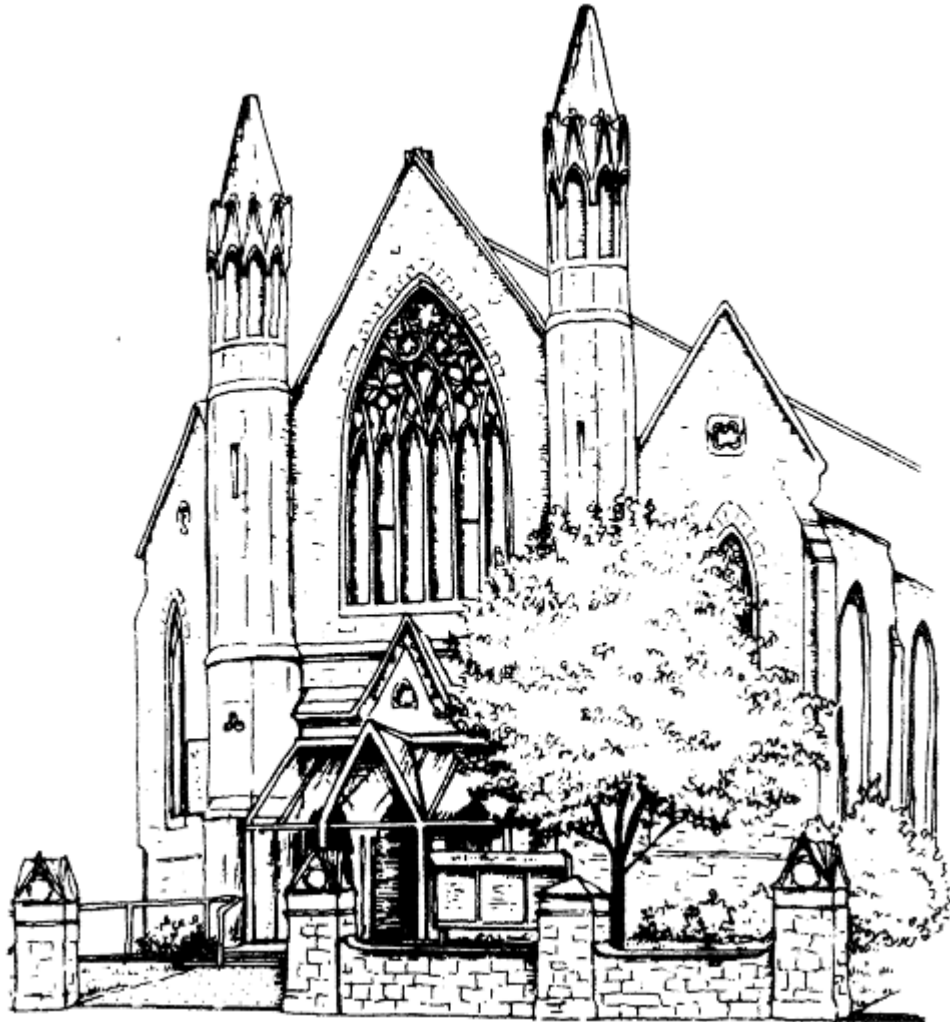


# UNITY



**The Newsletter of the Ealing Green Church**

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



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***July/August 2010***

<b>Summer snoozing</b>	<b>From the desk of Dr. Jen</b>
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Ah, summer sun and gentle rain – fragrant blooms and dewy grass. A perfect time to go deep with some ecclesiology/church structure talk! The Ealing Trinity Circuit is thinking about applying for a fifth ordained minister – a Methodist Deacon. In order to help inform the discussion about it, all of us had little blue booklets back in May explaining what the ‘Methodist Diaconate’ is, as the terms get used to mean different things in different churches. So I thought it might help to explain a little.

Here’s the potentially boring bit: in general, there are three types of representative ministry (all overlapping) in western Christian churches – deaconal (service), presbyteral (word and sacrament), and episcopacy (oversight). These ministries derive from descriptions of early church organisation and division of tasks in the Acts and other documents, but the churches have very different ways of achieving them. For example, the Anglican or Catholic traditions do their episcopacy by having one person who is consecrated as a bishop, whereas the Methodist church (in the UK at least) has superintendents, but expects ordained people to exercise a shared oversight of each other. The Reformed tradition locates episcopacy in ordained people along with church councils and congregations – some will remember that the leaders of Ealing Green Congregational church were called Deacons, for the service they did on behalf of the church meeting, for example.

I am a Methodist Presbyter, which means I am a minister of word and sacrament – and work mainly inside existing churches. Of course there are also diaconal (service) aspects of what I do, and some episcopal (oversight), but I’m mainly for worship and church. Methodist Deacons are ordained ministers who do exactly the same training and are employed under exactly the same conditions as a Presbyter, but have a service ministry. That is, they work alongside presbyters but usually outside existing church community. Deacons are sometimes evangelists, or run youth programmes, or serve as chaplains, or give direct service to the needy or vulnerable. Some are local preachers, but they are mainly for service, recognising that worship takes a big chunk of work and is a different vocation!

So have another look at the little blue book ‘What is the Methodist Diaconate,’ and think about what our circuit might be able to do, directed by a Deacon – things individual churches cannot, or that go beyond our present resources. Think of the other community groups you know of, who might be connected with church in their own way, if only there was someone to be a bridge. If the Circuit

decides to apply for a Deacon for September 2011, funding would likely come from home missions and the sale of property – it is a big commitment, in other words. Too often in the past the Wesley Deaconesses (now no longer operating) were a stopgap when there weren't enough Presbyters; when the church recognised the ministry of women many were ordained. These days the choice is not between a Deacon and a Presbyterian: their stationing is done completely separately.

