

Acorns

GOFFS OAK METHODIST CHURCH, NEWGATE STREET ROAD, GOFFS OAK, HERTS, EN7 5SS
WINTER 2016/17

When our church was full of happy hearts



Not once, but twice in recent months happy hearts have filled our church premises. They came firstly in the form of a wonderful activity organised by Girlguiding Hertfordshire which took place at GOMC on Saturday, October 8th. Then on Sunday, 27th November two of them came to tell us all about it at our annual Gift Service.

Our visitors at the service were members of Girlguiding's 'Happy Hearts' group, whose aim is to support girls with special needs and who seek to enable them to engage more fully in all that they can be. We were privileged to have the presence of Gill Logan (right in picture) and Tina Bailey from Girlguiding Hertfordshire, who gave us a fascinating presentation about the group's work.

'Happy Hearts' in Girlguiding Hertfordshire started almost 10 years ago. Since then more and more girls with special and complex disabilities have been integrated into the Girlguiding units in Hertfordshire. It became apparent early on that quite a number of these girls were unable to attend residential events that were being organized for the other girls in their units, such as camping, sleepovers and some outdoor activities. As Gill told Acorns:-

"This was discussed at a county training day and as the Special Needs Adviser for the county I decided that the answer was to form a special needs team that would be willing to help, organize and run a special needs weekend. Tina was willing to become part of the team along with other guiders, including Carol Bowes, and so Happy Hearts was created." Our weekends have taken place in different venues like Cottered, our Girlguiding County Headquarters, Wymondley Wood Scout and Guide Centre in Letchworth, Tolmers Scout and Guide Centre in Cuffley and here at Goffs Oak Methodist Church. A Happy Hearts event takes place each year either as a residential weekend or a single day. There is a fun theme to each event with such themes as Happy Hearts Going Wild, Going Musical, Going to the Circus, Going Entertained and a 'Frozen' Day."

Tina organized a really special Happy Hearts day at our church in October. Our building is a perfect place to hold these events. The flooring being all on one level makes it accessible to the wheelchair users and the girls who have difficulties in walking. The quiet room offers a sanctuary for the girls who need time out from the activities going on around them. The kitchen is another welcome sanctuary for the Guiders to have much needed coffee and tea and also to be able prepare lunches for the girls.

Gill concluded:-

"So at your Gift Service we would like to send a big thank you from the girls and Guiders of Happy Hearts Girlguiding Hertfordshire for the generosity of the Church for allowing us to hold our special days here."

LOOK WHAT AWAITS YOU IN THIS WINTER EDITION OF Acorns.....!

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What's happening in our Church?

Sunday Services are held at 10.15am every Sunday and at 6.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Sunday Club - All youngsters are welcome to come to Sunday Club at 10.15 am, where there is a variety of activities. Sunday morning worship at 10.15 am is a mix of traditional and contemporary styles.

Holy Communion is held on the 1st Sunday morning and 3rd Sunday evening. Members of the Methodist Church, any other Church, and those earnestly seeking faith, are all welcome to take and share bread and wine with us.

United Services are held on the 1st Sunday evening of each month with St James' Parish Church, Goffs Oak. Check the News Sheet for which location.

Prayer meetings are held from 11.45am on the first Sunday of the month - please ask when you come to Church if you wish to support this important part of Church life. Check the News Sheet for which location.

Tuesday Coffee Morning - Every Tuesday there is a Coffee Morning in the church lounge from 10.00 - 12.00 to which everyone is invited.

Introduction to Christianity, Baptism, Confirmation (membership), Weddings and Funerals

These are a part of the life of the Church, the community and its people. Those interested in discussing any of these should contact the Minister.

Uniformed Organisations

The Scout and Guide communities are very active in Goffs Oak. Please see the Hall for Hire page on the website for details of when and where.



GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

DON'T FORGET OUR WEBSITE!

If you can access the internet, log on to

www.goffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk

David Batts is supervising our website, so please log on regularly and keep up to date with what is going on at Goffs Oak Methodist Church.

Current and past Acorns also on website!

EDITORIAL

Following the Late Autumn Acorns (LAA), we now have LWA. No, not Local Welfare Assistance. Of course - you guessed - it's Late Winter Acorns!

It seems our admin issues are refusing to go away, with the result that the edition promised in January has arrived a few weeks late, but we are still in the throes of winter so it's not too late. In fact as I write this it is cold outside and I am thinking about winter time and possible signs we could put on our notice board to catch the attention of passers-by. These come to mind:-

'One kind word can warm three winter months'

'The Sun can warm your winter days.'

'We're still here between Christmas and Easter'

But the one I like best is:-

'Too cold to change sign - come inside for message!'

Incidentally, We can now say that next year is our church's 150th Anniversary! As you will probably know, the planning committee are bristling with ideas for commemorating such a momentous event and I strongly advise you to watch this and every other space in future editions of Acorns to keep abreast of what is to happen.

I again thank everyone who has contributed to or read the pages of our magazine, and especially to Call Print of Hertford, who always make a great job of producing the publication. Maureen's hawk-eyed proof reading is always fruitful and thus very useful to this overworked editor. Please send any potential items for publication to me at eyetiss@aol.com.

Keep warm!

Bryan King - Editor

Weddings and Funerals at our Church -

For information regarding costs, please contact Alan Combes, Minister, on 01992 762317. For information regarding booking a hall please contact David Batts on 01707 874092.

