

Baptists and Methodists together at Hampton Methodist Church



Autumn 2023



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>

Not far from where I live, there is a Heritage Marker. It takes the form of an analemmatic sundial. I'm not entirely sure what "analemmatic" means! I expect that one of our readers will explain it to me. It seems that the sundial is designed to compensate for the fact that the earth goes around the sun in an ellipse rather than a circle. To make the sundial work, you stand in the middle on the spot for the current month of the year. Your shadow becomes the arm of the sundial and points to the time. My family have often tried this and it never seems to give the right time, despite being analemmatic. The marker can be found in Hurst Park at the south end of the Hampton Ferry's short crossing of the Thames.

The sundial is made up of a series of pillars and each has a plaque with a picture to tell something of the sporting history of the Hurst Park. Because the park is close to the royal palace of Hampton Court, it is quite a history. Henry VIII used it for hunting in the 16th century. James I played some of the first English games of golf here in the early 17th century. Some of the first organised games of cricket were played here in the 18th century and there is a painting of one of them at Lord's. The boat club and its regattas followed in the 19th century. Duels and prize fighting are also part of the history and the park was a racecourse until 1962. New generations, when they've given up trying to make it work as a sundial, can learn the story for themselves. The marker itself is becoming a piece of history as it is planned to restore it ready for its 20th birthday next year.

How do we tell our story and which stories do we tell? We can tell the story of how we became involved with the church, people we remember and the stories that were passed down to us. We can tell the story of our denomination and the great figures who spread the word and who revived Christianity around Britain. At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples to share bread and wine to remember. Every time we have communion, we remember and we retell the story of his life, death and resurrection.

*Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here. (StF 28 v.2b)*

Remembering brings things to life. As we hear the story, we become part of it. It becomes our story.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long. (StF 548 refrain)*

We become the story. It is through us, that the story is passed on to others and they too have the chance to become part of the story.

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story (StF 59 v.3)*

As summer draws to a close, and many events and activities resume in our church and circuit, let's tell the story of our faith and our personal journey so that others may hear the story and become part of it too.

Your friend and superintendent minister
David Innes

All change here

Once the cry of station staff as a train arrived at its final destination, this might well have been the theme for HMP in the summer of 2023. Whilst we were sad to say farewell to Kan after only three years of her energetic and creative ministry among us, we had to recognise that God was calling her to a new ministry to which she was uniquely suited and wished her well.

But when God closes a door, He also opens a window and on 1st September we welcomed Philip Slater to the Teddington Circuit as he took up a two-year appointment as Lay Pastor serving HMP, Hanworth and Sunbury. We look forward to his ministry and getting to know Philip and his wife, Caroline.

31st August was also a day of change for us as our long serving Senior Steward, Mark Gilks, stood down both from that role and being a steward. Mark has worked tirelessly for God as both a key leader and Lay Preacher. Such is his gifting that he has a pastoral heart always ready to listen and care for others, complete mastery of the Costco card, the ability to chair meetings which make good decisions, and welcome visitors showing God's love for all His children.

And he is patient. As originally planned I succeeded him as Senior Steward in October 2022 as he was having eye surgery. Three weeks later the Chair of Governors at Brooklands College where I was Vice Chair resigned unexpectedly and overnight leaving me in the hot seat and with a huge unexpected time commitment. Mark generously provided the solution – he would again become Senior Steward with the support of other stewards. It took nine months to find and appoint a new Chair of Governors. As I said, he is a patient man.

Thanks for everything, Mark, and we look forward to what you do next.

Barbara Spittle



Mark presenting Kan with our gifts

Saying goodbye and hello

Over the last three years, we have been privileged to have Rev. Kan Yu serving as a member of the circuit team. Alongside the excellent work that Kan has done here, she has, in her own time, been reaching out to newly arrived migrants from Hong Kong, especially those who are now living in Sutton. Kan approached the connexion's Stationing Advisory Committee to ask permission to leave our circuit at the end of August to give all of her time to this outreach. Kan leaves with our blessing. Please do pray for Kan as she develops her new role.

