

Acorns

GOFFS OAK METHODIST CHURCH, NEWGATE STREET ROAD, GOFFS OAK, HERTS, EN7 5SS
LATE AUTUMN 2017 SPECIAL PRE-ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Trumpeting the start of our 150th Anniversary Year

Polished brass band performance gets things moving with wind and a prayer

Whether it was a classical piece by Senaille, a contemporary arrangement of Lennon and McCartney's 'All My Loving', or a traditional rendition of the Saddleworth Festival Overture, a near sell-out audience were entranced by the quality and delivery of high-quality brass band music from our local practitioners, the Potters Bar Town Band, who have their headquarters at our church.



The concert, held at the Goffs Oak Village Hall on Saturday 28th October launched the year-long celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of Methodism in Goffs Oak. For the next year a variety of celebratory events will be held, culminating in a special tea and a service on 21st October, 2018.



During the concert our minister Alan spoke briefly about the anniversary, before going back on stage and taking his place as the band's resident percussionist. At the end, long and loud clapping precipitated a fine encore which sent the audience home with memories of wonderful entertainment and anticipation of an action-packed 150th Anniversary year.

Michelle and Emma Combes (left) performing with the top brass.

LOOK WHAT AWAITS YOU IN THIS LATE AUTUMN EDITION OF Acorns.....!

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What's happening in our Church?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uniformed Organisations

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



Weddings and Funerals at our Church - For information regarding costs, please contact Alan Combes, Minister, on 01992 762317. For information regarding booking a hall please contact David Batts on 01707 874092.

DON'T FORGET

OUR WEBSITE!

If you can access the internet, log on to

www.goffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk

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

Current and past Acorns also on website!

EDITORIAL

As we embark upon our 150th Anniversary year voyage, it is an awesome thought that the Methodist presence has existed on our site for a century and a half.

So many years of faith and we can now at last celebrate all the happy times, the accomplishments and all the triumphs which have been part of this church for 150 years. We understand, though, that there have been and will continue to be struggles, challenges and headaches from time to time. But we are secure in the knowledge that God is with us and will continue to be with us as we travel on in hope towards 200 years..

We have certainly needed His help here at Acorns Towers as technological issues have continued to challenge our team of workers. Our aim to print all copies in colour has hit transitional difficulties which have now been resolved, as you will discover in my next paragraph.

Finally, I thank everyone who has contributed to or read the pages of our magazine, and would particularly like to express our gratitude to Call Print of Hertford who have raised the bar in terms of Acorns printing quality during the past six years. I must stress that it is only due to our new 'all colour' policy and the consequential financial restraints that we are changing our printing arrangements and using facilities provided by our own Enfield circuit. Thanks too, as always, to Maureen for her editorial opinions and valuable proof-reading.

Please send any potential items for publication to me at eyetiss@aol.com.

Bryan King - Editor



Message from the Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters

November 2017

It seems I have been trying to get this letter written for a long time but sometimes the immediate demands of ministry come first. Nevertheless I am sorry not to have written to you sooner. As Paul puts it in his greeting to the Philippians: 'As God is my witness, I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.'

The last time I wrote to you we had just experienced the Manchester bombing - if that was not terrible enough we have since experienced a combination of natural disasters through huge storms, human tragedy such as Grenfell Tower, continued terrorism, international tension around North Korea, fresh persecution and forced migration – this time in Myanmar - and in the last few weeks murderous human action in Mandalay Bay and Sutherland Springs to name but a few from a long list. Many of you will have family and friends affected by the hurricanes in the Caribbean and we hold them and all the other victims of these events in our humble prayers.

In the face of such suffering across the world we hold in tension our understanding of God as all present, all knowing and all powerful set against the clear reality of evil, revealed time-and-again in human action (or inaction such as global climate change) and suffering caused by the capricious nature of the natural world as it continues to evolve – whether that be plate tectonics and volcanoes or the microscopic scale of infectious diseases.

There are no easy answers here and many books by theologians far cleverer than us have been written about the Christian understanding of suffering. It is natural and right that when we face events like this we cling to the hope that God is in control, yet at the same time if God were to step in and stop every accident just before it happened or calm every storm even before it grew, or shut down each evil thought just as it emerged in our heads - then all of the processes of creation, our thinking and our lives would grind to a halt. There would be no suffering, but there would also be no life.

God knows all that is and will-be and yet at the same time has given freedom to us and creation. God wants us to freely choose to follow Jesus for it is our free choice that makes our love of God genuine. And so perhaps we begin to see that suffering is integral to that freedom – our freedom to love or not love and creation's creative freedom to grow and change.