New Year 2017 - to the Churches of Ordnance Road, Ponders End and Goffs Oak



Dear Brothers and Sisters

I had the privilege of sharing in two very special services over the Christmas period. The first was a gift service for a local Girl Guiding charity – Happy Hearts - that runs events in Goffs Oak to enable girls with learning or physical disabilities to engage more fully with being a guide. We rejoiced in the charity's achievements and the impact it has had on girl's lives.

In this service we also heard Jean Vanier - founder of L'Arche - an international federation of communities for people with disabilities and their carers - speak eloquently from Matthew 25:35 about Christ's call to welcome those who are strange and different.

This struck a chord with me. **How we approach people who are different from ourselves is perhaps the question of our age?**

Indeed, the second event was a new ecumenical venture at Ordnance Road that combined five churches and drew over 160 people to a united EN3 Church Carols in aid of the Enfield Refugee Welcome Group - another group of people who may appear strange or different.

On the global stage it seems that we are at a critical point in recent history. We are surrounded by folk who appear to want to put up boundaries, borders and barriers. Who want to focus on our differences and deny our common humanity and connectedness.

Once again we see the contemporary nature of the story of Mary and Joseph. Here we have a couple already on the edges of their own community because of Mary's condition, forced to travel a difficult journey because of demands beyond their control who then struggle to find basic shelter. It is hard for us to imagine how tough this must have been. If God coming to earth in this marginal manner says one thing above all others, it is that God's love dwells in those situations and with those people who are rejected because they are strange or different.

As a good friend said to me in conversation after the referendum – 'I wonder what kind of world we want to live in', and what our role is in tackling prejudice and intolerance of those who are different - whether that be through disability, race, creed, gender, sexuality, or any other excuse given to categorise, judge and condemn groups of people because they don't seem to fit? In reality none of us fit because we are all strange and different in some way or other. So I pray for the wisdom to see with God's eyes, to accept people as they are – something Christ always did - and the grace to see beyond the surface of those I meet. **Amen**

Now it is the new-year and I must thank you for your good wishes, cards and prayers over the Christmas period. God was gracious to us in all our ventures and over 600 people attended special events, our carol services, Christmas Day and Watchnight, including many visitors amongst us.

At Ordnance Road our Christmas Fete was the best ever, supported by many friends from across the circuit and our new ecumenical EN3 Carols, already described, showed us what God can do when we unite around an important cause.

At Goffs Oak a wonderful children's Christmas party was followed by a Nativity Carol service which drew young and old into the scene at Bethlehem. We also welcomed guests to our coffee morning communion and 'Carols by Torchlight' in the centre of the village, where over 80 gathered, accompanied by Potters Bar Town Band, to sing and raise money for Action for Children.

At Ponders End we once again launched Advent with a fabulous international evening concert. We started a big clear out campaign (see pics!) We reflected on the Nativity through a nativity sets coffee morning –never have so many sets gathered in one place! We launched a brand new evening carol service and welcomed in the new year as nearly 100 attend watchnight.

This does not capture all that happened and it really was a joy to share these moments with you.

Discipleship is the theme of this coming year...

We begin in the coming 6-8 weeks before lent, where our preachers across all three churches will begin to explore aspects of what it is to be a disciple...

David Watson writes: 'Jesus created a radical and unique pattern of discipleship. He called a mixed crowd of ordinary people to follow him, to be totally obedient, to serve and to suffer. He called them to himself, not just to his teaching.'

Why is this important you ask? We know that being a disciple of Christ is about becoming Christ-like – a lifelong journey. So as we grow every day in commitment to and love of God in Christ we pray that the Holy Spirit will help and equip us on this journey.

And so is 'roofs'! It is my hope that all three churches will undertake re-roofing projects of part of their buildings this year. Please bear with us as these things happen.

And finally – news from across the circuit...

You may have heard the great news that we have been matched in stationing and a new minister – Rev Dan Haylett – will join us in September as superintendent. PLUS in the next week we welcome Isata Jalloh as our new Youth and Children's worker. These new staff will help re-establish the resources we need to look after the work of God in Enfield and the circuit churches.

May God bless you all

Revd Alan Combes - Minister - Goffs Oak, Ordnance Road and Ponders End

£80k fund to help children in poverty with school essentials

In these days of education budget austerity it is encouraging to hear about a new initiative which will improve the prospects for many poverty-stricken children. Families in need across the UK will receive grants for uniforms, text books or new school shoes through a joint education fund from Action for Children and consultants, Turner & Townsend.



The £80,000 fund was set up through A for C's partnership with professional services consultancy Turner & Townsend and the money will provide grants of up to £50 per family for school essentials.

Mary O' Hagan, Fundraising Manager at Action for Children, said:-

"Many children are living in families that are barely managing, with little spare money to pay for the basics all children need for school such as decent shoes or books. A lack of basic equipment or a decent uniform can have a serious impact on children's ability to learn and in turn lower educational attainment can lead to lower paid jobs in the future,

perpetuating the cycle of poverty. We aim to break the cycle and help create opportunities for children to achieve their potential – this new fund is a welcome addition to our work across the UK.

How Action for Children works . . .

From before they are born until they are into their twenties, they help disadvantaged children across the UK.

