Dear Friends,

Before the current lockdown took place, our country was preparing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May. Victory in Europe came when formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany’s unconditional surrender of armed forces on 8 May 1945. Whilst we are unable to celebrate this anniversary as we may have hoped, the celebrations may be moved to 15-16 August to coincide with VJ Day, the surrender of Imperial Japan during WW II.

History is important, as it records how we have responded as a nation. It reminds us to be grateful for those who fought on our behalf so that we might have freedom today.

We have just celebrated the most important festival of the Christian year, Easter. A number of people expressed how pleased they were to access programmes on the television as well as online, including worship services, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead, and lives amongst us today. One of my favourite Easter hymns is ‘Thine be the glory’, written by the Swiss writer, Edmond Budry. In the chorus which is repeated three times, we sing ‘Endless is the victory, thou o’er death hast won’.

The sacrifice that Jesus made for us when he died on the cross was immeasurable. Through his death and resurrection, Christ was victorious, and has opened the way to heaven for all who believe in him. Without his willingness to die for us, taking our sins to the cross with him, life for us would be very different, as we would be burdened by our wrongdoings.

Those who fought on our behalf did so for our benefit, to enable us to enjoy newfound life. Some of you may have served in the war, others of you certainly spent your childhood years growing up while the war was on. The majority of us learnt about the war through our education. As on all such special occasions, memorabilia is available for purchase to remind us of all that happened. There are items for sale in the few shops that are currently open.
Remember, too, the victory of the resurrection which Christ has won for us. The empty cross is the symbol of Christianity. Although we celebrate Easter once a year, we can remember all that Christ has done for us, each day.

Prayer – Thank you Lord for dying on the cross for me. Thank you for all who have given their lives in the service of others. Teach us to be grateful for all we have, particularly during this time of lockdown, Amen

Take care, stay safe and keep well.

Hilary

Thank you God for keyworkers & helpers, for trampolines & iPads.
I am sorry that people are losing loved ones & we can’t see or hug each other.
We can still love each other though, and we can send Zoom & Skype kisses to each other.
We can’t go out very much, but we say thank you for the things we can still do like walks in the forest & seeing mum & dad more.
Please look after everyone.

Amen

Erin Hayward
Although sadly we were unable to worship in the church on Easter Sunday, and dress the cross with flowers, we were very grateful to Roger, Sylvia and Pam for organising this visual symbol of Easter outside the church.

Hilary made these images to share on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
Others also created Easter scenes in their own homes. Here are two.

An Easter Garden from two of our Young Church members

A scene for the younger members created by Jan Evans

Joy to the world! Jesus Christ is risen, halleluiah!
We thank you loving God, that when all seemed lost, you poured your love, grace and life into the world again, bringing your Son back from death, so that all might live.
Thank you for your love that gives us all the chance of a new beginning – time and time again.
Thank you for your grace that is for all people, without prejudice, for in Christ all are one.
Thank you for your life that flows through the world in your Spirit.
Help us, like Mary, to share the story of Jesus’ resurrection with a world that longs for good news.
In the name of the risen one. Amen.
At this difficult time many people are trying to find ways of worshipping at home.
We are grateful to Hilary for her weekly Pastoral letters and also the information sent out by the circuit each week. On 19th and 26th April, Hilary and Leo Cheng provided short video services which included members of all three churches including Erin Hayward and Peter Richardson. These can be accessed on the Winchester Road Methodist Website. We will let you know about further services.

**Other ways to share worship:**
Radio 4 Daily Service and Sunday morning following 8am news.
Radio 2 Daily Prayer (for early risers)
Radio 3 Choral Evensong Wed. afternoon (repeat Sun. Afternoon)
BBC Songs of Praise Sunday – early afternoon
Church of England phone line -0800 804 8044

**Online Resources:**
[https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming](https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/livestreaming) Sunday services at 9.45 and 11.00 as well as morning prayer Mon-Sat at 10am with Keith Riglin and Jen Smith

Creator God, the heavens declare your glory and the earth is your handiwork. For the diverse beauty of all you have made;
**we offer you our praise.**
Saviour God, you came amongst your people, and made yourself vulnerable to the risky business of human living.
**we offer you our praise.**
Spirit of God, you move in the church and in the world, calling the least and the lost into a deeper fellowship of love.
**we offer you our praise.**

