

Baptists and Methodists together at Hampton Methodist Church



Summer 2022



Hampton Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton, TW12 2JT

Hampton Mission Partnership is a member of Churches Together around Hampton

Church website <https://hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk>

Dear HMP family,

Shalom!

How have you been? You may wonder how have I been? Taking a three months sabbatical to rest, recharge and discern my vocation in this time and space has been essential on my ministerial journey. Thank you so much everyone! A sabbatical is certainly a great gift from the church for which I am truly grateful.

The ministry of welcoming and hospitality was my sabbatical focus. Therefore, I signed up to go on a pilgrimage called Scottish Cross during Holy Week to Iona, spent some time travelling in Europe and finished with a Jesuit silent retreat.

In between, spending time with friends and family which I have not had much time to do was joyous. God knew what I needed. Throughout the sabbatical, God gave me many surprises to learn how to depend on him and not my own understanding to predict him in the way that I wanted.

One of the books I read during my sabbatical is God of Surprises written by Gerard Hughes in 1985. It summarises my transformative encounter with God in a deeper and fuller way through contemplative prayers.

Surely, I will share my experience with you and guide you to encounter the warmth of the presence of God and listen to his gentle voice yourself. Until then I want to share some key learnings which you may already know.

Firstly, it is by God's grace in Jesus Christ that God can be depended upon, but God cannot be predicted like a genie or wizard to do whatever we want according to our prayers.

Secondly, no one is indispensable in God's kingdom, for all things are created in Him and for Him. We are his subjects, under his care.

Thirdly, taking rest and being embraced in God's stunning nature are essential to remind us how insignificant we mortals are and how majestic and essential the immortal God is, to reinstate the inner life of each one of us.

Last but not least, connecting to God's dynamic flow of love and presence can reset our consciousness (mindset) to see all things with his wisdom and live life to the fullest.

During my sabbatical, I have been restored, refreshed, and renewed to experience Jesus' promises "Have life and have it to the full!" (John 10:10)

Likewise, Jesus wants you to have life and have it to the full by being the witnesses of God's eternal Kingdom, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Here is the time. The Holy Spirit indeed has come. He powers you to witness his grace and compassion, love and peace in your family, in Hampton, in South West London, in the UK and beyond.

In this magazine, you will find news and celebrations among our church families in the past few months, such as the jubilee lunch, the bike hub reaching 1000 bicycles, meeting the missionaries Brian and Jackie Chilvers, Janice and Brian's big birthdays and more. Alongside each other, you will also have memories of our beloved friends Rita (Louise's mum) and Trevor (Janet's husband) who have gone before us.

As God's family, we journey on by God's grace through thick and thin, for we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his eternal purpose. It is our destiny to keep on loving one another, forever in his everlasting Kingdom. Amen!

Love & blessings,  
Kan x

### **“... Give us this day our daily bread”**

The Trussell Trust is one of the largest Foodbank organisations in the country. In the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 they distributed 2.5 million emergency food parcels in the U.K. This was an increase of 33% on the previous year and an increase of 128% since 2016. Other Foodbank providers have reported similar increases.

The Trust Chief Executive, Emma Revie, called for an end to Foodbanks. She insisted that it was not right that people should have to struggle for essentials. “The time to act is now,” she said.

Her message is, of course, echoed in our most well-known prayer, as we pray “Your Kingdom come.... give us this day our daily bread.”

Christians have used the Lord’s Prayer for two thousand years, ever since the first disciples approached Jesus and asked him to teach them to pray. There are two versions of the Lord’s Prayer in the Bible. The fuller, more well known and better used is in Matthew 6:9-13, and forms part of the Sermon on the Mount. The shorter and abrupt version can be found in Luke 11:1-4.

It’s fair to say that there is a danger that the rote learning of the prayer can result in a loss of meaning. But the prayer is still powerfully relevant to the world that Emma Revie is talking about. It’s good to remember that prayer is not a formula, not an incantation, not a recipe. Prayer is in fact a relationship. When we pray, we need to talk straight to God, to be plain with him. We don’t need to impress him. As your Heavenly Father, he already loves you. We just have to show up and talk. That’s the good news.

However, there’s plenty of mileage still in the Lord’s Prayer, if we think about what it means. The fuller version of the prayer contains six petitions. The first three requests focus on God’s Glory- his name, his Kingdom, and his will. The second set of three requests focus on our good, and the first of these concerns is our provision of daily bread.

The first word of the petition – “Give,” may sound too aggressive. Are we trying to boss God around? No, we are approaching our loving Father and we are asking for what we need. This request from a humble heart is not just acceptable to God, it is pleasing to him.

The next word has great power for the request is not to “give me” but to “give us.” Just as we say, “Our Father” and not “My Father,” our prayer is communal, and community based. Even when we say the Lord’s Prayer individually, we are praying for the whole physical and spiritual wellbeing of all God’s people.

Then comes another important word- “daily.” It might feel easier to simply pray once for all that we have a lifetime’s supply of bread. But Jesus wants us to ask not for a lifetime’s supply but only for our ‘daily’ bread. This is the same lesson the Israelites had to learn on their way from Egypt to the promised land (Exodus 16). They wanted to collect enough manna for the week, but God gave them enough for a day (and enough for two days over the Sabbath).

So, even if your refrigerator is full of food and your bank balance is looking healthy, you still need to pray each day for daily bread. This is not a mindless ritual. It’s in part a reminder that ‘normal’ life can blow up anytime. Our lives are much more fragile than we often think. Jobs, health, relationships, financial assets, national stability, global peace can be upended very quickly. It also reminds us of the daily need of bread by other folk. We don’t have to watch the news for long to find peoples and nations in desperate need.

And that is, of course, where Foodbanks come in.