Of course much of the suffering we see could be avoided or lessened if we were not so greedy or short sighted in how we build buildings or the profit driven prices we charge for vital drugs that could protect or cure millions across the world from common diseases. This is our responsibility not God's.

This may be little comfort for those of us who have lost someone **so at the heart of God's answer to suffering is of course the cross** - the place where one-God in Christ voluntarily lays down his life for the sake of the world. God knows and understands the very heart of our suffering and whilst Jesus does not take our suffering away he enables us to handle suffering *with* him.

Uniquely in Christ, hope and suffering walk hand in hand. Being a Christian is to be a co-heir with Christ, to enter into his suffering, to see and know how his heart is poured out for those in need. Being a Christian is about engaging in the suffering of the world believing and knowing that God's grace is sufficient to redeem it, to bring goodness and salvation out of the very worst of circumstances and to sustain hope when all around seems dark and lost. Karl Barth, in the face of Nazi oppression, reminds us that in the cross we may take confidence that God's grace ultimately triumphs over evil even if that is difficult to see today.

As we face a broken world and pray for those affected by so many human and natural disasters may our prayer be one of thanks that God in Christ has provided a pathway not out of but through this mess. Christ's hands flung wide, suspended by cruel nails and cradled in the loving arms of the Holy Spirit show the wisdom of God that is not our wisdom or way. God, whose response to our violence is self-sacrifice, shows us overwhelming and all-embracing love. May our response be to enter into the struggle against evil and rededicate all that we are to God – father, son and Holy Spirit. Amen

May god bless you and keep you.

Rev Alan Combes

A look back into the not-so-distant past. How many people can you recognise?



The top two pictures on the left (and probably the one above) come from the official opening of the new (and current) church building in September 1977.



2018
Goffs Oak Methodist Church
Celebrating 150 years

Below is a shot of a large congregation in 1991. Seeing Maureen reminds me that I was probably on child-minding duties that morning!



Sunday Club leaders get together in 1994 (above) and below a Goffs Oak gathering at World Village near Windermere in 1990.



An instant in time during the Church's Anniversary Lunch in 2006 (below), with former Minister Stephanie as chief guest.

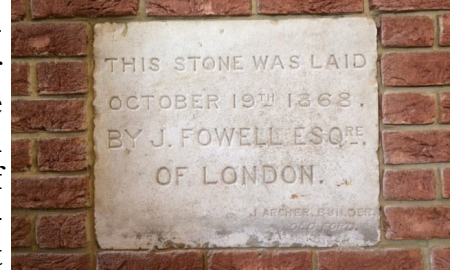


150 years on and look at our energetic acorn now!

"Think of the fierce energy concentrated in an acorn! You bury it in the ground, and it explodes into an oak!"

George Bernard Shaw

Way, way back in the rural days of the 1860s, something was stirring in a small, scattered hamlet near Cheshunt. A group of zealous non-conformists were pursuing a dream. On a piece of land in Common Road (now Newgatestreet Road) a pioneering group of what were then known as 'Primitive Methodist' adherents built a church on the site of our current building in Goffs Oak.



The year was 1868 and a foundation stone was laid on the 19th of October, which can be seen in the front interior wall of our church today.

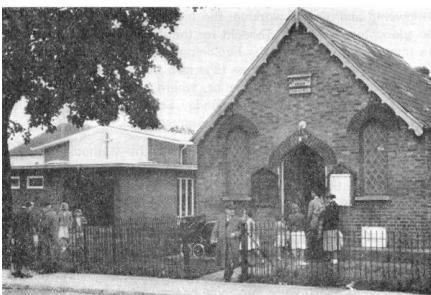
At around the turn of the century the church began a formal link with the then 'Enfield Station of the Primitive Methodist Conference', thus beginning a relationship with Enfield which continues to this day, with Goffs Oak being something of a country outpost to urban Enfield. In the early 1950s Goffs Oak started to expand as a residential area, the consequence of which congregations started to increase and the need for a new church building was felt. In 1956 land adjacent to the primitive church was acquired and, due to the hard work of members of the church and circuit, and aided by a variety of generous grants, a new church was built and dedicated on 28th September, 1957. It comprised a variety of rooms and a dual-purpose hall, serving as a place of worship and a space for other activities. The building remains today as our church hall and adjoining rooms.

The new building enabled the church to develop a Cub and Scout group as well as a Brownie pack and Guide company and a revival of the youth club. These and other groups used the old church building initially, but when the time came for it to be demolished, two temporary prefabs were put in its place.