They help them through fostering or adoption – and by intervening early to stop neglect and abuse. They make life better for children with disabilities. They influence policy and advocate for change. Their 7,000 staff and volunteers operate over 600 services, improving the lives of 390,000 children, teenagers, parents and carers every year.

They succeed by doing what's right, doing what's needed, and doing what works for children.

At our church Maureen King is the local organiser - her main role being to co-ordinate the Home Collection Boxes. Historically we have also donated offertory money from specific services such as the Christmas Day Service to A for C. In 2016 the money collected from 'Carols by Torchlight' went to the charity.

If you would like to start collecting in your home, please contact Maureen for a Home Collection Box.

"We are extremely grateful to Turner & Townsend for their tireless efforts and generous donations to provide a little extra for struggling families."

"We aim to break the cycle and help create opportunities for children to achieve their potential – this new fund is a welcome addition to our work across the UK. "

Jon White, Managing Director for Turner & Townsend, said:-

"It's a huge achievement to have raised £80,000 for Action for Children since we launched our partnership a year ago. We know that more than one in four children in the UK now live in poverty, and this can have long lasting effects on their educational achievements. We're proud to be helping make a difference to so many lives."

Nice one Alice!

I recently had the privilege of meeting one of my heroes, the anthropologist, anatomist, author and broadcaster Professor Alice Roberts!

Recently, on BBC TV Alice presented a series entitled 'The Incredible Human Journey' detailing the evolutionary path of Humankind, from our origin on the plains of Central Africa to the present day. But if you have ever watched either of the TV series 'Coast' or 'Time Team', then it's probable that you have seen Alice explaining the significance of some important archaeological discovery or even trying her hand at impressionist painting such as that pioneered by Monet on the



coast of France. In fact, it was after watching Alice during a Coast programme, that Jacqui & I were inspired to take a holiday in Etretat (Normandy) three years ago!

Therefore, when I heard that Alice was to give a talk, at the University of Birmingham, I decided to attend the event. The subject was 'The genius of Versalius', concerning the advancement of the study of Human anatomy by Andreus Versalius in the 16th century.

It was a miserable, wet day when I drove up to Birmingham, plus much of the M1 motorway was subject to a 50 mph speed restriction due to ongoing roadworks! However, on arrival the university staff made me feel very welcome and I had time to grab a coffee before going into the Elgar Concert Hall, where Alice was to deliver her talk. After being introduced, Alice went on to present, with the aid of Powerpoint, a really interesting talk. Alice is very engaging and the hour 'whizzed' by.

I had taken my copy of Alice's book 'The Celts – In Search of a Civilisation' with me in the hope of getting it signed. So, after her talk I approached her and asked her if she would be kind enough to sign my book. She was lovely, she signed my book and we chatted for a while, then we had a photo taken before I left. I found Alice to be a very warm, engaging person and I came away with a great memory of having met her.

Phil Seaman





Corruption is a problem in UK's own back yard, warns Christian Aid

As new corruption data is released this month, Christian Aid is asking why the UK has still not taken important actions that would make it harder for corruption to happen.

“Transparency International’s latest Index is a much-needed reminder of the outrage of corruption, which sees criminals stealing billions supposed to pay for sick children’s medicine, for families’ clean water, for better roads and policing for all,” said Tom Viita, Head of Advocacy at Christian Aid.

“Corruption is a sickening injustice committed by powerful people, against everyone else.

“But many forms of damaging corruption rely on a global system that allows money to be secretly moved around - and UK tax havens are a cornerstone of this system.

“The UK has the power to ensure that its overseas territories, such as the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands, are fully transparent about the true owners of the many companies they host.

“Theresa May has said she wants to fight corruption but so far she seems reluctant to challenge the secrecy services provided by the UK’s own tax havens to clients all over the world.

“The UK itself has taken important steps towards tackling global financial secrecy but the Prime Minister must ensure that the places we govern are not helping to facilitate corruption by continuing to sell secrecy. The buck stops with her.”

Further information about UK tax havens’ role in international corruption has been submitted by Christian Aid and others to MPs examining the Criminal Finances Bill currently going through the UK Parliament. Let’s hope this information feeds into the Act, when it finally arrives.

A statement by Christian Aid

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. Christian Aid’s essential purpose therefore is to expose the scandal of poverty, to help in practical ways to root it out from the world and to challenge and change the systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

We contribute our passion and experience to the broad movement of people who use their faith, talents and energies to fight for a better life for all.

In supporting this movement, we serve the churches in Britain and Ireland. We are driven by the gospel of good news to the poor, and are inspired by the vision of a new earth where all people can live in justice, peace and plenty.

Find out more about the theological thinking behind Christian Aid’s work at . . .

christianaid.org.uk



Tucking in at the Sunday Club/Holiday Club Christmas Party

On Sunday 18th December a happy group of Holiday Club members (Guardians of Ancora) sat down to a sumptuous feast in the church lounge in between some very active games and art and craft activities. At the end of it all who should appear but Father Christmas himself, with a gift for all of them.

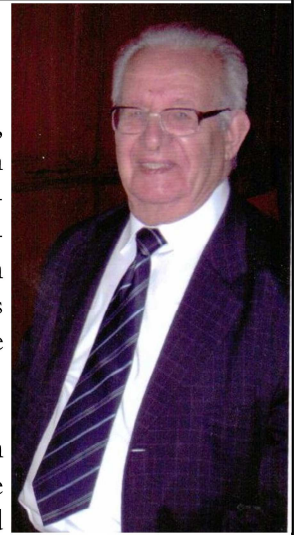
Their day didn't end there, though. Most of them stayed to become characters of the Nativity in a dramatic performance at the Carol Service which followed.



