

# ***NEWS & VIEWS***

## ***The Free Church Hampstead Garden Suburb***



***OCTOBER 2024***

**PLEASE TAKE ONE**

---

# HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB FREE CHURCH

(United Reformed and Baptist)  
Central Square, London, NW11 7AG  
[www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk)

<b>Sunday Services:</b>	<i>11 a.m. (and 6.30 p.m. when announced) Holy Communion is celebrated at Morning Worship on the first Sunday of every month. The Junior Church meets at 11am every Sunday</i>
<b>Minister and Pastoral Emergencies Contact</b>	Minister Revd Aled Jones 020 4531 2055 <a href="mailto:Minister@hgsfreechurch.org.uk">Minister@hgsfreechurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	Penny Trafford 020 8959 3405 <a href="mailto:Secretary@hgsfreechurch.org.uk">Secretary@hgsfreechurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Pulpit Secretary</b>	Carole Lindfield <a href="mailto:derekandcarole.lindfield@earlblue.com">derekandcarole.lindfield@earlblue.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joe Fryer 07814 532049 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@hgsfreechurch.org.uk">Treasurer@hgsfreechurch.org.uk</a>
<b>Lettings Officer</b>	Eddie Hayden <a href="mailto:lettings@hgsfreechurch.org.uk">lettings@hgsfreechurch.org.uk</a>

## **Safeguarding Statement**

Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and vulnerable adults). We expect all of our leaders, volunteers and those who use our premises to share this commitment and value the support of those who worship here in achieving this.

***The Elders (Trustees), Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church  
January 2016***

---

# NEWS & VIEWS

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB  
FREE CHURCH  
Central Square,  
London NW11 7AG



NO 800

OCTOBER 2024

---

**Dear Friends**

**The Manse, October 2024**

During the most recent decennial census for Wales and England, which was carried out in 2021, I had the great privilege of managing the teams of field workers who went from door to door in Breconshire, Ceredigion, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire. I have been interested in censuses for a long time, especially since I started doing work on my own family tree, so I relished this chance to be part of the project.

You can imagine my excitement, then, when the results on the census started to be published and analysed late in 2022. This was, after all, an endeavour in which I had had a small part to play as a temporary worker of the Office for National Statistics. (Yes, I was a small cog within the vast civil service mechanism for five months!)

In our borough of Barnet, the population had increased by 9.2% to 389,300 during the ten years to 2021. The borough is among the top 15% most densely populated English local authority areas, and the population grew at a higher rate than across London as a whole. However, the average age locally also increased: from 35 to 37 years of age – older than London (35 years), but younger than England as a whole (40 years).

In terms of ethnicity, 57.7% of Barnet residents said that their ethnic group was “White” (down from 64.1% in 2021), while 19.3% said they were “Asian”, and 7.7% said they were “Black”. People identifying themselves as being of mixed or multiple ethnicities made up 5.4% of the population, whereas 9.8% said they belonged to another ethnic category. English-born people made up 55.4% of the population, with the largest single birth country other than England being Romania (3.4%). The second highest foreign birth country was India at 3.1% of the population, and Iran came third at 2.9%.

Our health on the whole is “very good”; 51.5% of Barnet’s residents choosing that description in 2021, with only 1.2% describing their health as “very bad”. Moreover, 4.5% of people in Barnet reported providing up to 19 hours of unpaid care each week. Across Greater London, this was the second highest proportion of people providing such unpaid care. In terms of disability, 14.2% of the people in our borough said that they were disabled. This compares with 15.6% across London, and 17.7% England-wide.

Religious affiliation displayed a shifting pattern in the period between the 2011 and 2021 censuses. Starting with the “nones” – those who reported having “No religion” – the percentage in Barnet (20.2%) is lower than that across London (27.1%), and far lower than the overall percentage in England, which has increased to 36.7% (from 24.8% in 2011).

Christianity remains the largest religion across Barnet at 36.6%, although this figure had dropped from 41.2% ten years earlier. Judaism is the second most popular religion with 14.5% describing themselves as Jewish (down from 15.2% in 2011). Islam increased in its relative numbers here, with 12.2% saying they were Muslims, compared to 10.3% the decade before.

I have only captured some of the available data here, and as we all know there are striking differences in population characteristics in pockets across the borough. Aggregating facts about people on a borough-wide basis can miss important local factors. (If you are interested, this analysis is also available on a ward-by-ward basis, as well as even smaller groupings of streets and neighbourhoods – check out the census website.) However, as a church it is important for us to be able to see the big picture of what our locality looks like, as well as thinking about those individual neighbours whom we encounter on a daily basis. We pray for the wellbeing of our city as a whole, as well as thinking about the needs of each and every one whom we meet.

This, after all, is our mission field: where God has put us to share the good news about Jesus, and to make disciples as we live out our own discipleship. At our first Church Life Review meeting in late September, we were challenged to think about the issues which our church will face during the next five years. A vision process entails looking full square at how things are now, identifying significant, emergent themes, and setting fresh objectives for ourselves in light of the priorities we see, the gifts God has given us, and the things we can do to build our common life together as followers of Jesus.

With my best wishes, your servant in Christ Jesus,

*Aled Jones*

## **HGS Free Church Life Review**

### ***Discussion 2: Sunday October 27th 3.30-5.30pm.***

By the time you read this, the first discussion group for our Church Life Review will have happened.

This review is a process during the autumn with the church family sharing our views and opinions about our church, brainstorming ideas and discerning, with the Spirit's guidance, on the direction of our church for the future.

A series of meetings are being organised. The next one is on Sunday October 27th 3.30-5.30pm.

We are alternating Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons, believing that people do not want to come out in the evenings as it gets darker.

However, if you are not able to be present at the meetings, please share your views and ideas with Aled or one of the Elders.

This is about our shared vision for our church.

The article below (from Reform Magazine) summarises the aims of the Review and the findings of the first phase.

### **The Church Life Review: The Story So Far**

*As the URC embarks on the second phase of its Church Life Review, John Bradbury, the General Secretary recaps. Newcomers start here*

The story of the Church Life Review begins with our decision to accept, name and understand the hard reality that faces us, and find ways to respond. This takes a long time, in a Church whose life flows through many interconnecting councils.

The challenges when I first became General Secretary were pretty clear. There are fewer and fewer people to take on the responsibilities of local church life. There is frustration in churches that want to do things, but haven't got the human resources.

Elders and ministers are stretched thinly and a lot of their time is taken up with things that don't feel like the reason we want to be church. The consequence is decline in many, but not all, congregations. Churches are closing at a rate of knots. In places where we've had a witness for

hundreds of years, that witness isn't there anymore. It's disheartening.

Then there's the work that enables the national Church to function: the training of ministers, finance, communication; we have a kind of HR department for ministers; the Joint Public Issues Team gives us a witness in the public square that no local church could have on its own; our world Church work, and our anti-racist work, would be very hard to do as individual churches. All of that is funded from the Ministry and Mission budget that local churches contribute to - the fund that pays for our ministers as well as all this work. With fewer churches and fewer members contributing, that budget gets squeezed, which means fewer ministers, and less of the work that we want to do together.

Also our church consists of 13 synods, which have grown enormously to become one of the main ways we support local churches practically. An unintended consequence of that is that we've tended to reinvent the wheel 13 times and there's quite a lot of duplicated effort.

