



the All Saints Newsletter

All Saints Church Berkhamsted An Anglican Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership

April May 2024



**A Joyful and Hopeful Easter
to our readers**

In this issue: Chanel Being Hacked and what to do An introduction to the Eco Hub
A Berkhamsted Quiz A Visit to the Methodist Church in Ghana Humour

Please help yourself to this newsletter: as always, it is free

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Editorial

As usual, I have had some very interesting articles. I was fascinated by Margaret's article on Coco Chanel. I really wished I could go to the V&A to see it. I wrote about being hacked as an encouragement in the hope that if I can sort it out then so can anybody. I was interested in Sue Hampton's introduction to the Eco Hub. This is really serious stuff and we have to work out what we can do: there is no planet B. I was born in Berkhamsted, so I was very interested in Keith's Berkhamsted quiz and yes, I did learn something from it so it is really worth doing. The article Masud and the desert is how a book came to be written. I thought it was fascinating. There are other really interesting articles and humour. A very joyful Easter to you all. The copy date for the June July newsletter is Friday 10th May.

Christina Billington



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Happy Easter!



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The Newsletter is set in 12pt Georgia, with 20pt Verdana and 14pt Georgia headings. Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles published in this newsletter and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor.

Rachael's Letter

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Each year on Easter Day our shout of acclamation rings out from churches across the world as we celebrate the resurrection, this great good news that we have, that death and sin are defeated and new life is given to each one of us, that Christ is alive and has promised always to be with us.

The Bible records the resurrection with stories, stories of people who met and talked with the risen Jesus. People like Mary and the other women, Thomas and the other disciples gathered together, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Peter and the disciples on the beach. Which story comes to your mind when you think about the resurrection? Many of them are well-loved and valued as we reflect on what happened on that first Easter Day, what the resurrection means to us and what impact it makes on us.

There have been plenty of other stories, poems and pieces of art since then which have tried to communicate something of the wonder of what happened on that day. There is a picture in the Methodist Modern Art Collection called 'The

Empty Tomb' by Richard Bavin. It is unusual in that the perspective is from inside the tomb looking out. The darkness of the tomb contrasts



sharply with the brightness of the day outside. A light that I hope you know this Easter time.

Noli Me Tangere is a famous picture by Titian depicting the moment when the risen Jesus tells Mary not to hold on to him. I love the fact that there is a village painted in the top right hand corner of this picture and on the path leading down from the village is a man with his dog. Alongside the miracle of the resurrection is this reminder of the every day. This is why Jesus came, not just for the elite, but for



everyone. On my bookshelf I have a storybook that the boys had when they were younger called 'An Easter Carol'. Based on a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, all Ebenezer, the main character, is worried about is making plastic eggs to sell, until an

angel called Hope visits him, tells him the story of all that Jesus did and reminds him that Easter is not about eggs, but the hope of life everlasting. It's a visit that turns his life around and reminds us of the life-changing good news that Easter brings. Stories, art, music, can all speak to us in different ways of the message of Easter. I'm not sure, however, that when we are trying to communicate the joy, the wonder, the hope of Easter, beyond the Biblical passages, that much can compare with some of our Easter hymns. From 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today' to 'Thine be the Glory' to 'Christ is Alive' (I'm sure we will all have our favourite), the words and the music combine and, singing them, I certainly feel once again that sense of joy and assurance that Easter brings me each year. But should they only be for Easter? I also remind myself that Easter is not just for the spring, but for each and every day, because new life and hope are offered to us each and every day. That is the good news that we have. Happy Easter!

Blessings,

Rachael, Andrew, Thomas, and Samuel

Richard Bavin 'The Empty Tomb' from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission.
www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Noli Me Tangere by Titian
Copyright: The National Gallery London

Family News

Keith and Ruth Treves Brown and their family are into celebratory mood this spring. Early in March their son, Bernard, and Alison, his partner of the last 10 years, got married in the church they have both attended for 30 years. It was a very happy day for all the family and friends present. Then in April Keith hopes to join the All Saints Church 90+ club and they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Where have all the years gone?!

We send our love and sympathy to Lesley Bradshaw whose dear cousin Jackie died recently after a sudden serious fall. It is a sad loss for all her family and we send them our love and our prayers.

June and David Williamson are still attending a number of medical appointments but are both managing to get to church and David is still leading worship. We send them our love and hold them in our prayers.

Marnie Taylor suffered a stroke recently and had time in hospital but is now back in her care home, well supported by her family. She enjoyed their company on Mothering Sunday and is hoping to get back to receiving physiotherapy. We assure her of our love and our prayers.

Felicity White is grieving for her brother-in-law, Gavin, who died recently. He began collecting stamps at the age of four, and later became very well known in philately circles. We send Felicity and her family our love and our sympathy on their loss.

Margaret Ingram continues to have severe problems with her back. We send her our love and assure her of our prayers.

Linda Ezard has had a bit of a setback in her recovery from lung cancer but she feels she is on the mend again. We send her our loving concern and hold her in our prayers.

Jean and Ray Emsall are having a very difficult time at the moment and value your prayers for them both. Recently they have been celebrating their birthdays, including a 95th celebration for Ray.

Tara Ginn has fallen and broken her knee. She has had an operation and is on her way to recovery. We send her our love and prayers.

Doreen Parkins has made some progress towards treatment for her back problems and has also had a cataract operation. She hopes to have an operation on her other eye very soon. We send her our love and our prayers and hope that she will soon be more mobile.

Valerie Ruddock thanks you all for your support as always. We send her our love and hold her in our prayers.