So amidst the Summer blooms and chances of holidays, consider the heady stuff of church structure and ministry... and when you have awoken from the ecclesially-induced snooze you may even now be entering, think about what the Circuit might do to build our ministry in the future. It matters!

love to all,

**Jen**

### **Divine Right**

from the **Daily Mail** letters of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Regarding children forced to write with their right hands, a relation of mine was a teacher in Glasgow and loved to tell the story of one such child.

The boy became very frustrated at his teacher, saying 'I cannot write with my right hand, Miss, and why should I? God didn't. The teacher, a devout Christian, paused.

'What do you mean?' she said, shocked.

'God did not write with his right hand. How could he? Jesus was sat on it.'

*G. Speight, Leeds*

### **Church Notice**

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,'  
giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

# UNITY

It's now almost officially summer. If I wait until summer actually does appear, I will have missed the deadline and be in trouble from the editor. And it is the time for enjoying the warmth of the sun and the long evenings, only slightly marred by the form of the England team's performances. By the way, I am not holding my breath on them troubling us by still being involved much after the group stages and certainly not taking away our evenings through to July.

It's a time to relax and, in line with the rest of us, the newsletter is off on holiday too. This is the combined July and August edition which will mean that I don't wake up in the middle of July in a cold sweat because I haven't sorted out the next newsletter.

It's also a time that many of us, particularly those associated with schools or education, come to the end of one cycle and get a short time (it never seems to be quite long enough, does it?) to step back and review the year gone by and to pause and draw breath for the one to come.

People get married in the summer. They do in the winter, but you will see more marriages, and not just because they are more obviously outside affairs, in the summer, so it's a time for new beginnings as well.

In short, summer is a time to look back and see what we have been doing, but it is also a time to be planning and looking forward to what we are going to be doing in the future. Over the coming weeks I will be inviting, as I do now, any of you who would like to contribute items, or ideas, to the newsletters that will start coming off the press (or electronically – see later in this edition) after the summer. I don't anticipate them being hugely different to what accompanies this message, but hope that if you feel you would like to see something new, or have new ideas that you think might appeal to others in the church, please let me know what they are.

So go off and have that break. Take a moment, or several, to relax and enjoy the weather (I assume we will have good weather at some time over the next two months) and let me know what new things you think of for the coming late summer and beyond. Enjoy.

God bless you



## Letters

### **From the now-recovered Margaret Lewis**

I should like to thank members of the church who prayed for me and sent me good wishes for my successful operation on my knee. I should also like to say a special 'Thank you' to Gill who kindly visited me in hospital, brought flowers and news of The Wedding, which I missed. She also visited me at home and gave me all the news of the church. This was very much appreciated.

Margaret Lewis

### **From Colin and Merle**

#### **Hello to all of you.**

It's just over a month since we left England's 'green and pleasant land' and arrived back in SA. After spending a few days with our eldest son Andy and his wife Nikki in Cape Town, we flew to Durban, arriving at the brand-new King Shaka airport some 30 km north of Durban. It's a most stunning development and the layout and infrastructure – with masses of indigenous trees and shrubs to greet the arriving passengers – is quite breathtaking.

Our elder daughter Sharon and husband Gary were there to meet us and drove us to their home in Pietermaritzburg (PMB), some 90 km inland from Durban. That was on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May and two days later, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, there was a great 'gathering of the clans' at the Clarke residence to celebrate Merle's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. They came from far and wide – son Don flew in from London and Andy & Nikki from Cape Town. Merle's youngest sister Diann and all her family (6 in all) drove there from Ballito and Umhlanga Rocks, not far from the new airport, and our younger daughter Tracy and her family (4 in all) drove in from Botha's Hill, about halfway between Durban and PMB. All told, there were some 19 family members present, counting the centre of attraction herself, of course. It was a grand occasion to be sure

Merle's actual birthday was on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May and she, Don, Sharon and I drove down to Kloof, near Durban, to join Tracy for a birthday lunch for Merle at a small restaurant there.

While all the family were with us over the weekend, we took the opportunity to discuss just where in SA we would settle. The final decision was that we'd

remain in PMB, which we know well, having lived there in the early 1990s, and which is really very central to our entire SA family. After spending some time looking at properties in PMB to buy or rent, we were approached by Sharon and Gary with 'an offer we couldn't refuse'. As some of you will know, Sharon runs a very busy (and successful) B & B operation at her home in PMB. In fact, it has been so successful that the whole family moved to the house next door, which they have rented for a year, and expanded the b & b operation to encompass their whole home, not only the 2 cottages that were the original b & b locations. However, Sharon found that by not being on the spot at all times, she didn't have the control that is vital in this sort of business. So, they offered Merle and me the opportunity to 'live in' at their home by renting part of the main house instead of living elsewhere and renting from a third party, and assist with running the b & b business. We accepted this as our hotel management experience in London will come in very handy and we are most comfortable in the house we know so well. Most importantly, it will allow Sharon to have more free time than she's had previously, which makes us very happy.

Before leaving London we had made bookings at 2 timeshare resorts in the far north of SA and after the dust had settled on the 'big birthday' activities, Merle, Don and I set off on our extended holiday. First we had a 4-day midweek stay at the timeshare resort that forms part of the vast Sun City complex in North West Province – not far from Rustenburg, which the England football team for the World Cup has chosen as its base. This gave us the chance to unwind and relax before moving some 150 km to the east to Limpopo Province, to Mabula Lodge private game reserve, which is situated in the heart of the South African bushveld near Bela Bela, formerly called Warmbaths, about 200km north of Johannesburg. We spent a full week at Mabula and it was really good to be able to enjoy and appreciate the vastness of the true bushveld. Although the game reserve is no Kruger Park, we did see 4 of the 'Big 5' (lions, elephants, rhinos and buffalo) – only missing out on leopard, which are rather secretive animals. What's more, all the game viewing is done from specially fitted Land Rover vehicles driven by Mabula staff, who know where best to go to find the animals. And most of the viewing is done from rather close quarters! It's quite an experience to see such large animals just a few meters away.