When the church's centenary came round in 1968, Jim Priest in his history of GOMC 'From Acorn to Sturdy Oak' wrote these words which, with minor changes, could be said today:-

"There is a tremendous sense of thanksgiving for all that is past, but there is tremendous confidence about what needs to be done now and in the future to help in the extension of the Kingdom of God on Earth. In 1868 a small company of faithful people planted an acorn in the form of a modest Methodist Church in Newgatestreet Road; its successor in 1968 can reasonably claim to be a sturdy oak!"

These words certainly proved accurate in the following decade, when Rev'd Donald Sampson persuaded Don Clark to design a new versatile church building to cater for future needs. That vision became reality in 1977 when the current church building was completed and dedicated. Since then many improvements have been made, including roof replacement and many internal decorative improvements. Probably the most dramatic of changes is the glorious stained glass window, which was completed and dedicated in 2014. **Today, our oak is truly looking sturdier than ever.**



The original 1868 chapel and on the left is the entrance to what is currently our church hall, built in 1957 to serve as both church and hall.

Below is a 21st Century view from the same spot. Only the church hall is common to both pictures.





Spend wisely, avoid waste and give an ethical gift this Christmas with Present Aid

This Christmas, Christian Aid is encouraging the British public to be wise about waste during the festive season, by buying ethical gifts for people who need them the most. From sheep and sunflower seeds, to kitchens and hygiene kits, the offerings available from Christian Aid's ethical gift shop, Present Aid, are designed to help festive shoppers spend their money on items that last.



Christian Aid's Chair Dr Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "This Christmas, we're encouraging the British public to avoid giving unwanted presents that go unused and buy an ethical gift instead. All proceeds raised from the sale of our Present Aid gifts will support our 'Enough for Everyone' Christmas appeal, which this year is also being matched pound for pound by the UK Government."

The UK Government will match donations made between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 (up to £2.7m). This means Present Aid purchases will have twice the impact. Just £10 could provide a sheep for a woman living in rural Ethiopia, so she can sell wool at a market and save money through a community savings group, to pay for essential medical care and education for her children.

Christian Aid is encouraging people not to flush their money down the toilet, but buy a 'Love A Lav' (£8) instead. This could help provide toilet facilities in villages in South Sudan, where millions of people have fled violence and are seeking refuge wherever they can, often without access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities.

A gift of sunflower seeds and training (£6) could help farmers in Burundi grow enough food to eat, plant and harvest sunflowers, and sell crops at market with their community. As part of a cooperative, they can set a much better price for their produce, which could transform their lives.

Joining an array of popular offerings from Present Aid are seven new charity gifts for Christmas 2017 that will appeal to adults and children alike, with prices to suit all budgets.

There are two gifts available for £15 or less. Just £10 could pay to teach mothers how to make nutritious gruel porridge for babies under six months old in Burkina Faso, where almost half of all infant deaths are associated with malnutrition. For a flood-affected family in Bangladesh, a fruit tree (£14) could help provide mangos, lemon and papayas so they can earn a living.

Those on a bigger budget could help to equip a community kitchen (£40) in a refugee camp, giving stranded families from Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria the means to cook, eat and find strength together.

A gift could provide a hygiene kit (£28) containing soap, sanitary pads, nappies and other toiletries for a family in Haiti living in a temporary shelter following hurricanes. It could also provide a hand pump (£30) to supply safe drinking water for a community displaced by conflict in South Sudan.

The Present Aid gift shop also features firm favourites. These include a pair of chickens (£8) for a family in Zambia and a nanny goat (£22), which could provide nutritious milk to supplement both the diet and income of a vulnerable woman living in rural Ethiopia.

This year, Christian Aid has joined forces with Divine Chocolate to give away a free Advent calendar to the first 50 orders received. Children aged 5-15 years of age can also enter Christian Aid's Christmas Goat Competition: they are invited to draw a Christmas Goat and the winning design will feature on a downloadable Christmas card on the Present Aid website. (See Christian Aid's Facebook page for further details).

Present Aid gift cards come in a number of beautiful designs and can be sent by post, as an e-card, or can be printed at home. To receive a Present Aid gift card by post in time for Christmas, orders must be placed by 15 December.

Poetry Corner

More poetic gems from the Poet Laureate of Benington, **Nicky Phillips**. Nicky has had many poems published, but this is her first ever airing in print of 'Bringing in the Ponies'.



