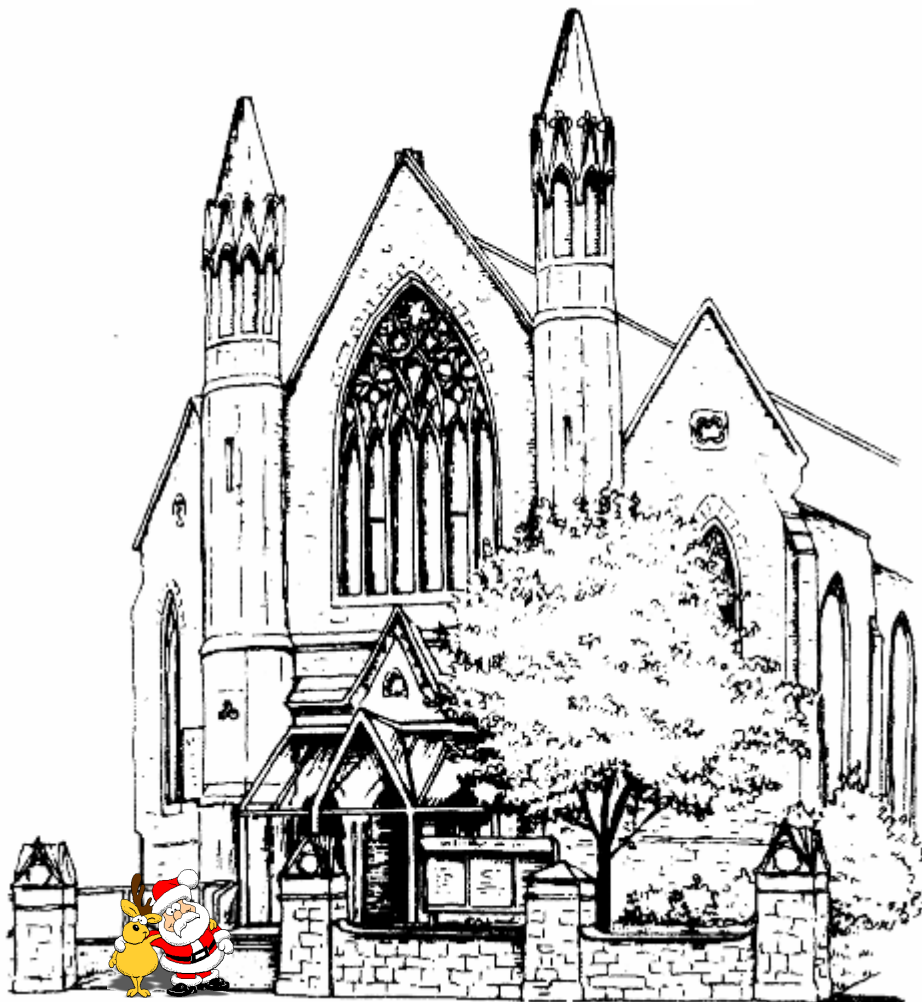


UNITY



The Newsletter of the Ealing Green Church

Ealing Green Church, The Green, Ealing, London W5 5OT



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December 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR! That is, happy church new year...

No, I'm not a month early, though any excuse for a party: the four Sundays of Advent (beginning November 29) are the first 'season' in the new year in Christian churches that follow the pattern of the lectionary. For those who wonder and to remind those for whom it's old hat, the lectionary is those passages listed at the top of each Sunday column in our Circuit Plan. We share them with churches around the world. In all the diversity of culture and tradition we consider the same texts week by week, which has something to recommend it. They repeat on a three year cycle with each year emphasising a different Gospel, so we have just finished the second year (Mark) and are moving into the third (Luke). Anoraks will note that the Gospel according to John does not have its own year, but gets woven through the other three at the big feasts and festivals. That's why we get the spine-tingling 'In the beginning was the Word...' each Christmas, as John announces the coming Messiah. Could anything be as exciting as the beginning of a new liturgical year? Tee hee, let's see if I can convince you.

The liturgical year has seasons just like the calendar, each season with its own colours, flavour, and events: much as Autumn means falling leaves and Spring means crocuses in the calendar year, Advent means waiting, and Christmas feasting; Lent means repentance, and Easter rejoicing. Over the year, the seasons draw us subtly through the birth and life of Jesus to his death, resurrection, and teaching about what comes next. The high points are the big festivals and feasts, some of which mark joy and some tragedy – Christmas, Ash Wednesday, the events of Holy Week, Pentecost. Don't be confused that the name of the season is sometimes the name of the feast, as in Christmas (which properly lasts 12 days... truly an endurance test for the party-goers among us) or that different churches sometimes use different streams in the scripture they follow. The point is that we cultivate a common approach, with a common spiritual pattern around the world, in all our any different places and circumstances.

But back to Advent: I love Advent with its sense of promise and expectation. In Advent we clean house (spiritual and actual, for those of us with family coming) to prepare for Christ's coming, and we remember how to wait. It's that second bit about waiting that is perhaps most counter-cultural and beneficial to us living in the busy streets of an international city. Patience, (that is, the ability to wait without anxiety or frustration) is not a virtue particularly cultivated by our popular culture or society. We want things now, and quickly – either in our getting of things or our access to information, our solving of problems or our approach to people. Certainly this is as true in church as out of it. Immediate gratification is the order of the day, and the object of much of what our world thinks of as progress.

Of course, there is much apparent good in the 'right now' culture when it is about big things like clean water or political justice, or even small ones like a bus coming quickly on a rainy day. Waiting is hard work, as anyone who has ever waited for a doctor's appointment, or for a wound to heal, or to find out about a new job, will know. Waiting takes skills, encouragement and support. If we forget how to do it, we risk not only making our own lives harder than they need be, but also subtly marginalising those who have no choice but to wait. Our culture pushes past the ones who move slowly, treating an inability to participate in the 'right now' information age almost as a moral disability. The teasing, 'what, no email?' can too easily become an authorised marginalisation of people who are for whatever reason, not part of the fast-moving 'right now' world.

A culture that forgets the value of waiting forgets what it is to live in God's time – it loses the beauty of the present in a perpetual anxious grasping for what is not yet. If we continually look to the next thing, we miss the blessings of right now, and God's gifts around us. It breeds a sense of dissatisfaction, an anxious measurement of self against illusive arbitrary goals. And mere getting or arriving then carries no satisfaction, because we are off and away to the next thing. Speaking for myself only, when I get caught in an impatient spirit I tend also to let my greedy instincts dictate the terms of what I want and seek after, rather than my less selfish parts: a season to practice waiting on God's promises is a good thing.