So some things were clear from the start: we need to find ways to offer more support to local churches; we need more efficient structures; we need to reduce some of our outgoings; we need to invest resources in areas of work that thrive and grow.

Phase one of the Church Life Review included an investigation into what exactly the situation in the United Reform Church is.

Firstly, we engaged the think tank Theos to explore the life of the URC, what our vocation is. A picture emerged of a church with a passion for transformative work in local communities, where our churches are often very small but have a disproportionate impact, but where people are tired. The report challenged us to think about our evangelism and how we connect the work we do with being a disciple of Jesus.

Secondly, we undertook forensic accounting, to give us for the first time a picture of where our money is and what we spend it on. This indicates areas where we might gain from fuller cooperation. It also shows that the overall wealth of the URC is always increasing. That's a very complicated picture, with lots of caveats, but you do see that as we sell church buildings, financial reserves in synods rise, to levels that people might find quite startling.

Synods have almost no income except from investments and the sale of churches. That is a major source of income for the work of URC. So we are, as it were, selling the family silver.

And yet, we are not spending down the silver as fast as it's coming in, and even allowing for inflation, it would appear we are potentially accruing

assets. This suggests that, instead of trying to maintain the level of our assets, we might spend them to invest in the life of the Church. There will be many more church closures, unfortunately, but if we can invest some of that money in new ways of working together, and support for congregations, and developing new congregations, then perhaps our resources can begin to meet our needs.

Thirdly, we tried to streamline our central operations. We merged a lot of committees into one Resources Committee. There are continued conversations about how that works in the discipleship department. We're aiming for a committee structure that gives us what we need using fewer people. The more siloed it becomes, the less effective it is, but when committees have a broad view of the needs of the church, we're able to respond more effectively.

Thanks to stage one of the Church Life Review, for the first time we've got some clear accounts of all of this that enable us to begin to work from a common place. That enabled us at the General Assembly in 2023, with a remarkable degree of unanimity, to set up the key bits of work for stage two, which is trying to work out how we unravel this and put it back together in new ways.

*John Bradbury is General Secretary of the URC. He was talking to Steven Tomkins [urc.org.uk/cir](http://urc.org.uk/cir) Reform Magazine*

## NEWS OF PEOPLE



It was a great joy to celebrate the baptism of Naghi Bagheri at the church on Sunday 29 September. Naghi has been attending the Free Church for several years, and in a moving part of the service, he described how being part of the church family had helped him.



HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB

## Free Church

Charity Concert in aid of  
Christmas gifts  
for patients on the  
Acute Adult Psychiatric Unit  
at Edgware Hospital

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
7.30 pm

## Frederico Bucaioni – Piano

### Programme



D. Pejacevic Impromptu op.9a,  
Gondollied op.4,  
Papillon op.6

Schubert/Liszt, Der Doppelganger

J. Brahms, Ballades op.10, n.1-2

A.Scriabin, Preludes op.11

**Come and bring a friend!**

Coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be served after the recital  
Admission free, with retiring collection for Christmas presents

Minister Revd Aled Jones • The Free Church, Central Square • NW11 7AG  
hgsfreechurch.org.uk • [minister@hgsfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@hgsfreechurch.org.uk) • 020 4531 2055



**Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church**

&

# ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR

**TRANSFORM TRADE SALE**

*Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 11-2pm*

*In the Free Church*

Come and browse - all  
the usual stalls



\* fairly traded goods \*



cards and gifts

\* lots of homemade cakes, jams and food

\* many beautifully made gifts



And don't forget



\* our famously delicious

homemade soups and lunches

**Admission free**

**In the Free Church, Central Square,**

**NW11 7AG**

# Taking Sides



**Today I am taking sides.**

*I am taking the side of Peace.*

Peace, which I will not abandon  
even when its voice is drowned out  
by hurt and hatred,  
bitterness of loss,  
cries of right and wrong.

I am taking the side of Peace  
whose name has barely been  
spoken  
in this winnerless war.

I will hold Peace in my arms,  
and share my body's breath,  
lest Peace be added  
to the body count.

I will call for de-escalation  
even when I want nothing more  
than to get even.  
I will do it  
in the service of Peace.

I will make a clearing  
in the overgrown  
thicket of cause and effect  
so Peace can breathe  
for a minute  
and reach for the sky.

I will do what I must  
to save the life of Peace.  
I will breathe through tears.  
I will swallow pride.  
I will bite my tongue.  
I will offer love  
without testing for deservingness.

So don't ask me to wave a flag  
today  
unless it is the flag of Peace.  
Don't ask me to sing an anthem  
unless it is a song of Peace.  
Don't ask me to take sides  
unless it is the side of Peace.

*Irwin Keller, Oct. 17, 2023*

*Submitted by Joan Holton*

## All About Church Members .....

### Muna Levan-Harris

Muna grew up in the West Africa, Germany and England. After graduating from university, Muna studied at the College of Law before training as a solicitor and specialising in property litigation.

Muna became a member of the URC in 2006 and was appointed as the Legal and Trust Officer for URC Thames North Trust in 2017. Muna is a



governor of Churches' and Legislation Advisory Service, the convener of PLATO (Property, Legal and Trust Officers), and represents it at the Law and Polity Advisory Group. Muna has a deep interest in theology and anthropology, and having gained a Graduate Diploma in theology, ministry and mission, will undertake an MPhil in World Christianities.

### Gwen Buchan

I have been coming along to the Free Church pretty regularly for a few years, mostly post COVID19. My first involvement with the HGS Free



Church came through the outreach of my Jewish neighbour. She had got to know Ian Tutton through his West End Café and had enjoyed volunteering and bringing home made cakes. Ian had helped her greatly with an elderly neighbour who needed help getting to hospital and she wanted to repay his kindness. The main attraction for her at the West End Café was the discourse with

Ian and the others who came to the café. She loved to debate issues of the day with them and invited me to join her.

This introduced me to the church, and it was a short leap to begin attending the services on Sunday mornings. Two things immediately attracted me to the Free Church – the genuine openness and welcoming nature of the congregation and the quality of the music.

One of my favourite psalms is 122 which says, “I rejoiced when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord today.” It is a good way to begin each week.

My heritage is an evangelical Christian one. Dad was brought up in the

tradition of the Baptist Church and Mum was brought up in the Free Church of Scotland in Lairg, and her father, Hector Gunn, was an elder. From age 10 till 24, I attended an independent charismatic fellowship in Bishopbriggs, Glasgow. The best way to understand this entire thing is to watch the video on You Tube which will give you an overview of it.

[Charismatic Renewal in Scotland \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) – enter the title in the youtube search bar if the link does not work.

None of this is terribly normal, so if I am a bit odd, you will now know why.

When I left home and moved to London, I lost this family connection with the church and also my Christian friends so basically stopped going to church for a few decades. Occasionally I would make an effort to go to a church, but it was often such a huge disappointment, that I did not persevere.

My work as a lawyer over the years has kept me in board and rations and I have lived alone since I bought my first flat in Edinburgh in the 1980s at the age of 24. I now work for Network Rail in their legal team which is considerably less stressful although commensurately less lucrative.