As we say goodbye to Kan, we say hello to Philip Slater who has been appointed as Lay Pastor with responsibility for Hampton, Hanworth and Sunbury. Philip, originally from Derbyshire, is a Local Preacher from the Staines and Feltham Circuit. He is married to Caroline who is a Baptist. Most recently, Philip was working in accounting. He has a degree in Economics and has past experience of working in social services and with a homeless shelter. He has trained at both Cliff College and Wesley College, Bristol. He is a Samaritan, has been the Chair of a community arts project, plays the piano and sings in a choir. He has a strong focus on mission outreach and on prayer. Please make Philip welcome, pray for him and do enjoy getting to know him.

David Innes



After Philip's Welcome Service

The Coronation of King Charles III



A coronation – wow – a chance to repeat the very successful community lunch that we had organised the year before for Queen Elizabeth II's jubilee celebration!

That was exactly what we did – led by Chris Broomfield we organised members of the congregation to bring in celebratory food to share, and bought in some other items. On the Sunday of the coronation weekend, after the morning service, the lunch took place; we were joined by our local councillors and many from Hampton generally. After lunch Chris organised one of her quizzes and everyone went home with a commemorative pencil. It was a very successful event that was enjoyed by all who attended.

Hazel Greasby



Coronation Lunch

Words For Brother Jeffrey

On the day Jeffrey (Anang Laryea-Quarshie) died I left his home with a heavy heart. Kan had led loving prayers for Doris and several friends and family members who had gathered together. There were floods of tears, raw emotions, mingled with much hugging and comforting. Doris managed the words of an old hymn.

Once home, I sat down quietly and felt the need to write down a few words that described my lovely friend, who was now in the arms of his Lord.

I came up with five:

- Strong
- Proud
- Courageous
- Playful
- Brother

Let me start with “Strong”. This is an obvious word for Jeffrey. He was physically strong. If I had known him when he was a teenager, I would have encouraged him to play rugby, for he was tailor made to be a Tight-head Prop! But Jeffrey’s strength was not just physical. He was a rock of a husband for Doris, and a rock of a Father for Ivan and Joshua. His love, protection, and support for Doris made her feel like a Queen.

He didn’t use volumes of words, he didn’t need to, for his love for his family shone out in that gracious smile. In the moving tribute that the boys gave at the funeral and burial they spoke of knowing their dad’s guidance merely from the expression on his face.

But that’s not all with the word “Strength”. Jeffrey’s faith was also strong. The family visit to church on a Sunday morning was so important to him, and a great example for all to see.

You might be surprised that the next word is “Proud”, as pride can be such a negative quality. But Jeffrey’s pride was for others. First and foremost, for his family. He was brimming full of pride in Doris, watching her career develop and becoming an accredited Worship Leader for the Circuit. He was also so proud of his boys. Ivan and Joshua will carry that pride all their lives, along with memories and the values Jeffrey gave them. Jeffrey was proud of his Church in Hampton. His background was in Methodism, including the Boys Brigade, and it was Jeffrey who brought the family to Hampton Mission Partnership. None of us will ever forget the Sunday morning when Jeffrey, Doris, and Joshua brought Ivan to us, straight off the plane from Ghana. Jeffrey’s beaming smile said it all. What a day of praise and thanksgiving.