And not only Foodbanks. Activities like The Extra Mile, The Bike Project, Memory Café, the Computer Drop-in Club, Linked Missionaries, and Charitable giving play their part in the provision of 'bread.'

There is a long and noble history in many Christian churches that interprets 'bread' both literally and spiritually. Augustine summarised the tradition of the early church as seeing 'bread' as referring to three things:

- 1) All things necessary to sustain life
- 2) The Sacrament of the body of Christ
- 3) Spiritual food

As the economic climate gets bleak at home and away, we must review "new every morning" how we are playing our part in the provision of 'daily bread.' We need to know how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting our community. We need to ask in the light of that knowledge if we should adjust our Church outreach.

Our friends at Hounslow Methodist Church have trailed this summer a project called Café Together which they hope to run in the Autumn and Winter. The project provides a weekly free supper and a chance to talk about life's problems. The supper is open to anyone who might benefit. It's a good example of tweaking something that they used to do (the Shelter Project) to meet new needs.

As we pray the Lord's prayer let's agree with Emma Revie "The time to act is now."

Mark Gilks

### The Bike Project

In November 2017 Liz Chadwick, who used to run a children's Music and Movement group in the large hall, approached me with the suggestion that our church might like to become a 'Bike Hub' for The Bike Project. I agreed that this sounded like a good idea so we went ahead and joined the Project in May 2018.

We collect unwanted second-hand bikes which are then refurbished and made roadworthy. The bikes are then given away to refugees and asylum seekers. To receive a bike can be life changing as it provides a means of transport for a person who may have a limited income.

During the pandemic (June 2020) and following a press release by Richmond Council, we organised a couple of Saturday morning sessions where people could come to the church and donate their unwanted bikes. These were busy sessions and resulted in over 100 bikes for The Bike Project.

To donate a bike you need to go to the website [www.thebikeproject.co.uk](http://www.thebikeproject.co.uk) and enter the details of the bike you are donating. You are then given a donation number which I submit to The Bike Project and attach to the bike on a white tag when the bike has been dropped off. I then submit the donation number online.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June we had 20 bikes collected and this resulted in us hitting a total of 1000 bikes for The Bike Project. We are so pleased that we have been able to provide bikes for so many people.

We celebrated the 1000 bikes with cake (in true Methodist fashion!) See the magazine cover.

If you would like to help with The Bike Project please ask me.

Thank you to all who have donated your unwanted bikes-we look forward to continuing the scheme and reaching the next milestone!

Wendy Salmon

## Greetings from Margaret Thorn in Hemel Hempstead

I have transferred my membership to Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church which was built in 2013, combining the congregations of five smaller churches that were in different locations around town. You can imagine that it took a lot of hard work and several years to bring everyone together, find a location and agree on the design. It is now an active church and much like Hampton, you can attend the church or watch the services at home. I have joined a Wednesday afternoon house group and a Thursday morning social group. I am trying to decide which of the roles that I have been offered, I feel called to take up.

Hemel Hempstead was developed as a New Town after the war and it can be difficult to find your way around as it has multiple districts with their own shops arranged around the centre. It has quite high-density housing but with many green spaces separating the districts. I am situated above the Historic High Street which is used for filming quite a bit, but am quickly into the rolling Hertfordshire countryside.

It didn't take me long to feel quite settled here and it is so good to be within easy reach of Adam and family. I see more of the girls too; Josie is now 6 years old and Allie will be 5 in September. Adam has started working in my summer house, having been working in the small bedroom at home for two and a half years. He enjoys walking down in the morning and home again in the evening and has more space here.

Fiona and family had been planning to come over for a holiday in the UK when Covid struck and so it is now four years I think, since I last saw them. I am very excited that I have been able to book a six-week trip to New Zealand over Christmas. Felix is now 13 and Eva is 10. They have both settled well in their new schools since the family moved earlier this year, so a lot of catching up to do.

When I moved here, I realised that if I wanted to continue cycling, I would need an electric bike as Hemel is so hilly. I am very pleased with it and put it to the test in May when I went on a tour of Normandy with my elder brother and sister-in-law. We covered 340m over two weeks of hilly countryside, but it was very enjoyable most of the time! I have even agreed to another tour in October, this time to Brittany but only for 10 days and less mileage.

Although there is still some sorting out to do, I am happy to welcome any visitors who happen along. I enjoy hearing news of my Hampton friends and do occasionally pop down to Hampton.



# RITA ARMFIELD

18<sup>th</sup> May 1943 – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022



*“Will you write something about your Mum for the magazine?”* I wasn’t sure. I had my doubts as she wasn’t a particularly regular face at church, although she did come along to a few events such as our carol services and more recently our son Cameron’s membership service. However, I realised I had (rather extraordinarily!) overlooked the fact that Mum had been a well-known face and much valued member of the community of Hampton for the best part of 60 years. Of course she was known and I am so pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the incredible person she was...

Mum and Dad arrived in Hampton from a small flat in Surbiton, having decided on Hampton after putting a pin in a map, drawing a circle and visiting some of the towns within the circle! They lived initially at ‘Myosotis Villa’, 74 Tudor Road, then later at 45 Tudor Road. Mum, from the start, threw herself into Hampton life, getting to know the neighbours, making friends with other new mums after I was born and other mums of children at our infant and junior schools. After a few years, she decided to start her chef training - in her early youth she had wanted to train as an art teacher but her eye-sight had put paid to that and so her passion and talent for cake making and cookery seemed a pretty obvious new direction. After various cookery courses and food safety training, she started as a chef at ‘Oscars’ restaurant in Hampton, and then later set up a small cake-making business. This later grew to a full on catering business, ‘Armfield Catering’, providing top notch (and they really were!) buffets for weddings, anniversaries, parties and local businesses. An opportunity arose mid 1990s to rent out a small shop in Priory Road village and she, along with her business partner, opened a small patisserie and delicatessen, ‘Priory House’, in Priory Road, Hampton which continued until it had to close in the late 1990s.