Sunflowers

In the breeze and haze
of a hot solstice day

you dance, turn and turnabout,
bow this way, then that

like a confident teenager
jiving with his friends.

You are lanky, flexible,
risk outgrowing your strength.

Under the baked earth
Your roots stretch and grasp,

Parched and begging for water.
Yet how you laugh

In the face of the sun,
Huge heads of egg yolk yellow

Shaking at the joke.

Nicky Phillips

Bringing in the ponies

In the misty still of an autumn dawn, they look up
from silent grazing when the jangle of the gate latch

ricochets across the valley and lands high on the hill
where they stand. Another rattle and they know.

One by one they start from their clusters, break into a trot,
then canter as a string down the hillside, mud and stones

flying from hooves, heads high, nostrils flared, snorting.
We meet where the two fields join. As they slow, they jostle

through the sparsely covered copse that marks the boundary.
Breath comes hard and heavy, coats steam as we count

them in past a dance of russet leaves: Mickey, Copper,
Sprite, Joey, Butterfly, Caspar, Gemini, Pompey.

Nuzzling into pockets and sleeves, they seek out rewards,
stand patient, eyes of trust. We slip head collars on,

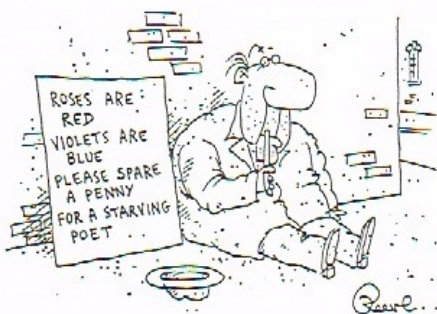
grab their manes and vault up. As the sun climbs off the horizon,
we tear down the steeper slope of the grassy bomb crater,

lie forward, arms round their necks, legs gripping their flanks,
race up the gentler side. Pacing back to a sedate trot,

we near the gate, wind along leaf-carpeted lanes
to the stables, each step springier as we approach.



Poetry Corner Cartoons...



Oi, you ain't comin' in,
... you're Bard!



Ed Balls helps Action for Children's 20th 'Byte Night' hit £10m target

Mass 'sleepout' raises huge sums for A for C



Ed Balls with Action for Children chief executive Sir Tony Hawkhead, among many others, get ready to bed down under the stars at Byte Night.

Action for Children's 'Byte Night' sleep out has raised over £10m since 1998, and more than £1m for the fifth year running. With funds still coming in and the grand total to be announced at the end of November, the £1m mark was passed just a few weeks after the event took place on 6 October.

More than 1,500 hardy sleepers from the tech and corporate worlds slept under the stars at 10 sites across the UK. In London, Action for Children chief executive Sir Tony Hawkhead and 250 sleepers were joined by celebrity supporters including actor Jenny Agutter (from BBC TV's *Call the Midwife*), former Shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls, journalist and broadcaster, Angela Rippon, and TV presenter, Anthea Turner.

Sir Tony Hawkhead said: "I'm delighted we've already broken through the million pound barrier. With lots more donations still to come, we're hoping for a record year and with it the chance to invest even more money in tackling children's homelessness and its causes."

Ken Deeks MBE, Byte night founder, said: "News that Byte Night has raised £1m so far in 2017 is wonderful and means that Action for Children can do even more to prevent youth homelessness. When we started almost 20 years ago we could never have imagined that it would still be running, and becoming more successful year-on-year as it continues to grow. This has been an emotional and inspiring journey for me personally and I want to thank all the thousands of sleepers and board members, past and present, along with the dedicated Action for Children staff, who have made the event such a success."

Alastair Brown, chief executive officer at Lombard Risk, and London Byte Night board co-chair: "This year's Byte Night was particularly distinctive for me, and for my colleagues on the London Board, as we're celebrating the 20th sleepout in the capital. We had more people sleeping out than ever before – raising more money for Action for Children than ever before, and we're not finished yet. The night of 6 October in London was cold and the concrete was hard, reminding us all why we take part in this amazing event every year."

Jenny Agutter, former Dragon's Den Richard Farleigh and Anthea Turner ready to 'sleepout' for Action for Children,



Mike Rebeiro, global head of technology and innovation at Norton Rose Fulbright, and London Byte Night board co-chair, said:-

"The London total stands at an amazing £430,000 so far, which is an incredible achievement by our teams of sleepers and generous supporters. Few issues have more impact on people's chances of succeeding in life than homelessness. As Action for Children's young ambassadors told us so movingly on the night, for children and families the impact can be devastating. Unlike our sleepers, thousands of young people across the UK have no warm bed waiting at home. If they manage to sleep, they wake up to another day searching for a hot meal and somewhere to sleep the next night. This is why we must never stop raising money and doing everything we can to help."