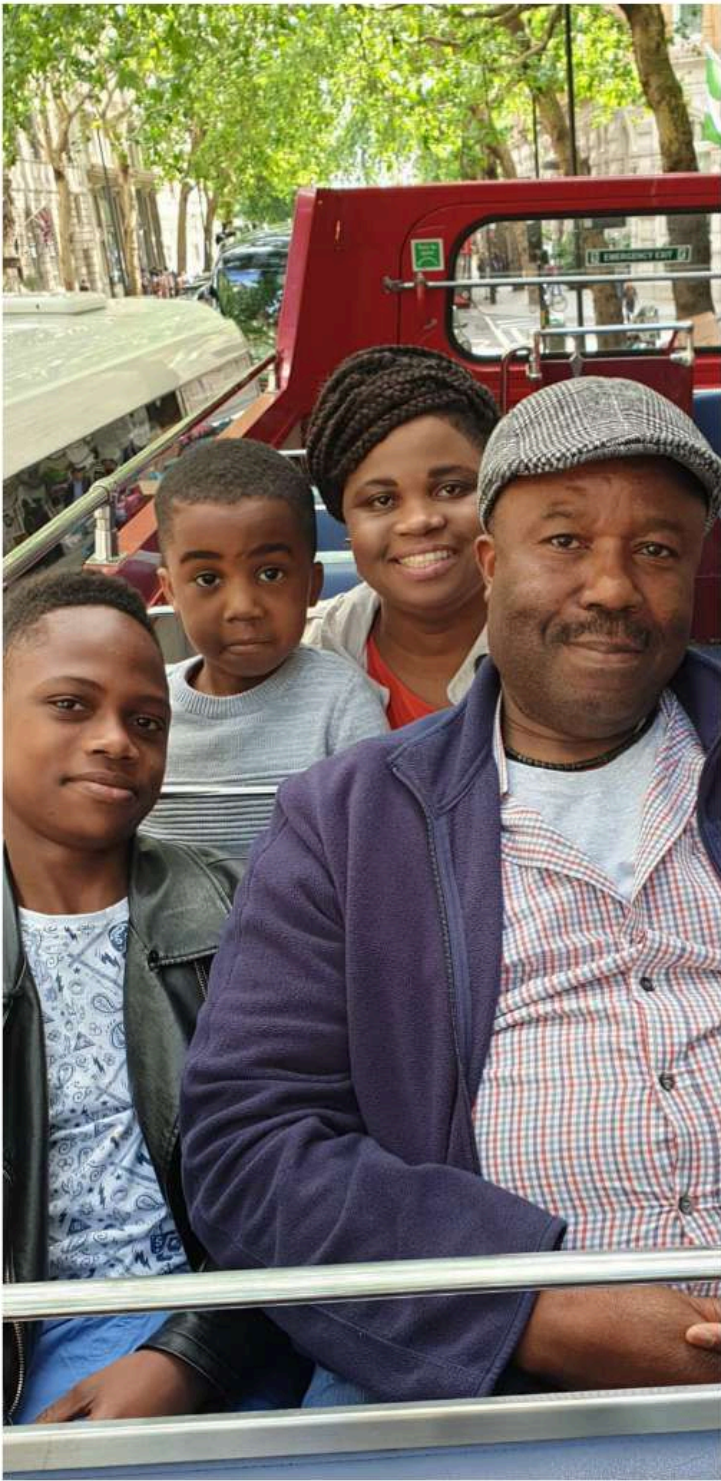
I suspect that you all would pick the word “Courageous” for Jeffrey, because that’s the way he lived his life. He was an extremely hard worker. There were even times when Doris wanted him to do less hours as a mini cab driver. That raw courage showed powerfully in Jeffrey’s long battle with cancer. He once quietly told me that he did not complain to the medics about the pain of the treatments as he feared if he did that, they would reduce the dosage.

Yet there’s another side to Jeffrey. He was really “Playful” and capable of fun and affection. The family will hold many memories of parties with loud Ghanaian music, and his skilful cooking. Anyone who witnessed the delightful relationship he struck up with Isaac at Church, as they sat together after the morning service as the chocolate biscuits disappeared, will have seen the playful Jeffrey.

Let me conclude with a word that all of us at Hampton Mission Partnership can use for Jeffrey— “Brother”. It has been a huge privilege to have Jeffrey as a brother in Christ. He has enriched the life of our Church and warmed the hearts of so many of us.

We thank our heavenly Father for bring Jeffrey into our lives, and for Doris, Ivan, and Joshua who we hold in our prayers and in our hearts.

Mark Gilks



Janet Brown

Janet was appointed pastor to Hampton Methodist Church in September 2002 and served in this capacity until August 2005 when she and her husband Peter retired to their cottage in Cornwall. Janet was Hampton's first female pastor/minister.

In 2004 my husband and I joined Janet and Peter on a narrow boat holiday on the Leeds and Liverpool canal system and so got to know them quite well!

Janet and Peter had lived for a short time in Australia, returning to the UK for a few years before moving to New Zealand. They returned again to the UK in later life, leaving their adult son and daughter in New Zealand. On arriving here Janet first worked as a pastor in the Cheadle district, including being a chaplain to a women's prison, and then came to us in Hampton. Our Sunday School was floundering at the time which was of concern to Janet and so 'Discovery Club' for our young people was started which reinvigorated studies for our young people.