Chris Billington had a very stressful time recently when her computer was hacked but with some help and support – and her own ingenuity and determination – she has managed to recover normal use of her computer.

Les and Freda Driver are quite well at the moment. They had a lovely celebration for their granddaughter's 21st birthday party in a Turkish restaurant, and are now waiting for Freda to have a cataract operation. As always, they send their greetings to you all.

We continue to hold in our prayers Valerie Allcott, Audrey and Paul Cox, Clare Hancock, Heather Gifford, Jonathan and Ann Hayes, Julie Murdock, Ida Rance, Lesley Whittaker, the elderly, those who have found it difficult to access worship recently, and all those in our church who are in need and known to God.

Prepared by the Pastoral Coordinators



Chanel

From perfume to haute couture, and with handbags, shoes, jewellery and costumes for stage and screen, the world of Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel was revealed in a stunning exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. What a gift it was to see it and also through the eyes of my fourteen-year-old granddaughter.

Coco Chanel was born in 1883 in France into an impoverished family. Her mother died and her father, a travelling salesman, sent her, aged twelve, and two sisters to a remote convent, Aubazine Abbey. On leaving, having been taught the rudiments of sewing by the nuns, Chanel went to live with an aunt, a seamstress, learning more of the art of dressmaking.

The years leading up to and during the First World War saw the emergence of the Chanel style; her own design template, functional and distinctive. Hats were her first excursion into the business of fashion, having seen those worn by Parisian women at the races, and were, to quote, “enormous loaves on their heads, covered with feathers, fruits and plumes, which did not fit on their heads.” Chanel resolved to introduce the simple style of a straw boater, subtly decorated with a ribbon. One was on display at the beginning of the exhibition, along with the Marinière blouse of 1916; the earliest surviving Chanel garment, loose, belted, creamy-coloured and made of silk jersey.

The Chanel style was hitting the headlines. Her ethos was to produce stylish, comfortable clothes for women; clothes that were practical allowing easy movement and freeing women from the restrictive corsets and boned bodices of the previous era. By 1919 Chanel dresses were shorter, revealing the ankles, and necklines were lowered. A trademark of Chanel couture was the suit; a square-shouldered cardigan style jacket and knee length skirt, made of tweeds inspired by visits to Scotland. On display were coats, made in the distinctive Chanel style, dresses, evening wear and ballgowns. In 1926 Chanel’s “little black dress” featured in *Vogue*; the wardrobe essential for women to dress up or down as required. Black was the colour of the nun’s habits in the

Aubazine Abbey, which was a source of inspiration for Chanel, as were the soft neutral beiges and gold tones of its stone walls. Black was often trimmed with white. She began to introduce into her designs

touches of reds and pinks, incorporated embroidery, sequins, her favourite flower, the camellia, and her iconic logo, the interlocking Cs. Inspiration for Chanel came from her surroundings; the countryside, places she visited and the people she met.

After the end of the First World War, and moving away from the austerity of her childhood, Chanel began to look for and use more high quality and luxurious fabrics. She worked with British manufacturers as well as designing and making her own. In the 1920s and 30s Chanel’s ethos remained stylish, yet simple, and began to prefigure the designs she would produce in the 1950s and 60s.

The quantity and quality of the items on display had to be seen to be believed! Each one had been sourced from museums and private collections and brought to the V&A from across the world. Double rows of suits and coats covered three walls of one room and a delightful display of ballgowns was saved for last, leaving us reluctant to leave the exhibition.

In other rooms were displays of the accessories Chanel designed and for which she was also to become famous. Chanel No 5, launched in 1921 in its iconic, unadorned, square-shaped bottle remains a world best-selling perfume. No. 5 was Chanel’s favourite number.

After the Second World War handbags appeared, the first in 1955. A simple quilted, dark-coloured bag made of soft leather with a red lining, a shoulder strap of gold-plated metal and a leather cord. It bore the Chanel logo and



Coco Chanel

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CCBY

was called the 2.55 after its launch date in February of that year.

Her two-toned, beige and black sling back shoe with a heel was introduced in 1957. The beige, she said, helped to elongate the leg.

Costume jewellery was part of Chanel's trademark too. She eschewed expensive gems, and her designs were worn both day and night with simple comfortable outfits. "The jewellery I make is to be beautiful. Even more beautiful than the real thing", she said.

Chanel's career in haute couture, which began with designing hats, evolved and expanded through three decades. Her first salon opened in Paris in 1910, followed by others in Deauville, and in 1927 in London. The

Second World War caused her to close her business in 1939. The urge to design and create beautiful clothes returned and she came out of retirement with a new collection in 1955. Again, she reigned over fashion and among those attracted to her salon were Brigitte Bardot and Jackie Kennedy. Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel died in Paris in 1971 aged 87.

Chanel was a self-taught couturiere who fought for independence and set her own rules. Her legacy continues and tells the story of Chanel creating comfortable, stylish clothing for the present and the future.

Margaret Burbidge



I was 80 & got hacked and what to do!

I have been asked by several people to write something about the hack of my email address. But I have a great fear of boring people and it is quite a long story so rather than write what could be a long boring story I thought I would write something shorter along the lines of what I have learnt.

The first thing to confess is that it was my fault. I've had the email address for a long time and had never bothered to change the password because it was something easy that I could remember and, what's more, I had used the password on various other accounts too. So, what to do to avoid this happening in the future?

Apparently, my email address was compromised a few years ago in a data breach. My password was very simple and very easy to guess.