You begin to see why I might treat the beginning of this new season with some celebration! We need it! Advent then, is the spiritual season where we practice living in God's time, not our own. We remember the baby growing slowly in Mary's womb and Joseph's patient and difficult choices. We practice holding off and watching to see where God is at work. We wrap presents and hide them, we make plans and lay-in supplies of food. Practising this in community, we will be lighting candles on our Advent wreath each week, building to Christmas. Each week we will consider a different theme in relation to the scripture as we together gather to see the miracle that God is again bringing into the world, and how we might respond. There are many devotional guides to draw us through Advent and its mysteries, and I recommend them: it is a wonderful season to watch, and wait, to slow down and remember the important things of life. We'll hopefully have a few parties too, as we share the familiar carols and candlelight, expectation and wonder. So whether I have convinced you that the new liturgical year is worth excitement or not, enjoy this season of expectation! Pause and open your ears for what is coming.

Jen

Ealing Green Players

Ealing Green Players have re-arranged the dates for their Spring Production of "Waiting in the Wings", which at the time of going to press, will be on APRIL 21st, 23rd and 24th 2010.

We still need help in every department, so if you can help in any way it will be much appreciated. Also, I know it's a long way off, but PLEASE make a note of our "Good as New" sale on Saturday FEB 13th. We shall be appealing for good donations of clothes, books, bric-a-brac, unused Christmas presents--any thing that sells, really. We need to raise some money to fund the play. I can collect things (preferably AFTER Christmas) so just give me a ring 0208 575 2623.

Many thanks in advance

Helen

Church Notice

Ladies , don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

UNITY

Well, it's another month and another year, or should I be saving these profound words for next month's edition. In the words of Magnus Magnusson, 'I've started, so I'll finish'. It's been quite a good year for some, as long as you look back on 2008 as being a pretty horrible one. We have made some new friends in the church family and had a few marriages and even a couple of christenings. Against that we have had to say good bye to some long time friends, and that's never something done lightly. It's easy to say that we should rejoice in the fact that we have been blessed to have had their company and there is a great deal to be said for that point of view. The major problem, as far as I am concerned, and greed is not something that I would like to shout about, is that I am greedy for more. You just can't get enough of some people and when they go, they leave a sense of wanting more.

I guess that's one of life's lessons and one that we will be able to contemplate over the coming month. This time of the year the church concentrates on the story of the beginning. We get to the end, of this part of the story, not the real end, in another few months, ironically when, in the northern hemisphere, everything starts coming into full growth.

The story of the beginning and the birth of Jesus and all that surrounds it is a nice antidote to the dark evenings and cold, not to say wet and rotten weather, as the story offers a light and inspiration to get us through the shortest days and off into the New Year. By the way, if you are reading this in the first week of December, you will have noticed that the days are not getting shorter by much and by the time we get to the annual carols and the culmination of the high street's exhortations to buy and consume your heart out, the days will actually be getting longer – although as you fight your way through the throngs intent on securing that after Christmas bargain, it might not seem like it.

Another thing at this time of year is that it is family time and a rare, at least for us, opportunity to assemble the family for a few days. This is not something you want to overdo, but a couple of days, before open hostilities break out, is something to look forward to.

So there's quite a bit for us to do in the next few weeks and something to look forward to before we have to put the calendar back to January. I always feel like I'm starting everything all over again in January. On the one hand this is good as it is a clean slate to start with, but on the other hand, I've just got used to the old year and getting up and starting anew is something that I am becoming increasingly resistant to – a sign of advancing years? Anyway, it will be the start of the end, which won't arrive for another several weeks, of winter, when we can have some spring and enjoy the world from a less muffled and raincoated up perspective.

Last Sunday I noticed that we were singing another Fred Kaan hymn. I saw, at the end of the hymn that Fred had been born in 1929. I thought that he was just a bit younger than my mum and wondered if he was still with us. It seems that he was – at least until October the 4th. Later that evening, I was walking the dog and listening to 'Last Words' on Radio 4. They gave Fred a real write up and, having heard it and read about him, quite rightly so. I have reproduced an obituary of him from the URC web site in this edition and will never sing one of his hymns in the future without thinking of him. The glowing tributes and the warm personal reminiscences of those who knew him made it quite clear. He was quite a character.

God bless you



Letters

From Peter Chadburn

Dear Friends

Over the past few months I have benefited from a lot of kindness, warmth, prayers and friendship from many quarters and it has also made me look at life in a different way. The daily observations can mean something quite different to what they did before. When I opened Kathy's folder I found her instructions for her funeral amongst the papers and to see 1 Corinthians 13 as her reading made me pick up my Bible and take a read. Love was her motivation and the idea of 'but have not love, I am nothing' is something that should apply to more in our lives. Her Grandmother who lived a simple but good life was her guiding light and her influence on young Kathy was great.

As I travel into London I see people on their iPods and iPhones submerged into an odd world where Hundreds of people talk to people who are elsewhere but not to the person sat next to them. The iPod to me stands for 'I am in my little Pod world so clear off!!' In our crowded trains we stand there surrounded but alone. It is a strange sight to see this new wonder of technology called the iPhone, it can do everything and can even make a call. So book the chiropodist, e-mail, check the football results. It can even tell you where you are. But surely I am on the 8:09 from Hanwell to Paddington so why do I need that? It begins with an "i" which to me says it all. You can have a small device that does it all and organises your life, but in reality our enjoyment and satisfaction in life revolves around interaction with others and not a small device. I have worked with Computers all my adult life and have an interest in Gadgets but the one I enjoyed the most was the Wii, where I had a boxing match with a cartoon figure. Kathy had a go at the Tennis. It was fun and it was shared. So perhaps when it comes down to it there is a lot of meaning in the Brand Names. The Wii (We) is about sharing and the iPhone is about myself. I love my music and the idea of an iPod does have it's appeal but I really like the idea of being amongst people at the moment and not to shut myself off.

Are we in danger of becoming people who text, e-mail but do not talk or listen? The Teenagers who wait on mobile calls to find out what is happening, only to find that life is dull because nothing happens without people doing something. So whilst we look to get something for friends and family this Christmas should we try to be a bit more thoughtful and perhaps think about the real pleasure we can give.