On our return journey, we dropped Don off in Johannesburg for his return flight to London next day. We'd had a good 3 weeks with him in KwaZulu Natal and on our sojourn to the north and, having spent the past 9 years in London never very far from him, it was quite a wrench to say goodbye, not knowing when we'll next

be with him. Still, with e-mails and Skype, it's really easy to keep in touch over the miles these days.

I'm sorry to have to say that, behind all the happy times I've described above, there has been a dark cloud hanging over us. It relates to Merle's arthritis. She's had this condition for the past 15 years or so, but with regular visits to a specialist physician in Johannesburg who is an expert in arthritis management, lots of exercise (brisk walks, yoga and Pilates), good diet and a strict regime of supplements such as glucosamine, fish oil and others, she's managed to keep it under control. However, in December 2009 she started having pain in her left hip and this has got more and more severe each month since then. Shortly before we left the UK she was seen by a musculo-skeletal specialist in Ealing and he told her she might have to have a hip replacement. Well, after 2 visits to the arthritis specialist in Johannesburg since our return to SA, and despite his best efforts to save the joint by building up the surrounding cartilage, he told Merle on Wednesday that a hip replacement was now unavoidable. Like the London specialist before him, he also said that she should have this done sooner rather than later.

So, we will now start the process of deciding where and when this will be done and by whom. We will, of course, keep you all fully informed as to the decision in this regard.

For now, with everyone in SA having only the World Cup on their mind – especially the opening match today between SA (known locally as Bafana Bafana) and Mexico – we both send our love and best wishes to you all and look forward to hearing YOUR news.

*Colin*

## **News of the Church Family**

**Peggy Allaway** had a fall and has broken a bone at the base of her thumb, so has her right arm in plaster. This makes everyday activities rather difficult.

**Alma Baker** has had flu and a chest infection leaving her feeling weak, but fortunately she is now improving.

**Margaret Lewis** is recovering from her knee replacement and becoming more active.

**Lee Horwich** was knocked off his bicycle by a car driver opening his door. Lee was badly bruised and shaken and needed surgery to one of his fingers. Amazingly, no other bones were broken.

**Ron Honor** has had a chest infection but this has left him breathless and feeling unwell. He has been referred to a chest clinic. No tennis for a little while Ron!

**Pat White** remains breathless and is unable to get out much.

**Geoff Harper** has had a couple of falls recently and had to stay in hospital overnight.

Congratulations to **Fleur Hatherall** on becoming a Granny for the second time, this time to a little girl. Baby **Serena**, daughter of **Sandra & Nick** and sister to **Samuel**, was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Ian and Michelle Fairclough** send greetings from Brisbane. Within a day of arriving in Australia, Ian was offered a job – before they had even found somewhere to live!

**Colin & Merle Paige** send their love to all at E.G. They are currently staying in Limpopo Province (north of Johannesburg). They have had a hectic month but have sent some photos of their farewell lunch which are included in this edition.

Congratulations to **Kathleen & Kafero**, who are to be married in USA on 18<sup>th</sup> July before returning to Uganda. We wish them every happiness.

Our love and sympathy to **Audrey Brown** on the recent death of her brother.

Former member **Vera Merlo** aged 92, died peacefully on Wednesday 2 June in a nursing home near her daughter in Somerton, Somerset. Our love and prayers to Vera's family.

We think of some of our young people who are sitting examinations in the next few weeks. We hope they get the results they wish for.

Many of our Church Family will be going away on holiday and we hope that they enjoy their break. For those who remain in Ealing, we hope there will be some sunshine to enjoy.

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

### **Pastoral Lists**

We have recently drawn up new Pastoral Lists which will shortly be published. The Pastoral Leaders will be commissioned during the service at the Church Anniversary on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

*Gill Hatherall*

## Ealing Green Players.

We are already thinking about our future programme and are holding a meeting on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm to read a couple of things we have in mind. Anyone interested in "treading the boards" or helping in any way will be most welcome.

If you can't get to the meeting but are interested, please let me know and I will keep you posted about our plans.

*Helen Harper*  
Chairman, Ealing Green Players

## Updates from the Church Secretary

### -Diary Reminders:-

Date	Event
18 July	Church Anniversary & Potluck Lunch
31 July	Party at the Manse 6.00pm – 10.00pm

### Preachers during June:-

Date	Time	Preacher
4 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith
11 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00 am	Mr Daniel Bennett - Circuit Local Preacher
18 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith – Church Anniversary
25 <sup>th</sup> July	11.00 am	Rev Hugh Sheehan – former Minister at E.G.
1 <sup>st</sup> August	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith
8 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00 am	Mrs G. Forbes – Lay Reader at All Saints
15 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith
22 <sup>nd</sup> August	11.00 am	Mrs E.Ackah – Circuit Local Preacher
29 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith & Worship Group

*Colin Hatherall*

A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and gets to bed at night, and in between he does what he wants to do.

*- Bob Dylan*

# UNITY

I have been trying out a few things with the new format and would appreciate as much feedback as possible on the way Unity is printed and presented. For this edition I have taken advantage of a line spacing option that I didn't have on the old software. As the page size is smaller, I would like to know if opening out the line spacing a little, like this, will make it easier to read.