On Sunday, 2nd July, we witnessed the Christening of Charlotte Waddington (above left, looking curiously at Alan) the grandchild of Alison and Brian Rapley. On the same day James Rapley (above right) received a blessing.

At Your Service



The Acorns camera brings you images of some recent services



On the left Sandra Rose can be seen leading our Harvest Festival service on Sunday, 24th September. She told us about the "mustard seed moment", which tells us that when God is in charge, small things become large.



The gift response on the same day. All gifts went to the Broxbourne Food Bank.



On Sunday, 1st October, during Alan's service, we said a formal goodbye to Beryl and Peter Aves who shortly after moved to Hitchin. During the service they talked about their many happy years at our church and the caring welcome they received from Doreen and Don Page.



The image of Lord Robert Baden Powell looms over the Guides as they talk to the congregation about the origins of their movement at the 'Thinking Day' Service on Sunday 26th February.



Our 149th Church Anniversary Service on Sunday, 22nd October was notable for the visit of our new Circuit Superintendent, Rev'd Dan Haylett, for his first of what we hope will be many services at Goffs Oak.

Imelda May - you have to love her!



I recently spent an enjoyable evening seeing Imelda May in concert at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff-on-Sea.

For those who don't know her, Imelda May came to prominence as a 'Rockabilly' artist, identifiable with a signature 'quiff'.

Imelda Mary Higham (born Imelda Mary Clabby, 10th July 1974) professionally known as Imelda May, is an Irish singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Described as "a unique vocal talent", Imelda is known for her musical style of rockabilly revival; and has also been compared to female jazz musicians such as Billie Holiday. She won Best Female Artist of the Year award at the 2009 Meteor Awards.

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

Imelda was born in the Liberties area of Dublin and is the youngest of five siblings. In 1991 she attended Senior College Ballyfermot, where she studied Art, Graphics and Printmaking. Her early musical influences were folk & rock and roll, especially the music of Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran and Gene Vincent. By the age of nine, she was a fan of Rockabilly and Blues, particularly Elmore James and Billie Holiday. At 14, she sang in an advertisement for Findus Fish Fingers; of which she told Graham Norton on his chat show that she and her friends as a result "got known as the Fish Finger Girls." However, her career began at age 16 when she began touring the Dublin club circuit and she was occasionally barred from her own shows at Dublin's Bruxelles club for being underage.

But Imelda's professional career began in 2003 and by 2007 she signed a recording contract with Ambassador Records and recorded her second album, *Love Tattoo*, which reached No.1 in Ireland and received wide critical acclaim. It caught the attention of Jools Holland, whom she later supported on tour, which led him to request that she appear on his well-known music show *Later.....with Jools Holland*. She was well received in the United

Kingdom, performing to an audience that included Jeff Beck. Her first two singles, "Johnny Got a Boom Boom" and "Big Bad Handsome Man", were released on 23rd January 2009. She performed on Ireland's best known chat show, *The Late Late Show*. She won Female Artist of the Year at the 2009 Meteor Awards.

On 31st January 2010 she performed at the 52nd Grammy Awards with Jeff Beck in a tribute to Les Paul. She released her third studio album, *Mayhem*, in Ireland on 3rd September 2010 – again reaching No 1 in the Irish Album Charts – and in the United Kingdom on 4th October 2010.

Imelda's fifth album, *Life, Love, Flesh, Blood* was released on 7th April 2017. She collaborated with American musician T Bone Burnett on the record, who was the sole producer. Throughout the creative process, Imelda received guidance from U2 vocalist Bono. The album followed Imelda's divorce from guitarist Darrel Higham, which influenced many of the lyrical themes featured on the record. The album

features soft rock and acoustic styles, which differs significantly from her previous rockabilly genre.

Imelda has recorded with, and performed with a huge variety of artists, including Sharon Shannon, with whom she hit it off immediately. It was through Sharon, who is a friend of mine, that I came to know of Imelda. When I attended Imelda's concert at Westcliff-on-Sea I was introduced to her. She is a lovely person and took time out to chat to me. We spoke about our mutual friend, Sharon, musical interests and various other topics. All too soon, however, it was time for her to leave, but we were photographed together especially for Acorns! I look forward to meeting up with my new musical friend, Imelda, again soon.



