

Some memories of St Andrew's Eastcote 1982-1993

Festival of Talents

In 1985 I proposed that we should plan a Festival of Talents, and one Saturday in November the talents of the congregation were displayed through exhibits, demonstrations and performances. In a darkened tent a collector displayed rocks that glowed in the dark, whilst nearby a keen fisherman showed people how to make colourful flies that could attract salmon and trout. There was a display of Bonsai and an expert to share the secrets of cultivation. Numbers of people of all ages demonstrated their crafts but there were also excellent displays of pictures, batik, lacework, enamelling, embroidery, home made wines, woodwork and metal craft; and of course cakes, breads, biscuits and other foods were not only displayed but eaten and enjoyed. In the church there was a rolling programme of the talents of music, speech and drama ranging from soloists, groups, a magician and short one act plays. Again and again that day one heard the comment, "I never knew that he/she did that!" On the following Sunday morning, using the parable of the talents, our service was one of thanksgiving for our human abilities and the importance of using them for our mutual enrichment.

Anti-Apartheid

One expression of the deep and wide concern found in the church was the idea of Gordon Adams, who was just beginning a career in television. Apartheid in South Africa was still entrenched and Richard Attenborough's feature film, *Cry Freedom*, which told the story of Steve Biko and Donald Woods, a white newspaper editor, had just had an enormous impact on the British population. Biko died of brain injuries after twenty one days in prison. Donald Woods, an anti-apartheid activist, took a stand for a truthful and objective press, which put him on a collision course with the authorities so that he had to flee his homeland. Dressed as a priest he fled to Lesotho on New Year's Eve 1977 to join his family. Gordon's idea was to invite Donald Woods and his wife to a showing of the film in our church hall and then answer questions from the audience. It seems easy now, but in those days of Margaret Thatcher's power and her support for the South African Government, the idea had its risks. But we went ahead, Donald Woods and his wife agreed to come, and the film was shown to a packed hall and was followed by a most stimulating discussion. It led to a much more informed and committed opposition to Apartheid within the church.

Ecumenical Endeavour

Because St Andrew's is on the boundary between Pinner and Eastcote, it has always meant belonging to two local ecumenical groups: Pinner and Eastcote. We gave an equal measure of support to both groups but as time went by it became clear that the greatest progress would be made in Pinner where with colleagues David Tuck the Vicar of St John's, Fr John Luke (RC), Donald Sampson (Methodist) and Andrew Busby (United Free) and committed lay representatives, we were happy to push over some of the ecclesiastical barriers.

There was more and more sharing of worship, outdoor services in the Park, joint Christmas and Easter cards delivered to the whole community, and series of joint discussion and study groups. There was a wonderful weekend away when eighty people travelled to Ashburnham House near Hastings to be led dynamically by Jim Thompson the Bishop of Stepney, who in those days was famous nationwide through his stimulating contributions on 'Thought for The Day' on BBC Radio 4. Another great occasion was a Pentecost celebration in a huge marquee in the grounds of 'The Grail' in Pinner, when 500 hundred people shared communion. It was uncanny that part way through my sermon on that occasion, the marquee was shaken by great gusts of wind!

Amongst the many activities we undertook together were Christmas lunches for people who would otherwise be on their own, a Hospital Car scheme, a Waywarden Scheme which eventually turned into 'Pinner Helping Hands', and strong support for a new Pinner Youth Centre. For four successive years we welcomed Theatre Roundabout who performed religious drama to packed audiences. A Bereavement Visiting Scheme was introduced and at General Elections we held the only political meeting in the area. One important piece of work was the introduction of Jewish - Christian dialogues. At these quarterly meetings members of Pinner's Orthodox Synagogue met with Reformed and Liberal Jews from outlying synagogues together with members of the various Christian churches to discuss aspects of our faiths and issues of the day that affected us all. The dialogues were an important means of establishing trust, understanding and friendship between the faiths and in fact were the only occasions that the three branches of Judaism met together.

All of these activities led finally to the signing of a Covenant between the churches on Sunday 29th November 1992. In a moving service at St Luke's Catholic Church, and in the presence of representatives of all the denominations including the URC Synod Moderator Janet Sowerbutts and Vincent Nichols, RC Bishop in North London, (now Archbishop of Westminster) who preached the sermon, the churches committed themselves to '*a closer and more formal expression of the unity proclaimed in the scriptures*'. This meant continuing work and worship together, including consultation between the churches before any new ministerial appointments could be made, in order to ensure that new ministers support the aims of the covenant. The Covenant document was signed by Geoffrey Millman, then Church Secretary of St Andrew's, together with an officer from each church, all the local ministers and the church leaders. The Covenant has been reaffirmed since then and continues in being to the present time.