To Kathy the latest gadget meant nothing, though she did enjoy the SKY+ box. It was about the many people that surrounded her and to share in their lives. At the beginning of December her sister Jenny will be getting married in Coleraine in Northern Ireland and I will be there to share in her happiness and to do a reading for her in Church. The Pleasure I will get from that Day will be one of many happy things I have enjoyed in recent months. Recently when I was over there I met Jenny's two Grandsons Noah and Tyler and shared in the pleasure that all the young Children give to her family. It was also lovely to hand out gifts that she had made of Jewellery to family members and to see what it meant for them.

So at the end of the day we all know that the Love that is shared is God's gift to us, and also gives us the most satisfaction. To be happy for others is a lovely feeling.

God Bless
Peter Chadburn

From Frank Bedwell

Dear Christian Friends at Ealing Green Church. It was a great pity that I could not be at the 37th anniversary of our joined church. We are still short staffed here at Madeley road. Maria will be away this weekend in Spain for four days. I am still rehearsing for my part as the compère of the talent show CMGS got talent. I am also Michael Jackson at this year's service users conference which takes place on Thursday. Our house manager Diana will be there also Mr Ironuba who works here part time. Maria sends here regards to you all.

I enjoyed the morning service on Sunday the 25th of October led by Rachel ##. My letter was not in the November Unity. There was a post strike and the Royal Mail is very busy sorting out the letters and parcels in time for the Christmas post.

Maria and I will be at the Carols and Candles service on Sunday December 20th at 6.30 pm led by our minister Dr. Rev. Jen Smith MPhil and Christmas Eve carols round the tree and also the Christmas Day morning Family Service at 10 o'clock, also led by Dr. Rev. Jen Smith.

Our college will be closed unto January 2010. I am still the editor of the CMG newsletter, and am very busy with my typing letters. We look forward to the Christmas lights being switched on in London this year. I am still a devoted Christian and believe in the life everlasting and I pray for you all.

I have typed my letter early because of the possible post strike over the Christmas. Let us hope it doesn't go ahead and may God bless you all and a Happy Christmas to you all.

From Margaret Lewis

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the church for their prayers and good wishes for a speedy recovery after my unfortunate fall recently.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Lewis

From Rene Edwards

Dear Friends,

Michael, Gillian and I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank Jen for her wonderful support and encouragement as we come to terms with our sad loss of Doug.

The funeral service that Jen conducted on Wednesday 11th November was one of reflection and thanksgiving for Doug's life, which she achieved with great sympathy, sensitivity and humour and our family are so grateful to her as it brought us all immense comfort.

Our thanks too must go to the many friends who attended the service, also to those unable to come, who have offered their prayers and words of comfort. I personally have been overwhelmed by the love that has been shown to us.

A special thank you goes to Ken, who spoke with great affection and friendship in his tribute to Doug and to Helen and her kitchen team who catered for us all so beautifully, in their true selfless style. I know only too well what an undertaking it is, to cater for so many!

Finally, we would like to thank all those who made a donation towards the Parkinson's Disease charities, so that their work both locally and nationally may continue.

We know the days and months ahead will not be easy but we shall continue on, knowing that we have the support of so many friends.

With kindest thanks and best wishes,
Rene Edwards.

From Lirea and Des Beylefeld

Dear friends at Ealing Green,

I can't believe Christmas is just over a month away! Jan-Willem is almost 6 months now and it seems like it is just going all too quickly. He is a very cheerful and healthy baby and we are so grateful and know that our lives will never be the same again-only better (and of course busier!...).

Des is doing well and has really settled into his new job. I will be back at work again in January - a daunting prospect but at the same time I secretly hope that being a mum will at least make me a better teacher.

Christmas is always a time of reflection and of taking stock of one's joys and sorrows. We hope that your joys will outweigh your sorrows as you look back at 2009 and may God bless you and keep you!



We hope to see you soon.

All our love,
Des, Lirea and Jan-Willem Beylefeld

News of the Church Family

Frank Bedwell has a painful, swollen leg. He has been an in-patient in Ealing Hospital for two weeks, so will be spending his birthday in bed. He's looking forward to celebrating when he gets home!

Ruth Doe has been in Charing Cross Hospital for three weeks. She has severe pain in her foot. Doctors are trying to improve the circulation in her leg.

Irene Robey had surgery in Ealing Hospital three weeks ago. She has had some setbacks but is now making progress and is expecting to be discharged soon.

Eileen Greenwood was in Ealing Hospital for a week but is now out and about. She has decided to move to a flat, in a residential village near to her son and his wife, in the next month or two. Eileen has lived in Ealing and been connected with Ealing Broadway Methodist/Ealing Green Church for 52 years. We will miss you Eileen but hope that you will quickly settle in your new home.

Shirley Phimister and **Anne Marston** have both fallen this week and each has cracked a rib. This is a very painful injury and obviously will limit some of their activities.

Ela Trail's son, **Peter** has had a biopsy taken. Although he does not have a diagnosis yet, he has been given encouraging news and Ela thanks all at Ealing Green who have been praying for them..

Sandra & Riaan Kinghorn's baby is due next week and we look forward to hearing of his/her safe arrival. The baby will be introduced to us at a blessing to be held during the service on 20th December.

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

Congratulations to **Linda Quinn's** daughter, **Phillipa**, who married **Dan Blake** on 17th October at Hampton Court Palace. We wish them every happiness together. After two weeks honeymoon, Dan has had planned surgery to one hip and will have an operation on the other one in a few months. We hope that this will relieve his pain.

Linda's other daughter, **Victoria**, is expecting a baby girl at the end of November – exciting news!

(**Phillipa** and **Victoria** were both regular members of Junior Church many years ago)

We send our love and sympathy to **Rene Edwards** on the death of **Doug**, on 29th October. A Thanksgiving Service for his life was held at Ealing Green on 11th November.

My father dealt in stocks and shares and my mother also had a lot of time on her hands.