Charity work started to feature in Mum’s life in the mid 80s and the 1990s when she joined the Hampton & Teddington branch of Save the Children, initially as secretary and later as Chairman. She encouraged me to get involved and we spent a number of years raising money at local events, continuing well into the 2000s alongside her business ventures.

Mum was fairly well travelled, including a world cruise to Hong Kong via the Middle East. A ride on a camel around the pyramids, leaving her camera equipment and cash with the camel owner and not getting it back - or being able to get off the camel - until she had paid him an extra £40, was a particularly memorable moment. Later on there were our trips together to the US, Switzerland, South Africa and then a holiday to Canada where our hosts failed to mention to Mum that going off for a walk in the ‘park’ behind the house where we were residing on the outskirts of Calgary, was dangerous (bears!).

Four Grandchildren arrived very quickly between 2003 and 2005 and she threw herself headlong into her Grandma role, whilst continuing with bits of catering, fundraising and her passion for art! Eventually Mum decided retirement was due, wanting to put her feet up a little and instead focus more on her garden and art. ‘Rita Armfield, Design Artist’ was established and Open House art along with membership (and later chairmanship) of a number of local art societies followed. She was rather chuffed

- and a rather substantial amount of name-dropping ensued - when she was asked by her local MP, Vince Cable, to commission a painting for him.

The early 2000s saw Mum's passion for her garden reignite and she spent long days working her 120 foot plot, cultivating beautiful shrubs and flowers, a greenhouse full of amazing cacti, citrus plants galore and a pond full of beautiful fish - you name it, she did it. She opened the garden as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) over two or three years and achieved huge numbers of visitors who appeared to travel from a pretty wide area to see her garden (including on one occasion a coach party!) and enjoy the delectable array of cakes that she baked and sold alongside. She later became an NGS coordinator and, at the suggestion of another coordinator, entered her garden into a Daily Mail national garden competition. She was thrilled to be shortlisted to the last '20 top private gardens in London'.

The late 2000s saw a sudden decline in her health with a stroke in 2009 and then in 2012 a diagnosis of diabetes. Sadly, all contributed to her immobility and overall poor health and eventual decline before we lost her in January.

I thank God for the amazing person Mum was, what she brought to my life and the life of my children, her incredibly bubbly personality and love for us all and my Dad, Colin, whilst bravely battling ill health. She had a really funny side to her with a cheeky sense of humour and right up to the last year or so when she was bedbound at home, this sense of humour was still there.

The help, sympathy and support from my church family has been *incredible* and for this I would like to pass on my grateful thanks and love.

Louise Bools

*Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.  
Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.*

Proverbs 31:28-29



## Brian and Janice reach 170 years!

I think it is probably quite unusual for a husband and wife to share the same birthday, but that is the case for Brian and me. This year, in April, we reached our 90th and 80th birthdays. We had a big celebration 10 years ago, but were not planning anything for this time. However, our friends Di and Ross, who live in Spain, announced that they had booked their flights to celebrate with us. Diane and I went to teacher training college together and she said that there was no way she was going to miss my 80th after such a long friendship.

So we decided to invite family and two more close friends to go out for lunch and then home for tea and cake. It was a lovely occasion, especially as we had not seen most of the family since 2019 before Covid struck. Before that, we rarely had all the generations together - daughter and granddaughter, plus husbands, grandson and new girlfriend and great grandchildren. We also saw Brian's sister, brother and sister-in-law for the first time in two years. Our daughter, Jan, brought a large cake which would have fed at least twice the number present. Everyone enjoyed the day, and we were so pleased that we had been encouraged to celebrate our 170 years.

Janice Thompson



## The Extra Mile

One evening in March a small group of us attended the Richmond Council Local Heroes Awards at York House. We had been nominated and it is always nice to be recognised plus the fact that it was a good opportunity to get TEM known a little more and meet other worthy nominees. It was an interesting evening with some lovely canapes followed by the award ceremony itself. Whilst we did not win our category it was heartening to see lots of local initiatives set up helping people through the pandemic and beyond. Hopefully we will have some of the official photos to share on the website in the near future and you can see our framed certificate for being nominated in church.

During April four of us set off to visit Stripecy Stork in Reigate. This is a baby bank, bigger than us, with employed members of staff in a huge warehouse. It was a very successful trip allowing us to see what they offered and also discuss how we can work together in future. We now have regular deliveries from them as they get given brand new items from companies i.e. new buggies and prams. So once a month the Stripecy Stork van delivers on a Wednesday morning anything we have asked for that we are short of to complete our referrals. We also brought back about 20 Mother's Day packs for our referrals. This is all completely free of charge to us and we are very grateful for the support.

We have also supported two families from Ukraine being hosted by a friend of the church. We knitted/crocheted teddies for the children and supplied other items they needed. We have supported refugees from various countries over the last few months from our outside referrers.

We recently had some feedback from one of the Health Visitors we work with in Acton. As we were getting short of pushchairs and we had the funds we decided to buy some reasonably priced new ones and we gave this Health Visitor one of them for the family she was supporting. The woman had been a refugee and came over in a boat being heavily pregnant at the time and desperate to get out of a bad situation. She didn't want to get into the boat when she saw it, but the traffickers said if she didn't get in, they would shoot her. When she received the buggy from us, she was delighted but said when did she need to give it back; the health visitor said it was hers to keep and with that she burst into tears of gratitude. So pleased to be given something lovely for her baby and to be met with kindness at last. Yet another affirmation that we are doing good things in this outreach project from HMP.