I have travelled widely over the years concentrating on mountains wherever I go and have spent many fantastic weeks trekking through the main mountain ranges of the world in Nepal, India, Pakistan and South America. This led me into setting up a charity with a mountain guide I met in Peru “Light Education Development” or LED, which provides solar lights, medical and school supplies to remote mountain villages in Peru

and Nepal. You can read more about this on our website

[www.lighteducationdevelopment.org](http://www.lighteducationdevelopment.org)

My favourite mountains however, remain the Scottish ones particularly in Assynt on the west coast of Sutherland. The best thing about the Free Church is that everyone is welcome regardless of age or nationality and there is a genuine sense of warmth and fellowship. I look forward to getting to know more of you better.

*Gwen Buchan*



## **‘Make me a Channel of your Peace’**

Do you read through your newspaper, listen to the News, become involved in a situation with a sense of ‘what now’ - ‘what else’ - ‘is there no end to this circle of events causing more suffering, more hurt, to those already bearing much more than you or I can ever imagine?’ And then comes the equally negative response - ‘but what can I do about it?’ I can turn my back on the troubles, try to forget I’ve read the article – heard the story - know about the problem - but somehow the images stay there at the back of my mind. How on earth can I help? That thought goes through and through my mind with no apparent answer.

This is one of those moments in life where one has to dig deeper into one’s mind as to how to react. The problem is so immense - ‘I’m becoming immune to all this suffering...I can’t make a shred of difference’ - but is that true? I can either completely ignore the article/problem - or keep it fresh in my mind and gradually chip away at it to get just a glimmer of an answer.

The world is full of people regretting that moment when they could have made that one bit of difference. In my UCB (United Christian Broadcast) notes for 3.9.24, the writer quotes the German author Goethe who said, “Hell begins the day that God grants you the vision to see all that you could have done, should have done, but did not do.... Our greatest regrets will be the God-ordained risks we didn’t take.”

Many of you who know me, will find it difficult to imagine that I am basically a very shy person – who finds it difficult to voice my comments or who gets so bottled-up about something, that it all, and I mean all, comes out in a rush! But once said (rather like that tube of toothpaste), it can’t be put back into the tube again or withdrawn!! However to completely ignore that situation would be equally wrong

Back to my Bible notes again: How do I stay calm with all these stories of storms around me ? The author’s notes remind me that in life I’m always going to face storms and face difficulties. But if I think of my life’s journey as being on a boat trip, then once I’ve invited Jesus into my boat, He’s there. He doesn’t promise smooth sailing but guarantees a safe landing - safety is not the absence of problems but the presence of Jesus. So with that advice, I have to stand on the sideline to speak and see if, and when, I can make a difference to this dark situation. Many times the answer does not appear immediately obvious - and then the answer may be to just ‘be there’ - to show you are concerned, that you do care just by being a presence so that person may not feel so isolated, so alone.

On Easter Day 1958, Martin Luther King said these thought-provoking

words: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness - only light can do that; hate cannot drive out hate - only love can do that." We cannot do that on our own; we need to draw on that greater source of strength within us, Jesus' light and love. It doesn't matter how dim or faint that light is – it still gives a glimmer of love/hope within that darkness. Your flaws don't disqualify you and your limitations don't limit what God can do through you. As Paul says (1Corinthians 1-27): "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the things that are mighty"!

Many times out of the darkest of times a jewel - a pearl of wisdom - can be found, even in the most devastating of events. On the theme 'Blessed are the Merciful,' Canon Steve Williams related how, at the end of the Second World War, during the liberation of the notorious Ravensbrück concentration camp, a piece of paper was found, author unknown, with the following words - "O Lord remember not only the men and women of goodwill but also those of ill will. Do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us but may the fruits we have borne thanks to the sufferings, our comradeship, our humility, our courage - when they come to judgement may all the fruits we have borne be for their forgiveness."

What better way to finish than with some lines of that hymn which is (based on a traditional prayer), 'Make me a channel of Your Peace'

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where's there is despair in life, let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there is sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console:  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

*Rosemary Birch*



# NEWS OF PEOPLE

## News from Dilys Thomas

*Dilys Thomas has written the following letter to Rosemary Birch which they are happy to share with News and Views readers.*



Dear Rosemary

I receive News and Views each month by post which seems quaintly old-fashioned as I expect I could read it on line... I don't know....but it's good to have a little bit of the Free Church in my hands. Of course the Birch contributions are read with interest.

Since April this year Howard and I have moved out of Dorset temporarily and have been renting a little house in Cornwall so we can be near our daughter Lucy and family. You will remember her I'm sure, from Junior Church so many years ago. She is now 44, has a husband, Joe, and two children, and has just completed twenty weeks of chemotherapy for breast cancer prior to surgery and radiotherapy. As you can imagine it has all been very stressful for us to see our daughter's suffering and in spite of holding on to positive thoughts there have been moments of fear, doubt and despair. During one such low spell I was in my bedroom feeling upset and worried when I noticed the envelope containing News and Views unopened on my bedside table. Distractedly I opened it and the copy fell open at your article and the bold headline 'I HOLD AND I AM HELD' hit me like a bolt from the blue. It felt like a direct message from God just for me in that moment and when I read on to the old chorus quoted at the end and it's wonderful old fashioned Christian words, it really spoke to me in my situation at that moment and restored my hope and faith. Isn't it marvellous and mysterious how you can cast your words out there into the wide world and in so doing God reveals himself to someone in a sudden and totally unexpected way? So thank you dear Rosemary for being such a faithful contributor to the church magazine. You are a blessing to us all and I am so grateful.

*Dilys Thomas*

**Condolences** We express our sincerest condolences to the family of Raymond Cunnick, a long-time member of the Free Church choir who died recently after an extended period of ill health.

## News from Simon Tesh

Dear Aled and Penny,

I have no idea who is on holiday but I have good news and I wanted to share it with my friends at the Free Church, and have picked you as good routes for such sharing, I am blowing my trumpet!

You may know that Emily's first full novel was shortlisted for the 2024 Hugo Award, which is Science fiction/Fantasy's equivalent to the Booker Prize. Going for 70 odd years, previous winners include Isaac Asimov (three times), Arthur C Clarke (twice) and JK Rowling. It is

probably looked down on by "serious" literati ("not really literature you know") but it nonetheless is the world's pre-eminent award in the English language for this genre.

In the shortlist of six, there were three other previous winners, all well established world leaders in this field, including Emily's good friend John Scalzi (six times nominated and the keynote speaker at this year's Worldcon gathering in Glasgow).

Emily won!

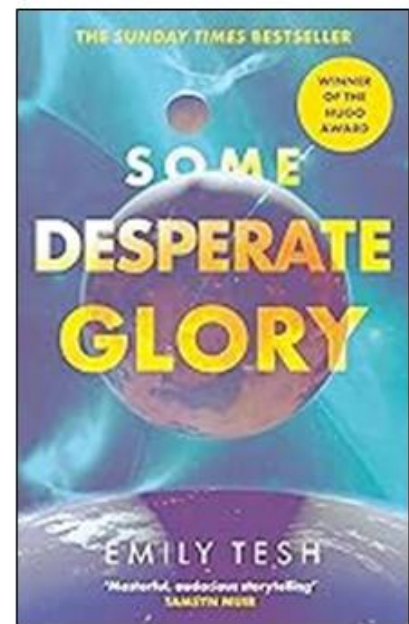
We are all very proud and I am afraid this father is telling everyone he knows about it, whether they like it or not.