**Creator, Saviour, Spirit**
Accept our praise, and help us to live as your people in the world.
Today we pray for those in need, for those who are ill at home, in care homes, hospitals and hospices. We pray for those directly affected by the Covid 19 virus and those indirectly affected. We pray for those who worry about the future.
Loving God, hold these and all our prayers. Amen. Revd Michaela Youngson
We were not able to collect eggs for Joseph Clarke and Whitefield schools, as usual. However, Pat Ovenden received this generous donation of eggs for the foodbank.

Pat has continued to work tirelessly, to collect, and deliver, donations to the foodbank, with the help of friends and neighbours. The foodbank has been very busy, as you can imagine, and they are distributing food to clients on two days now, although the system has had to be altered to allow for the safety of both volunteers and clients. Donations can be delivered to Pat, or dropped off at Chingford Congregational Church on Saturday, Monday or Tuesday between 10.30 and 12.30.

Look for updates on the Winchester Church Facebook page.

There are other initiatives within the area that you can read about in the newsletter.
These dates are for information only. As the church is currently closed, we will keep you informed as the situation changes.

2020 Dates for your diary

**Sunday 17th May** – Church Anniversary (see information P 9)

**Wed 3 June**: Church Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**Sun 14 June**: Young Church Anniversary, All Age Worship

**Mon 27 – Fri 31 July**: Holiday Club

**Sun 2 August**: Holiday Club Service

**Thurs 8 October**: Church Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**Saturday 28th November**: Church Bazaar

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**Shoeboxes**

Hopefully we will be able to send the shoeboxes in November this year, to Teams 4U, to go to Eastern Europe. So, I am just reminding people even in these difficult times we will emerge sometime and carry on.

I am covering shoeboxes most days and please if you have sent off for shoes hang on to the shoe boxes or get them down to the church where I will pick them up. Also, if you are going into shops still, or ordering online, maybe think one extra item like crayons, coloured pencils or felt pens - I have none. I have lead pencils and biros lots. Maybe a toothpaste or soap or flannel or toothbrush. Boys toys I have very little - cars, puzzles etc. I have people knitting hats, gloves, scarves but can anyone knit finger puppets or hand puppets, Dorothy Clarke kept me going on them. Cuddly toys I have lots, but colouring books, exercise books, very few. Small musical toys to blow or shake etc.

Leave anything down at the church, I am still getting things from the box at the back but any bag with (shoeboxes written on it) can be left in the hub and I will find it. Thanks everyone – Sylvia
**Message from the Church Treasurer**

The Church anniversary was scheduled for 17th May and members should have received information regarding any gifts you would be able to make.

I have also had a couple of inquiries from members of the Church asking about continuing to make their weekly donation.

The easiest way to do this is to set up regular payment from your bank account to the Church bank account.

If you have online banking you can set this up yourself, or you can send a completed Standing Order Request form to your Bank who will set this up for you.

If you would like to do this please contact Jean Norton by email tootsnorton@btopenworld.com or phone 07813 659906.

We appreciate that for some it may be difficult to consider extra financial commitments at this time. Jean Norton

“Light of the world,

Shine in to the dark parts of the world and of our lives. Help us to remember that you are the light of the world and help us to see the promise of eternal life in you.

Lord Jesus, we confess our doubts and our fears, may we reach out and feel your hands. May we know the power of your wounds and know the truth of your resurrection, leading us into light and life.

Amen”
Sadly, John Henderson’s and Jean Payling’s funerals both took place in March, to which only close family could attend. It was however a chance for Jo, and Matts parents to see Alex and Matt with Isaac and Eli. (See Jo’s letter on p 12)

Carolyn Roche’s parents both died on Monday 13th March. Her Mum had had a stroke six weeks before and was recovering in a nursing home and her Dad was at home. Their funeral was on 1st May. Please remember Carolyn, Chris, Thomas and Heather in your prayers.