There is a website called haveibeenpwned.com and if you put your email address into the website, it will tell you whether that email address has been part of any data breach. It also helpfully tells you the date of the data breach, so that if you haven't changed your password since that data breach, you are vulnerable to be hacked.

If all this sounds a bit complicated, I think I'm just saying 'change your passwords regularly'. There seem to be ways and means of having this done for you. I haven't as yet investigated any of these, and whether I will I'm

not sure. There is a strong element of *can't be bothered* in me which I have to push past to do anything like that. I am also quite nervous of it all, which doesn't help either.

I learnt about passwords. I have been told on good authority that all you need for a strong very difficult to crack password are three random words. The recommended way to get those is to take a book, any book, select a page, any page, and put one's finger on a word. Use that word. Then repeat two more times. Maybe if you got 'the', 'the', and 'the', that wouldn't be such a good password, but you can understand the principle. Symbols like ampersands, capital letters, and numbers can be added as you like, but it is the three random words that are the difficult thing for computers to crack.

I found that changing my email address and usually my password for my various sites, like my bank accounts, like Amazon, like Microsoft was not too difficult. They often wanted me to set up two factor authentication, which I was not ever so keen on, but because of what had happened I did it and found it was not so difficult as I feared. When I found things impossible, there was usually a phone number, and I could and I did ring a number of these people up and found them very helpful. Some



were not so helpful, but that was usually because they were even dozier than me about how to do what I was asking.

The whole problem of my hack was because my email provider was not able to help me. It started when I had an email from someone with my email address and password in it which threatened to expose my surfing habits to all my friends unless I paid them a certain amount of money, because it said it had my list of contacts. I was horrified that they had got my email address and password, but also was greatly relieved because I realised that they had not actually got into my computer because my surfing habits are reading the Guardian newspaper and shopping on Amazon, nothing as unsavoury as they were suggesting. But because they had the email address, they were able to hack my Disney account and my Microsoft account and others. I got them back through phone calls and reading the instructions very, very, carefully, but it was incredibly stressful. I was then deluged with various emails, trying to hack other accounts in my name. Virgin, through some fault in the system, which is well documented online, were not able to log me out from all my accounts that are open, which would have logged the hacker out as well. I would've then changed the password, and all would've been well. So, I have had to do it one account at a time.

I have since spoken to two friends of mine who have been hacked, and their provider BT sorted it out within a couple of days. I have since asked Virgin Media to shut my email account down and they say they can't do that. They have to see it not be used for ninety days. Well, I

won't use it for ninety days but I'm pretty sure other people will send emails to it. Whether that counts I don't know.

This all happened a few days after my eightieth birthday. I was actually quite pleased when I began to get over it because I could see that I had learned an enormous amount about online safety that I would never have looked at if I hadn't been forced to, but it was a very unpleasant experience and not to be recommended. It seems that passwords are the answer.

To finish this article, I would like especially to thank Andy Robinson, who came up the same day as I received this awful email and was able to look through my computer and iPad and say that there was nothing there, which was very reassuring for me. The other person to thank is my son David who was absolutely there for me. For several years he was employed as a network engineer for Xerox, so he did know what he was talking about. He was able to help me via FaceTime and calm me down. When I finally got locked completely out of my email address and couldn't access it at all, I called Virgin for help, and they were unable to do anything. However, David got me back in and set up some secure passwords which Virgin had not been able to do. I haven't had any creepy emails since.

I do not trust my Virgin Media account, and I intend to take it away from all my internet usage as soon as I can. But all this has left me a much more cautious person on the internet, which is probably a good thing.

Christina Billington



An introduction to the Eco Hub

by Sue Hampton, originally written for *The Friend*, the quarterly magazine of Quakers.

I'm a member of Berkhamsted Meeting. I'm also the founder of the local branch of Extinction Rebellion and it was after XR's The Big One last year - supported by Quakers in Britain – that I called a meeting of local groups who might plough common ground together. The outcome was a small working group of women from Parents For Future, Transition Town Berkhamsted and XR Dacorum (me) who began looking for a way forward in the town. Soon we became committed to the idea of an Eco Hub (I was outvoted on Climate Hub) meeting free of charge in Berkhamsted Quaker Meeting House one Sunday afternoon each month. It's not a Quaker initiative as such but has the full support of Meeting.

It's by no means close in scale to the original Climate Hub in Totnes which had inspired me. We knew we had to start small, and to be honest prior to launch it felt like a LOT of work for a few people. We sourced free or cheap wood to make a few display boards on legs – all carpentry done in the Meeting House until late one night – having identified different themes like ENERGY, NATURE and yes, CLIMATE CHANGE as well as Town Council projects. (Our team had acquired two Town Councillors, including my Quaker husband, and the local Council newsletter ran an article about the hub.) We planned a year's worth of themes and approached local speakers. The local Parents for Future committed to taking charge of a children's activity each month. We looked for funding but kept our personal expenses low in the meantime. We created a logo and set up a website and a Facebook group. I made a banner from an old duvet cover to hang over the Meeting House wall that joins the High Street. And we met regularly and communicated daily.

As I write, we are preparing for the third Eco Hub, having already focused on energy and diet. The next theme will be Natural Wellbeing, with a wild/awe walk and making a Love Is mural. Then

it will be green finance... So far we have been delighted by the turnout, with lots of families taking part. But what do we hope to achieve?

Well, we provide information, and ways to source it, and of course the hope is that people will act on it, making changes for the good of all. But we're also trying to build a more connected and resilient community. Are we attracting mainly the eco-conscious and already committed? Maybe. But some come out of curiosity and say how much they've learned. We hope the clothes and toy 'swaps' and free food will attract those who, even in an affluent town, are struggling financially. The Eco Hub is a place where people can talk and listen and share feelings and ideas.