Hermione Gingold

Updates from the Church Secretary

Diary Reminders:

Special Christmas Services

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 5 th December | Christmas Fayre at Acton Hill Methodist & URC – 11.00am-2.00pm |
| 20 th December | Carols & Candles at Ealing Green – 6.30pm |
| 24 th December | Carols around the Tree for all the Family – 5.00pm |
| 25 th December | Christmas Praise at 10.00am |
| 31 st December | Circuit Watchnight Service at Acton Hill – 11.30pm |

Preachers during December:-

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| 6 th December | 11.00 am | Our own Minister – Rev Jen Smith with Holy Communion |
| 13 th December | 11.00 am | a Local Preacher & Storyteller from Harrow |
| 20 th December | 11.00 am | Rev Jen Smith |
| | 6.30 pm | Rev Jen Smith - Carols & Candles |
| 27 th December | 11.00 am | Rev Roger Dunlop – Circuit Minister |

Annual General Meeting – 15th November

The following Councillors were elected to serve a second term of 4 years:-

Carien Du Plooy and Valerie Jokosenumi

In the absence of a nomination for Church Treasurer, Jonathan Morris has agreed to 'bridge the gap' by continuing in this office for a few months, while we seek and train a new Treasurer.

Christmas Hampers

It has been decided that we should continue the practice of providing 'goodies' to fill a couple of Christmas Hampers. This year we will be distributing them to clients of The Ealing Debt Counselling Centre, who otherwise will be facing a dismal festive period. Details of suggested items will be provided.

Secretary's Duties

At the AGM, it was decided to publish the definition of the Church Secretary's duties. They are as follows:

1. To act with Council regarding implementation of:-
 - a) Constitution
 - b) Sharing Agreement
 - c) Legislative requirements, including those of Trustees.
2. Arrange:-
 - a) Council / Church meetings as required
 - b) Council Elections etc @ AGM
 - c) Minutes to be taken at Church & C.C. meetings
 - d) Assist in the process of Ministerial Vacancies, according to denominational procedure.

3. To serve the Minister & Council, ensuring that Church needs are met, including essential communication to keep members informed / consulted.
4. To deal with correspondence, in association with the Church Admin. Officer, and to act as Link Mailing Officer, so that all important communications may be correctly distributed.
5. Assist Minister with compilation of the Circuit 'Plan', including invitation to 'visiting preachers', to ensure that there is coordinated worship on all Sundays.
6. Ex officio representative at Methodist Circuit Meeting – 3 per annum

Treasurer's duties

It was also agreed to publish the job description for the Treasurer.

1. Weekly

- Supervise and record Sunday collection counting by finance sub-committee. (Weekly Banking presently done by Colin Hatherall).
- Payments - make and record petty cash payments for church expenses. Receive and review invoices, write cheques, organise counter signature and despatch of cheques for church expenses and donations;
- Organise international money transfers;
- Main contact point for Bank accounts, Insurers, Suppliers, Letting Agents, Ealing Council (on finance matters) the Ealing Trinity Circuit Treasurer (Peter Green) and the URC Thames North Finance office.

2. Monthly

- Produce Bank reconciliations;
- Report to Church Council;
- Nomination, with finance sub-committee of monthly communion charity;
- Dealing with enquiries as to possible donations, significant expenditure, liaising with and seeking approvals from finance sub committee as necessary;

3. Annually

- Correspond on behalf of Ealing Green Church (EGC) on finance matters
- The Treasurer is one of EGC's representatives at Ealing Trinity Circuit meetings (3 per year).
- Attend URC District Treasurers annual meeting;
- Attend Methodist Circuit Treasurers annual meeting;
- Annual reconciliation with the Ealing Trinity Circuit of payments to and receipts from the Circuit
- Responsible for cash at Summer Fete
- Responsible for annual Gift Aid applications to HM Revenue & Customs (Gift Aid envelope recording presently done by Aki Cummings-Palmer).
- Gather information from church organisations to finalise annual accounts,
- Annual Finance sub committee meeting to review the annual accounts, consider and agree rent increases and
- Consider investments and any other financial issues arising;
- Organisation of annual inspection of the accounts by "auditor" (presently Charles Kenny).
- Preparation and presentation of church accounts and Budget to EGC AGM.

EALING GREEN CHURCH: Re-furbishment Committee -

Report to Church AGM (15/11/09)

Committee Members: Bill Lovell (Convener), Carien du Plooy, Colin Paige, Fleur Hatherall, Jonathan Morris; Rev Dr Jen Smith (last two meetings).

Committee meetings held: July 23rd, August 6th, September 3rd, 23rd, October 8th 2009.

A comprehensive tour of the premises during the first meeting, inside and out, resulted in a list of detailed points committee members would like to see included in any final schemes for alterations. These lists are available for any who are interested and will be passed to the Property Committee for further consideration.

It was agreed that the emphasis for the committee should be on 'the big picture' - an overall plan for the development of the Church Site (excluding the Manse) over the coming 10+ years, within the guiding principle of

'Change for a Purpose'.

Later detailed work can pull in others to concentrate on particular areas, following the required discussion and agreements in Church Council and Church Meeting, on specific projects, under the management of the Property Committee.

Previous 'Facing the Future' and 'Dreams' exercises were considered; some action had resulted (eg the Church projection system, the new Church sound system, the improvements to the Garth), but other aspects had not yet been pursued. It was agreed that funding for any proposed projects should not only come from reserves but should provide opportunities for congregational involvement.

The committee agreed to make recommendations to the Church Council and the Church Meeting under two headings:

Section One

Little Church / Small Hall should continue to be let commercially as an income generator for the Church; consideration should be given to the length of a future lease (the present lease has about three years to run), to allow some flexibility for future alternative use(s), beyond the 10 year study period.

No 3 Victoria Terrace (lower two flats) should continue to be let commercially as an income generator for the Church (unless there is a need for accommodation for a 'caretaker'); continued use of a letting agent is recommended.

The **Rear Premises** need access improvements and disabled toilet facilities; these could be provided by building a new extension to the entrance foyer (taking up part of the Patio), with improved, covered, lit access down the side of the Church, removal of the green gates, improved signage and bicycle storage; access / fire exit to a new rear driveway (part of the development at No 2/4/6 The Grove) could be incorporated.

Maximum community use of the rear premises should be encouraged, including subsidised use by worthwhile groups to whom the Church is sympathetic; this may lead to an expanded administrator and/or 'caretaker' role being needed.

If in future the demand appears to justify the disruption, the Church Meeting should consider the cost and benefits of adding one or two rooms above the Rainbow Room and the Parlour (as provided for in the original building design).