Pastoral Visitors will be contacting you regularly to see if you need anything and to pass on information, or you can join our Church WhatsApp group. If you want to join this please let us know and we can pass your mobile number on to Sarah Hayward.
Blessing, sister to Joel, Davinia, Larissa and Jason.

Isaac and Eli

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, messages, good wishes, cards and kind gifts following the birth of our twin boys Eli and Isaac on 19 March. Despite a couple of hospital visits since (again, thank you to everyone praying for us) we are all now home and adjusting to a routine, and the boys are putting on weight well and are healthy. We look forward to introducing them in person in the future.

Many thanks. Alex and Matt

News from St Ives. Although no one can visit at the moment, Olive Wimble speaks to people regularly and sends her love to all. Ron and Joan Taylor are not currently able to be together, but can speak to one another and occasionally Joan is allowed to join Ron for lunch or tea. Joan appreciates a call on the landline at St Ives. Ron is also in contact via mobile, e-mail and the church WhatsApp Group
Staff at Gracewell are passing on news of Ernestina, as again there are no visitors allowed.

John Henderson: 12 January 1935 to 25 March 2020

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of myself, Alex and Matt, I would like to say thank you for the enormous outpouring of love and support at what was initially a time of joy (at the birth of the twins), then, within a week, a time of sorrow.

Thank you to everyone for your cards with beautiful and poignant messages, for your phone calls, and for your messages left on the answer-phone. All of your thoughts, messages and tributes were so kind and so welcome. It has been so uplifting and strengthening to know that you have all been there praying for us in these strange and difficult times. It was particularly comforting to know that on the morning of John’s funeral, although we were restricted in numbers, you were there praying for us, even though we could not physically comfort each other; and I know that many of you lit a candle at 9.30am on the 15th April in John’s memory.

When we are allowed to do so, we hope to hold a thanksgiving service for John’s life, to which you will all be warmly welcomed. In the meantime, please know that your prayers have strengthened and sustained us.

Yours in Christ’s love

Jo Henderson

“Loving God, you tell us to look forward to a day when your kingdom shall come and your will be done; a time when there will be no more sorrow and death and when every tear will be wiped from our eyes.

Until that time comes, help us to find comfort in your love.”
Children give us inspiration!

By Erin

On the pavement in Hale End Road

Davinia and Larissa played ‘Somewhere over the Rainbow’ in their front garden.
A Covid Easter

On the first Sunday in Lent we started on the pilgrimage to Easter placing the first of the symbols on the cross. We never reached the joyful Easter morning service when the symbols were removed and the congregation came forward to place flowers on the cross. This year a floral decorated cross was set up outside the church testifying, to the community, that Jesus Christ has risen. (see the photograph on page 4)

We dipped into the Easter 'congregationless' services and programmes on television. Rev Dr Jen Smith and her husband Dr. Keith Riglin streamed a service from their 'home' at Wesley's Chapel in the City, and were the only singers of the hymns. A Palm Sunday service came from Hereford Cathedral where the Dean and Bishop led worship with pre-recorded hymns inserted into it. The Archbishop of Canterbury celebrated Easter Morning Communion on the radio from his kitchen and a morning service from Bangor Cathedral had been recorded before the lockdown.

The very Anglican Easter at Kings College (BBC), also recorded before the 'lockdown,' included readings and Latin anthems but for me the high points were three contrasting hymns. Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the Bishop of Londonderry, passed a small hill as she travelled into the walled city which prompted her to write the simple hymn for children which opened this service.

*There is green hill far away
without a city wall
where the dear Lord was crucified
who died to save us all?*   STF 284

(Though the compilers of Singing the faith couldn't resist replacing the word without with outside). We particularly enjoyed the choirs' singing of the hymn which was probably written by enslaved African Americans and first appeared in a collection of Plantation Hymns published in America in 1899.

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;*

I am pleased that it has been included in STF 285.
Another new addition to Methodist hymn singing is Now the green blade rises STF 306 which was included in this service from Kings College.

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

The hymn was written by John Macleod Campbell Crum, and published in 1928, which he set to the tune of a fifteenth century French carol Noel Nouvelet. The verses are based on words from John's gospel .... Jesus answered them, "The hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory. For I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die then it produces many grains. John 12 v 24.