John Dorling

24th June 1931 - 26th July 2016

John was born at his grandmother's house, 28 Monmouth Road, Edmonton, on 24th June 1931. He was the eldest of five children - two brothers and two sisters, including one pair of twins. The family lived in Chester Road, Edmonton. Tragically, his youngest sister died from cancer at the age of 16.



John attended St Peter's Church, Edmonton from an early age and was a member of the church choir for many years. He attended Latymer School from the age of 11 and particularly enjoyed the sports side of school life. He was quite a good footballer and recalled a 12 year old Johnny Haynes playing for the first year school football team. At a later date he had a trial himself for a professional football team. However, he was to leave Latymer after only three years in order to help support the family, and he took a job in a local factory.

At the age of 18 he joined the Army to do his national service and became a sergeant in the Pay Corps. He enjoyed his army life, especially the sports. He volunteered for overseas service and was sent to Malaya. He was out there in 1950 during the Maria Hertogh riots and often told the story of how the local farmer brought the cow round to deliver the milk and on one occasion, when a curfew had been imposed, both farmer and cow had to be taken into one of the houses for safety.

On leaving the Army he returned to Edmonton, worked at Standard Telephones and joined the Latymer Old Students Dramatic Society. It was here that he met Sheila. They married in 1957 at St Peter's Church and rented a house in Barnet for six years. They had one son, Malcolm, born in 1959.

In 1963 they moved to Goffs Oak and when Malcolm joined the Cubs, John became involved with the Methodist Church and joined the choir. Subsequently he also became Akela for one of the cub packs and was involved with the inception of a second cub pack.

In the nineteen seventies John took a clerical job at University College Hospital, and was working in the Superannuation Department when he retired in 1991. Having been singing all his life, he also joined Hertford Choral Society about the same time and remained an active member right up to the end of the recent season. He sang with Sheila's U3A choir and for many years they also enjoyed dancing.

Although John had no ambitions to be a leader of men, he was always a good supporter and could often be found wielding a teapot or making coffee for the various musical gatherings which the family enjoyed. He was also very good at knowing when it was time to wash up after a baking session had finished in the kitchen. Unfortunately he had been suffering from dementia for the previous three years and so it was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain his former activities, and the additional diagnosis of an aneurysm was to bring his life to an end.



Gift and Parade Service, Sunday 27th November

Alan leads our Gift and Parade Service, with the help of several Rainbows, Guides and Brownies. He was joined by Tina Bailey and Gill Logan who gave a presentation about 'Happy Hearts' - a Girlguiding Hertfordshire group whose aim is to support girls with special needs (see front page). Alan also talked about the incredible work for people with special needs done by Jean Vanier, philosopher, theologian and humanitarian, who founded the L'Arche Community in 1964 and which has grown to include 147 separate communities in 35 countries. Jean continues to live as a member of the original L'Arche community in Trosly-Breuil, France.

At Your Service



Remembrance Services, Sunday 13th November

Several hundreds of people were estimated to have taken part in the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial (below). This was preceded by our own Parade Service in the church taken by Joanne and well supported by Guides, Rainbows and Brownies. One striking feature was our very own Michelle Combes (above) who touched peoples' hearts with her cornet rendition of 'The Last Post'. The usual large crowd of onlookers and church members came back to the church afterwards for refreshments.



Scenes from the Carol Service Tuesday 18th December

Paul (left) reads while Alan dangles a star. This followed our Nativity drama, called 'Away with the Manger'. As ever, the Nativity drama goes on miraculously, following a casting and rehearsal session usually lasting for no more than 20 minutes! How such a polished performance always emerges from such potential chaos is one of the wonders of Christmas at Goffs Oak. In the picture on the left, Jacqui and Joanne look on while a very organised looking Nativity is played out. Directed by Alison, the drama highlighted the service's theme of how the trimmings of Christmas can get in the way of the true message. In other words, just as in the tableaux on the left, 'we need to get Jesus back into the centre of the picture.'



At Your Service (and two new entries to the '100' Club)



Carols by Torchlight Tuesday 20th December

An estimated record crowd of 100 turned up at the war memorial on a cold, but mercifully dry night (unlike last year) to this wonderful event, which is fast becoming part of the fabric of life in the pre-Christmas build-up at Goffs Oak. Led by Alan, the service included a variety of Christmas songs and readings and was accompanied by the excellent Potters Bar Town Band who again performed musical miracles. Their heavenly brass music provided accompaniment for the carollers and, after an extra gig outside the Goffs Oak pub, a large group came back to our church hall for mince pies, stollen cake and more music from the band.