As Margareta and I look back to our eleven years at St Andrew's we feel enormous gratitude that we were able to work with such faithful, motivated and gracious people; and to experience so much kindness and love, as together we tried to find fresh ways of expressing our faith in the life of the community.

David Batchelor



70th ANNIVERSARY

Memories of St. Andrew's

I recently heard a Gospel Choir singing "Mine eyes have seen the Glory of the coming of the Lord" and was immediately reminded of St. Andrew's; but more of that later.

Dear St. Andrew's goes back in my memory as far as I am able to remember anything.

I and later my brother, Philip, attended Sunday School there in, I think, Mr Hancock's day. I remember well the old hall in the centre of the church yard. It would amplify our movements and we were often asked to be "as quiet as possible" during morning service. Mr Greer and Mrs Edwards taught us. Eventually the hall disappeared and, in its place came the longed for and much saved for John Greer Hall – a wonderful addition. Brownies with Miss England, then Guides, in the Back Hall, with the dreaded weekly fingernail inspection I feared because I chewed mine!

Our parents, Hilda and Ken Hawkins, joined St. Andrew's near the beginning of Joe Hislop's ministry and soon became useful. Dad was often seen climbing about on the top of the roofs checking leaks with Arthur Kershaw. Mum was typing and short-handing for various committees, cake making, more typing and transporting ladies to the Guild or Joe to Communion in the parish. This needed precision dicing of the bread, careful carrying of the tray of tiny glasses of wine and washing them up in our kitchen afterwards.

We lived in Eastern Avenue, across the road from the Hutchence family. They too attended St. Andrew's. All the children, Elizabeth, John, Stephen and Geoffrey attended Cannon Lane School (Ernest Matthews was the Head and also long time organist at St. Andrew's). We were such a secure and close local community – Gavin in Chandos Road, the Barton-Hiltons in Boundary Road, also Pauline and Christine Workman there too. Little Marion Grove lived next to the school entrance; she died in childhood. (The flower vase used on the Communion table is dedicated to her memory). Hazel was in Cannonbury Avenue, the Butchers in Wimborne Drive and so many others. Our parents were friends for life.

There were Summer fetes and sports days at long gone Eastcote House – such enjoyable days. Did the sun always shine? I think it did.

I left Eastcote in 1959 to train as a nurse so missed the FOY (Fellowship of Youth), but I returned much later to teach in the Sunday School and help Connie, Fred and Philip Older with the Cubs; hilarious camps in the country and evenings in the John Greer Hall. My sons, David and Andrew, joined and went to the Sunday School as well. By then we lived in Lowlands Road, in the house which had been the home of Edna (later Edna Davies), Jimmy, Stuart and Jenny Reid.

Mum and Dad were still there as the time went by. Joe and Joan left, David and Margareta came, then Alyn and Josie and now Liz.

By then I and my family had moved to Lower Priory Farm, Stanmore and joined All Saint's Church in Harrow Weald, our parish church. However we continued to enjoy the company of St. Andrew's Guild in the garden for teas on summer days – halcyon days.

I think my most resounding memory of St. Andrew days was our, often, singing of "Mine eyes have seen the Glory" – The Battle Hymn of the Republic (not everyone approved!) but it was a Joe favourite.

We would raise the roof singing it, the church bursting at the seams. Introducing it Joe would say, "And we WILL sing the Amen!" And we did and how! Amen

Judith M Walker

MORE MEMORIES

When Fred and I came home from Scotland at the end of the war, we couldn't settle in the Church of England. Then the girls went to the Southbourne Gardens Sunday School, the overflow from St. Andrew's. Pam didn't want me to leave her and as they were looking for someone to take the little ones, I said that I would do it and continued for many years. Revd Hancock was Minister at the time and we eventually became members of St. Andrew's in 1953.

Philip came along as Wendy was growing up. It was a surprise but what joy he brought into our home. Revd Hislop said he could be christened at an Evening Service so that the other Sunday School teachers could be there. Philip was happy cooing in the Revd Hislop's arms all through it. Later, Wendy and Pam were both married at St. Andrew's.