We visited them a few times in Cornwall and were able to see some of the beautiful area they lived in. We recall we were on a family holiday in south Devon at the time of Janet's 70th birthday and we made a cross country trip to join the party with a celebration cake for the occasion and for Colin to act as toastmaster! They returned to New Zealand a few years ago and we went to see them off at Heathrow.

Janet's daughter Rachel advised several of us that Janet had died peacefully on 28 May following a massive stroke nine days earlier; prior to that she had had an increasing lack of mobility.

Janet is remembered for her strong Christian faith and determination.

Hazel Greasby



Rev. Harry Dodd

Harry was the minister at our church from 1973 to 1982. I moved to Hampton in 1970 as I got married and so was very much a 'new girl' at church, helping at Sunday School but not involved with the running of the church.

Harry joined us as a widower with two teenage children, his daughter Val and son Martin, and was popular from the start. Everyone was delighted when after a time he met Pat who attended Sunbury church and subsequently married her and then had a son, Andrew.

I recall Harry, with his slight north-country accent, always had time for everyone but what really stood out was that he was our first 'modern' minister. No clerical clothes or academic gown for Harry - he always wore ordinary clothes (often with a black shirt) and he never preached from the pulpit; always from the lectern – something that had not been done before. He considered he was the same as everybody else and should be at our level. Harry was keen that members with increasing difficulties in getting to church should be brought and I recall being on a rota, bringing members from Hounslow and Kingston!

He had endless patience with people; I recall we had a member who had served the church faithfully but had increasing dementia with concerns that 'somebody was under the television'. I know that Harry was frequently telephoned with this worry and he would patiently cross the road, check under the television and put her mind at rest! Whenever members of the congregation were going through difficult times Harry was always there for them.

When Harry moved from Hampton he went to the Patcham circuit just outside Brighton and we had several trips there with many members of the congregation, spending happy times playing rounders on the green at the back of Brighton.

The length of time Harry was at Hampton speaks for itself – he was a popular minister and is remembered with fondness.

Harry died on 16 July 2023 aged 96 and Willem went to the Thanksgiving Service at Glossop on 10 August to celebrate his life.

Hazel Greasby



Harry and Pat in 1985 after Bob and Doreen's wedding

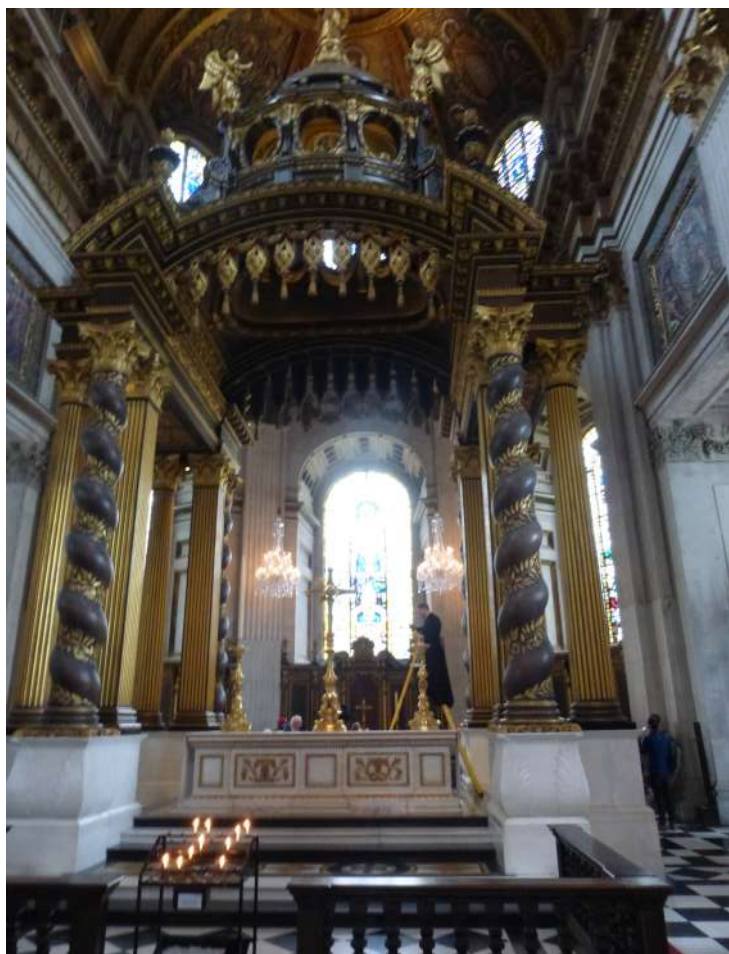
Behind the scenes at St Paul's Cathedral

On Monday 22nd May 2023 we made our way up to St Paul's Cathedral - we met the rest of our party outside, then were ushered in by Rev David Bell, who is a Pastoral Minister there. He had offered to show us round when he came to preach at Hampton earlier in the year.