If you want to see the details go to the Hugo Award website. <https://www.thehugoawards.org/2024/08/2024-hugo-award-winners/> or the Glasgow Worldcon site <https://glasgow2024.org/hugo-awards/2024-hugo-award-winners/>

For a video of the award ceremony with Emily's speech go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evGAZXdHH6Y&t=7148s>. The actual award bit starts at 2hr 5min 30secs and lasts a few minutes.

For Emily's Radio 4 interview on Front View the day following (or day after) go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0021x3r>. Emily is on from 8 minutes 17 minutes. She sounds a bit rough - the Hugo Award was not the only thing she picked in Glasgow. A dose of Covid came with it!

If anyone has Ken Dougall's email can they forward this? Not only did he persuade Emily to sing the opening verse of "Once in Royal.." at the Free Church Nine Lessons and Carols 25 years ago, he persuaded me to sing the Handel Messiah oratorio solo "The trumpet shall sound..."



*Simon Tesh*



## FROM THE ARCHIVE

*In this first extract Frank Ballard mentions the Harvest Festival for 1944, a tradition which we still continue although tins of vegetables and fruit take the place of fresh produce as gifts. The decision to re-use the church building for services is interesting as blackout regulations were lessening. Discussions around how the church should proceed at the end of the war resonate with our own discussions about our church's future now.*

**1944**

### **From HGS Free Church News Letter October 1944**

My Dear People

When we came back to the Suburb at the end of August we found the place nearly empty. We soon found that there was more life left in the neighbourhood than a glance at the Central Square suggested. In spite of evacuation, war duties and holidays, large congregations assembled for the National Day of Prayer and for the Harvest Festival. We had some anxiety about the latter, partly because the Choirmaster found it necessary to postpone the promised musical service, and partly because everyone was saying, "There are no flowers in the gardens, and we can't expect much in the way of fruit and vegetables." Actually, the display was at least equal to any in recent years, and the donors would feel themselves well repaid if they could see the letters that have reached me from the recipients of these good things. Not only were there these outward and visible signs of vitality, we found ourselves drawn into all sorts of discussions and planning. There was, for example, the question regarding heating and blackout and where we ought to meet for public worship during the winter. We anticipated division of opinion. We found that the way opened up easily before us. The Home Secretary, having eased regulations for householders, decided to go one better for churches. Excepting when an alert sounds (when all major lights must be extinguished), the simplest form of shading is all that is necessary. The coal merchant was equally accommodating, and the result is that Elders and Deacons are agreed that services shall be continued indefinitely in the Church. It is possible that some will regret the decision. They found the Hall so cosy and homely and informal that they will retain happy memories of war Sundays there. It is probable that a far greater number will be pleased. I will myself confess to mixed feelings, but I have often wondered whether we could have found room every Sunday in the Hall for the congregations we may reasonably expect this coming winter.

Another subject that has led to prolonged and animated discussion was referred to in my last letter. Things are moving rapidly and the end of the European war may come upon us suddenly. It must not find us unprepared. We must be ready, for example, to welcome the lads back. Not that we can hope to see many of them quickly. The White Paper published by the government this morning dashes any extravagant expectations in that direction. It will be long before the younger men, especially, will be able to resume civilian duties. But it is not too early to think, and to think together. I have not received, and in the circumstances one could not expect yet to receive, much of a lead from our serving members, but one at least has put his views before the group mentioned last month. There was nothing revolutionary in his proposals, but they suggest the necessity of some social centre where young people can meet and talk in absolute freedom. These discussions are likely to continue for a considerable time, and if others would like to join in we shall be glad to increase the number of informal groups. If this appeals to you please communicate with Mr Langdale Brown, 2, Turner Drive (Speedwell 3064).

## 1964

### From News and Views October 1964

*This second extract tells of two Junior Church members' (Katharine and Christine Greenland) trip to Holland and then their experience of working in old people's homes in Lancaster.*

Haarlem to Hest Bank

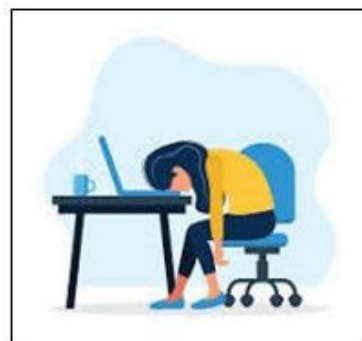
Following our successful visit to Holland with the Junior Fellowship last year, we kept up a regular correspondence with our Dutch friend, Evelien and enjoyed having her and her friend on their return visit this Easter. This summer we were able to go to Haarlem again to stay with Evelien for 10 days. We spent four days in Amersfoort, which is an interesting town dating back to the Middle Ages. Most of the houses that formed the old city wall are still inhabited. We also did a lot of cycling in the surrounding countryside. We enjoyed ourselves very much and hope to return the hospitality next year.

The day after we arrived home from Holland, we travelled up to Lancaster by train to begin a 10 days working holiday. This was run by the Student Christian Movement in Schools and we stayed in a Church Hall at Hest Bank with 17 other girls. We slept on straw palliasses and had breakfast and supper in the Church Hall. Every day we got up at 7:30 a.m.

All the other girls worked in groups of two, three or four at various old people's homes or children's day nurseries. We, however, worked by

## A USEFUL LUNCH HOUR

I arrived early at the church on Tuesday, expecting to see a crowd of people. The church was empty - except for Aled and a lady wearing a name tag, waiting in the 'coffee corner'. She made me a nice cup of tea while Aled passed the biscuits. "Our technicians will be arriving shortly," I was told. Sure enough, a few minutes



later, some smiling girls from Henrietta Barnett school came in. Two were allocated to my table and another two stood at the next table where a lady from St Jude's was sitting. We both had our phones ready together with our list of questions. They found my 'question mark' on the keypad which had been missing for some time. They showed me (yet again) how to delete unwanted apps and a few other simple things.

The girls were very friendly and helpful. They did not make us feel silly when they solved our problems fairly easily. Finally, I took out my laptop to show them a strange problem with my email. This was eventually sorted out just before it was time for them to go back to school. It was altogether a very enjoyable time, both finding answers to my problems and meeting the girls from the school.

I wonder if it is a good idea for me to draw attention to this event! Next time, I shall certainly be arriving early again as there may actually be a crowd of people there.....I need to find out the quickest way to make a playlist on Spotify!

*Mary Charras*

ourselves in two adjacent old people's homes, one with about 25 residents and the other with thirty two. We helped the staff generally with things like washing up, dusting, hanging out washing and setting tables, but quite a lot of the time was spent chatting to the old people (most of whom had some disability) and taking them for walks.

We were fortunate in being able to go on the old people's annual outing through Yorkshire and Westmorland. We had the evenings free and our wardens also gave us Saturday off. On Sunday afternoon we all went to the Lake District by coach and walked over the Langdales to Grasmere.

The holiday gave us an opportunity of seeing how Council homes are run as well as seeing some more of the countryside and learning about old people.