When Fred retired, Revd Hislop asked us to do the job of cleaning the Church and this we did until Fred died and I couldn't cope on my own.

I remember the time when the Church was used for everything - concerts, plays etc, until we had the Hall and the hut which had been used for many activities including scouts, cubs and Guild, was no more. Fred was asked to help with the cubs and later on I did also. We had to give up when we were 65, but we still stayed on the Committee until Fred was taken ill at a meeting and left me 2 days later.

I have a lot of happy memories and hope still to continue until my time comes to join the love of my life.

Connie Older



An evening for residents of Eastcote

Wednesday 23rd June at 8.00 pm

**at St Andrew's United Reformed Church,
Bridle Road / Rushdene Road, Eastcote HA5 2SH**

- **Our local history** – Susan Toms (Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society)
- **Eastcote Residents' Association** – Chris Groom
- **Local Conservation issues** – Lesley Crowcroft (FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS and of EASTCOTE VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY PANEL)
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

An opportunity for you to hear about what's going on in our neighbourhood, how you can get involved if you wish to, and to raise local issues of concern.

Contact liz.shaw@Eastcote-st-andrews.org.uk or call 07935 094 104

This should prove to be a most interesting and informative evening and certainly deserves our support.

Organised by St. Andrew's for the local community, we hope it might help build a bit more 'community spirit' in the area around the church. It might also be a start for St. Andrew's to find out more about the needs and concerns of local residents and ways in which we may be able to help.

SUBJECT: £50.00

It's a slow day in a little town. The sun is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit. On this day a rich tourist is driving through town. He stops at the hotel and lays a £50 note on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night.

As soon as the man walks upstairs, the owner grabs the note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the £50 and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the £50 and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel.

The man at the Farmer's Co-op takes the £50 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

She rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the £50 back on the counter so the rich traveller will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveller comes down the stairs, picks up the £50 note, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money and leaves town.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything.

However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that is how Governments conduct business today!



UPDATE FROM CORNWALL

Yet another exciting month has passed! During our Sunday morning sessions we have been using materials from Soul Action (a combination of Soul Survivor and Tearfund), which have been encouraging the young people to get involved with God's mission. It includes a personal Bible study guide to use at home. It's been great to see the young people grow in their faith, and there has been some real growth of spiritual maturity in the group.

We had our first Café Church service; a joint Churches Together in Callington (CTiC) event, run as 'Chilled-Out and Refreshed Church for Young People'. We had about 20 people there including adults, the worship group (made up of young people from Plymstock United Church) and some young people from both the Mustard Seed and St. Mary's CofE. It was a really good evening from which we hope to build and grow, allowing it to develop as the Spirit leads.

Soul Space continues to grow, and we seem to have reached an average of 10 young people each week, with most nights having double figures. We started with those already at the Mustard Seed, then they invited their friends, and now they have begun inviting their friends. It's great to see these in-roads into the local community, and it is encouraging to see the enjoyment which the young people gain from having a safe place to be on a Monday night. One of the highlights was the Pancakes & Fairtrade session to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and to get the young people thinking about Fairtrade Fortnight.

I have also had the opportunity to share ideas with other Churches, both with the CTiC and with Plymstock United Church, who invited me to a meeting about Youth and Children's work at their Church. I have found it encouraging being able to share what God's been doing in Callington, and to help develop ideas which they have. I look forward to being able to encourage other Churches and people to take young people more seriously, and to really seek God's heart for them.

I am now getting more into schools work, helping out most weeks at Splash Club, the after-school club at Callington Primary School. I am also looking forward to going into Callington Community College to talk to year 7s about worship in Free Churches like the Mustard Seed. I would really appreciate prayer for this, as it's something I've not done before and something which could suddenly open up a lot of doors and opportunities.

Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers,

Tim Cadoux



TIME FOR JESUS

Well there's a turn up for the book and just fancyI might have missed it But I didn't!

He had said in Church, "I'm going to a concert at Edgware tonight; there's space in my car if anyone would like to come with me." After I got home I remembered his words. "Shall I go?" I thought. "I expect his car space is now filled," I answered my own question. "But, conversely, it might not be," came the reply. So I phoned him. "Yes," he said in answer to my question, "I've room for you in the car. I'll pick you up at 6.10pm."

So Roy and I went to John Keble Church in Edgware to listen to the musical drama "Time for Jesus" by Paul Day.