As an example, compare the paragraph above and this one. You will see that the appearance is only slightly different, but it might be that one is easier to read than the other (clue – the lines are closer together in this paragraph). By the time Unity is printed I am blind to most of these subtleties, so am reliant on you, dear reader, to tell me how it is and what you think. Thank you.

*Lee*

## Two things you may be interested in during July

ACCADEMIA SAN FELICE LONDON LTD

FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA GIOVANI

The European Festival Experience

**EALING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

programme

KARLOWICZ Song of Eternal Being  
BUTTERWORTH A Shropshire Lad  
LALO Symphonie Espagnole  
ROSSINI Semiramide Overture (conductor Andris Veismanis)  
STRAVINSKY Firebird Suite

violin Tom Crehan  
conductor Leon Gee

Education and Culture DC  
Culture Programme

3rd July 2010, 6pm  
**LONDON**  
**SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL**  
London Bridge | free entry event with collection

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## Methodist Art Exhibition

As part of the City of London Festival an exhibition of new works and highlights from the Methodist Collection of Modern and Contemporary Christian Art will be held at WallSpace Gallery from 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 16<sup>th</sup> July (Tuesdays to Fridays 12 noon – 6.00pm; Saturdays 11.00am – 4.00pm).

The gallery is in All Hallows on the Wall church, which is at 83 London Wall, London EC2M 5ND and is near Liverpool St station.

For more information go to [www.wallspace.org.uk](http://www.wallspace.org.uk).

## **‘Change With Purpose’**

### **Purpose: refurbishment of the Church interior to help renew the worshipping life and mission of Ealing Green Church**

In the refurbishment of its Church premises, Ealing Green Church seeks an arrangement to:

- offer Christian worship drawing on Methodist and Reformed traditions, in which the people are strengthened through word, music and sacrament
- help in creating a community in which Christian fellowship is built and expressed and all may find a welcome – especially children and those coming new to Church
- offer hospitality and help build up the kingdom of God in its local community, including outside worship

We feel that the refurbished space should:

- provide a new, comfortable seating arrangement
- encourage fellowship, the learning of names and welcoming in the seating area
- provide good sightlines from all seating areas for visual media used in worship
- promote congregational engagement in the liturgy, with the table and lectern accessible and avoiding awkwardness in the entry into and movement during worship
- allow the best possible acoustic in congregational singing, with the choir sited well in relation to the congregation and organ/piano
- allow ease of movement and access for those who have disabilities (including wheelchair users) - both to lead worship and within the congregation
- seek to match furniture and avoid a crowded and cluttered feel
- provide good access to fire exits and other facilities in accordance with current health and safety guidance
- make possible a dignified entrance and procession with a coffin or bridal party
- allow maximum seating (on the ground floor) for 150, but a usual arrangement of up to 100

- enable a variety of appropriate community uses outside the hours of worship

We ask for designs (potentially incorporating the Foyer, Gallery and Church) that address these aspirations while:

- providing a space for word, song and sacrament that speaks of God with simplicity, beauty, and order
- respecting the traditional architecture of the church (interior and exterior)
- providing a focus for worship in the table, lectern/pulpit, font and cross as appropriate
- respecting the memory of the congregation incorporating, where possible, aspects of the present liturgical furniture
- allowing hospitality to the wider community - recognising that these needs will grow and change over the next 25 years
- providing visible beauty of space from the street by day and night, with appropriate security
- enabling a spacious welcome and transition into the worship space from the street, including storage for worship materials (books, Bibles)
- including reliable, efficient, economical and environmentally friendly heating
- enhancing the beauty of the space by improving the flexible, creative use of lighting
- providing for the extended use of audio-visual facilities, as need and budget arise
- not bankrupting the Church! - recognising that whatever budget is set, the building is a means of mission, not an end in itself.

Process: a new small group to seek proposals, including outline budgets and to assess funding arrangements; proposals to be shown during worship; report to November Church Meeting.

The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their field of endeavor.

- *Vince Lombardi*

## **‘Change with a Purpose’ group –**

### **Status report as given to the church meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> June**

This group was appointed by the church council after the church meeting in March approved the proposal for re-furbishment of the church: it is to report to the church in the autumn, and show designs with outline budgets and funding proposals in time for a first decision at the AGM in November.

To remember the brief the church meeting gave this group on 21 March, have a look at the ‘change with a purpose proposal,’ re-printed in this issue of Unity. The group will continue working over the Summer – we haven’t answers to all the questions yet, so keep asking them!

The group comprises: Fleur Hatherall, Martin Sarbicki, Shirley Shallis, Tina Berry, Bill Lovell, Philip Burnam-Richards, Linda Quinn, Claire Southall, and Louise Singleton. Jen Smith is chairing, as minister.

Done to date:

- responding to the proposal passed by the church meeting on 21 March, prayed together, reflected together about the mission refurbishment serves
- investigated working practices, process with architects
- generated initial list of architects working in ecclesial spaces, London area
- investigated list of community groups with which the church has no contact, and those with existing relationship
- investigated what basic facilities commercial users might require
- arranged site visit with URC advisor, David Skipp (30 June)
- personal research about space and worship – church visits, etc.

Doing now:

- contacting and consulting with community organisations
- narrowing architects list
- preparing idea of first budget, including research for external grants

For the future (3 months):

- preparing for single survey, vs. repeated surveys by bidding firms
- developing budget profile – finding out what different kinds of work cost, and funding sources to match – often linked to community outreach and use

- meeting with, choosing up to three architects from whom to solicit a design
- continued research about space, lighting, use by different groups
- solicit designs

2 initial observations the group has made, from all of the visits and thinking:

1. No fancy furniture nor beautiful space makes a welcome without the subtle hospitality of a congregation – to allow those coming in to own the space themselves and feel at home in it, vs. being ‘visitors’ to ‘our’ space.
2. Instead of asking what ‘I like,’ we do better to ask how something (lighting, doors, a pulpit) will work in relation to the proposal the church has made – this leads to more open conversations, and takes us back to reflection about mission

What the whole church can do now:

Talk about this, re-read the proposal, visit other churches, think about spaces that feel good to you, and bad, and why...