Councillor Gareth Roberts visited TEM after an invitation extended to him by our esteemed editor to come and see what we actually do. He was very positive and encouraging and if you haven't already seen it, we have a news item in the local press.

Finally, our latest activity is meeting up with a new local baby bank provider in the closed Debenhams within the Treaty Centre in Hounslow. They cover 0-5 years and we see this as a positive supportive addition to the local area. They have offered for us to deliver some of our Hounslow items to them as it can be difficult to park in Hounslow Centre and families and professionals can collect from them. There is an introductory event in July and some of the team are attending.

Pam



## A Thanksgiving for Trevor

When a close friend dies, nothing will prevent us feeling the sorrow and the sense of loss. But there are other emotions that swirl around us at the time of parting and beyond. One powerful reality that so many have learnt is that if you lose someone you loved, you don't ever stop loving them.

Another feature of loss that is strong in our Christian tradition is a profound sense of thankfulness. I don't mean, of course, thankfulness for the passing of the loved one, although release from pain can be a relief. There is a deep sense of wanting to thank God loudly, openly, for their life, their faith, and their contribution to God's Kingdom on earth.

It was this emotion that overwhelmed our church back on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April this year. The church was packed with Jacques working his magic with the new AV system beaming out the worship to the world. We had gathered for one much loved, much cherished, much admired Christian Brother: Trevor Wright.

The Thanksgiving service was led with great sensitivity by Revd. David Priddy. Our sister Janet was supported by her loving family. Son Peter read the Old Testament lesson: Psalm 121. Son David took the New Testament passage from Revelation 21:1-7; while daughter Katherine spoke powerfully and tearfully about their memories of her beloved Dad. David Priddy also passed on some of Janet's own thoughts about her devoted Trevor. I was given the huge privilege of adding a few words about Trevor's faith.

It was important that we were able to give thanks for all of Trevor's work over the decades for the Gideons. He, like Janet, had chaired the Richmond Borough Branch for many years. Local hotels, Hospitals, Care Homes, Prisons, Schools, Fire Stations have all benefitted from Trevor's hard work of distributing Bibles, New Testaments, and magazines. All provided free, out of a compelling desire to have God's word in the hands of those who are yet to know the Lord.

The Gideons have changed their name, for reasons I will not cover here, but the new name "Good News for Everyone!" sums up exactly what Trevor's years of service were all about.

Trevor was the Chaplain to the Richmond Branch, and he drew on his long service as Worship Leader at his church. He would start each meeting with a Bible reading and a devotional text. This not only grounded the business in faith but also provided encouragement if a member had to report on a refusal to receive a Bible at an establishment.

Kindness and a genuine interest in others were the cornerstone of Trevor's personality. He had a massive desire to help, to understand, sympathise, empathise. He cared for people with his skills, and he also nursed them with his warmth and faith.

We saw Trevor's enthusiasm for spreading the word when the Richmond Branch received the request from Paul Barker, our Elder and Chaplain to Hampton and Richmond Borough Football Club, to provide New Testaments for the young players and coaches at the Club. The Hampton Mission Partnership magazine covered the event with a great picture of Trevor, Janet, and Paul with some of the players holding their New Testaments.

Trevor loved to chat as he was always keen to find out how life was treating others. During the Covid Lockdowns Trevor and Janet engaged passionately with David Priddy's Friday Fellowship. Both were eager to contribute but also wanted to hear what others felt about a particular Bible passage or discussion point. I marvel how a group of Christians, most of whom never met Trevor in the flesh, felt so close to him and looked forward to hear what he (and Janet) had to say.

It was during the Covid times that Trevor and Janet started to regularly worship at HMP. They were part of the congregation at the two “taster” services that started the great “online” journey that Jacques has been leading us on. Their previous links to HMP were strong, as Janet had for several years been a member of the Extra Mile team, and both had been to events like the Fish and Chip film nights. Indeed, Trevor had many friends with those who worshipped at Bethany Chapel.

Music was a delight to Trevor, and as he and Janet had been blessed with beautiful voices, they were naturals as our “designated” singers when the rest of us had to be Covid silent! It was incredibly special then that Elizabeth and Bronwen were able to play together at the Thanksgiving.

I shared with the crowded church that Friday in April, the discussion the Richmond GNFE Branch had had, when we looked at Micah 6:8. The passage has a most important question: “And what does the Lord require of you?”. The answer, as I suspect most of you will know, is to “Act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

I suggested then and do again that there’s an alternative answer to the question of what God requires of us. Brothers and Sisters, it’s “Be a faithful servant, just like Trevor.”

Mark Gilks



Hello brothers and sisters of Hampton Mission Partnership, our names are Elizabeth, Ivan and Fae. We came from Hong Kong and we joined Hampton Methodist Church in summer 2021.

This is not the first time we have relocated. Singapore was also our second home a few years ago. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are tiny but unique, with a lot of stories to tell. Please feel free to chat with us if you are interested to know more about us and places where we came from.

Though we joined HMP not long ago, we do feel at home. The church welcomed us and has been very supportive. Church members embrace our differences, such as language and habits. We are also given the opportunities to serve in the music team and junior church. We look forward to more families from different parts of the world joining us. Nothing is better than in Christ, we worship together and serve one another.



## **Time Traveller Part 2**

...or what Great-great-grandma would think of today's modern world:

Social network – the pub

Hard drive – haggling with a stallholder

Memory stick – the headmaster's cane

Bitcoin – thruppence

Software – pyjamas

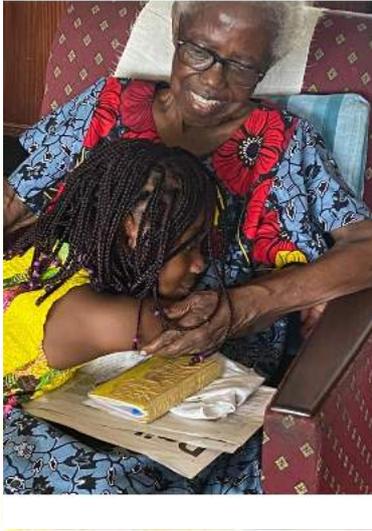
Cyberspace – Huh?!?