The Life and Mission Choir sang forth the songs, with Paul at the piano and several other musicians on flute, keyboard, clarinet and bass. This work was written in 2000 dramatising the Easter events up to Jesus' crucifixion. For this performance, the tenth anniversary of the work's conception, Paul Day had added one new song which comes after the crucifixion entitled, "I am the Way". He did this because he felt that more emphasis was needed on the women who went to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body. Jesus was so much more than a teacher to these women. They had given themselves in service to Him. He was their Saviour.

Paul Day wrote "Wise Man, Foolish Man" in 2003 and also "Spirit Songs". The Life and Mission Choir have also performed music by other composers in many churches in North London and elsewhere. They have also toured East Scotland.

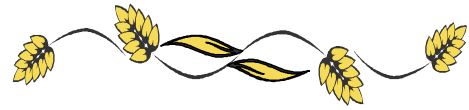
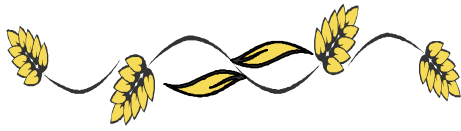
It was this choir who sang the foot-tapping song, "Joy" from "Spirit Songs" at Roberta Rominger's farewell celebration service at Broxbourne Parish Church in 2008. A gentleman who sat next to me at that service said to me, "If you ever get the chance to hear any music by Paul Day, do go and enjoy it."

Although I did not know what I was going to hear when I accepted Roy's kind offer, I was given that chance and I'm so glad I took it. If you ever get the opportunity of hearing the Life and Mission Choir, I do hope you will go along. Dates and venues of future concerts can be found on lmchoir.org.

Hilary Babbage



My daughter went to a local Takeaway and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.



Bluebell walk



It was a dull, raw day after all those lovely sunny days! However, it was good to meet up with Rosie and, of course Pat Hill who led us on a lovely walk through the Bluebell Woods near her home in Chorleywood.



After the snowdrop walk when we saw very few snowdrops and a visit to Bradenham for Blossom day with no blossom, all due to the rather mixed weather, we were really lucky to experience a wonderful display of bluebells in the woods.



Following our leader!

There were plenty of other wild flowers along the lanes - it was hard to believe we were so close to 'civilisation'.

Thank you Pat (and Rosie) for organising this for us.



Just Stay

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients.

Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her.

"Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His son was killed in Iraq and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman's name?"

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, Mr. William Grey.....

We never know where or when God will need us.

The next time someone needs you ... just be there. Stay.



The traffic light on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'



ACTIVITIES AT NORTHWOOD HILLS U R C

Please have a look at 'What's on' at Northwood Hills, and if you think you'd like to come, please come, we would love to see you. * See note about lunch.

Book Circle 7.30pm at The Case is Altered, Eastcote (contact Shree)
7 July 'A Pair of Silver Wings' by James Holland

Table Tennis 7.30-9.00pm informal sessions , all welcome in the Kingsland Hall, NHURC
(contact Margaret)
June 7 & 21 July 5 & 19

Coffee Morning 10.00-12noon in the Church
June 12 July 10 August 7

Neighbours Contact 1.45pm Mansfield Room, NHURC

1 June
15 June
6 July Speaker: Help & Assistance to older people to exercise
20 July

***Church Lunch** 12.15pm in the Kingsland Hall, NHURC . If you would like to come, please telephone Carolyn at least a week before to let her know you are coming.
20 June Church Anniversary & Gift Day
22 August

CTE AGM Sunday 6th June 3.30pm at St. Thomas More
3.45pm - Speaker Revd Elise Allanson, Youth Minister, Pinner Parish Church
Subject "Help! There's a child in my Church and I want some more."
4.30pm - Tea
5.00pm - Service

PAC EVENTS

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|---------------------|---------|--|
| Tuesday 1st June | 12.30pm | PAC Welcome Lunch at Love Lane Methodist Church |
| Saturday 3rd July | 1.30pm | Summer Fun Day - Pinner Memorial Park and Hall |
| Tuesday 27th July | 12.30pm | PAC Welcome Lunch at Love Lane Methodist Church |
| Sunday 29th August | 3.00pm | Songs of Praise in the Park - Pinner Memorial Park |
| Tuesday 31st August | 12.30pm | PAC Welcome Lunch at Love Lane Methodist Church |

The articles in this Bulletin are the views of the individual writers and not necessarily of this Church, the Minister or the URC.

Next Issue

Articles, news etc.
to
Celia Williams or Gavin Gillespie
By
1st August 2010