He gave us our tickets and then showed us round the main floor. It looked smaller on the inside than expected from the outside appearance and it was interesting to see the contrast in decor from the rather plain West entrance to the very ornate centre and eastern end. A much more modern part, the 'Remember Me Covid-19 Memorial', had been added in the North Transept. David was able to take us behind some barriers, so we were able to go into the choir, which wasn't open to other visitors. He also showed us round the various memorials in the crypt, before he had to go back to work. We were able to rest for a bit with teas/coffees in the crypt, then were able to go and explore by ourselves.

Sue and I made our way up to the Stone Gallery - a wide gallery round the outside at the base of the dome, with excellent views - we were lucky with the weather, too. We then went further up to the Golden Gallery - a much smaller gallery at the top of the dome, with even better views (but many more steps to climb up, and come back down.)

Mike Dennison



The ornate altar



Memorial to Florence Nightingale in the crypt



The view from the Golden Gallery out over the cathedral and London



The stairs up to the Golden Gallery

The Extra Mile

On Sunday 25 June Kan held a very special service to celebrate The Extra Mile. Eunice gave a talk about how it came into being, the early days and that we have helped 4000 children in 8 years! I then talked about how it has developed, some of the organisations we are now working with and the future. It was an enjoyable service and we had some of the volunteers from other churches in the congregation. This also served the purpose of informing new people to the church. As an extra bonus there was a celebration cake at coffee after the service. (The service is still available to watch on the Extra Mile page of the church website.) <https://hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk>

Although earlier this year we felt referrals had slowed down, we seem to be picking up again and have a steady stream of professionals asking for items to support the families they work with. We have had some individuals approach us, but always refer them to health and social care workers to refer to us if appropriate and we never deal directly with families.

We have an active Instagram and Facebook page on which we post interesting photos of particular donations or our particular needs. Each time we are fortunate enough to have one or two people who have what we are looking for and are happy to donate.

We have also started to use the shed which used to belong to Aston Pierpoint. This has been useful to store referrals which are ready for collection and have been sitting around a while and some of the pushchairs as it is a clean and dry space.

Soon we will be getting ready for the Christmas season, which is always a busy time and on Sunday 19 November we will be holding a Toy Service when you will have the opportunity of bringing new toys or books for children of all ages. This will help us meet the requests for Christmas presents from our referrers and last year we had an unprecedented number of requests including from a hotel housing refugees. More details will be coming out about this nearer the time.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Extra Mile in various ways enabling us to show God's love to families in need.

Pam Harrison



Messy Church

Our Summer Messy Church was a huge success. As reported by Mark Gilks “What a marvellous Summer Messy Church! We had sixty, yes sixty, children plus parents/carers! Sharon and her hard-working team were totally brilliant. Massive thanks to everyone.” I also thank all the amazing volunteers from HMP.

Below are just some of the activities that were left behind by accident, of course, now displayed on the Messy Church Board in the Big Hall. All thanks to our amazing Heavenly Father, He really did answer prayers and the sun came out in all its glory to add the finishing touches to our HMP Beach. God bless you all.

The next Messy Church will be 24 October 10.30 to 12.

Christmas Messy Church will be Saturday 16 December with Christingle.

Sharon Davis



Out and about with Ladies Guild

You may recall an article in a previous church magazine describing the interesting talk about patchwork which was given by Valerie Clark. During her visit she told us that she worked at Chertsey Museum, and encouraged us to visit this small but interesting museum. A number of Ladies Guild members decided that we should go, but only got around to arranging this in early July.

We picked Tuesday 4th without remembering that this was the first public day at Hampton Court Flower Festival. Having arranged to go by bus we found that traffic in Hampton was at a complete standstill, but fortunately a 216 appeared and we reached Sunbury Tesco where two other LG members were waiting. The buses to Chertsey run hourly and one duly arrived more or less on schedule. By the time we reached Chertsey it was raining steadily, so we looked for somewhere to have lunch before the museum opened. We found an all-day breakfast venue, aptly named Joe's Cafe, where we enjoyed a less than healthy but enjoyable meal.