*Anne Lowe*

## JOHN BIRCH'S DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**"We will remember them."** Two Second World War veterans - Queenie Hall, 100, and Dorothea Barron, 99 - were able to reconnect with their wartime service by each having a flight in a Spitfire. Queenie was a plotter based in High Wycombe – an essential and highly responsible job. Both served most of the War, with Dorothea being in the Women's Royal Naval Service instructing in semaphore for troops forming part of the D-Day landings.

**Noel Edmonds** - who lived in the Suburb during his early life (in fact a few houses along from ours when we had the honour of feeding his two cats whilst he was away) is now set to return to the small screen with shows centred on his farm in New Zealand's South Island. He described the farm as the place "where like-minded people could come together, express opinions, offer guidance and share life-experiences".

A new first is being recorded at **Gunnersbury Park in Chiswick** with **pigs being allowed to graze**, helping to keep the grass short and maintain shrubs. Livestock, including alpacas, cattle and sheep, used to be kept on the site about 200 years ago.

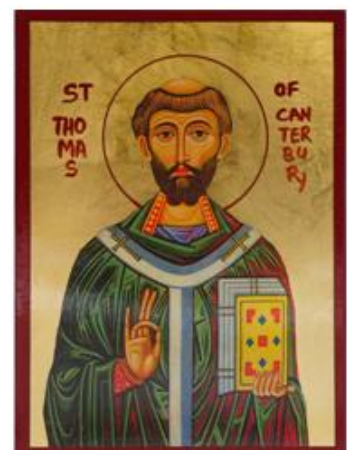
Meanwhile in the **Scottish Cairngorms two young beavers** - the first to be born there in the wild - have been spotted. These were born from six pairs released in the Park last year. Further South in Northumberland a newly-born kit was seen swimming with its mother, the first after a gap of 400 years.

Sticking with wild-life, **a pair of choughs** has successfully reared a chick



at what was obviously a secure and well-chosen site - the grounds of Dover Castle, the first of these birds to nest in Kent for over 200 years. Despite their absence these birds have retained 'a deep cultural tie with Kent. According to Kentish

legend, the bird's bright beak and legs were obtained by wading in the blood of Thomas à Becket, the Archbishop murdered by knights from Henry's II's household'.



Meanwhile further north at **Chester Zoo**, easily reached from Shrewsbury, give it a go, I don't think you'll be disappointed - (As children both Rosemary and I eagerly looked forward to our annual trips with our respective parents) - twin Cotton - Top Tamarins have been

born, each weighing 40 grams at birth (after a five-month pregnancy.) These monkeys are counted as one of the World's most endangered species with just 2000 remaining in the wild.

It's not unusual for wheels to be damaged *by pot-holes!* Harry Smith-Haggett, 22 years old, (I'm not certain why but it seems to be the "usual practice" to give the age of the person concerned) in West Sussex has taken to filling the numerous potholes which have appeared – filling them with flowers – anything which might be handy from his garden or the wild, creating what he has dubbed "pretty potholes." He added "The road standards around here have been winding me up - I thought if I did something it might help the council get a shift on." He finishes (I'm sure with a sense of satisfaction) "It might just be a coincidence but all the planted ones have been tarmacked already!"



**Feline – lost.** A search has started for the owner of a cat found huddled under a seat when a bus returned to Bristol Garage. It is believed that the cat walked onto the X1 service in a Somerset village eight miles away. In an appeal the bus company said "We think she may have fur-gotten where she was going and boarded the bus around the Backwell area". I hope she is claimed shortly, if only to protect the public from further purrs.

**Fibropapillomatosis.** (I suggest you don't try to pronounce this!) It's a tumour which over the years has badly affected the sea turtles living off South America. It can hamper their movement, sight and feeding. It has led to a clean-up of waters which were previously left uncleansed. Tests have shown that a much healthier environment has been created with the sea-turtles much healthier.

**Not small change.** A Danish butter magnate's coin collection (Lars Emil Bruun - always good to name names) has gone up for auction, with an estimated value of £57 million pounds (I'm sure an even more astounding sum in Danish kroner). One coin alone minted in 1496 for Denmark's King Hans, has an estimated value of £50,000. Just as remarkable was the fact that Bruun was born into poverty in 1852 and amassed a fortune through his butter export business!



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors

“News & Views” should be completely overhauled.

It should be the Free Church’s beacon, but I am afraid that it reads as if it is addressed to white, middle class, nonagenarians. It should instead appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds.

It is too long and in parts turgid. Here are some suggestions. The cover should feature a colourful drawing of a variety of people of all ages, races, with and without disabilities, instead of just a drawing of the Church.

Articles, jokes, cartoons etc should be invited as widely as possible. The same tiny handful of people write 90% of it.

There should be more articles on the Bible and Christianity as it applies in the modern world - there is too much focus on the past - and fewer reviews of long forgotten novels of yesteryear.

Of course I am grateful for all your hard work – but it’s time for change.  
Best wishes

*Ashok Ghosh*

***Do you agree or disagree with Ashok? What are your suggestions? As you know letters or emails to the editors are always welcome - so let us know your views.***



***Plane snailing.*** An export from Edinburgh Zoo has been many thousands of Partula tropical land snails being returned to their natural habitat in French Polynesia (Tahiti) where they have been almost extinct for some time.

***Amazing!*** A ***gigantic maize maze*** which contains three miles of paths can be enjoyed at Wistow in Leicestershire. It has recently honored Team GB athletes competing in the Paris Olympics with a maze designed in the shape of a javelin thrower. As the season ends the maize will be harvested for cattle fodder - going on to a moo life!

***Quite a buzz!*** A ***giant wasp nest*** had (happily) been abandoned when found in an attic. It measured 30 inches (75 cm) across. The local Community Conservation Officer (glad to know they exist) remarked “The detail and the different types of wood they’re using within that nest make different colours; it is phenomenal!”

*John Birch*

## LIVING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

Something that has bothered me for some time has suddenly started to make sense, and has illuminated some things about life that have not been clear to me.

I have been puzzled by the fact that I listen to music very little, despite it being a very important part of my life as a pianist. Some people live with music as a huge part of the background of their lives, but talking to a musician friend that I used to work with, I discovered that she, like me, listens to little music recreationally.

Sometimes when people say how much they have enjoyed the music after a service when I have been playing I don't know how to respond, because what I am most conscious of is the imperfections and inadequacies of my performance, because I love the pieces I play so much. So why is it so different for me?

The lightbulb moment arrived recently when I was thinking about the similarities between my love of pieces of music, and my appreciation of women, whom I confess I find generally more interesting companions than men. I reflected that I could happily observe lovely women in films and TV for hours, but relating to ones that I am close to is different – it requires work on my part, and challenges of all kinds – not that it is not enjoyable!

I realised that there is a huge difference between observing and appreciating people and music from an audience perspective, and the experience of living with them, and facing the daily challenges of understanding and responding to them. It could be described as the difference between experiencing things from the outside and experiencing them from the inside. When I hear, or read, a piece of music which I find beautiful, I want to play it, and I put in hours of work to try to do justice to the vision of it in my mind. It is hard work, and while its beauty remains, my relationship with it changes as it challenges me to produce the best and truest version of it that I can.