I'm writing this because there may be other Meeting Houses that could host a similar initiative free of charge, and other Quakers who could try to create a team of local people willing to make it happen. It's a service aligned with all our Testimonies. It's a place where multiple arrestees like me can share values with those who do litter picks or work on community gardens and find ways forward together. It's not much in the context of climate chaos and ecological catastrophe, but it's something and it feels positive. It feels like a way to grow.

Sue Hampton





Supporting our community to make greener and more planet-friendly choices

Welcome to The Eco Hub

1st Sunday of the month, 2.30-4.30

Quaker Meeting House, Berkhamsted High Street.

We are a new local group supporting our community to adapt to greener and more planet-friendly choices.

Want greener energy but don't know where to start? Worried about managing your own or loved-ones' anxiety about the climate crisis? Interested in moving towards a plant-based diet, ensuring your garden will survive changing weather patterns or how to grow your own veg? Each month will cover a different topic with expert speakers and panels, tips on easy changes, general information, teens space for developing eco ideas and a fun children's event – plus delicious refreshments.

We're looking forward to meeting you!

Find us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheEcoHubBerkhamsted>

*Children's activities organised by Parents for Future Herts & Bucks

Coming up at The Eco Hub

1st Sunday of each month 2.30-4.30

April 7th

Sustainable travel home & away with speaker Anna Hughes, founder of Flight Free.

Children's Activity with Parents for Future Herts & Bucks

May 5th

Grow your own veg and Seed Swap

Children's Activity with Parents for Future Herts & Bucks

June

Our June **EcoHub** will take place on **Sunday, 9th June** to coincide with **Great Big Green Week**. We will have speakers, workshops, entertainment and a picnic.

Put the date in your diaries now – you won't want to miss this!

A Berkhamsted Quiz

Several roads in Berkhamsted are named after people. Who is named in the following roads and why are they commemorated here?

- 1 Birtchnell Close
- 2 Chaucer Close
- 3 Coram Close
- 4 Cooper Way
- 5 Cowper Road
- 6 Prince Edward Street
- 7 Egerton Road
- 8 Gaveston Drive
- 9 Loxley Road
- 10 Murray Road
- 11 North Road
- 12 Ravens Lane

Finally, Priory Gardens and Cloister Garth obviously indicate that a priory or monastery once existed on the east side of Chesham Road in an area called the Ashlyns Estate. What was the name of the priory's patron saint?

Answers on page 10



A Berkhamsted Quiz Answers

1 Percy Birtchnell owned a gentlemen's and boys' outfitter shop on the south side of the High Street where Mint Velvet now stands. His hobby was learning about the history of Berkhamsted; he was the acknowledged expert on the subject, and he wrote two books about it.

2 Geoffrey Chaucer is well known as having been a diplomat and the writer of The Canterbury Tales, but earlier in his life he was clerk of works at Berkhamsted Castle.

3 Thomas Coram was a sea captain who in his retirement raised funds and established the Foundling Hospital in Lincoln's Inn Fields to care for orphans in London. After his death the Hospital was moved to Berkhamsted. Eventually it was closed, and the buildings are now part of Ashlyns School.

4 William Cooper was a veterinary surgeon who devised the first effective dip treatment for sheep scab, a highly contagious mite infestation. In 1843 he set up production in Berkhamsted and sold Cooper's Dip Powder in many different sheep-rearing countries.

5 William Cowper, a well-known poet and hymn writer, was born and brought up in Berkhamsted as the son of Revd John Cowper, the rector of St Peter's Church.

6 Prince Edward ('The Black Prince'), son of King Edward III lived at Berkhamsted Castle. He never became king because he died before his father. Centuries before Victoria School was built, his archers would have marched along Prince Edward Street to practise at the butts (now Butts Meadow).

7 Thomas Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, financed the construction of numerous canals. He lived at Ashridge House.

8 Piers Gaveston was the favourite courtier of King Edward II, who gave him Berkhamsted Castle. The castle had been owned by two successive Earls of Cornwall, but the second one had no heir, so the castle had reverted to the crown.

9 The Loxley Family lived at Norcott Court. They were noted philanthropists, particularly financing schools.

10 The Murray family lived at Berkhamsted Place, a large mansion built mainly of stone taken from the ruins of Berkhamsted Castle. In the time of the Civil War the Murrays were noted Royalists, and on the beheading of King Charles I Anne Murray went into hiding, but she returned to Berkhamsted Place on the restoration of Charles II.

11 Mr North was a speculative builder who built many of the houses on the south side of the town.

12 Sir John Raven, an inhabitant of Berkhamsted, commanded the (mercenary Welsh) archers at the Battle of Agincourt.

Most of the roads in the Ashlyns estate are named after birds, but there is an exception near the top of the hill – St Edmunds. When the road was built that name was proposed by Percy Birtchnell who had found out what the priory had been called.