STOP PRESS **Jacob Brown is Christened in our church**

First Christening using new font

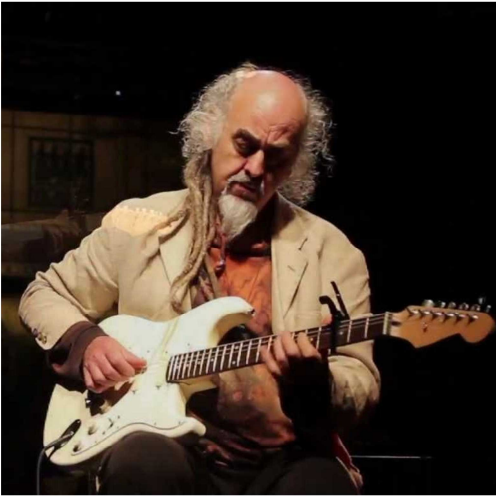
There was a very well-attended Covenant Service on Sunday 5th February with about 100 present for the Christening of Jacob Joshua William Brown, son of Sarah and Graeme.

An expanded Sunday Club also took place for about 15 of the children present. They wrote prayers for a prayer tree (with a picture of Zaccheus in it!), made iced biscuits and constructed 'Zaccheus' puppets.



Throughout the service, Jacob appeared to watch on with interest, taking an occasional nap, and coped very well with the water from the new font. We were most thankful to Ron Gibbs - a local craftsman - who donated his labour in designing and making this font to suit the church's particular needs. As you can see in the photographs it is a fine piece of work made of a wood blending in well with the church's décor and incorporating a removable bowl. We hope and pray it sees plenty of service in the years to come.





Steve Cooney

In this issue, I'd like to introduce you to Steve Cooney. Steve is a gifted Australian musician of Irish decent.

By the age of seven Steve learnt to play the Didgeridoo, but after moving to Ireland in the early 1980's he learnt to play the guitar and later became regarded as a virtuoso performer going on to play on sixty traditional music albums. He immersed himself in the music of West Kerry with the help of accordionist and singer Seamus Begley. The following year he and Begley worked on an album together, produced by Mike Scott of The Waterboys. They made

brilliant, fiery music, breakneck polkas as tough as punk rock and hypnotic hornpipes punctuated by Cooney's Spanish guitar rallies and sudden dizzy run of Broadway jazz chords, writes Scott. But this album was never released. The music he and Begley made remains unheard.

Through all his guesting, producing and nurturing, Cooney was also writing music as well. His collaborations read like a 'Who's Who' of traditional musicians and include: Gerry O'Connor, The Chieftans, Sharon Shannon, Tim Edey, Altan and Liam O'Flynn.

I first heard of Steve, as he was a hero, then later a mentor to Tim Edey, a musician friend of mine. Tim frequently credits Steve for many musical inspirations and for encouraging him to explore fully the versatility of the guitar. Tim has gone on to become one of traditional music's virtuoso performers on many instruments, including the guitar, to which he cites Steve as his driving force and main influence.

***Son of
'Folk at
the Oak'
by Phil
Seaman***

Unusually for a musician, Steve Cooney does not have a website, a MySpace or Facebook presence and perhaps for someone so significant in the music scene's recent history there is, intentionally it would seem, no entry for him in Wikipedia. This fits in with his non-conformist outlook on the world.

Steve is regarded by many as one of the most dynamic modern interpreters of traditional music in the genre. He is certainly one of the most sought after session musicians and producers. In recent years he has worked on several series of Scottish Television's Highland Sessions as musical director.

In 1981 Steve joined the acclaimed Irish band, Stockton's Wing, playing bass guitar and didgeridoo. He married singer Sinead O'Connor in 2010 but separated from her in 2011.

Steve is currently recording an album of traditional songs with Iarla Ó Lionáird, who describes Cooney, a long time friend, as 'a different kind of musician than any other I have encountered. Genuinely in touch with the spiritual in our music, though having come to it later in life, he is to me less an accompanist and more a musical companion in the truest sense'.

New Year Poetry Corner

“Ring out the old, ring in the new.”

We are all very familiar with this New Year saying, but how many know that it came from a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson? The poem below is the 106th of 133 cantos (sections) and is part of a very long lyrical poem dedicated to the memory of Arthur Henry Hallam, probably Tennyson's best friend, but I think you will find in it many themes which ring so true today:-

In Memoriam AHH 106

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson



Tennyson's poem can clearly be regarded as an old poem, so let's 'ring in' a new (or newer) poem on a similar theme from Benington's own wordsmith, Nicky Phillips:-

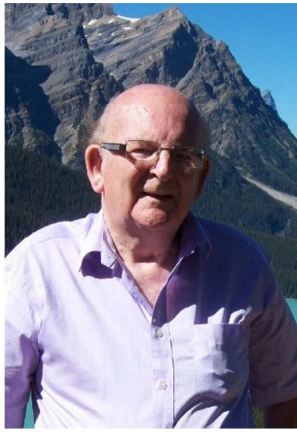
Changing the calendar

Squalls bluster recycled streamers
up into spirals; rain, relentless,
drives as puddles deepen;
muddy streams pour off fields;
lanes flow like rivers;
clouds hang low as skies close in.

Yesterday, similarly soggy,
was last year, last day,
speeding to midnight's ringing in.
Today, with everything new,
feels old – no herald of change,
no stirring under water-logged soil.

I ditch December with its unused
prompts for procrastinating poets,
substitute a flawless year,
a gallery of vintage typewriters,
each date, each key poised,
ready to deliver the unexpected.

Nicky Phillips



Don Clark

5th Feb 1930 - 6th March 2016

When Don passed away last March, we lost someone who had lived a long life of giving - much of which made an enormous impact on life and worship at GOMC. It is impossible to imagine what our church and the local community would have been like had Don and Hazel not come to live in Goffs Oak in 1965.