When we enter a relationship of friendship or love with another person, the attraction we initially feel deepens, and it changes us; we learn to adapt to them, and respond to them in ways that are mutually beneficial (hopefully!) It is very similar with pieces of music for me; they challenge and change me, and I can no longer listen to someone else playing them without being critical of their performance, or envious, because they have achieved something with it that I have not.

For me this is the difference between being an observer and a participant, an audience or a performer; the difference between being 'inside' something, or 'outside' it. I no longer enjoy a piece of music the same way when I have

learned it and perform it than I do if I listen to an unknown piece performed by someone else. The appreciation of beauty, truth and relatedness are there in both, but the relationship is fundamentally changed.

I reflected on this when Rev Ian Green said in his sermon a while ago that faith changes; it does not remain the same throughout one's life. When I first (re)encountered the Christian faith as a teenager through some powerful preaching, Christian faith seemed overwhelming in its attractiveness, its truth, its power and its beauty. I gave myself as fully as I could to it, and it changed my life, and indeed my profession. But studying it, and practising it as a minister, changed the way I saw it – I found its collisions with the cultures I had been part of before, and what it required of me, as daily challenges.

A lot like marriage; another relationship that requires one's all, and tests one in all sorts of ways, as well as being fundamental to the way we live if we are practising it to the full. Other people's marriages may look wonderful (or not), but we are spectators of them; our own marriages are the experience of being inside something bigger than oneself.

Then I found myself reflecting on the latter stages of life. For those for whom Christian ministry have been their life, retirement can be very difficult if similar opportunities for service, involvement with others, and leadership are not forthcoming. The transition from 'inside' to 'outside' can be very hard. For some married people that transition is very hard when their spouse dies, and some in fact, in seems to me, never actually make that transition – they remain in the mindset of marriage until they transition to the nearer presence of God.

One thing that worries me is that Covid has changed the way congregations experience Christian worship, to some extent at least. Watching services online is a different experience from being part of them in the church with others. We became outsiders looking in, rather than insiders experiencing a shared worship with others. And I am not sure we have fully recovered from that as a congregation – sometimes morning worship has a café feel to it, which is good when it helps newcomers to feel at home, but is not the ultimate kind of participation we hope for in church.

Similarly, I am a little uneasy about the applause that Paul Joslin and I receive when we have played after a service. It feels a bit as if it turns our participation in the church's worship into a performance – it has become a spectator sport rather than a shared participation.

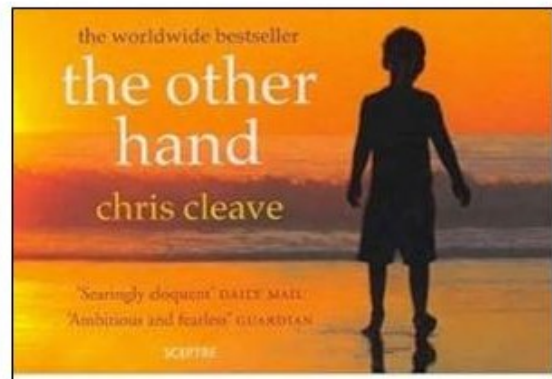
All this has got me reflecting on the main transitions of my life, from inside to out, and vice versa, and how they have affected the way I live and see myself and others. What about you? – responses welcome!

*David Trafford*



## Book Review: The Other Hand by Chris Cleave

The Other Hand, is a 2008 novel by British author Chris Cleave. It is a dual narrative story about a Nigerian asylum-seeker and a British magazine editor, who meet during the oil conflict in the Niger Delta, and are re-united in England several years later. The structure of the book is quite clever, as Little Bee, the refugee girl from Nigeria,



and Sarah, the successful magazine editor living in Surrey, alternate as narrators. In this way, the actual happenings, emerge gradually as the book progresses. Which of the two narrators comes over as the most striking? The consensus of critics is that it is Little Bee, whose text is helped by her creative Nigerian English and her referral to an imaginary group of village girlfriends to whom she has to explain the extraordinary country (England) which she has come to, so that, for example, wood is used as the floor in the house in Surrey and not, as in her village, stacked against the house for cooking. Similarly, women are photographed topless in daily papers, and nobody minds! Little Bee is also full of compassion towards everyone, including those who enforce abominable prison-like conditions in detention centres or handcuff her on planes. Helen, by contrast, comes over as someone who never quite knows who she is or what she wants – it could be argued that this is her role in the novel – in any case, she comes over as a much more shadowy personality, living a lie both at home and at work.

The character who unites them is Helen's four-year-old son Charlie who dresses as Batman and will only answer to the name Batman. His "mission" is to defend the "goodies" and destroy the "baddies." Little Bee immediately bonds with Charlie and plays with him for hours: Helen, too, is at her best with her son and he is the centre of her universe.

Two other characters, Andrew, Helen's husband, and Lawrence, her lover, are even more shadowy than Helen herself.

Like the blurb on the back of the book, I am deliberately not outlining the plot as readers need to discover what has happened for themselves. The blurb begins: "We don't want to tell you too much about this book. It is a truly special story and we don't want to spoil it." and ends: "Once you have read it, you'll want to tell everyone about it. When you do, please

don't tell them what happens either. The magic is in how it unfolds." The author himself explained: "I think readers are quite smart and don't really need the whole thing spelt out for them in a plot summary. It's nice to let them discover the book at their own speed. And the technique of the book is to release these dirty secrets gradually."

Chris Cleave had direct experience of working in Campsfield House in Oxfordshire, an immigration detention centre: Cleave spent three days serving food to residents from war zones including Somalia, Eritrea and the Balkans. He explained: "I got talking with some of them and said why are you here? Why are you in prison? It's not illegal and yet we concentrate them in these places. It's a text-book definition of a concentration camp. The conditions are appalling. I was shocked enough for that to be the end of my light comedy book of my amusing summers working as a labourer." Cleave believes he would not have written the novel were he not a parent, as he does not wish for his children "to grow up into a world that is callous and stupid." Cleave felt compelled to write about the "dirty secret" that is the British immigration system, and to do so in such a way as to showcase the "unexpected humour" of the refugees wherever possible, in order to make the book "an enjoyable and compelling read" for his audience. Cleave explained: "I think the job is important because there's something you can do in fiction that you don't have the space to do in news media, which is to give back a measure of humanity to the subjects of an ongoing story. When I started to imagine the life of one asylum seeker in particular, rather than asylum seekers in general, the scales fell from my eyes in regard to any ideological position I might have held on the issue. It's all about exploring the mystery and the wonder of an individual human life. Life is precious, whatever its country of origin."

*Shortly after reading the novel, news reports on TV and in the papers reported the violent attack on the Holiday Inn hotel in Rotherham, attempted arson while refugees watched terrified in the rooms, along with violence and wanton destruction in many other cities. Thousands flee horrendous violence in their own countries, to reach a 'safe haven' in Britain only to meet violence and antagonism here. In spite of its faults, there is much to recommend this book – I found Little Bee's narration very amusing. In addition, the issues raised – racism, immigration, treatment of asylum seekers, colonial exploitation are highly topical and very important and need to be addressed by all of us.*

**Marion Ditchfield**

## **FROM POWDERED WIGS TO BUSINESS SUITS: The Life of Lorenzo Da Ponte. Part I.**

Grand opera isn't to everyone's taste and it's fairly easy to see why. It's a messy art form with little appeal to purists or those who like their music 'straight.' A great opera performance requires great music, great singers (who can also act), a great story, a great librettist, a great director and these rarely all come together. In many ways it exists simply as an ideal to which actual performances can only approximate – a bit like the way football fans dream of ideal wins with an ideal team but have to be satisfied with whatever the home side can produce.