The **Church frontage** is in urgent need of improvement, including:

- Signage (for both Church activities and functions using the rear premises, possibly including some type of electronic signage)
- External lighting
- Possibly an extension of the porch towards the pavement (to provide weather cover and ease the transition from street to Church interior)
- Parking was considered, and it was felt that if additional space for Church use is required the best solution would be to withdraw the spaces from the three flats in No 3 Victoria Terrace, with a consequent reduction in letting rates. There are concerns over the management required for even this amount of parking.

Section Two

Church Interior

Four options were suggested and discussed at length by the committee:

1. Do nothing
2. Re-decorate
3. Put either a single proposal or competing proposals to the Church Meeting for a decision
4. Hold a series of discussions involving the whole Church membership

The committee considered option 1 to be inappropriate given the current state of the building and option 3 to be likely to prove highly divisive. It was recognised that a decision to do nothing more than re-decorate (option 2) would cause significant concern to some people.

The committee (and the Church Council) therefore recommends that re-modelling (or 're-ordering') of the Church interior be the subject of a series of four guided discussion meetings to be led by our Minister, open to all, to gather and clarify thoughts and seek as much consensus as possible but accepting that some disagreement may be inevitable. These gatherings would take place after Sunday morning services and would last approx 45 - 60 minutes each, possibly including a snack lunch at each session. A possible date for commencement of the series would be Sunday 24th January 2010, with further sessions on Jan 31st, Feb 7th and Feb 21st. A significant level of commitment from Church Members to this process will be needed if it is to be worthwhile. Following this series, one or more proposals should be drafted and put to the Church Meeting in March. It was agreed that decisions should be made within a reasonable time frame, considering the many years of discussion which have already passed without constructive conclusion.

Significant factors for consideration within the process include:

- Flexibility of the space for worship and the liturgical significance of the configuration of the space available
- Appropriate space for the Choir
- Suitability of the building for other functions (including weddings, funerals and potential secular uses) and the acceptability of various types of secular use to Church members
- A wish (from some) for an increase in the usage of the building, beyond one worship service per week
- What is the best use which can be made of the Gallery?

A few words about a special trouper Ken's tribute to Doug Edwards

Douglas Clifford Edwards was born in 1918 in Camden. But he didn't stay for long. He moved to Ealing aged 18 months (not unaided) and has stayed here ever since.



He joined the Cubs at the age of 9 and from then on matured his great gift of making people happy. His skills as an entertainer grew to be unbounded as did his monologues and skills as a raconteur, actor, and writer of sketches, especially for the Scouts. There were also considerable theatrical skills - many more - but probably above all he was a ventriloquist par excellence.

Doug's working career was varied before World War Two. When he did his bit in the army he was a medical orderly, but his Variety skills could not be subdued and he was involved in army entertainments and eventually was a performer with 'Stars in Battledress' a famous group of professional standard. When the war ended he turned professional as a ventriloquist.

In case you may think there was nothing else in Doug's life, he met a charming young lady, Rene and in 1947, what joy! They married. What a partnership! Rene, apart from everything else, could make suits for his ventriloquist dolls! Not only that, but she could make baby clothes for Michael and then Gillian, who arrived in due course.

Doug was working as a publisher and latterly as an Exhibition Designer. A most suitable job I'm sure. He retired I think from the exhibition business.

Doug and Rene worshiped for many many years, at West Ealing Baptist Church, where they were involved with Scouts and many other aspects. But when that church was sold, which was heart breaking for them both; they came to Ealing Green and rapidly became dear friends of us all. Not only did they worship here but guess what else? Yes, entertainment. I call them a team, for Rene was with him all the way, as she ever was. She even made yet another suit for Doug's Doll for a part in Godspel here in 2000. Doug appeared in two or three 3 act plays, entertained Bright Hour and so on.

Now to end up. No more funny bits. We all love Rene and we will all be with her. For Doug?

Well - for me, no sessions of the history of Variety. No more jokes; no more Shakespearian quotes; no more hearing of the many Stars he had met; no more of his fluent French, which I could not understand. But for all of us thank God that we have had the joy of knowing and loving

Douglas Clifford Edwards.

We will all meet again with Doug, but be sure that he will be on centre stage. Not half!

Ken Shallis

A major difference between witches and psychotherapists is that witches see the mental health of women as having important political consequences.

Naomi R. Goldenberg

Dad

Gill Fox's Memories of her Dad, Doug Edwards (as read at his funeral on 11th November).

DAD

My Dear Old Dad wasn't always old and he wasn't always ill.

We as a family have many wonderful and happy memories of him. Some of which I would like to share with you today.

When I was a little girl, Dad would try and teach me how to waltz. I would stand in stocking feet, on top of his and he would hold me very tight. Together we would wobble our way around the room, trying not to bump into things, but keeping in time with the music. Now, whenever I hear Verdi's La Traviata, I think of Dad and my dancing lessons, but unfortunately I still have two left feet!

Every Sunday Dad would take my brother Mickey and I to Sunday School and for some reason we would always walk. Dad would shoot off at break neck speed, marching down the road in true army fashion and Mickey and I would have to run like mad to keep up with him! Secretly I think it was a ploy to exhaust us, so that we wouldn't fidget in church!

But I think the one real memory we all have of Dad, is Dad the Entertainer. He loved all things theatrical, any excuse to dress up and act! At Christmas there was no need for the television, he would make up endless games and quizzes for us to play, or recite his monologues or perform his tricks. On one occasion Dad disappeared for ages and eventually there was a knock at the door and in walked Dame Edna Everage complete with glasses, wig, dress, gloves and of course a gladioli. "Hallo Possums!" was the greeting.

Well Dad, you've played your final role.
The lights have dimmed.
The curtain has fallen for the last time.
It's time to rest in peace.

But we, your audience, will never stop applauding, because you played your part so well. We love you and miss you. But we will always give thanks for the privilege of "Treading the Boards" with you.

God Bless.

Gill Fox

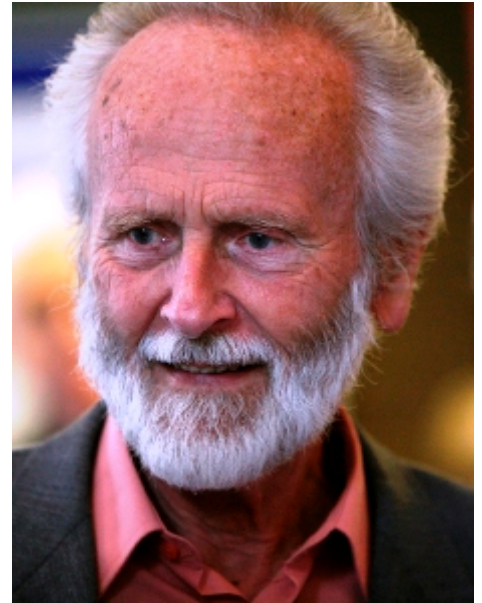
This really is a merger of equals. I wouldn't have come back to work for anything less than this fantastic opportunity. This lets me combine my two great loves - technology and biscuits.