Which shops do you like going into, which do you not, and why?

How do you feel standing on the crowded platform at Ealing Broadway, or coming through the gates into Lammas park?

Pray for our church, and this process.

*(prepared by Jen Smith, on behalf of the change with purpose group.)*

## **It's Dark in Here**

**by Shel Silverstein**

I am writing these poems  
 From inside a lion,  
 And it's rather dark in here.  
 So please excuse the handwriting  
 Which may not be too clear.  
 But this afternoon by the lion's cage  
 I'm afraid I got too near.  
 And I'm writing these lines  
 From inside a lion,  
 And it's rather dark in here.

## **Emails**

Lots of us are moving with the times these days and some of us have even been out to our local electrical suppliers and purchased the latest version of Mr Babbage's intriguing device. Furthermore we have plugged these devices into what is rapidly becoming known as the world wide web (or something similar). As a result we now have 'Email', the sort of thing where letters appear on the screen instead of coming through the letterbox. Fascinating and not a little novel.

The outcome of all this new fangled gadgetry; would that they had combined it with a teasmade, my life would have been complete; is that we are now in the position of being able to set up an email directory. This would mean that Church notices and anything else that you wanted – not least this newsletter – could be emailed directly to your device, if you wanted. I can assure you that we would not be erecting a pay wall once we had lured you in to this wonderful innovation. Anyway, we presently have a number of email addresses for people and wondered:

- a) are there any more?
- b) would anyone like the newsletter to be sent to them each month?

At present I get the newsletter to Peter some time after it is printed, so he can get it on the web, but I can try to make it suitable for emailing shortly after I have finished it, if that is what people would like.

These are the names of people whose emails we already have:

Aki Cummings-Palmer, Christine Edwards, Hazel Humphries, Hector Chidaya, Jean Newson, Pat Sucher, Colin Paige, Michelle Fairclough, Patsy Robinson, Graham Dilleigh, Valerie Cummings-Palmer, Martin Sarbicki, Deb Lovell, Bill Lovell, Peter Baker Susanne, Baker, Janine Jackson, Ken Shallis, Colin Hatherall, Helen Harper, Hema Souri-Parsons, Claire Southall, Lirea Beylefeld, Vera Marston, John Collingbourne, Stalin Sundar Raj, Jonathan Morris, Anne Morris, Peter Chadbourne, Rachael Chisholm, Fleur Hatherall, Jane Horwich, Linda Quinn, Louise Singleton, Philip Burnam-Richards, Marion Martin, Janette Pender, Yvonne Shearley, Anita Holdcroft, Boni Moyo, Carien Du Plooy, Tina Berry.

Are there any more of you out there? Please let me know on

unitymagazine@hotmail.com

or drop John Collingbourne a note.

Thanks, *Lee*

## THE PERENNIAL GIFT

Today I am feeling good and want  
to do something for you, Lord -  
but what can I do?

I want to sing your praises,  
sweetly and joyfully,  
but I am old and my voice  
has become uncertain and tuneless.

I want to skip and dance  
amongst the daisies on the lawn,  
but my legs are heavy  
and my feet stiff with age..

I want to capture the beauty of a flower  
by painting a picture,  
but have not the skill.

I want to write a beautiful poem,  
but the words will not flow.

I want to do all these things for you Lord,  
but you know, and I know, that I cannot.

So I will content myself  
by listening to others sing;  
watching the children skip and dance;  
looking at wonderful works of art  
and reading the beautiful poems of the poets.

And I will give thanks to you Lord,  
for granting me the true and everlasting:  
Gift of Appreciation.

Lynn Trowbridge

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.

- *Albert Einstein*

## **The World Cup.**

For me every four years the world comes to a halt and the World Cup dictates my agenda. It all started in 1966 when as a 10 year old on my way from Sussex to my grandparents in Birmingham we saw Coaches with flags going to Wembley for the Final. But I took no notice of the football. In 1970 satellite TV, with interrupted transmission, brought us coverage, from Mexico, of my favourite World Cup. This hooked me to football for ever. It was an achievement in itself to see the TV from Mexico, but with the likes of Rivelino, Gerson, Tostao and Pele the magic was complete. I also managed to clean the School bookie out. Even after that the event was always bigger than any country and had it's personal benefits. In 1978 it coincided with my Degree final exams and so for weeks before I worked really hard at my revision so that on the night before an exam I could stay up late and watch Argentina play Peru whilst my comrades were trying to work out the answers for the next day's exams. In 1982 I was amazed at the Italians. That was just before I bought my first house. So was my life governed by the World Cups.

In 1986 I fell out with a girlfriend as I would rather watch England. Then in 1990 worried that the same fate might befall Kathy and myself I took her to see England play Brazil in a friendly to try and corrupt her. But we shared the next few World Cups and in 1998 she had to deal with her class of six year olds who had stayed up with their Dads to watch England lose. It was one of her quietest and easiest days teaching in Southall. For her watching Zidane and Henry play for France was a delight.