Rachael Brown

## My trip to Ghana

In June I went to Ghana for the first time and met my grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins. I had fun learning new things like cooking and washing and playing the gyile, a type of West African xylophone. We went on a road trip and saw beautiful lakes, mountains and greenery. Ghana has lovely white sandy beaches. The Atlantic Ocean lies on the south coast. Wading through the sea is like having a hot bath!

Mimi-Mirai



## Memories of the Coronation

As the majority of Ladies Guild members are of an age to remember 1953, we decided to share any memories we have of the Coronation in the church magazine.

Janice Thompson - I have more vivid memories of the death of King George VI in February 1952. My mother took me to see the lying-in state of the king at Westminster Hall. We went with a family friend who was notorious for always being late, so I was already getting rather bored before we joined the long queue. The queue moved slowly and I started climbing on the railings at the side of the pavement. There were short spikes between the tall railings. Perhaps due to the cold, I didn't feel any pain and it was only when someone behind in the queue told my mother that we realised that I had a nasty cut from one of these spikes. Not having tissues in those days, my mother tied a handkerchief around my leg. We eventually reached Westminster Hall and I remember the dim lighting and four servicemen standing one at each corner of the coffin. I also remember that I was excused from PE for two weeks or more!

Of the Coronation, I think we went to a street party organised by my aunt and uncle held in their local church hall. All school children in my borough were given a souvenir cup, saucer and plate and a small tin containing chocolate which was a real treat in 1953. I still have the cup, saucer and plate but not the chocolate! Also, all the local children went to our local cinema to see the colour film of the Coronation.

Barbara Healey - As a pupil at Twickenham County School we were given a book of Shakespeare's plays.

Ann Hoskins - Most people seem to have been given a coronation mug but at our school (Darell Road, Richmond) we received a very nice cup, saucer and plate which have remained in the back of a cupboard - unused. At Sunday School (St. Paul's Congregational Church in Richmond), we each received a very nice copy of the New Testament which I've always treasured and used.

Joyce Nockolds - I've very little recollection of the Coronation. I do remember the death of King George VI the year before. All radio programmes were suspended and the country was in mourning.

On Coronation Day I would have been working at the Milk Marketing Board and we must have had a day off. Neither we nor our neighbours had TV so we would have heard it on the radio. I do remember close up pictures of the Queen's dress showing the embroidered emblems of all the Commonwealth countries. I remember the Queen sitting on the throne wearing a very large crown that was so heavy it was changed after the ceremony for a lighter one. I must have seen that at the cinema afterwards on Pathe News.

The Queen of Tonga made a very big impression on the country with her lovely beaming smile. She was a large lady with a big personality. A song was composed about her - "Oh the Queen of Tonga - she came to Britain on Coronation Day". I can't remember any more words!

Janet Burt - I was taken up to London by two of my aunts. I saw very little and got very wet. I saw the golden coach and the Queen of Tonga also getting rather wet in her carriage. A very large lady. We didn't have a TV at the time - a luxury we couldn't afford. However much to my mother's disgust my father decided to rent one. He and it were dispatched to another room where he could watch it on his own. However eventually my mother came round and I must say they saw more of the coronation celebrations than I did!

Rosemary Shankster - Coronation Day 2nd June 1953 was cold and wet. I grew up in Twickenham. We didn't have a TV but friends of my parents who lived in Blackheath invited us to watch it on their TV. My dad, mum, sister and I set off very early from Twickenham to get there by trains and bus. Food was still rationed then. People had been saving up their rations to provide a special spread to celebrate. I remember my mother had made a Victoria sponge and tinned red salmon sandwiches - a real treat to share with our friends. The TV had a very small screen set in a large wooden cabinet; the room was very crowded so it was quite difficult to see very much. Despite rationing and the bad weather I remember that we all had a wonderful day of celebration.

On another day the children in my street had a party organised by the mothers. It was held in All Hallows Church Hall Twickenham. I remember that it was a lovely tea and we all played games afterwards. A really happy occasion.

Margaret Dedman - My two sisters and I went to a street party with friends and cousins. It was fancy dress - I was a Japanese lady in a borrowed kimono with a pair of my cousin's trousers underneath. My younger sister was a golly which would be very politically incorrect these days and rightly so. My other sister was Nell Gwyn in green crepe paper. We all had a good time with games and races and lots of lovely food!

Irene Humphrey - Our road had a lovely street party which had to be in a hall.

Jacque Gosney - It was an exciting day in Grasmere Ave on the Coronation Day of our young beloved Princess Elizabeth, and my parents were fortunate enough to have a nine-inch television set and were only too happy to invite the neighbours to watch the ceremony in the back room of our semi-detached home. We didn't have a magnifying screen over the tv so one's eye sight had to be pretty good, especially for those standing at the back! My father was never generous enough to relinquish his large armchair to anyone, but was happy enough for neighbours to bring in chairs or stools to watch the proceedings. He would sit comfortably smoking his pipe whilst my mother supplied countless cups of tea in bone china cups with plates of battenburg cake and chocolate fingers.

We were all so excited and full of admiration for the service, the pomp, the ceremony and the spirit of conviviality we shared with each other, on such a momentous occasion.

Long Live the Queen.....