Lou Gerstner

Fred Kaan, a 'Great' among Hymnwriters, Dies

The Revd Fred Kaan, one of the great hymnwriters of the Twentieth Century, and a minister of the United Reformed Church, has died, aged 80. His hymns are found in most Protestant English language hymn books, among the best-known being 'For the healing of the nations' and 'Now let us from this table rise'. He died in the early hours of Sunday 4 October.

Although his health had been failing for sometime, he was well enough to make a special appearance at the United Reformed Church General Assembly in 2008, where he took part in a public discussion with two other hymnwriters, Brian Wren and Alan Gaunt.



Born in the Netherlands, Fred spent the war years under Nazi occupation, an experience which marked his life, with a deep concern for peace and justice. In his late teens, for the first time, he began to attend church and at 18 was confirmed. He decided to study theology and psychology at Utrecht University. On a visit to England he stayed with a family belonging to a Congregational Church and was so impressed with Congregationalism that, when he decided to offer for the Christian ministry in 1952, he chose Western College.

After a first pastorate in Barry, in 1963 he was called to Pilgrim Church, Plymouth. It was there that he began to be known for his hymn writing. With his wide experience, his strong convictions, and a gift for languages, after five years he became the minister-secretary of the International Congregational Council which united in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. In 1978 Fred returned to England to become the Moderator of the West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church. During this time he also served as an officer of the Council for World Mission, becoming its chairman. His final pastorate was in Swindon and he retired in 1990.

With his wife, Elly, Fred had two sons, Martin and Peter and a daughter, Alison. After Elly's death, Fred married Anthea, who has cared for him devotedly in retirement and especially in the last few years.

The Revd Roberta Rominger, general secretary of the United Reformed Church said: "We thank God for the gift to us of Fred Kaan, whose passion for peace and justice, ecumenical drive and ability to enable the Church to sing the faith in plain but moving speech have had a major influence on the Church in the last half of the Twentieth Century."

The funeral, and a celebration of Fred Kaan's life and ministry was held at Penrith United Reformed Church, Cumbria, on Monday 12th October.

A bachelor's life is no life for a single man.

Samuel Goldwyn

Some Thanks from Those, Over the Year, who you have Contributed to

We want to say a big



Thank you

Leprosy patient in Mozambique



Ealing Green Church

For your kind donation of

£200.00

To support the work of The Leprosy Mission

November 2009

Thank you for helping us to be there when she needed us the most

www.leprosymission.org.uk



"For when I was hungry, you gave me food, when thirsty, you gave me drink, when naked, you clothed me..."
(Matthew 25:35)

Ealing Green United Reformed & Methodist
Ealing Green
Ealing
London
W5 5QT

30th September 2009

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Thank you very much for the harvest items that your church congregation have collected for the soup kitchen. These items will be used over the coming months to hand out a much needed "take away" bag of useful provisions when our clients leave the soup kitchen each weekend.

The abundance of harvest items at this time of year does however present the soup kitchen with quite a challenge in terms of collection and importantly storage and I would ask as a suggestion that in future that a gift of money instead would remove this storage headache and then we can instead buy good "street food" when our cupboard is low throughout the year. I know this is not always popular as many people like to give a physical gift at harvest time!

In addition we often end up with some rather strange items that are not always appropriate for our soup kitchen clients most of whom have no kitchen facilities in either their home or on the streets. That is why we normally purchase items such as corned beef and sardines with rag pulls as these are the most requested items as they can be easily eaten without cooking or the need for utensils.

Once again I thank you for your generosity.

Yours sincerely



JULIAN LLOYD
Coordinator and Treasurer

JULIAN LLOYD (COORDINATOR & TREASURER) 6 LAMMAS PARK GARDENS EALING LONDON W5 5HZ
TEL: 020 836 7431 MOBILE: 0779818311 EMAIL: JULIAN.LLOYD@GSAKONLINE.CO.UK

ALZHEIMER'S CONCERN

Over 26 years of supporting people with dementia

223 Windmill Road, Ealing, L
Executive Director: Frances English Tel: 020 836 7431
Email address: alzconcern@btconnect.com #2636

9 November 2009

Ref: BK/7550

Mr J Morris
6 Lammas Park Gardens
Ealing
W5 5HZ

Dear Mr Morris

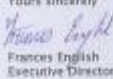
Please convey our heartfelt thanks to the congregation of Ealing Green Church for the very generous donation of £200; your church is greatly appreciated by us all.

In the current economic climate, donations and subscriptions are all the more important to us and help us to continue to provide services for people with dementia and their carers. We have two services in particular, for which we have so far been unable to obtain funding and I would appreciate it if you could let your congregation know that the money will go towards one of these services.

The first is our Working Age Dementia Group - this is a one day per week centre for people with dementia under the age of 65. The second is our Dementia Cafe - ACE Night Out - this is a bi-monthly educational and social event for both the person with dementia and their carer. Until now, two volunteers raised sufficient funds through fetes and other events to enable us to provide this service. Unfortunately, this past year has been disastrous for them and we are now having to consider how we can continue to fund the service.

Thank you again for your support; it sustains us in every way and makes the staff aware of just how much their hard work is appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Frances English
Executive Director

Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust

DEPARTMENT OF RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

Dr Robert Wilson, MD FRCP, Consultant Physician
Dr Saad Abdulkh, MRCP (London), Chest Physician
Dr Zaid Zaemot, SpR (Morp 1001)
Secretary - Direct Line: 020 7361 8337 - Fax: 020 7343 8326

Tel: 020 7 361 8337
Fax: 020 7 361 8326

EW/rd

Typed: 2nd November 2009

Jonathan Morris
Treasurer
Ealing Green Church
Ealing Green
London W5 5QT

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you so much for your kind donation to my research fund in the memory of Kathy Dobson. As you know I looked after Kathy for many years, and came to admire her so much. She always faced her medical problems with much bravery and good humour. I agree with you that she is sadly missed.