So this year we are in South Africa with our dreams and pain and whilst nothing ever goes to script, part of the magic for me are the surprises where the so called big boys suffer. We also see how the world changes. We see many footballers who are deeply religious and think of their talent as a God given gift. If you come from the poor parts of Rio to play for Real Madrid then you may appreciate that. The current Brazilian team reflects the changes in that country where many players are members of evangelical churches. That the evangelical movement has outstripped the established Catholic strength in Brazil is an amazing change in a short period of time. We may think of footballers as greedy in this country but for Brazil we see Kaka who may be paid by Real Madrid an astronomical wage but on his vest under his Brazil shirt he has the motto "I play for Jesus". For the midfielder Gilberto his faith is central to how he can perform on a weekly basis. Former Brazilian players have become Priests. We see African players

having a prayer meeting after a game in the middle of the pitch to give thanks to God. One Nigerian writer said that football is the only time she really felt Nigerian as the country became one. We see players of Christian and Islamic backgrounds playing together and where would we see North and South Korea in the same event. Remember that FIFA has more members than the United Nations and you can see that for many people who watch the event it brings them in touch with other people and countries.

One day I would love to go to a World Cup and part of the magic would be the experience of the travel and mixing with the different people. As a child it brought Mexico, Brazil and Uruguay into my life and over the years Cameroon, Argentina, Holland, South Korea have all brought their pieces of Magic. So, as the Tournament unfolds over the month, my Wallchart at work will be filled in with numbers and Countries names. But my overriding image of the World Cup is of Pele and the Brazilians of 1970. So God bless all the Metatarsals and Hamstrings.

*Peter Chadburn*

## **Christian Aid week 2010 - the best yet!**

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way during Christian Aid week.

Our total this year was the best so far, £2126.90 of which £1006.73 was gift aided so the final result is even more.

It was great to have such a good response to the collection at the service on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> when we had many visitors in our church.

The House to House collection is not an easy thing to do and is time consuming, but along with other churches and collectors all around the UK it is an important witness to local communities.

Ealing Green's collection, when added to the national collection, really can make a difference.

Thank you again.

*Deb Lovell*

Five wives can't all be wrong.

**Paul Getty**

## **BOOK REVIEW (Sort of)**

### **Philip Pullman “The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ” Canongate Publishers 2010.**

Philip Pullman’s closing words at a recent discussion at the Queen Elizabeth Hall were “read the Bible”, a perhaps surprising comment from one who professes no belief in any supernatural realm. He also made the point quite strongly that a familiarity with the New Testament (and not just the bits we all know) would help considerably in reading his new book.

This is a relatively short book which can be easily read on a lazy weekend. Some may find it offensive as it may question or threaten cherished beliefs, others, more open-minded, will find it challenging: most will find it thought-provoking at the very least. The back cover says in large capitals “This is a story” and Pullman made clear that in his mind that was different from a novel. The latter usually has a statement at the front along the lines “all characters bear no resemblance to any person living or dead etc” – this book lacks such a statement.

Jesus and Christ are twins, born of Mary and Joseph: Jesus is the central figure and immediately recognisable whereas Christ is more shadowy: he documents Jesus’ life but (with the encouragement of a mysterious Stranger) elaborates it and changes things in subtle ways, presenting his reports to the Stranger who, in Pullman’s words “personifies the Church that is to come”. These reports are in the form of lengthy scrolls. I wondered if this was perhaps a reference to the Dead Sea Scrolls which are more or less contemporaneous with the life of Jesus, refer to a teacher, but are very obscure, sometimes nonsensical and often conflicting (like the Gnostic Gospels and, suggests Pullman, like the four Gospels too). Jesus is portrayed as a major prophet, but not the Son of God although the duality of the title might be an allegory of His dual nature depending on where your beliefs come from. The miracles are a product of Christ’s reporting rather than miraculous: produced (according to Pullman) in order that the Christian Church should survive in competition with numerous other sects which were around at the same time. In this respect, Pullman asks us to distinguish history from truth: truth is perhaps absolute whereas history has some sort of an agenda (when asked how history would view him, Churchill replied “well” as he intended to write it). The agenda is (fairly clearly) the future Church – the establishment – the beautiful buildings, the paintings, the power and the glory, the pomp and the circumstance, the cruelty and the torture.

Any of you who have heard Pullman in discussion with Archbishop Rowan Williams will recognise that they have considerable respect for each other: is Pullman personifying Rowan Williams as Caiaphas (“a good but honest man but his position was impossible”) when he has the latter say “ ...I have to maintain a very difficult balance. My overriding concern is to keep the faithful together. There are factions that would like to split away entirely. I have to satisfy as many of these demands as I can, while not alienating those who have to be disappointed...But the Lord has place this burden on my shoulders..”? I did not know whether to laugh or cry or indeed why I wanted to do either. Pullman can be very funny: he described the wise virgins/young women as an example of “protothatchherite prudence”.

If you read nothing else in this book, read the bleak but brilliant soliloquy in the Garden of Gethsemane: is it all that different from “not as I will but as thou wilt” (King James Version – sorry!)? Look out for Occam’s Razor here – it’s a compelling argument where today’s Church has serious problems in providing counter-arguments and where (in my view), it can be a bit feeble.

This story tells how Christ betrays Jesus is the same way as Judas may have done: but Christ does something worse to my mind (perhaps – you, the reader must make up your mind): Christ betrays the truth of the simplicity of the message in the Gospels, turns it into the edifice we call the Church, leaves room for concepts such as “just war”, leads to the dogma which gave rise to the Inquisition and the confusion we have today over what constitutes love. Books like this make you think: like it or loathe it, read it and be thoughtful.