Keith Treves Brown



Masud and the desert

This is a short story about... a book and how it came into being. A dear friend of mine, who happens to be a Muslim, was very concerned about what is happening in Palestine. I wrote a short verse for her, which she was pleased with. Here it is:

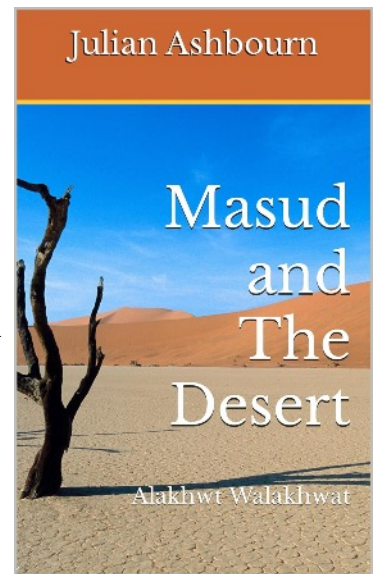
*Seek me near or seek me far
My heart it dances with the stars
It sips the night like holy wine
In this land called Palestine
I hear the words, the trumpets sound
I feel the beauty all around
The truth lies here, I see the signs
In my dearest Palestine
Fear no evil, do not cry
The future's written in the sky
The coming of much brighter times
Across the land of Palestine
And there is no place I would be
Beyond the hills, across the sea
Forever more this land is mine
The golden sands of Palestine
Our kindly men know they must save
Our women who have been so brave
They weave a legacy so fine
Within this land of Palestine*

Something, I know not what, made me copy in The Arab League, with whom I have had no previous contact whatsoever. I thought nothing more about it and then, a few weeks before Christmas, I received a formal invitation to an event at The Central Hall, Westminster in support of the Palestinian people. As I am ill and not easily able to travel, I sent the invitation to my friend and suggested that she might like to go in my stead. She was going to and then, at the last minute, she had a client who she really needed to see (she is a lawyer). The evening before the event, I was suddenly filled with a very strong sense of purpose and decided that I would make the journey.

I expected that there would be a large number of English people there. But there was not. Of course not. This event was organised by The Arab League and the attendees seemed mostly to be from the Arab League states. I first met a charming young lady who did not explain to me who she was. I thought she was just an administrator, but she turned out to be the PA

to the Head of The Arab League in London, H.E. Mr Al-Muftah. Without knowing who he was, I approached Mr Al-Muftah who spoke with me as if we were old friends. We spoke about the Arab League, and I found myself suggesting that they needed an external catalyst to help draw them closer together. Mr. Al-Muftah listened attentively and nodded quietly. Then I spoke with H.E. Mr Zomlot, the Palestinian Ambassador. He also spoke with me as if we were friends. I went to the back of the room and sat down, watching what was happening, where I was quickly joined by an extremely intelligent and beautiful lady who explained to me that she was a Kuwaiti, from the diplomatic service. In fact, she twice came and sat with me. Why? I did not know any of these people. And then I spoke with a very nice man from Egypt, who was also very friendly, and I spoke with two or three Holy men who happened to be present. I was wondering what I was doing there, and then they showed some video footage taken by Palestinian journalists, of what was really happening in Gaza. One scene, with the cameraman walking through a group of refugees, showed a young child, probably around six years of age. When she saw the camera, she quickly stood up, crying, and said, "Mummy and Daddy have been martyred. My brothers and sisters have been martyred. I have nobody. I have done nothing wrong". I suddenly knew why I was there. I had to tell the true story, not just of what was happening in Palestine, but the situation in the Middle East altogether, including its history.

In my writing career, which spans around thirty years and includes over fifty books, there have been just two occasions when I felt that I was just an instrument in someone else's hands. One was when writing my tribute to The



Homesteaders of Saskatchewan and the other was when writing 'Masud and The Desert' which is the work described here. The task of covering twenty-two member states of The Arab League is not one to be taken on lightly. Added to this are two chapters of conclusions. Getting all of this across in a manner which was both succinct (300 pages) and highly readable (courtesy of Masud) was a somewhat daunting prospect and more than one person told me that it was impossible, another warning me against it as I would be seen as interfering in things beyond my compass. However, I was being guided by some unseen helper who steered Masud diligently through his journeying, unveiling for us the truth as he

went. It tired me significantly, but I am grateful for what the experience taught me. In Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', when the ghost of Christmas present is showing Scrooge his past and the latter laughed and said, "It was business, just business". "Business?" replied the ghost. "Humanity was our business". Yes. Masud is of those who understand.