After our lunch we went along to the museum which is housed in an attractive Georgian building. Valerie was actually working that day and greeted us warmly. One reason we had chosen this time to visit was because there was a small temporary exhibition of 1930's fashion. This was where we started our visit, admiring the flattering and elegant bias-cut dresses of the era. The elaborate cut of the clothes and detailed trimmings were such a contrast to today's fashions. There was a small selection of garments to try on, but we only tried hats and jackets. No one was willing to put on a dress. Valerie had made a dress from a 1930s pattern to wear at the opening of this exhibition and this was on display. She told us that, though it looked simple, it was a very complex pattern to make.

Being a local museum, there was a great deal about the history of the local area and Chertsey Abbey. We had not realised that Chertsey was once famous for clock and watch making and there was a large display of some which were made locally. One thing we learned was the reason for jewels in watches - apparently they are to prevent friction in the movement.

Altogether we agreed that it had been a worthwhile and enjoyable day, and that we would recommend a visit to other people.

Find out more about Chertsey Museum here <https://chertseymuseum.org>

Janice Thompson



Strawberry Hill House

On Wednesday 23rd August a group of ladies from Ladies Guild went on a visit to Strawberry Hill House in Waldegrave Road in Twickenham. In 1747 Horace Walpole discovered and purchased 'Chopp'd Straw Hill' which was one of the last remaining sites on the banks of the Thames in fashionable Twickenham. He set about transforming what was then just a couple of cottages into his vision of a 'little Gothic castle' with pinnacles, battlements and a round tower. Thus Strawberry Hill house was born and became a tourist attraction in Walpole's lifetime and beyond.

After Walpole died in 1797 the house passed to family members and eventually fell into ruin with most of Walpole's collection being sold. The house was restored with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and other supporters. £10million has been spent on the repair and restoration work making opening the House to the public possible once again.

It is well worth a visit. There is also a lovely garden, a shop and a café (2 for 1 entry with a Richmond card.) <https://www.strwberryhillhouse.org.uk>

Wendy Salmon



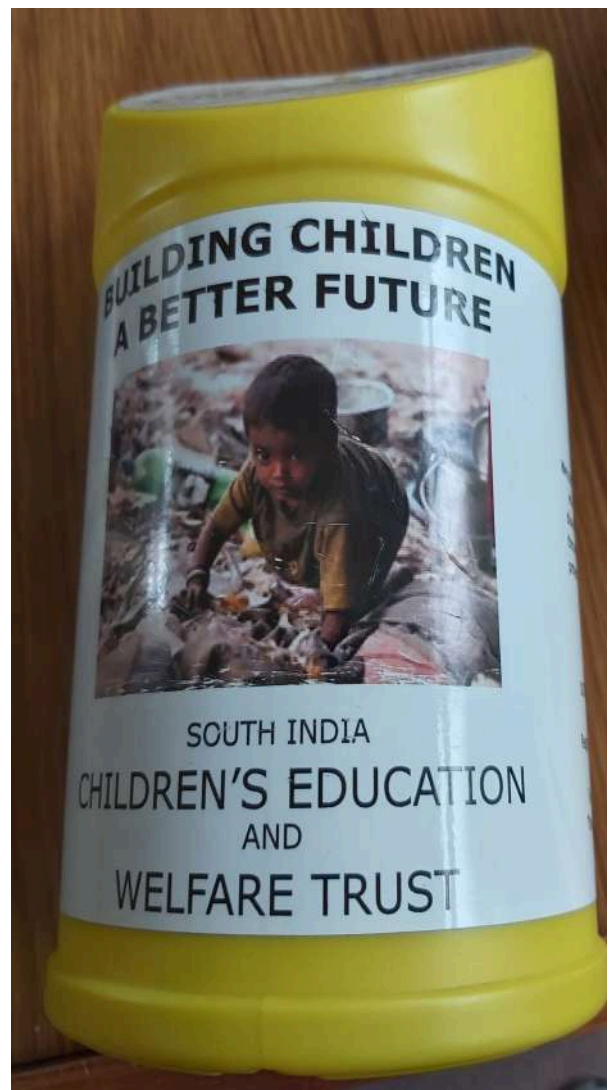
Rev David Priddy visits Ladies Guild

On Tuesday 26 September David came to Ladies Guild to tell us about the story of his church's mission to India over many years. We were so pleased to see so many people taking up the invitation to join us and hear what David had to say in his splendid outfit!

