1 st	11:00 am	Rev Jen Smith	Bernard Scott Rose	Martin Sarbicki	CDuP, JJ, CP, MS	<u>Louise</u> and Joan
	6:30 pm	CIRCUIT SERVICE AT GREENFORD				
8 th	10.45 am	Mr Jarel Robinson-Brown	Janette Pender	Ron Honor		<u>Linda</u> and Peter
	6:30 pm					
15 th	11:00 am	Rev Jen Smith	Ramesh Khanna	Ken & Shirley Shallis		<u>Martin</u> and Philip
	6:30 pm					
22 nd	11:00 am	Miss Vera Marston	Fleur Hatherall	Bill Lovell		<u>Hazel</u> and <u>Chris</u>
	6:30 pm					
29 th	11:00 am	Mrs K Philips	Ron Honor	Helen Harper		<u>Charles</u> and Patsy
	6:30 pm					

*Notes: Could we please have some volunteers for the Coffee Rota. All help is welcome - and it would be nice to see other faces behind the counter (no offence to those who already volunteer). Please could the underlined person bring milk. Readers as follows:

Bible Readers for:

December 2009

6th Jean Rose
 13th Ken Shallis
 20th Pat Sucher
 27th Shirley Shallis

January 2010 (can you believe it already?)

3rd Robina Thexton
 10th Tina Berry
 17th Yvonne Moyo
 24th Marian Martin
 31st Boni Moyo

If any of the above dates is inconvenient, please arrange for a substitute.