David - rising to the occasion out East

Our son David is presently out in Borneo, where he is undertaking research for his Masters Degree.

Last year David completed his BSc in Conservation and Ecology at DICE (Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology), part of the University of Kent. This included fieldwork out in Madagascar. He enjoyed it so much that he decided to go on to study for an MA

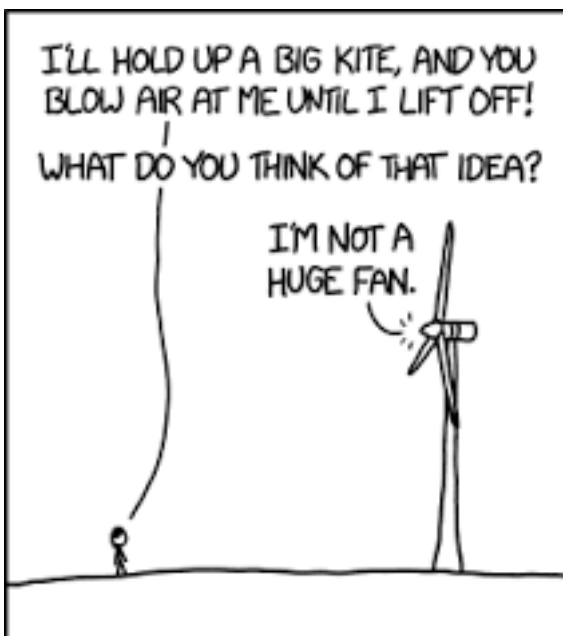
So in March he set off for Borneo, where he will be researching into the distribution of indigenous wildlife following the modification of natural habitats. For example, much of the Borneo rainforest has been cleared to make way for palm oil plantations, which has displaced and threatens the future survival of Orangutans. He returns to the UK at the end of August.

During May David's partner, Vic, flew out to meet him and they spent two weeks together in Nepal. They made the most of it and whilst there they flew over the Himalayas and Mount Everest. They also both soared 6,500 ft above Nepal dangling from a big kite!

Phil Seaman



Vic (left, in front of instructor) and David (right, likewise) look elated as they take to the air over Nepal.



Quiz time!

*Who, when, where and why?
Answers to the Editor by
Christmas Day*



Five days of treasure seeking at our 25th Holiday Club

It was back to Ancora for twenty seven Holiday Club children in August as the usual suspects organized this legendary annual event for the 25th time.

Following the success of last year's 'Guardians of Ancora' it was a bit of a relief to discover that this year's Scripture Union Holiday Club 'Treasure Seekers' was based in the same Ancora set, making planning much easier.

Ooby Dooby Kanobenēs (below right) re-emerged to lead the treasure seeking children in finding five more lost stories and returning them to Ancora. He was more than ably assisted by Sandra (Antiqua - seen above with her firebugs performing in the drama) and backed up by Isata (Fabula) who interpreted the newly-discovered stories so well for the children whose ages ranged from 5 to 11.

Apart from the reliable adults who led groups, prepared and organised activities and refreshments, there was a vital band of teenage helpers whose help and enthusiasm contributed enormously to another fantastic week.

To cap it all this was our 25th Holiday Club since records began and a birthday cake (bottom right) featured in the final day celebration lunch. Appropriately, two of the leaders from those early days in the last century, Alison and Jacqui, were on hand to blow out the candles.



Alan gives his testimony to the Treasure Seekers



Has Stonehenge come to Goffs Oak?

During mid-morning on Wednesday, 1st November a strange sight appeared alongside our church on the grass verge in Wesley Close. A cluster of 12 neo-lithic-looking stones appeared in a perfectly straight line.

A group of old(ish) strangely-dressed men were seen that morning wielding large implements and our sources say that these strange visitors were the cause of the stones appearing.

Further enquiries by the Acorns news team revealed that these men were, in fact, church members (led by Nigel Clark), who rose at dawn and travelled to the site before digging, positioning and cementing the stones and finally surrounding them with slate chips. The result should offer both protection and style to our side lawn and, who knows, maybe historians and archaeologists in another 150 years will look at the stones and wonder how they came to be there.