He started by asking us questions about India which we struggled to answer correctly! He then told us about the various activities he had personally taken part in and the places and people he had met with many pictures to accompany this. Finally, he showed us a film about his work with the South India Children's Education and Welfare Trust which aims to promote, encourage and support the education and physical welfare of disadvantaged children in South India through directed grants to established projects managed by Indian Nationals. You can see this film on the website www.sicewt.org.uk

If you would like to support this work look out for the yellow collecting boxes in the community, for example in St John's Superstore in Station Road and Universal Food and Wine in Milton Road, Hampton and now in our church narthex.

Liz Windaybank



Hope in Ageing Poetry Competition

“Let’s run a poetry competition on the theme of “Hope in Ageing” and publish all the shortlisted poems in an anthology! It’ll be fun!” we thought, despite absolutely no experience in poetry competitions or publishing. “We” being the team at the charity Embracing Age, a local Christian charity working with older people. Sometimes you just have to run with an idea and see what happens...

And we are so glad that we did. With the support of Pam Rhodes and an amazing team of volunteers we had over 200 poems submitted, from people over 50 years old. Our oldest participant is 101.

It’s been so inspiring to read all the entries and see so many sources of hope in our later years. Poets wrote of having more time and opportunities as they get older: time be with family and friends, for leisure activities, to learn new things, to reflect, to give back and to impart wisdom. Others wrote of ageing bringing new perspectives and a desire to live life to the full. Faith was an important source of hope as we age, with more time to spend praying, or resting in God’s presence, along with the hope of heaven and life beyond the grave.

Reflecting on hope in ageing brought joy to our participants too. One poet told us, “Taking part in the competition was so uplifting and exciting.”

We asked Pam Rhodes, Dave Bilbrough and Amanda Root to choose the winners – not an easy task! You can read the winning poems on the Embracing Age website embracingage.org.uk/poetry

Pam Rhodes will be featuring the winning poems on her “Hearts and Hymns” programme on Premier Radio on 1st October, to celebrate Older People’s Day. Embracing Age is also publishing an anthology of the 58 shortlisted poems, which will be available from 1st October. Pam Rhodes describes it as:

“A sublime tapestry of insights, feelings and experiences through which hope is solidly threaded, weaving together life, limb, laughter and love.”

You can buy a copy from the Embracing Age website, or from Amazon. They’ll also be available to purchase at the Full of Life fair on 13th October.

Tina English



Books

The Little Wartime Library by Kate Thompson

This is such a lovely read. It centres around the makeshift library in the London Underground station of Bethnal Green during Wartime, when they utilised the tunnels for sleeping accommodation and various other things like a theatre and hairdressers for the people who lived and slept there during the Blitz and if they were bombed out of their houses. It was thought safer than living above ground.

The author has done a lot of research and details actual events and disasters that took place at the station. For instance, I didn't know about the disaster at the station when a crowd of people panicked on the stairs to the platform and in the crush 173 people died. There is a memorial fairly recently unveiled in commemoration. She has also interviewed several people who were there at the time and were users of the library.

The story revolves around the life of the librarian and the people who use the library with all their mixed stories and the troubles and happy times as well. It is a really feel-good book with some lovely stories of life during a difficult time and as authentic as possible with all the dated attitudes to women and social norms of the time.

I hope they make a film or TV drama out of it, but we shall see.

Pam Harrison

Standing on the Shoulders: incredible heroes and how they inspire us by Dan Walker

This is a celebration of ordinary people often caught up in unexpected and unwanted events and the extraordinary things they do to change themselves and society. You probably have heard of the 3 Dads Walking, united in grief following their daughters' deaths in 2018 and walking to raise awareness and money to promote suicide prevention in schools. Only this month the government announced the Suicide Prevention Strategy for England in no small part as a result of their campaigning.