Please thank your congregation for this most generous donation. It is only by receiving donations such as this that our research can keep moving forward at its present momentum. Our major projects at the moment are trying to discover better ways of monitoring lung inflammation, which we will use to guide treatment. We have just completed a study of a new anti-inflammatory agent which seems very exciting. We are also testing whether inhaled corticosteroids, which are used by many patients with bronchospasm (the lung disease suffered by Kathy), give sufficient benefit to make their known side effects acceptable.

Thank you once again.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Robert Wilson MD FRCP
Consultant Physician



Methodist Homes for the Aged
Brooklands Court, Sandral Road, Leeds LS11 9RL
Phone: 0113 271 8805 Fax: 0113 271 8849
Email: enquiries@mha.org.uk Website: www.mha.org.uk

3 November 2009

Mr Jonathan Morris
6 Lammas Park Gardens
Ealing
W5 5HZ

Dear Mr Morris

Donation: £200 Ealing Green Methodist Church

On behalf of MHA I would like to express our sincere thanks for the contribution from Ealing Green Methodist Church. We are most grateful for this support, please pass on our thanks and appreciation to all concerned.

Our charitable income is vital in helping us to provide new services, and enhance the lives of those older people already in our care. At present we serve 12,500 older people with plans to reach out to many more. Donations such as yours help us to turn those plans into reality.

Thank you again for your continued support and for sharing our mission of a better quality of life for older people.

Yours sincerely



Lesley France
Community Fundraising Manager (South)
0113 272 8488

EALING CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP



**YMCA, 25 ST MARY'S ROAD, EALING
MON 2ND NOV - SAT 19TH DEC**

OPEN MON-SAT 10AM-5.30PM

SUNDAYS 22ND & 29TH NOV, 6TH & 13TH DEC 12.30-4.30PM



WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS: ROTARY CLUB OF HANWELL & NORTHFIELDS.
ROTARY CLUB OF EALING. EALING ROTARACT.



Acton Hill Church
Methodist & United Reformed

Invites you to our

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sat 5th December 09 11am to 2pm

- * face painting * Father Christmas * books
- * Christmas crafts & decorations * home made cakes
- * guess the name of the build-a-bear * toys
- * fairtrade stall * lucky dip * Christmas presents

Come and have fun at our fayre
Refreshments will be available.



**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

Acton Hill Church
Corner of High St and Woodlands Avenue ACTON W3
Funds are being raised to support the church.



To All at Ealing Green Church,

A big Thank you for your
generous cheque of £350.00 to
CAPE.

This will help us to continue
with our work within our community.

Thank you so much
from all at
Cape.

Nov 2009

Jonathan Morris
Treasurer
Ealing Green Church
London W5 5QT

4 November 2009

Dear Jonathan

I am writing to thank you for the donation by your congregation of £350 to our charity. I am enclosing a receipt for your records.

The donation will be used to support our national telephone helpline which offers practical advice and support to young men in crisis.

Yours sincerely

Kim Thornton
Fundraiser



Campaign Against Living Miserably

PO BOX NAME
London
WC3 9DB

0207 431
4314

www.thecalmsociety.org

Quiz Night

It was a dark and stormy night and, only several hundred miles away from the floods in the north west, and even further from any others, a small group of hardy quizzers huddled together in the church hall for warmth and the prospect of a fish supper. The MC for the evening, Martin, guided the flock through the intricacies and complex rituals of the church quiz night.

The teams of highly practised and only slightly competitive quizzers soon hunkered down to their task of divining the questions within the questions and the obscure mental workings of those setting the questions.



In the end Bill's Conquerors came through with the highest score. Their Bible round evoked memories of Torvill & Dean and Sarajevo 1984 - a perfect score. This reminded me of an old maxim my great grandfather took to his grave, "Never bet against the team with clergy in it on a church quiz night. They'll have you for toast." Then again, great grandfather thought that Skelmersdale would win the league.


The Mind Benders took the wooden spoons for having not quite won and the Swingle Singers, Green Sages, Jokers and Peter's Pirates all resolved to get out more. There was also a raffle, with winners including Jonathan and Anne with a bath set - watch out for the fragrant pair in church over the coming weeks.

Oh - and the point of it all, apart from the friendship and fun - we raised £385 for the three Zimbabwean charities we support. Well done and thank you for your support. We hope you all had a pleasant evening.



Bill's Conquerors – sans Bill

Some Musical Events You Might be interested in leading up to Christmas



The Questors Choir presents
AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC
Saturday 5th December 2009
7.30 pm

With works by Bruch, Niegowski and Hammerschmidt and traditional carols from Italy, Poland and the UK

First Performance: "A Moonlit Scene"
 by acclaimed contemporary composer Betty Roe

Philip Norman *Conductor*
Gary Sieling *Accompanist*

St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5RH


£12 at the door / Free for under 12 years old
 £10 advance sales and Questors Theatre members
Ticket price includes a glass of mulled wine & mince pie

info@questorschoir.org.uk / Tel 020 8560 1005
www.questorschoir.org.uk
 Registered Charity 1131373

Ah, Dearest Jesus

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
 Within my heart, that it may be
 A quiet chamber kept for thee.
 My heart for very joy doth leap,
 My lips no more can silence keep,
 I too must sing, with joyful tongue,
 That sweetest ancient cradle song,
 Glory to God in highest heaven,
 Who unto man His Son hath given
 While angels sing with pious mirth.
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Martin Luther.




Saturday
 December 5th 7.30 pm
 St. Peter's Church, Southfield Road, W4

Hummel
Haydn
Mozart

Te Deum in C
 Franz Joseph Haydn

Missa Solemnis in C
 Johann Nepomuk Hummel

Clarinet Concerto in A K 622
 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Solo Clarinetist:
David Cheak Ho Wong




Conductor: **Alistair Jones**
 Orchestral Leader: **Anne Parkes**

Admission by programme £15
 (concessions £12)
 boxoffice@christianschoir.org.uk

Soft drinks and good wine available for purchase during the concert

Dates for your Diary:
 March 12th 2010
 St Peter's Church, Southfield Road, W4
Mendelssohn Elijah
 July 3rd 2010
 (date to be confirmed)
Opera Legends Concert of Opera Arias &
 Choruses with Piano solos (Last Concert: Poplovers)
 Solo piano: Kodo Otsuka






The Big Christmas Sing

with the West London YMCA Gospel Choir

Thursday 17 December 2009
St. Mary's Church Ealing
7.30pm

Raising Money in partnership with Christian Aid for Bethlehem YMCA

Contact: 07779291955

POWERTY

www.bethlehemaid.org.uk

Love does not dominate; it cultivates.
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

News

Millions will go hungry unless UK and others act on food crisis, says agency

By staff writers 16th Nov 2009

Millions of people in poor countries will go hungry when future global food crises strike, unless the world's half a billion small-scale farms receive urgent funding and support from the UK and other governments, says the development agency Progressio.