Don was born in Crouch End in 1930 and consequently had much of his schooling disrupted due to the war. At 15 and by then a Scout he went with his father (Cecil) on May 5th 1945 to be one of the crowd on the mall in London celebrating VE day. The following year he received The King's Scout Certificate from Chief Scout Lord Rowallan at Scout Association headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road - the first of the Royal Certificates reintroduced after the Second World War to a scout in the County of London, and the 13th Certificate in the whole of the UK. When he was 18 a commuter ran to catch his train but missed and had fallen head first between the platform and the moving train. Don caught the person by the feet and saved his life, resulting

in the receipt of a letter of commendation from Lord Rowallan.

As a representative of the Scout movement, Don attended the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip as an usher, seating and looking after foreign royalty attending the wedding. He was close enough to actually hear the couple take their vows in their natural voice - not over the tannoy system. National service was with the Royal Engineers based in the Aden & Suez. It was here that he first became a Cub-Scout Leader (1948-51).

In 1956 he married Hazel. They set up home in Palmers Green and both were members of the Southgate Methodist Church (The Bourne). Don also became a Scout leader with the Bourne scout group (196 North London) in 1957 and became heavily involved in the local 'Gang' Show (a review written by and starring Scouts and Guides).



Hazel and Don moved to Goffs Oak in 1965 and began their long association with our Methodist Church and initially with Rev Donald Sampson. The two Donalds then became determined to fulfil a plan originally made in 1955 to design, fundraise and build a new church building, next to the all-purpose hall (now the existing church hall) which had been used for all services and other activities during the week. Many a Sunday lunch was spent drawing designs on Formica dining mats then discussing those designs after lunch (both Don and Donald Sampson missing the washing up). The original thought was to have a chapel on the side of the main hall where the escape doors are but after considering many suggestions the current church layout was agreed on and following effective fundraising and the obtaining of grants, building was begun. Research included finding out the original church layout to ensure the original 1868 foundation stone was re-laid on the original location.

Don worked hard to help raise funds from various charity foundations including Rank and was instrumental in setting up sponsored events such as walks, swims, and a notable sponsored pentathlon. He also helped organise (and appeared in) shows at the church, including getting some stars to appear from the West End show 'Hair'.

Meanwhile his Scout work continued apace. In 1967 he became Cub Scout leader with 2nd Goffs Oak (Methodist) Scout Group and the following year Assistant District commissioner for Venture Scouts for East Herts District. Then in 1970 he was appointed Scout District Commissioner for the District which by then had acquired over 1000 members. He organised the winning float at the Goffs Oak Carnival and Fete a number of times. One float was a celebration of Frances Drake and Frances Chichester. In building the float he had to measure the height of the telephone wires across the road, receiving a number of odd looks as he did this at 11.15 pm (turning out time) outside the Goffs Oak public house. He managed to fit in being a church steward through these busy times.

A regular family holiday venue in those days was Devon. The beaches had to have sand that compacted well because he used to enjoy building sandcastles for his children. Not the average small bucket shaped sandcastle, but racing cars and aeroplanes. Many of the other kids (and parents) on the beach came to see.



In 19?? he formed the Community Association of Goffs Oak - initially to fight the proposed route of the M25 through Goffs Oak. In six days he mobilised the residents of Goffs Oak to a meeting of over 2,000 at St James Village Hall. Visits to Parliament followed along with enquiries to the Ministry of Transport and all this led to a successful campaign. The Goffs Oak Community Association continues serving the community to this day.

Don and the family moved to Hertford in 1977, but retained links with Goffs Oak and he remained an active member of the Methodist Church. He had the pleasure

Continued on next page

of seeing his daughter married in Goffs Oak Methodist Church and his grandchildren baptised at the church. Whilst at Hertford he became Scout District Commissioner for Hertford District in 1988.

His working life began after leaving school in his father's 'fine furniture' manufacturing business which was located in Islington. Apart from making furniture the firm used to make coffins for the undertaker next door. Following national service he trained as a chartered surveyor and when qualified joined the Imperial College of Science and Technology (University of London) at South Kensington. In time he rose to become head of Buildings and Estates, including a £300M redevelopment around South Kensington, a bio-genetic research establishment in South Kensington, a nuclear reactor at Ascot, a boathouse on the Thames (where they finish the annual boat race) and a mine in Cornwall.

He then moved to head office of the University of London responsible for buildings and advising the university's 42 constituent colleges and hospitals on building matters. His office was next door to that of Mo Mowlam. He also studied for a Diploma in Project Management from Reading University.

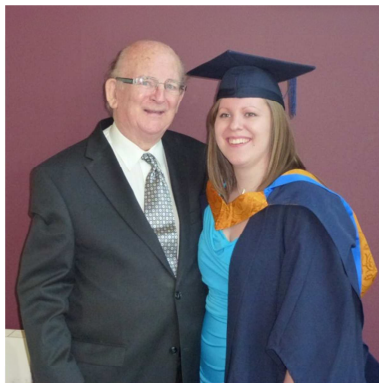
In 1990 he was head hunted by Lancaster University where he remained for five years. He was responsible for doubling the number of buildings at the university from 22 to 44 including a hotel, sports centre, halls of residence and learning centres. During this time he was also responsible for designing the Ruskin museum in the Lake District. During his Lancaster tenure he represented the UK Universities at the World-Wide University Buildings and Estate conference in the USA.