## Big Jubilee Lunch Sunday 5 June 2022

### In celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 was a very special day.

Not only was it Pentecost Sunday, it was also the last day of the official Bank Holiday celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

During the morning Pentecost service, we commemorated the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus - the Spirit bringing the church into existence and enlivening it. Thus Pentecost can be considered the church's birthday - one very good reason for a celebration.

The other of course was to celebrate the 70 years on the throne of Queen Elizabeth II.

During the service we heard a special song written for the Queen and the fact that she has served her people for 70 years. It was called 'Rise up and Serve' and was sung by the Commonwealth choir and friends.

Then it was time to join together in the Big Jubilee Lunch!

After decorating inside and out and publicising the Lunch through social media as well as with invitations, posters and flyers, a group of around 90 people sat down together to enjoy a wonderful array of buffet food, including the official Platinum Jubilee pudding – lemon swiss roll and amaretti trifle made by Wendy – many thanks it was delicious!

It was so good to see so many join us from outside the church including people from the various groups associated with the church such as Messy Church and the Computer Drop In club run in association with AgeUK as well as neighbours and friends. We were even treated to a visit from two local councillors who saw the publicity about our event and came along to join in. Well done to Louise whose wonderful publicity made the event so high profile.

There was then a quiz based on the Queen and her life which was well received, especially by the winners who got commemorative biscuits and sweets and even the obligatory wooden spoon for the bottom placed participant was dressed up with red, white and blue ribbon!

However, everyone present was also given a copy of the glossy booklet 'Our Faithful Queen, 70 years of Faith & Service' by Catherine Butcher, in commemoration of the day. This book uses some of the prayers, Bible readings and devotional thoughts that were included in 'A Little Book of Private Devotions', written by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, and given to the Queen for her to use from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1953 to the day of her coronation as part of the personal preparation of the Queen for her role as Sovereign.

Along with poignant photographs of times throughout her life and extracts from her Christmas broadcasts, the reflections demonstrate her deep faith and sense of calling by God.

At the heart of the Coronation there was a hidden ceremony where the Queen was anointed with oil.

Anointing symbolically sets people apart for service and pours out the life and power of God. God's anointing makes the difference between an ordinary human life and a life empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

Just as God has equipped the Queen for her role as Sovereign over the past 70 years and answered her prayers, we as Christians believe that God wants to equip each of us for our roles in life and invites us to talk to him in prayer so he can answer our prayers too.

As we enjoyed engaging with the fun and celebrations, we can also join in with the last prayer from the book of Devotions, which is a prayer for all of us, for all of our lives:

God be in my head, and in my understanding.

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking.

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.

God be in my heart, and in my thinking.

God be at my end, and my departing.

Amen.

Christine Broomfield.



## Pacemakers or Peacemakers?

In today's athletics, the longer distance races have pacemakers. They're in the race to help other runners to compete well and finish in a good time. The runners in the race are trying to defeat their competitors, and to win the race. But whilst pacemakers set the pace, they don't finish the race. Peacemakers are different. Their role in a competition between rivals is to stay the course. They don't stop until the competition is over and the rivals have found an acceptable agreement. So in our Christian life, which are we, pacemakers or peacemakers?

Are we continually driving other people to go faster and faster, or helping them to find peace?

You often hear people say, "Is that the time?" or "There just aren't enough hours in the day!" We rush here and there always trying to catch up, and take two steps forward and one back. Life seems so complex nowadays, so pressured, so stressed and it doesn't get any easier. Even when people are retired, they say, "I don't know how I ever found the time to work!" Life is driven by an endless series of "To do" lists. Writing one is the first "to do" each day. And you never finish a "to do" list, because you can always think of more things "to do". Do we ever go down those lists and ask, "Why have I got to do that?", and then cross it off?

It seems the pace of life in today's world is so hectic and so much faster than it used to be. Wouldn't it be nice if, just for once, we could slow down for a bit? Have some "me" time? Even holidays can be a frantic rush. The minute you arrive you plan what to do each day. Theme parks have morning till night activities, rushing from ride to ride, queueing for ages. Cruises are packed with onboard activities, excursions with early starts, lectures and meals. Sightseeing means an avalanche of brochures and guide books of places not to be missed. You feel the time is so precious you can't afford to waste the opportunity while you're there. So you cram in as many places and activities as possible each day and end up exhausted. And when you get home with the photos and souvenirs, you feel you need another holiday.

If you look at period dramas on TV, you often see the people lazing all day in the fields, and then sitting at home talking, or reading, or sewing, or playing music, or just doing nothing. No massive shopping malls with a frantic rush for bargains and discounts and coupons. No gas and water companies at the door selling you electricity, and then vice versa. No TV or radio or Internet. No cars and trains and planes. Just horses and walking. Just peace, perfect peace and quiet. How can we get it back? How can we slow down? How can we find peace, despite all the pace? How can we put the "e" back into pace?

There are three "E" s to help achieve peace in a world increasingly going at such a pace.

First, we need to put it in the context of eternity. Where there is no time, pace is irrelevant. If this life is all there is, we might be excused for trying to pack as much into it as we can. But we have an eternity to look forward to, in the presence of Jesus, in perfect peace.

Second, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He never rushed but was always in time. Look around you at people who seem to have a peaceful life, and yet have time for people. How do they do it? By devoting their time to the things in life which matter to other people.

Third, we need to experience the peace which comes from knowing Jesus's presence. We've probably all met people who seem to be able to bring peace to situations of conflict. People who stay calm in the face of setbacks, because they know that God is with them.

That old saying, "There's no peace for the wicked" is very appropriate. Politicians beware! Covering up past misdemeanours and guilt with lies leads to less peace, not to more. Even those who escape judgement and detection often continue to suffer inner conflict. Dostoevsky's famous book Crime and Punishment is an excellent example of this. The main character Raskolnikov commits a murder but finds he has no inner peace.