Julian Ashbourn

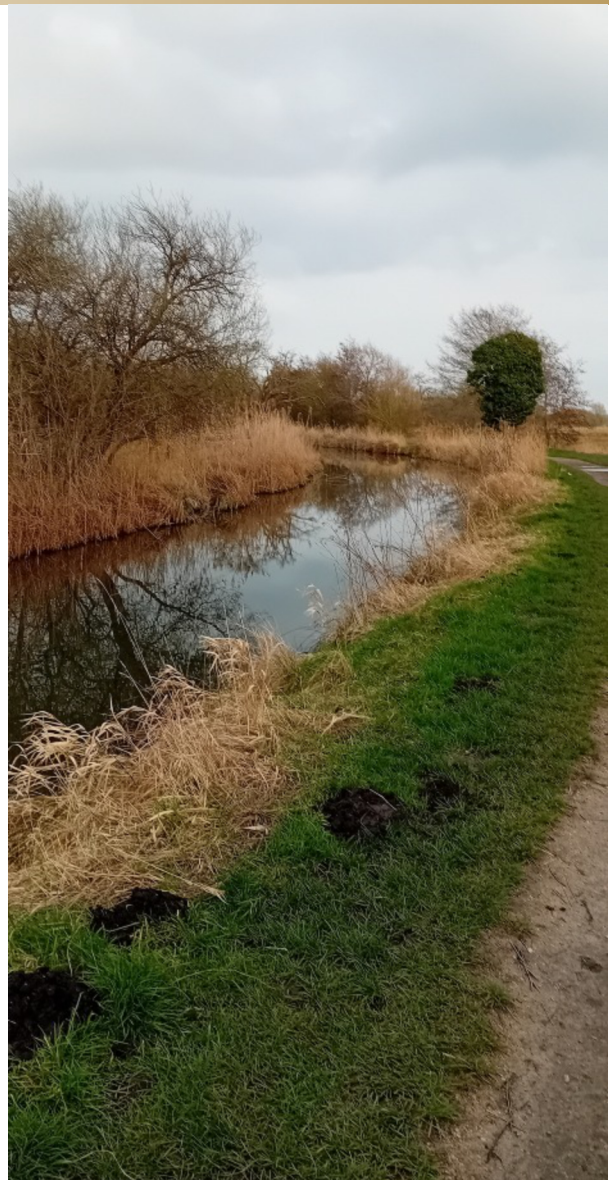
February 2024

Julian is a resident at Kilfillan House and got in touch with us, I asked him if he would write something for the Newsletter. Ed.

Some Humour

- All the world's a stage and I sometimes feel as though I missed the final rehearsal.
- At 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all. (Ann Landers)
- Don't regret growing older because it is a privilege denied to many.
- Does a church steeple with a lightning rod on top show a lack of trust and confidence?
- Funny how some old people get nostalgic about things they weren't keen on first time round.
- God grant me the facility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.
- Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our own wings have difficulty in remembering how to fly.
- Asked what she thought about her first day at school, a little girl replied, 'Not very well; I can't read, I can't write, and they won't even let me talk!'
- Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes.
- Ground control asked the astronaut, 'How are you feeling up there?' His reply was, 'How would you feel surrounded by 20,000 parts, each one supplied by the lowest bidder!'
- Good manners can mean simply putting up with other people's bad manners.

With all this rain, we need an ark. Fear not! (Wait for it.) I Noah guy



Methodist Women in Britain Weekend

23-25 February 2024

Main Speaker: Alison Bryan, Coordinator of Healing Ministry at Westminster Central Hall

Healing for the Whole Person

Setting the Scene Mark 2 verses 1 to 12

The story of the paralysed man whose friends lowered him through the roof to Jesus' feet. We studied the bible story in depth, picking out things that perhaps we hadn't noticed before. The fact that the doorway was jammed with people did not deter the friends who weren't daunted by this problem and removed part of the roof to lower their friend to Jesus. They put their faith in the Healer. Jesus was impressed by their bold belief.

Jesus called him 'My Child'

Despite the murmurings of some of the crowd, Jesus made the man feel included and by calling him 'My Child' made him realise he was welcomed, loved, and accepted.

"Your sins are forgiven"

Jesus has the authority to forgive sins and does not want us to hold on to any guilt. We need to forgive ourselves by letting any resentment go, as guilt steals our peace and joy. We've already been forgiven – don't let us ever forget that.

"Stand up pick up your mat and go home"

Feeling the freedom that the love and forgiveness of Jesus gave him, the man did just what Jesus told him to by standing up, picking up his bed, and going home. We discussed how he must have felt at that moment.

Philippians 4 verses 6 and 7 from The Message

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for

good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life."

After the discussions, Alison led us in a time of healing and forgiveness and laid her hands on those who felt they wanted to receive this healing ministry.

On the Sunday our discussion was about the woman at the well, led by our own members.

In both our bible discussions the people were unnamed, but both received God's forgiveness and the freedom to move on.

We finished the Sunday session with a short service before having lunch and going home.

It was a full weekend with lots to think about, but always lovely to catch up with old friends. I felt I wanted to share some of our thoughts with you all.

Helen Temple



Eulogy: Margaret Joyce Field



Margaret, mum, grandma, and friend. Margaret was born in Preston, Lancashire on Saturday, 16 April 1932.

She was proud of her Lancastrian heritage. She even continued to support Preston North End Football Club from afar, and always listened to the results on a Saturday afternoon. Margaret was evacuated to a farm during the war and retained her love of the countryside throughout her long life, Ingleton Falls being a firm favourite.

She met the love of her life, Gerald, and was soon married. Two children followed – Ann and John.

Unfortunately, Gerald died in his fifties, but Margaret's Christian faith helped her through, along with family and friends.

She was a Christian person in the truest sense, being kind, caring and forgiving. Family and friends were everything to her.

To Margaret's friends, she was always willing to lend a hand – if you were a friend of Margaret's, you were a friend for life. She would never let you down and always had a cup of tea and biscuits at the ready.

Margaret was a loving mother to Ann and John, nothing was ever too much trouble for her, whether it was chauffeuring John to football or Ann to horse riding. She was always there to give a hug or hold her hand. She put up with Ann's constant menagerie of animals from budgerigars to white mice, and a hamster, to say nothing of the stray cat that was subsequently adopted.

With her five grandsons, she was so proud of their achievements and had many trophies and photos around her flat. She especially enjoyed Christmas every year with the family and delighted in giving everyone a new pair of slippers.

Margaret loved to travel and visited America, Germany, and Austria among others, and of course, going to the Scottish Highlands with John, Martin, and all her grandsons.

In recent years, she lived near Ann and Martin in Berkhamsted, where she made new friends through the church.

Everyone whose life was enriched by knowing Margaret will remember her with love.

Ann Rochford

*Ease your grief, she is not gone,
For in your heart, she lingers on.
Her smile, her laugh, her special way,
Will comfort you from day to day.*

*You feel her presence in the breeze.
That dances gently through the trees,
And it's her face that you will see,
When you're in need of comforting.*

*At any time, you can recall
The love you shared, you saved it all.
That in time, more than anything,
You will find peace in your memories.*

Genies Poems



This could make you scream!