The choir and congregation ended the service with the hymn

Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!
All creation joins to say; Alleluia

(in the old Methodist Book at 205 the second line is Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia )

According to Wikipedia most of the stanzas were written by Charles Wesley, given the title Hymn for Easter Day, and published in a collection of 'Hymns and Sacred Poems by John and Charles Wesley in 1739. The origin of the hymn is said to have been a 14th century Latin Hymn published in translation in 1708. I suspect that the version sung at Kings is an Anglican Version based on this older version with the words

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia
suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia
For the first time in her reign the Queen recorded an Easter Message in which she said

"Easter isn't cancelled, indeed we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be - particularly for those suffering with grief- light and life are greater."

Let us hope that these dark days will end soon and we will be able to meet again in fellowship and see the church filled with people (and push chairs) from our community, for a church is people not an empty building. As a confirmed hymn geek, I suggest you take note of the first verse of STF 455.

All my hope on God is founded
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth
only good and only true.
God unknown
He alone
calls my heart to be his own.

This Hymn was translated from the German by Robert Bridges (1844-1930). Bridges studied at Oxford University and trained in medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital followed by service in several hospitals before retiring due to lung disease at the age of 38. He lived quietly with his wife in Berkshire writing and publishing poetry which led to him being chosen as Poet Laureate in 1913, a post he held until his death. It was in the village of Yattenden that he became dissatisfied with the hymns used at the parish church causing him to write and translate hymns including this one written by a seventeenth century German Protestant Joachim Neander.

Allen Steel    May 2020
In previous years ‘Girl’s Night Out’ have walked through Ainslie Wood and Larkswood to see the Bluebells before having a meal at the Harvester Restaurant. This year many of us have taken our walks that way and can confirm that the bluebells are better than ever this year!

Lots of people have enjoyed the many areas of forest that are so accessible to us. Can you recognise where these have been taken?
What to do at home?

So many seem to have spent time in their gardens! We certainly have. Mike has had time to update our bird list, which we have kept since moving here in 1988. With the addition of buzzard and parakeet, amongst others, it now stands at 69!

Everyone will have such manicured gardens I think we should plan another ‘OPEN GARDENS’ in 2021.

Others have rediscovered, or made, bird or bug boxes……..

knitted puppets for shoeboxes……..

been painting…..

…… doing jigsaws…..

and much more.
Pandemic
A very small virus with huge repercussions,
The only main topic in all our discussions.
The people all panicked and fear was unfurled,
As that one tiny virus affected the world.
But another small thing was emerging as well.
It grew and it flourished, confronting the hell,
‘til a great wave of kindness invaded the land,
And people grew brilliant at lending a hand.
Each turned to his neighbour and offered to care.
When somebody had problems another was there,
And folks bored at home discovered however,
The simple small joys of just being together.
Priorities changed as kindness grew,
The earth was united as love thundered through.
So, when all this nightmare is over and passed,
Let’s make sure the positives, learned now, will last.
In a world sometimes selfish and greedy and blind,
Let’s start a pandemic of just being kind.

Marion Clark
OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND CONTACTS

Highams Park Food Aid

All Saints Highams Park are working with the local Scouts, volunteers and Hornbeam to deliver pre-prepared meals and food packages to those in need in the Highams Park and Chingford area. They are doing deliveries every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. If you, or someone you know, needs this support then please use the links below or contact me and I can let you have a copy of the referral form. This has proved to be a very successful venture so far.

www.tinyurl.com/HPFoodAid-requestform
highamsparkfoodaid@gmail.com

Age UK Waltham Forest:

We repurposed our organisation on 16th March, to date, with the support of a fabulous group of 314 volunteers we have undertaken 106 shops and delivered 337 prescriptions, provided daily or weekly telephone befriending to 691 people and assisted 54 people with form filling. Calls to our general helpline are up 84% so please bear with us if you call for support and we don't get back to you immediately – we are picking up the messages and returning calls as soon as is humanly possible.

From 9th April LBWF and their Legends volunteers have taken over delivery of prescriptions. If you have prescriptions that someone else can't get for you please ring the Council of 0208 496 3000 a couple of days before it's due for collection and they will organise a pick-up for you.