So he engineers his own arrest and confession as the only way to find peace within himself.

At the moment we're in the midst of a dreadful war being fought in Ukraine. It is tragic. But peace between nations has never lasted. All countries have been at war and have suffered internal conflict. There is an uneasy period of peace and then another war. The world experienced this in the twentieth century. We pray this won't be repeated.

Maybe the three "E" s can help. View conflict in the context of eternity, not in the short term. Follow the example of Jesus. He made peace with those wanting to stone a woman to death. Even God found time to rest after creation by inventing the Sabbath, which is now so busy. Do you remember when the shops were closed on Sundays, and there was peace and quiet? And amidst all the turmoil surrounding us, experience peace from the presence of Jesus.

William Henry Davies wrote:

What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?  
No time to stand beneath the boughs and stare as long as sheep or cows.  
No time to see, when woods we pass, where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.  
No time to see, in broad daylight, streams full of stars, like skies at night.  
A poor life this if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.

A life with Jesus needn't be a poor life, full of care, with no time to stand and stare. We can put the "E" into pace and find peace, despite the many troubles of this world. Let's live our life in the context of Eternity. Let's follow the Example of Jesus, And let's Experience His peace, rather than waiting until we are laid to "rest in peace".

Nick White

(Nick is a much-loved visiting local preacher. This was his talk at July's Breakfast Church, which I felt was too good not to share more widely. EW)

## Tea and Memories

Tea and Memories is a memory café which meets on the first Friday of each month from 10.30 am to 12 noon for folk with dementia and their carers. It was started a few years ago when the church became a dementia friendly church and we decided that it was something that we could do for the increasing number of people with memory issues. It is important that carers stay as so often they also need to have someone to chat to. We provide tea and coffee and cakes and scones and activities usually include one or more quizzes with other activities varying each month. Painting and colouring, modelling with clay, flower arranging, jigsaw puzzles, sensory games, old magazines and papers displaying past national events are all part of the mix of activities. Singing old songs has not been re-started post-Covid but we hope to do this in the autumn.

Inevitably we have a level of turnover of attendees as folk become too poorly to be looked after at home and so the number of attendees has never greatly increased but those that do come enjoy their time with us and we feel we are addressing a need in the community. In July we had a lady who had come from Surbiton and one from Hounslow which seems to reflect that there are not that many little clubs such as ours. We welcome more help so do pop in on the first Friday of the month and also spread the word about Tea and Memories!

Hazel, Liz and Louise

## Oberammergau Passion Play 2022

I was privileged to be able to attend the Passion play this year as part of a holiday to Lake Garda, Venice and Verona. I had always wanted to go to the play and remember my parents going in 1970 and telling me how wonderful it was.

The Oberammergau Passion Play is a very special play. It all started with a vow. In 1633, the plague was raging in Europe, including the town of Oberammergau. People sought refuge in prayer and vowed that if the dying stopped, every ten years they would stage the play of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In fact, no one died from the plague from that day onwards. Since then, the people of Oberammergau have been performing the Passion of Jesus Christ every ten years. For 200 years, the play was staged on the cemetery near the church. However, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when more and more people started coming from all over the world to see the play, it was moved to the place where the Passion Theatre (built in 1900) stands today.

The play revolves around the mystery of the Passion of Jesus in a dramatic as well as meditative way. Between scenes, moments from the Old Testament come alive as tableaux, depicting related situations from earlier times. For example a tableau of Moses before Pharaoh precedes the scene where Jesus is before Pilate and Herod. The tableau of the sacrifice of Isaac on Mount Moriah preceded the way of sorrows and the Crucifixion. When I first saw the tableaux I thought the people in them were statues-then I realised that they were real people standing very still-I don't know how they managed it?!

The actors in the play are all people who live in the village. In addition to the cast there is a choir of around 60 singers and a full orchestra. The play was in two parts. Starting at 14.30 the first half lasted for around two and a half hours. We then had a dinner break at a local restaurant for three hours and resumed at 20.00 for the second half which ended around 22.45.

The play is all in German but you have a book with the English translation so you can follow the story, often not necessary as you know what is going on!

Parts of the play involved live animals-sheep, goats and doves during the Expulsion of the merchants from the Temple. A donkey - for Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Soldiers on horses in various scenes and at one point two camels— I wasn't quite sure how they fitted in!!

The crucifixion was a particularly dramatic and very moving scene. The resurrection was very triumphant and the choir sang a beautiful song to accompany the scene:

Hallelujah! The Lord.

Has overcome the powers of hell!

He was not bound by death

In the dark night of the grave!

Sing to him in holy psalms!

Scatter him the palms of victory!

Risen is the Lord!

Shout out praises to him, you heavens!

Sing to the victor, you O earth!

Hallelujah, to you, risen one.

If you have the chance to go to the next Passion Play which will be in 2030 I can thoroughly recommend it!

Wendy Salmon

**Passionsspiele Oberammergau 2022** 20845775  
Passionstheater Oberammergau  
Othmar-Weis-Straße 1, 82487 Oberammergau

**Dienstag, 31. Mai 2022**  
Teil I 14:30 Uhr, Teil II 20:00 Uhr  
Part I 02:30 pm, Part II 08:00 pm

Tor - Gate	Reihe - Row	Platz - Seat	Kat - Cat
N	018	069	2

**EUR 168,00**  
Preis - Price

inklusive Gebühren / Fees included  
Systemgebühr EUR 00,00  
VVK-Geb. EUR 18,00

Theatereinlass: 30 min vor Beginn, Theatre Access: 30 min prior to performance  
Veranst. / Organizer: Gemeinde Oberammergau  
Hotline: 0049 8822 - 835 93 30  
Hinweis: Bitte bewahren Sie das Ticket bis zum Ende der Veranstaltung auf.