One of the key ingredients is the librettist. Without the 'right' librettist, an opera composer is hamstrung. He or she might light upon a story which they know would make a good opera, but without the right librettist, ie a person they can work with, collaborate with, who knows instinctively the kind of verse/dialogue they require and who can help mould the story or novel into a suitable three or four act format, they will all too likely fail. Which explains why composers do all they can to hold onto the librettists they know they can work with. Verdi had his Francesco Piave and Arrigo Boito, Puccini had Luigi Illica and Guiseppe Giacosa. and Mozart had Lorenzo Da Ponte – at least for three of his four greatest operas - The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni and Cosi Fan Tutte.

And while Mozart was Mozart, Lorenzo da Ponte was Lorenzo Da Ponte, ie a much larger-than-life figure. In fact, chancing upon his Wikipedia entry (which supplies much of the following piece) I was – and still am – amazed that Disney, Netflix or some other streaming company have never made a dramatization of his life (a six-parter at least would be required!) Even his name 'Da Ponte' somehow symbolizes his life's role of bridging gaps between religions, classes, continents (Europe and America) and phases of history (from typical 18<sup>th</sup> century picaresque adventurer to 19<sup>th</sup> century businessman and entrepreneur).

### ***Early Days in Venice***

He was born Emanuele Conegliano in 1749 in the working-class Jewish ghetto of Ceneda in the Republic of Venice. He was the eldest of three sons. Although Da Ponte had his bar mitzvah at age 13, a year later in 1764, his father, then a widower, decided to convert himself and his family to Roman Catholicism in order to marry a Catholic woman. Emanuele, as was the custom, took the name of Lorenzo da Ponte from the bishop of Ceneda, who baptised him. They immediately moved out of the ghetto –

and like all such ‘conversos,’ Da Ponte was forbidden – for the rest of his life – to have any contact whatsoever with any Jew, on penalty of death, imprisonment, or a life of servitude in the Venetian Navy. (However, it is unclear whether these penalties were ever enforced).



*An early photo of the Ceneda ghetto*

Thanks to the bishop, the three Conegliano brothers studied at the Ceneda seminary. Da Ponte took to the academic life with ease. After two years, he claimed (according to his memoirs) he could write a fluent thesis in Latin. He also studied Greek and Hebrew which he excelled in. But his great passion was for Italian literature. In less than six months, he claimed he had memorized much of Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, and Tasso. He wrote thousand of poems “trying my hand repeatedly at every style of metre and composition, striving to imitate the most beautiful thoughts.” These years of training and writing, along with learning to do translations and adaptations, obviously helped to pave the way for his later work as a librettist.

The bishop died in 1768, after which Lorenzo moved to the nearby seminary at Portogruaro, where he took Holy Orders in 1770 and became Professor of Literature. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1773 at the age of 24 and a few months later was posted to a congregation in Venice (‘the Las Vegas’ of its day) and was assigned as an abbé to the Church of San Luca. While priest of the church of San Luca, he took a mistress, with whom he had two children.

However, the religious life was not for Da Ponte who writes: “I allowed myself, through the customs and examples about me, as well as my own inclinations, to be swept away into a life of voluptuousness and amusements, forgetting or neglecting literature and my studies almost entirely.” In Venice, in 1777, he met and became a close friend of Casanova and did his best to imitate the infamous lothario. The first of his many mistresses was a married woman from one of the ancient families of Venice – Angela Tiepolo, whose family owned the Teatro San Benedetto. She shared a home on the Grand Canal with her equally dissolute brother. Both were gambling addicts. Da Ponte moved in with them and soon took



on their passion for gambling. He wrote in the *Memoirs*, "I had conceived a very violent passion for one of the most beautiful, but at the same time, most capricious ladies of that metropolis. She occupied all my time in the usual follies and frivolities of love and jealousy, in convivialities, carousals, and debaucheries...."

At some point he appears to have become the proprietor of a 'bordello' as in 1779 he was charged with "public concubinage" and "abduction of a respectable woman." It was

alleged that he had been living in a brothel and organizing the entertainments there. (One wonders what on earth these 'entertainments' consisted of!) Casanova told him the authorities were closing in and that he was in danger of ending up imprisoned under the Bridge of Sighs. He urged Da Ponte to flee and he was found guilty in absentia and banished for fifteen years from Venice.

### ***Vienna and London***

Banished from Venice, Da Ponte moved to Görz in Austria, where he lived as a writer by attaching himself to leading noblemen and patrons in the city. In 1781 he believed (falsely) that he had an invitation from his friend and fellow Venetian Caterino Mazzola who was working at the court of Saxony as a poet to take up a post at Dresden. Although this was a mistake, Mazzola offered him work at the theatre translating libretti. He also gave him a letter of introduction to the composer Antonio Salieri who helped him obtain the post of librettist to the Italian Theatre in Vienna. During this time, he did not forget his role as seducer, claiming in his memoirs the seduction of a pretty widow and her two daughters, with whom he simultaneously fell in love - which apparently caused him 'great anguish' and made him consider the charms of the mother instead.

In Vienna, Da Ponte found a patron – a fellow 'converso' - with the unlikely name of Raimund Wetzlar von Plankenstern. Von Plankenstern was also a benefactor of Mozart and as court poet and librettist at the Italian Theatre, Da Ponte began his collaboration with Mozart and Salieri. Whatever his virtues and vices, everyone agrees that Da Ponte was a gifted librettist, able to make existing plots and adaptations more witty and better

constructed. Of Figaro he writes: “I have not made a translation [of Beaumarchais] but rather an imitation, or let us say an extract. ... I was compelled to reduce the sixteen original characters to eleven, two of which can be played by a single actor and to omit, in addition to one whole act, many effective scenes. ... In spite, however, of all the zeal and care on the part of both the composer and myself to be brief, the opera will not be one of the shortest. ... Our excuse will be the variety of development of this drama, ... to paint faithfully and in full colour the divers passions that are aroused, and ... to offer a new type of spectacle.”

While in Vienna, Da Ponte also spent time with his friend Casanova, lending him money and receiving advice which he allegedly made use of in Don Giovanni.

Unfortunately, with the death of the Emperor, Joseph II, in 1790, Da Ponte lost his patron and position as court theatre poet and he was dismissed from the Imperial Service in 1791, due to ‘intrigues.’ He could not go back to Venice, so instead he made his way to Trieste where he met one Nancy Grahl, the English daughter of a Jewish chemist. He never married Nancy (though some versions say they were married by a Jewish rabbi) but the liaison with her was the nearest he ever came to the state of matrimony and eventually he had four children with her. During this time, he met Casanova for the last time in Vienna; he had looked for his old friend to settle a debt, but after seeing Casanova’s poor situation, he decided not to press matters.

In August 1792, he set off for Paris via Prague and Dresden armed with a letter of recommendation to Marie Antoinette that her brother, the late Emperor Joseph II, had given to Da Ponte before his death. Unfortunately, on the road to Paris he learnt about the worsening political situation in France and the arrest of the king and queen – so he decided instead to head for London together with Grahl and their two children.