This will be a new ultra modern shopping mall

Ruth's Recipe of the Season Festive Yule log



Ingredients

For the sponge:-
6 eggs separated
150g golden caster sugar
50g cocoa powder

For the mousse:-
225g dark chocolate
2 eggs separated
225ml double cream

Icing sugar to dust

- 1) Begin by making the mousse:-
 - a) Put chocolate in bowl with 2tbsp water and melt over a pan of simmering water.
 - b) Remove from heat and beat until smooth.
 - c) Next, beat the egg yolks into the warm chocolate. Leave to cool a bit.
 - d) Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold into chocolate mixture. Cover and chill for an hour max.
- 2) Now make the sponge:-
 - a) Whisk the egg yolks until they begin to thicken. Add the caster sugar and continue to whisk.
 - b) Add the cocoa powder and mix in. Whisk egg whites to soft peak stage and carefully fold these in.
 - c) Pour into a 6x10inch oblong tin lined with baking paper. Bake for 20-25 mins.
- 3) When sponge is cold (it will shrink a bit), turn out onto a board and peel away the baking paper.
- 4) Spread the mousse over the top followed by the cream that has been whipped softly.
- 5) Roll up into a log shape. It will crack a bit but looks more like a log then!
- 6) Dust over the icing sugar and enjoy!

Ruth Storey (née King)

Special Events and Services during Anniversary year 2017

Children's Christmas Party and Nativity Carol Service
Sunday 17th December: Party 2-4pm and Service 4.30pm

Christmas Coffee Morning Communion
Tuesday 19th December 2017 from 10.00am with Communion at 11.30am

Carols by Torchlight in Aid of Action for Children
Supported by Potters Bar Town Band
Village Memorial, Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 7.00pm

2018



Lenten Day of Prayer and Fasting
24th February from 10.30 to 3pm

Women's World Day of Prayer
At Goffs Oak Methodist – Friday 2nd March, Time 10:30

Quiz Night
Saturday 3rd March, 18:30 for 19:00

Summer Praise Service with St James
20th May - 6.30pm at Goffs Oak Methodist

Midsummer Church Fete and Art/History Exhibition
23 June, 11am - 4pm

Children's Summer Holiday Club
20-24th August, 10:00-12:30

2018 Ceilidh Evening
Saturday 22nd September from 7pm with Storytelling

Scouts - 60th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 23rd September – 16.30pm

20-21st October, 150th Anniversary Week-end
An Evening of Memories
Saturday 20th October from 7pm with buffet

ANNIVERSARY TEA AND SERVICE
Sunday 21st October – anniversary tea from 5pm, Service at 6.30pm

2018	
Second Sunday Guest Preachers	
11th February	- Revd Stephanie Hibberd
11th March	- Revd Marion Cole
8th April	- Rev'd Donald Sampson
13th May	- Revd Nick Young
10th June	- Rev'd David Faulkner
8th July	- Mr Mike King

News from The Methodist Church



A joint statement from

- All We Can, Methodist relief and development (Britain)
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR, USA)
- UnitingWorld (Australia)
- Irish Methodist World Development & Relief

We are committed to standing together in solidarity as Methodist and affiliated international development and relief agencies bringing urgent emergency assistance to the Rohingya people fleeing violence and unrest in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Since 25 August 2017, more than 519,000 refugees from Rakhine State have been forced to cross the border seeking safety in Bangladesh, resulting in a massive humanitarian crisis. Those fleeing violence have made their way to Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district and joining hundreds-of-thousands of women, men and children in the region in desperate need. Urgent humanitarian support is needed in Rakhine State, Myanmar, for those who remain, and also in neighbouring Bangladesh. Food insecurity, a lack of access to shelter, safe water and health care. Many of those fleeing violence are children, who are especially vulnerable to malnutrition and disease when living in makeshift settlements.

We believe there is an imperative at this time for individuals, churches and groups around the world to draw together collectively to respond to this crisis. The Government of Bangladesh has kept its borders open to enable people to seek safety and to allow the international community to provide the required humanitarian assistance.

Through our trusted international humanitarian aid partners and our different emergency relief programmes in the region, we are responding to those most in need both in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

This expression of unity marks our dedication to providing people with ways to engage with the global movement of church communi-

ties tackling injustice and poverty and responding to humanitarian disasters with compassion and care. We stand together in our sorrow at the recent suffering and deaths resulting from this crisis and we come together in our concern for the thousands suffering in Myanmar and in neighbouring countries. We also unite in prayer for the leaders of countries affected by the crisis for wisdom in making decisions that will aid the most vulnerable.

We appreciate and thank those who have already given so generously to our appeals for this crisis and continue to ask the Christian community, whom we are privileged to serve, to be fervent in prayer and to give generously and quickly to this humanitarian crisis.

In Britain, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain are calling for generous support for this urgent appeal to assist those seeking refuge in Bangladesh. People are in desperate need of water, food, shelter and access to medical care.