Simple Chair Exercise routine from Katriye Ibrahim can be found on https://youtu.be/mhNvMd4ynNs

The book club: If you would like further information or to join contact Ingrid on i.ambrose@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk or 0208 558 3404.

If you’re interested to know more contact volunteering@ageukwalthamforest.org.uk or ring Claire on 0208 558 5512.
**Waltham Forest**

On the Waltham Forest Website ([walthamforest.gov.uk](http://walthamforest.gov.uk)) there are a number of resources from Mental Health and Wellbeing to a range of activities including a ‘Virtual Culture Programme’ in partnership with the William Morris Gallery. There are links to online sessions including, cooking, theatre, book clubs and storytelling for children. You can also order library books to be delivered to your home.

There are also links to London Theatres and galleries.

**Thames Water**

If you have an urgent issue like flooding, or your water stops, don’t worry – our 24 hour helpline is always open on 0800 316 9800.

As many employees are working from home they cannot respond to letters and the call centre is only for urgent calls. Please visit [thameswater.co.uk/coronavirus](http://thameswater.co.uk/coronavirus) for more information.

**And More!**

There are a wealth of resources appearing daily on ‘face book’ and also on TV. It is becoming normal to see politicians, celebrities and others appearing in their own homes to give advice or entertain.

If you do need help or advice please contact your Pastoral Visitor, Hilary, our minister, or any of the stewards.
The world it got so busy,
There were people all around.
They left their germs behind them;
In the air and on the ground.

These germs grew bigger and stronger.
They wanted to come and stay.
They didn’t want to hurt anyone
They just really wanted to play.

Sometimes they tried to hold your hand,
Or tickled your throat or your nose.
They could make you cough and sneeze
And make your face as red as a rose.

And so, these germs took over.
They started to make people ill,
And with every cough we coughed
More and more germs would spill.

All the queens and kings had a meeting.
“It’s time to clean the world up!” they said.
And so they had to close lots of fun stuff,
Just so these germs couldn’t spread.
We couldn’t go to cinemas
Or restaurants for our tea.
There was no football or parties,
The world got as quiet as can be.

The kids stopped going to school,
The mums and dads went to work less.
Then a great, big, giant scrubbing brush
Cleaned the sky and the sea and the mess!

Dads started teaching the sums,
Big brothers played with us more,
Mums were in charge of homework
And we read and played jigsaws galore!

The whole world was washing their hands
And building super toilet roll forts!
Outside was quiet and peaceful,
Now home was the place for all sports.

So, we played in the world that was home
And our days filled up with fun and love,
And the germs they grew smaller and smaller
And the sun watched from up above.

Then one morning the sun woke up early,
She smiled and stretched her beams wide.
The world had been fully spring cleaned,
It was time to go back outside!

We opened our doors oh so slowly
And breathed in the clean and fresh air.
We promised that forever and always
Of this beautiful world we’d take care! 💕

Author ~ Unknown
Artist ~ Maggie Vandewalle ✨
I can pray a rainbow...

Genesis 9 v 13

“I am putting my rainbow in the clouds as the sign of the agreement between me and the earth”

God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never again send a flood like the one that Noah had survived in the ark. Today the rainbow is a symbol of hope for us, a reminder that God keeps his promises. Here are some rainbow inspired activities for you and your family to explore together.

Rainbow prayer hunt

Go on a search around your house and try to find something of each of the colours below. Here is a prayer you can say for each colour as you find them.

**RED**

Thank you, God, that you love us and that you are always with us.

**ORANGE**

Dear God, please help us to be patient, to wait and listen to you and to be obedient while we wait for this crisis to end.

**YELLOW**

Dear God, please help all those who are scared. May they know your perfect peace that takes away all fear.

**GREEN**

Dear God, please look after all those who are sick, give them the treatment and help they need to recover, send your healing power into all the world.

**BLUE**

Dear God, please protect all those who are working for the NHS, thank you for all they are doing to protect us.

**NHS**

Thank you, God, that we are children of the King of Kings. Thank you that even though we are in difficult times we can trust in you and pray your Kingdom come.