Back in Goffs Oak, as part of the Methodist church outreach, Don re-instigated the Fête and Carnival - running it for seven years. This was undertaken with the assistance of the Comrades Association and Enfield Motor museum. The fête had over 100 stalls, an arena display and a youth 5-a-side football competition. Eventually the responsibility for this was passed on to the Goffs Oak Scouts. More recently, Don was instrumental in raising funds for the completion of the stained glass window at the Methodist Church.

Don had always wanted a piece of land on which he could build a house to his own design. This he failed to do, but did the next best thing, which was to convert a barn in Devon. He found one (a former cider-press from the 1850s) near Bigbury-on-Sea. He designed a 'reverse house' with bedrooms on the ground floor and living accommodation on the first floor. Views from the lounge were of rolling countryside - you cannot see another dwelling except a church tower on the horizon. His most recent ideas were for improvements to our Church and for the 150th Church anniversary.

During his life he has been responsible for hundreds of millions of pounds of University Buildings, designing over ten scout HQs around Hertfordshire, a climbing wall, accommodation for staff at campsites, designing parts of timeshares in Devon and the addition of extensions to a number of homes.

There is no doubt that in so many areas, Don has left a very significant legacy for youth and youth development as well as for our church community and the wider community of Goffs Oak. His work and legacy was the product of an active mind, brimming over with ideas throughout his life and fuelled above all by his Christianity.



Ruth's Recipe of the Season

Beef & Wild Mushroom Cottage Pie

Serves 6

- 30g dried wild mushrooms
- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- 1kg lean minced beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 1 × 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 150ml port
- 1 beef stock cube
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp fresh thyme (or 1tsp dried)
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1kg old, floury potatoes, peeled
- 5 tbsp milk
- Large knob of butter
- 75g mature Cheddar

- 1) Preheat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas mark 3. You will need a fairly shallow 2.5 litre (4pt) ovenproof dish.
- 2) Measure the dried mushrooms into a heatproof bowl and pour over 400ml boiling water. Set aside to soak for 30 minutes then drain and reserve the liquid. Roughly chop the mushrooms.
- 3) Heat the oil in an ovenproof frying pan, add the onion and garlic and fry for a few minutes. Then add the mince and fry until brown all over.
- 4) Sprinkle over the flour, stir for a minute, then blend in the chopped tomatoes, port, the chopped mushrooms and reserved mushroom liquid.
- 5) Add the stock cube, stir and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, decant into your ovenproof dish, cover and cook in the oven for 45 minutes-1 hour, or until the mince is tender.
- 6) Remove from the oven and stir in the thyme and Worcestershire sauce. Set aside to cool while you make the topping.
- 7) Increase the oven temperature to 200C/180C fan/gas mark 6.
- 8) Boil the potatoes in boiling salted water until tender, drain and return to the pan.
- 9) Add the milk, butter, salt and pepper and mash until smooth.
- 10) Spread the potatoes over the cold mince and fork the top. Sprinkle with the cheese then place in the oven for 35-40 minutes, until bubbling and golden on top. Enjoy with some greens!

**Ruth Storey
(née King)**

A plea from Lucy Marshall

You will recall that last year we helped sponsor Lucy Marshall to lead a group of Guides on a trip to Chile, and she then came to church and presented details of their experiences, including lots of photos of the Guides at work and the children they were supporting.

Now Lucy intends to take her volunteering a stage further, and is asking for our support. Here are her plans...

"Having been a very active volunteer in local schools and charities over the past six years, I have decided to try and make a difference overseas. In February I will be leaving home, friends, family and my love of all things British to volunteer with ICS VSO in the community of Kwali, Nigeria. International Citizen Service (ICS) is the UK's leading global volunteering programme for young people who want to do voluntary development work abroad, and brings together young people from different countries to fight poverty."

Lucy will be part of a small group of ICS VSO UK volunteers who will be partnered with an equal number of Nigerian volunteers. Whilst living with host families, Lucy will spend four days a week working in local schools to improve attendance rates and increase the number of maths and science pass rates, and also to help to create neighbourhood safe spaces for local youth. On the fifth day there will be opportunities to raise issues in the community, such as sexual health awareness, environmental issues, or even things like having a town clean up!

As part of the commitment to ICS, all volunteers are asked to fundraise before going overseas. The money raised goes towards supporting the work of VSO and our ICS partner organisations, enabling them to continue sending youth volunteers to the developing world to make a lasting difference in disadvantaged and impoverished communities.

It would be great if we could support Lucy's fundraising efforts, as all donations make such a huge difference. Lucy will be happy to come and give a talk to us about ICS VSO and her experiences when she returns in May. If you'd like to help, please put something extra in the offertory, marking it "Lucy"; we'll put it all together in a cheque from GOMC.

Coming soon at a venue near you!

Wednesday 15th February 12.30pm: **Monthly mid-week lunch** at St James's Church
Menu: Soup, filled roll, dessert, tea or coffee - £3.50 - all are welcome.

Sunday 26th February 10.15am: **Thinking Day Parade Service**
" " 6.30pm: **Circuit Service** at Edmonton Methodist Church

Wednesday 15th March 12.30pm: **Monthly mid-week lunch** at St James's Church
Menu: Soup, filled roll, dessert, tea or coffee - £3.50 - all are welcome.
" " 7.30pm: **Circuit Meeting** at Grange Park Methodist Church

Sunday 26th March 10.15am: **Mothering Sunday Service**

Sunday 2nd April 11.45am: **Church AGM and Church Council** - including a 'Bring and Share' lunch.