Screaming Day on 26 April raises awareness of the health benefits of screaming out loud. At some point, all of us have benefited from letting out a long howl, whether it was screaming into a pillow, in the car, in an empty room, or in any space where we feel comfortable. Screaming Day doesn't have a long history or any traditions, but this will likely change in a few years as we learn more about screaming, and our pressure-filled lifestyles compel us to turn to new methods of venting and releasing tension. Screaming has been considered healing for centuries. Over two thousand years ago, it was viewed as therapeutic and was supplementary to Eastern medicine. Master of Chinese medicine, Dr Lu, believes that screaming helps with liver stagnation.

Screaming is mentioned in the Bible, for example, Isaiah 13:6 says: Scream in terror, for the day of the LORD has arrived – the time for the Screaming Almighty to destroy.

Primal screaming was designed by Arthur Yanov to process emotions and let it all out with a long howl. There is evidence that screaming taps into deep emotions and brings them to the surface.

While there are benefits to screaming, using it to heal must be done properly, and not in a space that will make others uncomfortable, or even justify bad behaviour towards others under the guise of using screaming to channel emotions. If you are going to scream, do it thoughtfully! The above (with some additions) is based on: <https://nationaltoday.com/scream-day/>

Friendship Club



Friendship Club are having a coffee morning with cake and book stalls, in aid of Shelter, from 10.30am - 12 noon in the Lower Hall at All Saints' on Saturday 23rd March. Everyone is very welcome. The club would greatly value support from our church family on the day or donations can be given to Pat Diehl or Audrey Cox.

Audrey Cox

A Concert

On Saturday 20th April, International Pianist Alexander Ardakov will give a piano recital in St Martha's Methodist Church, Tring. An all-Beethoven programme including the Tempest and the Appassionata Sonatas. Tickets £15. Tel: 01442 822305 or on the door (cash please).

Rosemary Berdinner



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A Visit to the Methodist Church in Ghana

By Revd Rachael Hawkings

I have worked with a colleague from Ghana for a few years and often he would say to me, "You must visit Ghana". I never imagined it would happen until a phone call in the autumn saying that a trip was being organised and they were really keen that I join.

15th January saw me leaving the freezing temperatures of the UK to board a flight to Accra, the capital city of Ghana, for ten very full days, carrying with me the results of a collection which would be used to buy gifts for those that we met.

There is so much I could say, it is impossible to summarise all that happened and that we

experienced, but knowing that a picture paints a thousand words, I decided to share just a few of my photos, hoping that it gives at least a bit of an insight into all we said and did.

What I think is important to say, however, is that the Ghanaians were warm, welcoming, joyful people. We met some for whom life is very hard, and yet God's love shone from them and their joy in worship was infectious. I certainly found myself challenged by all I saw, but also encouraged, and particularly had a new sense of our fellowship with our brothers and sisters across the world.

A visit to Rafiki Methodist Satellite Village, an orphanage that began in 2007 with six children and now cares for seventy-nine, from two years to eighteen plus. We were able to present them with a laptop, money to fund a child in tertiary education for a year, and a suitcase full of pens, sweets, and crisps.



A visit to Bethany Methodist School, the picture is of their current computer lab. The national curriculum says that all children are examined in IT, but some have never touched a computer. It was a joy to be able to present the school with a laptop and a photocopier on behalf of Methodists in the UK.

This Boys' and Girls' Brigade band had been playing with two trombones, three cornets, and six drums, yet a lot more children were wanting the opportunity to play in the band. They played as we processed through what seemed to be a shanty town to the local Methodist Church, where we had a service and presented them with some more instruments.



Our visit to Cape Coast Castle was a sombre one. The fort was where slaves were held while awaiting ships' arrival to take them to the Caribbean. They spent three months in the dungeons, with no washing or toilet facilities, not knowing what was going to happen to them, before they went through the 'Door of No Return' to be taken to the ships. I can't even begin to imagine the horrors they went through. Yet Cape Coast Castle was also a place of hope. The plaque shows a commitment to work against injustice and on the opposite side of the 'Door of No Return' is a sign that says 'Door of Return' - remains of slaves have been brought back to Ghana, descendants of slaves have returned, slavery is now outlawed, for which we give thanks to God.



In the north of Ghana, we visited two villages. One has been supported for a number of years by Rev William Davis, the minister who organised the trip, the other he has been supporting more recently. It was good to see the difference that boreholes had made and a privilege to visit the chief of each village, where we were presented with Kola nuts, a ceremonial way of exchanging greetings (not to be recommended, they were very bitter!). They spoke of their need for a health clinic, another borehole in the second village, and the minister's wife spoke about period poverty as a real problem. We were able to present one village school with ten laptops, the churches in both villages with chairs, and one of them with a drum kit. In return we were given live chickens and guinea fowl and yams. It was explained that traditionally they should provide us with a meal. Practicalities meant that they weren't able to



cook us a meal so instead we were given the ingredients to prepare it for ourselves.





Maranatha Methodist Church where I had the privilege of preaching on the Sunday morning.



In places where the church is growing, new church buildings are needed. The church buys the land and gradually builds a bit more as the money comes in. The church is involved in schools, colleges, health clinics, start up loans, ginger farms and rubber farms.

This was a chance meeting at Tamale airport. Twenty five years ago, Rev William was involved in organising a project in which every Methodist child in Ghana was asked to contribute to a fund for sponsoring children in education, some were able to give just one Cedi (6p). TK, on the right, was one of the children to benefit from the fund. Twenty five years later he is now educating tertiary stage students in finance and how to manage finances and is also a member of the Methodist Church, serving as a Church Steward. He spoke of how people had helped him and how he now wanted to pass that help on to others. It was an inspirational meeting and a privilege to see how God had been able to work in his life.