Other chapters focus on those caught up in the London Bridge knife attacks in November 2019 and the Manchester Arena bombing in May 2017. There is an insightful chapter called 'The truth about monsters' dealing with the grieving process and aspects of forgiveness.

One of my favourite chapters is about Paul Harvey and his son Nick. You may remember how Paul could compose music on the spot with just four notes in spite of having dementia. Nick put the music on twitter and it went viral. Nick says, 'More importantly it brought him back to life. I got my dad back! It was meant to be, Dan. Twitter has a video limit of two minutes and twenty seconds. Obviously dad has no idea about that, but he played for just short of that, so I was able to upload the whole thing.'

Dan says that Paul is exactly the sort of person he loves to write about as he inspires those around him and Dan goes on to let six people tell their stories of how Paul had changed their lives. The lovely relationship Paul and Nick have also shines through, full of humour and love. We also discover really unexpected outcomes from such a small beginning.

Liz Windaybank

Imad's Syrian Kitchen: a love letter from Damascus by Imad Alarnab

This is the most beautiful book of mainly classic Syrian recipes plus some Imad's mother cooked that he has made his own and some he has adjusted to suit UK tastes i.e. sometimes healthier or lighter. The cover and pages opposite each chapter heading are of the vibrant décor in his London restaurant, also called Imad's Syrian Kitchen, which opened in 2021.

So why am I (not known for my love of cooking) promoting a cookery book? Because it is so much more than that. Interspersed between the cookery chapters are sections about life in Syria before and during Assad and about Imad's own experience of being a successful chef with three restaurants in Damascus in 2009. These are all destroyed in the war and he and his family have several narrow escapes from bombing. He leaves Damascus in 2015 as a refugee trying to reach the UK where he has family.

If you have ever asked why people flee their war-torn countries, encountering dangerous situations, then do read this book. Most are just normal people forced into situations they could never have imagined. You may also be surprised at what follows when he presents himself to the Home Office as an asylum seeker. Towards the end is a very powerful section simply called, 'Angels.' This recounts the many simple acts of unexpected kindness shown to him on his journey to the UK.

I only heard about Imad's story when he was a guest chef on BBC Saturday Kitchen on 8 July 2023 and it is still available to watch on BBC iPlayer.

Liz Windaybank

Valuable by Liz Carter

There are times in our lives when, for whatever reason, we feel useless or not good enough. We may be going through challenging circumstances and have a strong sense of weakness, failure, or sadness. When we look at the lives of others and compare ourselves, we might feel inadequate or useless. We can feel judged by society because our value and worth are so often defined by our position or our usefulness. How can God use us when we tell ourselves that we are failures for one reason or another? We can make ourselves believe that God sees us as useless too.

In this book Liz Carter talks about God's upside down kingdom. She gives many examples of when God has worked with and through people who could easily have been seen as failures. She explains that God does not "use" us but He calls us to partner with Him and be co-workers with Him. If we listen to Him, whatever our circumstances, He speaks to us in a language of love. He calls us forward and draws us into the knowledge of who we really are. He transforms us.

At the end of each chapter there are wonderful prayers and helpful reflections which reinforce the glorious message that we are all truly loved and valued by God.

I found "Valuable" to be well written and an easy read. The words are both comforting and inspiring and I thoroughly recommend it.

Linda Akkad

The first three books can be borrowed from Richmond Libraries. All can be purchased from Waterstones.

Bible Fellowship

Following a discussion with members of our Church Family at Hampton Mission Partnership we have decided to try a daytime Bible Fellowship in the coming months.

The aim of the Bible Fellowship is simple. We want to give the opportunity for folk to meet together and look at a particular Bible passage and ask what God is saying to them through that Bible story.

The dates for the Fellowship are:

- Wednesday 11th October
- Wednesday 15th November
- Wednesday 13th December

All the Fellowships will start at 2.00pm with a cuppa, and finish around 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The passages that we will be looking at have a general theme of “Questioning God,” and are as follows:

- 11th October:
“How can you, being a Jew, ask from me a drink, while I am a Samaritan Woman?”
(John 4:4-42)
- 15th November
“Do you love me more than these?” (John 21:1-22)
- 13th December
“How will this happen?” (Luke 1:26-38)

If you have any queries do please let me know.

Mark Gilks

Magazine editors: Willem Sandberg and Liz Windaybank