*Booklover64*

## **Over 40’s Exercise Sessions**

on

Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.00 am to 12.15 pm

in the Large Hall, Ealing Green Church

(Periodic changes of time throughout the year due to ABRSM exams)

All equipment provided

For more information, call –

**ALISON on 020 8579 9379**

# Some other concerts locally during August



**EALING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 ... fine music in your neighbourhood  
 Registered Charity No. 287974  
 President: The Mayor of Ealing

Piano: **Katya Apekisheva**      Leader: **Peter McGowan**      Conductor: **John Gibbons**



**RAVEL**  
 Concerto for Piano  
 Left-hand

**MAHLER**  
 Symphony No. 9

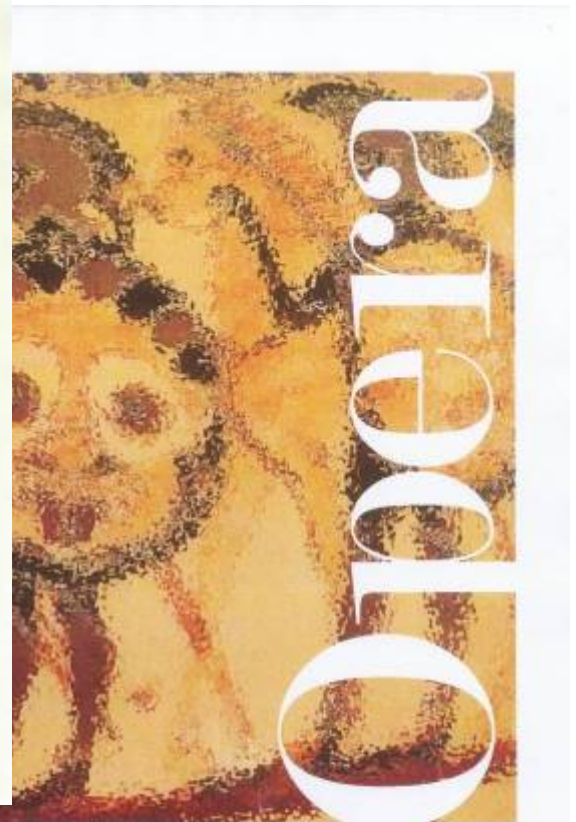
7.30pm Saturday 3rd July 2010  
 St Barnabas Church  
 Pitshanger Lane  
 London W5 1QG

Public transport: E2 or E9 bus from Ealing Broadway station towards Greenford



£10 (concessions £8; accompanied under-16 £1)  
 Tickets from 68 Elers Road, London W13 9QD (020 8567 4075) and at the door

Next concert:  
 Saturday October 9th, St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ  
 Programme to be confirmed  
 See [www.ealingso.org.uk](http://www.ealingso.org.uk) for details of membership and all our events,  
 for season tickets, or to join our free mailing list.

A SUMMER EVENING OF CHORUSES AND ARIAS: ENJOY

# Legends

SPONSORED BY



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**EUGENE ONEGIN** TCHAIKOVSKY  
**MACBETH, NABUCCO, LA TRAVIATA** VERDI  
**IDOMENEO, LA CLEMENZA DI TITO AND THE MAGIC FLUTE** Mozart  
**THE TROJANS** BERLIOZ  
 AND THE FAMOUS PIANO TRANSCRIPTIONS BY FRANZ LISZT OF:  
**THE LIEBESTOD** FROM TRISTAN & ISOLDE, WAGNER  
**RIGOLETTO PARAPHRASE** VERDI

**SATURDAY, JULY 3RD 7.30 PM**

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH**  
 CHURCH STREET, W4 2PH (SEE SIGNPOST ROUNDABOUT)  
 ADMISSION BY PROGRAMME £13 (CONCESSIONS - £12)  
[boxoffice@stnicholas.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@stnicholas.org.uk)

**SOFT DRINKS AND GOOD WINE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING THE INTERVAL**

SOLOISTS: DAWN SOFT (soprano), WANG ED (tenor), REDD OASIA (piano)

THE CHISWICK CHOIR  
 ACCOMPANIST: JAN CURRINGHAM  
 CONDUCTOR: ALYDIA JONES

## News

### **Top scientists and educators stress the importance of evolution teaching in schools**

By staff writers - 18 Jun 2010

Twenty-six of the UK's top scientists and science educators have called on the Government to protect and promote science in schools, with specific reference to the inclusion of evolution in the primary curriculum.

Those involved include the Rev Professor Michael Reiss, An Anglican priest and science education expert, as well as Richard Dawkins, former professor for the public understanding of science at the University of Oxford.

The broad range of signatories is intended to stress that good teaching of evolutionary theory and biology is something that people of all beliefs and backgrounds can and should get behind - despite the well-funded attempts of some from fundamentalist religious backgrounds to inhibit evidence-based teaching or get their own ideology on the school agenda.

The joint letter to Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, has been organised by the British Humanist Association (BHA), which does a lot of work in the field of education, and has worked with the Christian think-tank Ekklesia and others in seeking clear and positive government guidelines on science teaching. Andrew Copson, BHA Chief Executive, said, "It was a real victory for good education to have biology's 'big idea' included in the primary science curriculum for the first time last year, and it was with huge disappointment that we saw those reforms lost. The teaching of science equips young people with the skills they need to understand the world around them in a critical way, and opens up the natural environment for inquiry.

Simon Barrow, co-director of Ekklesia, commented: "Scientists and educators are rightly urging the Government, in the midst of some uncertainty about the impact of proposed changes to the running and sponsoring of schools, to ensure high quality teaching in this vital area. That includes resisting the blandishments and ploys of a persistent minority who may try to use Academies and so-called Free Schools to edge out factual teaching on evolutionary biology and edge in non-scientific creationist ideas - ones which are rejected by all the mainstream

churches, and which are issues concerning the history of religion and belief, rather than scientific method and content."

Mr Gove has previously made it clear that he does not regard creationism as having any place in science teaching, a point also made under the previous Labour administration.