In a different meeting we were privileged to meet the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Ghana, the equivalent of the President of the Methodist Church in Britain or the Archbishop of Canterbury.



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF DELEGATES FROM BRITISH METHODIST CHURCH-UK TOGETHER WITH THE MOST REV DR. PAUL K. BOAFO, PRESIDING BISHOP (MIDDLE SEATED) AND RT. REV MICHAEL A. BOSSMAN (RIGHT SEATED)



Roadsides were always interesting places. Here women are weaving the traditional Kente cloth of the north.

In the market photo they are selling fruit, but we also spotted roadside stalls selling furniture, gates, water tanks, washing machines, onions, snails, even coffins and lecterns.



Getting Older?

Find out by answering these five questions:

First question:

You are taking part in a race, and you overtake the second person. What position are you now in?

Second Question: (But don't take as much time as you took for the first question, ok?):

If you overtake the last person in the race, then what position are you in?

Third question (This involves some very tricky mental arithmetic! Note: this must be done in your head only - do not use paper and pencil or a calculator!):

Take 1000 and add 40 to it.

Now add another 1000.

Now add 30.

Add another 1000.

Now add 20.

Now add another 1000.

Now add 10.

What is the total you now have?

Fourth Question:

Mary's father has five daughters. The first four are called:

1. Nana,

2. Nene,

3. Nini,

4. Nono,

What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Fifth Question:

A mute person goes into a shop and wishes to buy a toothbrush.

By imitating the action of brushing his teeth he successfully expresses himself to the shopkeeper, and the purchase is done.

Next, a blind man comes into the shop who wants to buy a pair of sunglasses. How does he indicate what he wants?

The Answers:

Q1: If you answered that you are now first, then you are absolutely wrong! If you overtake the second person and thus take their place, you are in second place yourself!

Q2: If you answered that you are then second to last, you are Wrong again.

Tell me, sunshine, how can you overtake the last person?

Q3: Did you get 5000?

The correct answer is actually 4100... if you don't believe it, check it with a calculator!

Q4: Did you answer Nunu? No, surely not! - Of course it isn't.

Her name is Mary - read the question again!

Q5: This is really very simple - he opens his mouth and asks for it... Doh....!

From Chris and Gill Lumb

If it is any comfort to the readership I have seen this joke several times before and even so I got all the answers wrong. A factual point if you have lost your keys that is nothing to worry about. If you have your keys in your hand and don't know what they are for then it is time to see a doctor. Ed.



Poem and pictures

God's garden

In winter quiet
God's garden sleeping
waits for Easter's triumph call.

Under apple trees
primroses follow snowdrops
singing of the Spring.

Margaret Saunders



April May Services

April

7th 10am Second Sunday of Easter
Morning Worship
Revd Rachael Hawkins

14th 10am Third Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
Revd John Kirkby

21st 10am Fourth Sunday of Easter
Morning Worship
Richard Hackworth
4pm Messy Church
Revd Rachael Hawkins and
Messy Church Team

28th 10am Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
Revd Rachael Hawkins

May

5th 10am Sixth Sunday of Easter
Morning Worship
Revd Rachael Hawkins

9th 2.30pm Ascension Day (Thursday)
Holy Communion
Revd Rachael Hawkins

12th 10am Seventh Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
Revd John Kirkby

19th 10am Pentecost
Holy Communion
Revd Rachael Hawkins
4pm Messy Church
Revd Rachael Hawkins
and Messy Church Team

26th 10am Trinity Sunday
Holy Communion
Revd Stuart Owen

Every Tuesday

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Eucharist

Every Friday

4pm Evening Prayer

Compline - Night Prayer

8.45pm Alternate Thursdays on Zoom
April 11th 25th May 9th 25th
The Zoom link will be on the website and in
the weekly notices



For Your Information

Sunday Notices

Kate and Steve Spall 913082
email: spalls@mac.com

St Peter's Pew Leaflet

Robin McMorran 878227
email: parishoffice@greatberkhamsted.org.uk

Church and Halls Booking

David Pain 07380 602361

Explorers

Contact Linda Morgan
email: linda.bisset@hotmail.co.uk

Coffee Chat and Toddlers

Kate Spall

Messy Church

Revd Rachael Hawkins

Safeguarding Officers

Ida Rance - adult
Julie Wakely - children

Friendship Club

Audrey Cox 866394
Rachel Stewart
Rosemary Smith

Action for Children

Ida Rance
Audrey Cox

Children's Society

Jenny Hackworth 863990

Phakamisa

Marilyn Pain 879248

Christian Aid

Felicity White 866223

Posters and Notice Boards

Tracy Robinson
Christina Billington

Choir and organ

Ruth Treves Brown

Catering

Vacant

Flowers

Contact Sylvia Smith
email: drysmith@btinternet.com

Stewardship Recorder

Ivor Hancock

Treasurer

Michael Robinson

Transport Co-ordinator

Vacant

Hospice of St Francis

Vacant

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Local Preachers

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Ruth Treves Brown (retired)
David Williamson

Diocesan Lay Minister

Christina Billington (Retired)

Readers

Richard Hackworth

Stewards

David Pain
Tracy Robinson
Helen Temple

All Saints' Council

Secretary Vacant
Treasurer Michael Robinson

Anglican Methodist Association (Berkhamsted) Ltd.

Chairman Richard Hackworth
Company Secretary Steve Spall



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