**2022  
PASSIONS  
SPIELE**  
OBERAMMERGAU



### **“Meet the Missionaries”, an afternoon with Jackie and Brian Chilvers on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Following our friend and partner Annie Tanner’s retirement from her work in education in Nepal with the BMS (Baptist World Mission) Hampton Mission Partnership, never an organisation to do things by halves, decided to partner two missionary couples. Robert and Rose are working with immigrant communities in a sensitive part of Eastern Europe and we are asked not to reveal details of their location. When we have news of them it is shared through the Sunday service.

Our other partners are Jackie and Brian both of whom are nurses serving at a hospital in Guinebor 2, a suburb of N’Djamena, the capital of Chad.

Jackie and Brian trained together and worked in the NHS for many years before volunteering with the BMS. They have a son (29) and a daughter (26).

They were back in the UK on furlough from April to July this year at their home in Devon and we were able to meet them via Zoom. 20 plus people were in Church for the meeting with others watching from home. By God’s grace we were able to break through the distance and technological barriers and talk to them as if we were face to face. Many thanks to Jacques for making this possible. So what did we learn?

#### **Facts about Chad:**

- It is almost five times larger than the UK but only has a population of 17 million.
- Around 40% of the population are nominal Christians.
- The main languages are Chadian Arabic and French (as Chad was colonised by France).
- The average income in Chad is 94.8% less than in the UK.
- Life expectancy is 22.8% less than in the UK.
- Chad is third from bottom of the world food security index.
- Only 30% of the population aged 25 or less have basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- Malaria is endemic.

Jackie and Brian are mission workers using their professional skills in community health care and triage, so while Brian works in emergencies, Jackie works with new mothers to encourage them to have their babies immunised and to promote good nutrition practice and hygienic water supply much of which comes from wells.

The hospital and its outreach services are a Christian foundation from France and it has the first verse of Psalm 23 as its mission, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”. There are two missionary chaplains serving there and Jackie and Brian see themselves primarily as mission workers using their skills as a Christian witness. They share the good news of Christ in support of their brothers and sisters working at the hospital through a time of Christian fellowship each morning, through relationships with Muslim colleagues and praying with patients and others on the wards.

They are worshipping at a church which was founded two years ago in a neighbouring village where the sharing of food among the members has been an inspiration.

It was an amazing afternoon, as one attendee said, “the start of a long friendship”. Please remember Brian and Jackie in your prayers and be alert for news of them.

Barbara Spittle

## Books

### **Unveiled – Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made** by Clare Haynes

To quote Clare Haynes this book emerged out of ignorance – she was asked ‘My son’s girlfriend is called Miriam; I know she’s in the Bible – but who was she?’ (Clare is a college chaplain). Clare says she knew she was something to do with Moses but not much else and then set herself the challenge of writing about a Bible woman a day for the forty days of Lent.

The book is literally that – a snapshot of forty women in the Bible and the book can be used as a daily devotional as each subject takes up approximately four short pages. The book is not an in-depth theological study but the intention is to get to know these forty women better. The list is not arranged chronologically but grouped around themes which emerged such as motherhood, work, relationships and power.

We tend to think that women are largely ignored in the Hebrew scriptures and that when they are written about they are marginal and veiled in mystery, hidden away on the fringes. This is the case for some of the women but there are many others who are central to the narrative, complex and used by God in extraordinary ways.

It is interesting that many of the names are still popular choices for girls today – Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Hannah, Miriam, Deborah, Rachel, Leah, Naomi, Ruth and Abigail, but many were certainly unknown names to me.

A really interesting read that I can recommend. Published by BRF. £12.99

Hazel Greasby

### **The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot** by Marianne Cronin

This is a delightful book and full of thought-provoking events. Lenni is from Sweden and is a long-term patient in hospital. Whilst there she meets characters who help her through her difficult times, and although they are meant to be supporting her, she ends up making them consider their own actions and lives.

The book explores friendship and love whilst breaking down the usual barriers that sometimes crop up. Friendship blossoms between Lenni (17-year-old) and Margot (83-year-old) young at heart and larger than life, when they meet in an art therapy class in hospital. They realise that their ages added together come to 100 years, and so the idea is born that they should draw or paint 100 pictures of significant events in their lives. Their pictures depict both growing old and staying young at heart, loving and losing, creating happiness and experiencing sadness. Each picture tells a story with a date of when it happened, almost like a pictorial diary.

Who would have thought two such different characters would have so much in common to become such good friends? They discover it is not what you do with your life but who you share it with. Thoroughly recommend as a page turner and good for bedtime reading as the chapters can be short.

Pam Harrison

### **Only Heroes and Horses** by Natalie O’Rourke MBE

I’m sure you’re familiar with the recent battles to save Park Lane Stables in Teddington. This is Natalie’s story from her first pony ride as a six year old and subsequent ambition to run a riding stables for anyone ‘with disabilities, additional needs and anyone who needed a friend.’ She is an accredited Riding for the Disabled and Pony Club coach. Park Lane’s motto is ‘It’s what you can do that counts.’

You don’t have to like horses to enjoy this book! I absolutely loved it with tissues always to hand. It is uplifting and inspirational, but with many setbacks and major disappointments along the way you wonder how much more this woman can take! It is full of the kindness of ordinary people, the realisation that everything happens for a reason and it is nothing short of the miraculous. It is also very well written and you get to know the Park Lane family of ponies and riders. I can’t wait to see what happens next!

Liz Windaybank

Recently we moved the underused bookstand from the narthex to the car park foyer so that everyone who uses the church and halls has the opportunity to use it. It has had to be topped up several times so it was obviously a good idea! Do have a look if you haven't noticed it yet and find an interesting magazine or book to read!



Magazine editors: Liz Windaybank and Willem Sandberg