But there has been some concern among educators and scientists that the dropping of primary commitments may be indicating, if not a weakening of resolve, at least a lack of sufficient attention to the practicalities and content of science teaching. The signatories to the latest letter are seeking assurance and clarification on these issues.

Mr Copson explained: "As the central concept underlying biology, we want evolution to have an explicit inclusion in the curriculum in all schools. As increasing numbers of schools such as the new Academies will no longer have to follow the national curriculum, it is imperative that there is a firm basis for teaching evolution and natural selection, not least in light of the threat of creationism in science lessons in some schools."

This is something Professors Reiss and Dawkins, who are respectively known for their Christian and atheist convictions, are in firm agreement about

*This article is reprinted from Ekklesia.co.uk*

### **HYMN # 365**

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.

' With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.

' With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, 'And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'

# Collection Point Collection Point

July's Collection goes to

## The Fikelela Aids Project

Dear Ealing Green - We send greetings from St Thomas' Parish in Rondebosch, Cape Town. World Cup fever has hit us and there is a frenzy of celebrations, flag flying and vuvuzela blasting. Always a huge positive in South Africa when everyone is united with a common goal. Our past divisions are so raw.



We ask for prayers that all will go well and that the whole event will be safely enjoyed and remembered as a success. The realities of daily life for the poor still remain and we thought you might like to have some photos of our Guguletu grannies at one of our quarterly tea parties. Once again we had a meaningful get together on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. They are such a special group of people and we so enjoy having them with us. They shared with us the anxieties that the World Cup will bring for them as they care for their grandchildren in such challenging times.



Schools are closed for 5 weeks during the soccer tournament and they are worried that the children will get drawn into all the sordid peripheral stuff that goes on behind the scenes - prostitution, drugs, crime etc We were able to pray together and to sing and worship and, of course, share a scrumptious tea. Each granny received a parting gift and we presented them with 40 warm tops for the AIDS orphans. Just in time, as winter has crept up on us and Cape Town is rainy and cold.

We hope that all is well at Ealing Green and thank you for your support and interest in our project.



*Warm regards*

*Jenny - Fikelela Aids Project*

# *Collection Point* August's Collection goes to **Collection Point**

## **Projects the church supports in Zimbabwe:**

The three which we invite you to contribute to are in:

- Harare- the capital of Zimbabwe
- Marondera – to the north east
- Chinhoyi – to the north

In Harare, Alice Chikomo runs the **Street Children Day Centre**.

Recently Alice has been trying to expand the Day Centre in response to the growing demand, fuelled by AIDS and the dire political/economic conditions in Zimbabwe, which have resulted in more and more children being forced out on to the streets of Harare. One of the fruits of Alice's work was the story, reproduced in April's UNITY, of a boy rescued from the streets, who recently married.

Another is one of the women teachers at the Day Centre, who was herself a street child rescued through the Day Centre. Any help we can give Alice and those around her will be money well donated.

In Marondera, Kevin and Gil Martin run a number of charitable organizations, including the Kukura Neshungu Day Centre for mentally handicapped people and Musha Wevana, the orphanage. The stresses and strains over the last decade have been met by a rock solid faith and dedication that would make most of us blanch. Kevin and Gill's inspirational leadership has attracted some equally outstanding people to emerge as teachers and organisers in the orphanage and day centre to help those who would otherwise have no chance.

The Chinhoyi Clinic was founded when all the health institutions around them were closing leaving no medical facilities for local people. Despite threats and physical attacks from local 'authorities' determined to destroy this symbol of hope, the people running the clinic have persevered. Although some health facilities in the area are re-opening, the situation is still so dire that numbers of those treated and the diseases for which people come for help have increased beyond the dreams of those who started, and still work at, running the clinic.

Please give generously so we can continue to help these worthy causes.

*Thankyou*

## July Rotas

July		Preacher	Reader	Prayers	Communion Stewards	Coffee Duty *
4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith	Marian Martin	Colin Hatherall	MS, CDuP, HSP, PC	<u>Susanne &amp; Rachel</u>
	6.30 pm					
11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mr Daniel Bennett	Boni Moyo	Bill Lovell		<u>Charles &amp; Tina</u>
	6.30 pm					
18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith	Pat Sucher	Jonathan Morris		<u>Joan &amp; Louise</u>
	6.30 pm					
25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 pm	Rev Hugh Sheehan	Yvonne Moyo	Peter Chadburn		<u>Jean &amp; Marion</u>
	6.30 pm					

\*Note: Could we 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

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

September					
5 <sup>th</sup>	Janette Pender				
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ramesh Khanna				
19 <sup>th</sup>	Fleur Hatherall				
26 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Shallis				

I am a man of fixed and unbending principles, the first of which is to be flexible at all times.

- Sen. Everett Dirksen

## August Rotas

August		Preacher	Reader	Prayers	Communion Stewards	Coffee Duty *
1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith	Tina Berry	Jonathan Morris	CH, BL, VJ, JJ	<u>Philip &amp; Valerie</u>
	6.30 pm					
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mrs G. Forbes	Jenny Gardner	Bill Lovell		<u>Susanne &amp; Rachel</u>
	6.30 pm					
15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Rev Jen Smith	Charles Kenny	Ron Honor		Tina & Charles
	6.30 pm					
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 pm	Mrs E.Ackah	Hazel Humphries	Helen Harper		<u>Jean &amp; Marion</u>
	6.30 pm					
29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 pm	Rev Jen Smith & Worship Group	Ron Honor	Jane Horwich		<u>TBC</u>
	6.30 pm					

\*Note: Could we 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.

I have often thought that if there had been a good rap group in those days, I might have chosen a career in music instead of politics.

- Richard Nixon