A train called John Wesley

A new train on the Great Western Railway is to be named after John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church.

The announcement comes following a competition to find "the 100 greatest Westerners of all time" run by the Bristol Post and the Great Western Railway.

David Worthington, manager of The New Room, Bristol, put forward 'John Wesley' to the competition, which was selected alongside 49 other names of great people from the West of Britain.

David who manages the oldest Methodist building in the world, said: "We thought that it was appropriate to, at the very least, put John's name forward and we were obviously delighted when we heard last night that the judges agreed with the nomination and have said that his name has been chosen to be attached to one of the trains which will be rolling out in the next few years."

"John Wesley was an itinerant preacher for much of his a life, and probably one of the most well-travelled men of the 18th century, so we thought that, although he pre-dates Brunel by about 100 years, a train was a good thing to have his name on."



I hate it when the organist is away on holiday!

Autumn/Winter fun for the young . . and the not so young .. plus some silly jokes from the Ed!

The Armistice of 11 November 1918

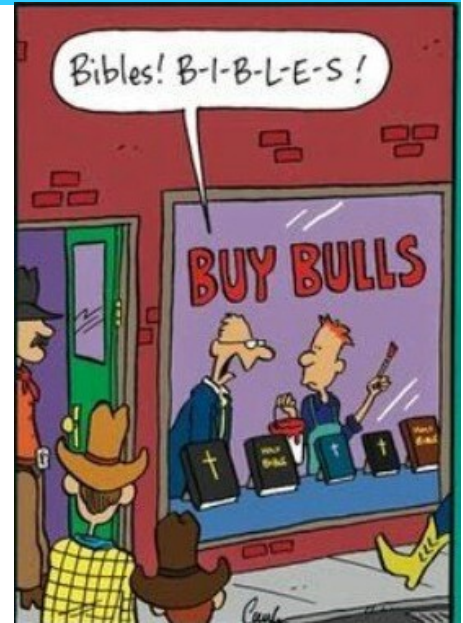
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AGREEMENT

ARMISTICE OF COMPIÈGNE
ELEVEN AM
ENDED FIGHTING
FIRST WORLD WAR
FOREST OF COMPIÈGNE
GERMANY
MATTHIAS ERZBERGER
PARIS TIME
RAILWAY SIDING
THE ARMISTICE
THE ELEVENTH HOUR
VICTORY

ALLIES

DEFEAT
ELEVEN NOVEMBER
FERDINAND FOCH
FIVE AM
FRIEDRICH EBERT
HOSTILITIES
NEGOTIATIONS
PRIVATE TRAIN
SIGNED
THE ELEVENTH DAY
THE ELEVENTH MONTH
WESTERN FRONT



CROSS-SHAPED BIBLE CROSSWORD

Across		Down
1 Donkey (3)	1	1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)
2 Jesus' Father (3)	2	3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)
4 One of the twelve (9)	3	
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8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)

12 One of David's warriors (5)

13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)

14 New Testament name for Noah (3)

15 Wish harm upon (5)

16 Hole in the ground (3)

17 Adversary (5)

18 Saviour (5)

19 First woman (3)

20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)

21 Family of priests (9)

22 Third son of Jacob (4)

23 Hates (8)

26 Assurances (8)

30 Endured pain (8)

31 Return from the dead (4)

32 Intercessor (8)

35 Decorating (8)

39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)

40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)

42 A wise insect (3)

44 Dwelling place of kings (6)

45 Make bigger (8)

4 Tread down (7)

5 Father of Jonah (7)

6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)

7 Defensive structures (11)

8 Refuges (11)

9 Dirty (7)

10 Devout (7)

11 Pieces of money (7)

24 Used to listen (3)

25 Used to see (3)

26 Positions (5)

27 Made available (7)

28 Snake (7)

29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)

33 Finish (3)

34 Possess (3)

35 King of the Amalekites (4)

36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)

37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)

38 Present (4)

41 Unfasten (4)

43 Fish traps (4)

by Philologus © BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Church jokes - funny or not?

(OK Not!)

In the interest of church unity a Methodist Church, about to celebrate its 150th Anniversary, held a special service and invited dignitaries from the Anglican Church. At one point, our minister spoke to the Sunday Club children about the importance of the day. He began by asking them, "Does anyone know what our guest the Bishop does?" There was silence. But finally, one little boy answered gravely, "Isn't he the one you can move diagonally?"

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus weighed 9lbs? Because they had a weigh in the manger.