**PURPLE**

Thank you, God, that we know you will bring us through this crisis to safety on the other side just as you protected Noah and brought him and his family through the flood.

**PINK**

Make an encouragement rainbow

You will need: Paper and pens or any other craft materials you have around the house

All around the country people are putting rainbows in their windows to encourage people in their street.

Use whatever craft materials you have in your house to decorate a rainbow and put it in your window where your neighbours can see it.

Some promises to share

Here are some more of God’s promises from the Bible. Ask God who needs encouraging today and then send them a promise verse.

Joshua 1:9 - Be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid because the LORD your God will be with you everywhere you go.

Jeremiah 29:11 – “I say this because I know what I am planning for you,” says the LORD, “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.”

Mark 11:24 – So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

Romans 8:28 – We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.
You can access resources from the ‘Root’ programme that we use in Young Church relating to each week's lessons' by using the following links.

- Resources for adults: [www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome3may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome3may)
- Resources for families: [www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome3may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome3may)
  (date changes each week)
  Or contact Lindy Richardson or Jan Dent for more information.

There are a range of other resources for activities with children:

**A book:** for the very young called “My name is Coronavirus” You can download it in PDF form or listen to the author reading it on YouTube.

**The Wild Network:** have a variety of suggested activities and weekly challenges.

[rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk): have a section for children including bedtime stories

[suntrapcentre.co.uk](http://suntrapcentre.co.uk): suntrap at home

**Redbridge Drama Centre** have a range of online activities.
And finally…….. Sylvia found this among some papers.

Subject: God, Cold, Darkness and Evil

No matter which side of religion you are on, or even if you ride the neutral line of doubt, this is quite interesting.

A university professor at a well-known institution of higher learning, challenged his students with this question.

“Did God create everything that exists?”

A student bravely replied, “Yes, he did!”

“God created everything?” the professor asked.

“Yes sir, He certainly did,” the student replied.

The professor answered,

“If God created everything; then God created evil. And since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then we can assume God is evil.”

The student became quiet and did not answer the professor’s hypothetical question. The professor, quite pleased with himself, boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said,

“May I ask you a question professor?”

“Of course,” replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, “Professor, does cold exist?”

“What kind of a question is this? Of course, it exists. Have you never been cold?”

The other students sniggered at the young man’s question.

The young man replied, “In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has, or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body, or matter, have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460F) is the total absence of heat;
and all the matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat.”

The student continued,

“Professor, does darkness exist?”

The professor responded, “Of course it does.”

The student replied,

“Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton’s prism to break white light into many colours and study the wavelengths of each colour. You cannot measure darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn’t that correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present.”

Finally, the young man asked the professor,

“Sir does evil exist?”

Now, uncertain, the professor responded, ‘

“Of course, as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily examples of man’s inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.”

To this the student replied,

“Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God’s love present in his heart. It is like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light.’

The professor sat down.

The young man’s name……. Albert Einstein

(Attributed to Donna Kwiatkowski)
OUR MISSION
We are a church at the heart of Highams Park which seeks to discern and follow God’s direction.
Our aim is to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour through the life of the church and outreach to the community.
We promote worship and fellowship enabling us to grow towards God.
We are an inclusive church where all are welcome.

OUR STEWARDS
Senior Steward: Carole Merriman
Stewards: Janet Evans, Hazel Mathews, Carol & Dumisani Moyo, Pat Ovenden.

OUR SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Laura Pease

Editor’s Note
Little did I realise when I agreed to take over editing the newsletter how challenging it would become. As I sat in Alex’s study in the middle of March, I knew it would be a challenge, as I tried to take in all she was showing me, and was both excited and anxious about ‘keeping up her standard’!
In the current situation, when we cannot have it printed, and are relying on people reading it online, the good thing is that I do not need to worry about how many pages, or the number of coloured images, I use. Hopefully we will be able to return to the usual format soon.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JUNE’S NEWSLETTER
If you would like to submit an article, joke, photo, poem, prayer or item of interest, please contact Jan Dent on jdent7@gmail.com or 020 8527 7193
Deadline to submit items: Monday 25th May

This newsletter is available to download as a PDF from our website.