We have little information about his time in London. Da Ponte pursued a number of jobs including that of grocer and Italian teacher. Eventually, he became librettist at the King’s Theatre and wrote and produced some nine libretti over the next 12 years. But without Mozart’s music, none of these works achieved any notable success. Nor did Da Ponte. He remained in London, undertaking various theatrical and publishing activities until 1805, when debt and bankruptcy finally caused him to flee to the United States with Grahl and their children.

***John Ditchfield***

*For the further adventures of Lorenzo Da Ponte in The United States, see Part II in the next issue of News and Views.*

## JOHN BIRCH'S COMPETITION

### Competition No. 65: Stamps around the World. Part 1

With the exception of Great Britain, all countries have on their stamps the name of the country they represent. Can you pair the name with the country?

#### *Name on stamp*

Norge	Helvetia	Island	Sverige	Osterreich
Espana	Suomi	Magyarország	Bani	CCCP
	Deutsche Bundespost		Ellac	

#### *Countries*

Greece	Romania	Spain	Iceland	Norway
Germany	Hungary	Austria	Switzerland	Russia
	Finland	Sweden		



### Answers to Competition No 64. Currencies around the World. Part 2

Shekel/Israel	Dollar/Hong Kong	Dirham/Morocco
Lev/Bulgaria	Manat/Azerbaijan	Real/Brazil
Pound/Lebanon	Rupiah/Indonesia	Lira/Turkey
Ougulya/ Mauritania		



*We look forward to your answers - send them either by email to [jbirch1821@gmail.com](mailto:jbirch1821@gmail.com) or by post to J. Birch, Pantgwyn, High Street, Borth, Ceredigion, Wales SY24 5HY*

## SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AUTUMN

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

ACORN BEECH-MASTS BLACKBERRIES BONFIRE-NIGHT  
 BRUSSEL-SPROUTS CHANGING COLOURS COLD CONKERS  
 FALLING-SEEDS FLOWERING-IVY FUNGI GLOVES  
 HARVEST HEATING-ON HIBERNATION LONGER-NIGHTS  
 PUMPKIN ROSE-HIPS RETURN-TO-SCHOOL SCARVES  
 SLOES SQUASHES STEWS SWIFTS-LEAVE WARMING-  
 SOUPS

*Put the remaining 19 letters together to find the date when Autumn finishes*

*Compiled by Rosemary Birch*

*Answer: thirtieth of November*



# JUNIOR WORDSEARCH: HEPTATHLON

S	I	N	N	E	A	C	I	S	S	E	J
H	E	P	T	A	T	H	L	O	N	L	Y
I	N	V	Q	A	S	H	O	T	A	H	W
L	I	S	E	L	D	R	U	H	I	G	O
L	L	B	C	N	S	P	100	P	L	I	M
W	E	S	E	R	T	E	M	O	M	H	E
O	V	Y	O	X	O	S	200	800	R	U	N
R	A	A	S	I	W	E	L	O	N	G	J
H	J	D	E	N	I	S	E	Z	C	O	N
T	R	O	P	S	C	I	P	M	Y	L	O
H	E	W	I	N	G	T	H	O	M	P	S
K	A	T	A	R	I	N	A	J	O	H	N

HEPTATHLON  
OLYMPIC SPORT  
WOMEN ONLY  
SEVEN EVENTS  
TWO DAYS

100 MTR HURDLES  
HIGH JUMP  
SHOT PUT  
200 MTR RUN  
LONG JUMP

JAVELIN THROW  
800 MTR RUN  
DENISE LEWIS  
JESSICA ENNIS HILL  
KATARINA THOMPSON



*Compiled by Liz Alsford*

# DIARY



- Sundays** 10.30am Prayer Meeting before the service. Everyone welcome
- Mondays** 10.30am to 11.30am Studying together in Church
- Wednesdays** 10am to 12 noon Toddler and Parent/Carer group
- Thursdays** 6.30-8pm Choir Practice Oct 24th, Nov 7th, Nov 28th.
- Fridays** 6.45-8.30pm 11-14 year olds' Friday Fellowship Oct 11th, Oct 25th, Nov 8th, Nov 22nd.
- Saturdays** 10.30am to 12.30pm West End Café open

## Audio - Visual Live streaming

Sunday Services and Friday Concerts are usually live-streamed on YouTube and these will remain on the Church's YouTube channel. If you are in the building, there is a chance you might appear on camera.

Seating in the side aisles is never filmed and the Stewarding Team can assist you if you would like a seat out of shot of the recording equipment.

## October

- |                         |             |  |
|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am        | Harvest & Family Communion service led by the Minister Followed by lunch in church |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm      | Elders & Deacons Meeting   |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> | 11am        | Family Service led by the Minister   |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> | 11am        | Family Service led by Revd Jon Dean Retired URC Minister                           |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> | 1pm         | Friday Lunchtime Concert – Yoriko Caskie, Piano                                    |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> | 11am        | Family Service led by the Minister   |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> | 3.30-5.30pm | Church Life Review Discussion 2  |

## November

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	Family Communion service led by the Minister
	3.00pm	Annual Bereavement Service
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Piano concert in aid of Free Church Christmas presents for Dennis Scott Acute Unit patients with severe mental health illness.
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11am	United Remembrance Sunday Service at St Judes
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders / Trustees Meeting
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 2pm	Bazaar in the Church
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Family Service led by the Minister followed by 12.30pm Church Meeting
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Family Service led by Revd Maggie Hindley Retired URC Minister
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	Friday Lunchtime Concert – “Wind and Words”



### NEWS AND VIEWS



PRODUCTION  
DISTRIBUTION  
EDITORIAL PANEL  
TYPESETTER  
EDITOR

John Ditchfield  
Jill Purdie and others  
Joan Holton and Marion Ditchfield  
John Ditchfield  
Marion Ditchfield

The next edition of News and Views will be for November and will be published on Sunday 3rd November. Articles should therefore be delivered to the editor, Joan Holton or the typesetter, John Ditchfield, ([john\\_ditchfield@hotmail.com](mailto:john_ditchfield@hotmail.com)) by Sunday 20th October.

*We welcome articles, as well as reviews of books, films, plays etc. from members and friends. These will not always represent the views of the editorial panel or of the Church. Publication is at the discretion of the Editors.*

# LEVERTON & SONS LTD

*Independent Family Funeral Directors since 1789*



We are your local Funeral Director  
**020 8455 4992 | levertons.co.uk**

Five branches across North London:

Camden Town | Golders Green | Hampstead | Kentish Town | Muswell Hill



ARTWORK & DESIGN | DIRECT MAIL | BUSINESS CARDS  
LEAFLETS | BROCHURES | NEWSLETTERS | FOLDERS  
INVITATIONS | POSTCARDS | ENVELOPES  
CALENDARS | GREETINGS CARDS | PROMOTIONAL ITEMS  
POSTERS | CANVAS PRINTS | BANNERS

020 3916 5206 info@designed4print.com  
www.designed4print.com

*Remember - we are on line at  
[www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.hgsfreechurch.org.uk) where  
you will find past issues of News  
and Views.*