Tuesday, 11th April 10.00am: **Coffee Morning**, including **Holy Communion** at 11.30am, followed by lunch of soup/rolls and an afternoon of quiet reflection from approximately 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Friday 14th April 2.00pm to 3.00pm: **Good Friday Service**, followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns.

Sunday 16th April 10.15am: **Easter Sunday Service.**

News from The Methodist Church

A very modern take on an old, old story

A film released last month highlights some of the challenges facing asylum seekers in the UK through a modern retelling of the nativity story.

Whilst primarily focusing on a young Mary and Joseph's efforts to find somewhere safe to stay in the UK, the film, 'A Very British Nativity', also includes a cameo from the wise men who have ditched their trusty camels in favour of Micro Scooters.

However, their mission to deliver gifts is quickly scuppered by an Immigration

Enforcement Officer, who is concerned by the group's unspecified travel plans...



This release coincided with the revelation of new figures from the Government which showed that in September 2016, 37,958 asylum seekers in the UK were in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support of less than £6 per day.

Martha, aged 8, who attends a Methodist Church and played Mary in the film said:-
"Mary must have felt tired because she did so much walking with her suitcase and her baby. She would have been sad because she couldn't find a home and worried about her baby. I think people should watch this film. We all need to help people who have left their home because something bad has happened."

The film was produced by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT): a coalition of four Church denominations in the UK: the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.



Looking back at the Christmas message from the President and Vice-President of the Conference

In their Christmas message Conference President Roger Walton and Vice-President Rachel Lampard spoke about the Nativity, Syria and

unpromising situations. They offered a challenge to the Church, saying:-

"Our faith surely prompts us not to turn away purely because any situation looks unpromising. This doesn't mean facing it with blind and passive optimism. Instead we have a hope which is grounded in the foolishness of God, which is wiser and stronger than wisdom and strength of the world. And God is at work in our world, and invites us to join in. As the theologian Ken Leech said: 'hope isn't a state of mind; it's a piece of work'. In the unpromising situations in our world, where is God inviting us to join in? Where is God asking us to see the treasure that is hidden within the clay jars? Where is God asking us, not to be optimistic, but rather to be hopeful?"

Winter fun for the young . . and the not so young .. plus some silly puns from the Ed!



Winter Wordsearch



K N A M W O N S T N X O T F E
 K O W I N T E R E C O C O A L
 P I C I C L E I Z R R R B K G
 C H M B W M I T T E N S M W I
 H S G H W S Z I W D Y F E A L
 T G H Q R A K E N E Z O R F A
 O L X O D S S P R U C E I S U
 B O J E V C A R D I N A L N A
 O V R N L E B G O T A H I O R
 G E T C H I L L Y G Z O M W D
 G S P C D O K T Z G Q L K F B
 A C T S K A T E X S C L D L S
 N I Z M M Y W F E X D Y E A H
 C W N L U T G Y N S O A L K B
 S D O Q V L Q K H W M Q S E A

WINTER
 SNOWFLAKE
 SNOWMAN
 ICICLE
 SPRUCE
 HOLLY
 CARDINAL
 FROZEN
 BRRR
 CHILLY
 SLED
 GLOVES
 HAT
 SKATE
 SKI
 TOBOGGAN
 COCOA
 SHOVEL
 MITTENS

IT'S FEBRUARY ALREADY AND WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO ST VALENTINE'S DAY, SO I INCLUDE AN EXTRA WORDSEARCH TO GET YOU INTO THAT LOVING FEELING.

BY CONTRAST I AM ALSO INFLICTING MORE OF MY PAINFUL PUNS ON YOU ALL.

APOLOGIES IN ADVANCE! - ED



Q: What are poor walruses given to wear?
A: Flipper-me-downs.

Q: Why are bad school marks like a shipwreck in the Arctic Ocean?
A: They're both below C level!

Q: What did the Arctic wolf ask in the restaurant?
A: "Are these lemmings fresh off the tundra?"

Q: Why is it difficult to keep a secret at the North Pole?
A: Because your teeth chatter.

Q: How do sheep keep warm in the winter?
A: They turn on the central bleating.

Q: What animal would you get if you tied ice cubes around your neck?
A: A Chin Chiller

I needed a password for my phone eight characters long. I chose 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'

Valentine's Day Word Search

E S M W B F
 T R A E H C A R D N
 O R O S E S V I V M N F
 O F L O W E R S G E C A N D Y X
 H A N D H O L D I N G L L O R T S
 H U G S T C D P D K F B E M I N E
 Q S R O T I U S U N E C N A M O R
 D I P U C H O C O L A T E V Z
 S G N I L E E F C G I F T
 F R P V N D I A M O N D Z
 Y E W Y R A U R B E F
 V V P Q R T I Y T
 O U R Z E
 L O V
 W

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Arrow | Date | Hand holding | Roses |
| Be Mine | Diamond | Heart | Stroll |
| Candy | February | Hugs | Suitors |
| Card | Feelings | Kisses | Valentine |
| Chocolate | Flowers | Love | |
| Couples | Friendship | Lovers | |
| Cupid | Gift | Romance | |