Less than 1 per cent of funds spent to prop up financial system could help prevent future global food crises, it says. In a new report, 'Fertile Ground', launched on the first day of a crucial global food security summit in Rome (16-18 November 2009), the UK-based Catholic development agency, Progressio, warns that decades of neglect by governments of small scale farmers who feed 2 billion people worldwide - a third of humanity - have stretched poor farming communities to breaking point, requiring urgent action.

The report notes that the 2008 global food crisis:

- Added 44 million people to those already undernourished.
- Drove 110 million more people into poverty.
- Pushed up the price of some commodities by 200 per cent.

'Fertile Ground' states: "Our global food system is in crisis. The number of hungry people on our planet is rising steadily and for the first time in history has now passed the 1 billion mark. Governments must face the facts and take action now in order to be confident of feeding the estimated 9.2 billion people who will share our planet by 2050."

The report cites many threats and trials facing small-scale farmers:

- Climate change will leave 40 per cent of sub-Saharan African countries facing the risk of significant declines in crop and pasture production.
- 2.6 billion people are already affected by significant levels of land degradation.
- 80 per cent of farmers in Africa and 40 per cent in Latin America and Asia still rely on their own labour and hand tools.

Petra Kjell, Progressio's Environment Policy Officer says "The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) suggests that governments spend \$44 billion per year in support of agriculture, which is less than 1 per cent of what they spent to prop up the global financial system. If a significant proportion of that investment went towards assisting small-scale farmers around the world, then a vital step will have been taken to cushion the impact of future food crises."

The report, which is informed by Progressio's work with small-scale farmers in countries like Malawi and Ecuador, states that for centuries small-scale farmers have provided a food security buffer against outside shocks, supplying poor communities with local food at local prices.

By growing produce in harmony with the environment - or 'agroecologically' - farmers are better able to protect their land and crops from erratic weather linked to climate change, the report notes. It calls for

- More investment and support for small-scale farmers through international aid and national budgets.
- A greater voice for small-scale farmers in national and global decision-making

processes which affect the way they live and work.

Petra Kjell concludes: "We must act now to make sure small-scale farmers receive the support they so desperately need."

This article is reprinted from Ekkleisia.co.uk

Collection Point Collection Point



This month, as on previous Decembers, our collection is for Crisis, formerly Crisis at Christmas. While the focus was originally on people being helped at Christmas, the focus has now extended to continuing help for homeless and disadvantaged people. Please dig into your pockets for those less well off than ourselves. The following gives some idea of what Crisis does.

Our campaigning history

Crisis was born in 1967 out of anger about the way people were homeless and left with no protection or support. Reforming Conservatives, William Shearman and Iain MacLeod, led a candlelit vigil of 3000 people in London's Hyde Park to demonstrate their concern and demand change.

Crisis continues to campaign

Today we remain angry about the scandal of homelessness. Supported by our thousands of e-campaigners we challenge Government and society to face up to the human and financial cost of homelessness.

Read our website about recent campaigning successes we have achieved together. You could even become an e-campaigner for Crisis.

Latest campaigns

The Government plans to cut the income of some of the poorest by up to £15 a week. Crisis is dismayed that the Government is choosing to take money from the poorest at this difficult time. It's a poor choice.

Expose the truth

A Crisis investigation has showed single homeless people turning to their council are often turned away without the help they need. Expose the truth aims to change this.

The race to end rough sleeping

Thanks to Crisis campaigning, the Government and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson have pledged to end rough sleeping by 2012. Now Crisis wants all politicians to commit to ending rough sleeping. In the latest development, we asked David Cameron to join the race when we took our campaign to the Conservative Party conference.

Housing benefits, not barriers

For years now, it's been acknowledged across that housing benefit can stop people getting out of poverty and into employment. And yet we're still waiting for action. Housing benefits, not barriers calls on all political parties to commit to reform which would make sure work always pays.

Royal Orchestral Society Christmas Concert for Crisis

The orchestra will be performing one of the great masterpieces of western classical music, Beethoven's 9th Symphony 'Choral' together with the Vaughan Williams choral work, 'Toward the Unknown Region', a setting of a Walt Whitman poem. The orchestra has kindly chosen Crisis to benefit from the concert with half of the ticket price coming to us.

Please give generously at this special time of the year.

God bless you.

December Rotas

| December | | Preacher | Reader | Prayers | Communion Stewards | Coffee Duty * |
|------------------|----------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6 th | 11.00 am | Rev Jen Smith | Jean Rose | Jane Horwich | MS,JM,CH,BL | <u>Merle & Colin</u> |
| | 6.30 pm | | | | | |
| 13 th | 11.00 am | Mr K. Luxon | Ken Shallis | Colin Hatherall | | <u>Margaret Lewis & Joan</u> |
| | 6.30 pm | | | | | |
| 20 th | 11.00 am | Rev Jen Smith | Pat Sucher | Ken & Shirley Shallis | | Please |
| | 6.30 pm | Rev Jen Smith | Carols and Candles Service | | | See Suzanne |
| 24 th | 5.00 pm | Christmas Eve | | | | |
| 25 th | 10.00 am | Christmas Day | | | | |
| 27 th | 11.00 am | Rev Roger Dunlop | Shirley Shallis | Jonathan Morris | | |
| | 6.30 pm | | | | | |

*Note: 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.

Bible Readers for:

| January 2010 | | February | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 3 rd | Robina Thexton | 7 th | Charles Kenny |
| 10 th | Tina Berry | 14 th | Hazel Humphries |
| 17 th | Yvonne Moyo | 21 st | Ron Honor |
| 24 th | Marian Martin | 28 th | Fleur Hatherall |
| 31 st | Boni Moyo | | |

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

You can get through life with bad manners, but it's easier with good manners.

Lillian Gish