

# HAROLD WOOD METHODIST CHURCH



## The Link

**March & April 2020: No. 722**

Today will never come again. Be a blessing.  
Be a friend. Encourage someone. Take time to care.  
Let your words heal and not wound.

**Please note:** Our Church is now a registered charity: registration number 1127228. In correspondence, please use this number on your Church letterhead paper. Thank you.

**MINISTERS:**

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**CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER:**

Mrs Penny Masters

**STEWARDS:**

Mr Jonathan Coles  
Mrs Evie Song

**SUNDAY HELPERS:**

Mr John Adams  
Mrs Ann Barnes  
Mr Alan Pyle  
Mrs Barbara Pyle  
Miss Marilyn Robinson

**TREASURERS:**

Mrs Evie Song & Mrs Barbara Pyle

**PROPERTY STEWARD:** Mr Alan Pyle

**BOOKINGS & EDITOR of THE LINK:** Mrs Pamela Coles

**Church Website:**

[haroldwoodmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://haroldwoodmethodistchurch.co.uk)

**Please note:** The views expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, Ministers or Officers of the Church.

## Pastoral Letter from Rev John Chambers

*Dear Friends,*

I write this letter to you at the mid-point of the period between the beginning of Epiphany and Easter Day. An epiphany is a life changing revelation and the rising of Christ is for us a life changing moment in the history of the world and for each one who has faith.

In the lectionary this mid-point is marked with the story of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 17:1 - 9) We have had the wonder and joy of Christmas we now face the rigors of Lent and the Passion culminating in the splendour of the Resurrection. It seems to me that this period of the Christian year is a reflection our Christian journey.

There is that point in our lives when after hearing the story of God's action in Christ we come to that moment when we feel and know it to be true for us and that is a life changing moment. Then begins our journey as a Christian disciple, and that is a time of learning, growing and serving in the church and community. Then as we journey on we will encounter questions, fears, hopes dashed, and perhaps a temptation to turn from this deepening of faith to resting in the backwaters, living off what has been.

But Christ's call is to move on through the dark night, the inertia by holding fast to the Rock of our salvation until we share in that splendour of the resurrection.

Where are you on that journey? Are you still in the childlike wonder of a new found faith, or are you struggling trying to make sense of it all, bogged down in the politics and routine of church life, or perhaps you are wondering what it all means and the journey seems hard and heavy. Maybe you have found, through faith and trust that the risen Christ is with you.

This mid-point, this centre-point, in is a moment for us to reflect on our journey as we move into Lent and Easter, it is an invitation to move on from where we are to where Christ wants us to be.

And remember if our faith and trust in God in Christ is to sustain us throughout our journey then Christ must be our anchor, our centre-point.

The disciples who were with Jesus on that mountain top wanted the moment to last but were encouraged to move on, we too must move on from where we are, the journey is not yet complete, keeping our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus who is the beginning and end of our journey.

May God continue with you this Lent as you ponder on the journey Christ took for us and above all may we all this Easter rejoice in the splendour of Christ alive in us.

God's blessing be upon you all. *John*

### ***NEWS of the FAMILY***

We are delighted to report that after a couple of spells in hospital Renee Francis is recovering well at home. She hopes to be back with her friends at Women's Own very soon.

We are so sorry that our pastoral visitor, Penny Masters, injured herself following a fall and wish her a very speedy recovery.

**Our Giving:** The offering on Christmas morning for 'Action for Children' achieved the sum of £70. 40.

The envelopes distributed at our Covenant Service realized £101 for the Methodist World Mission Fund.

We thank all who were able to donate. Thank you.



### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year our local service will be held at Harold Park Baptist Church on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1. 30 pm. The theme is 'Rise! Take your mat and walk' and was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. All are very welcome to attend this annual act of worship.

## Leslie Johnson: August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1926 ~ January 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

For many years Leslie was a member at HWMC, serving as a church steward and as a Circuit Steward, but he will perhaps be best remembered for his time as our organist. Leslie not only did duty on the organ not only twice on Sundays but also for occasions such as funerals and weddings, when he valued the long black robe he could wear to hide his gardening clothes, enabling him to save time when he set off and returned home and trusting that he'd remember to replace his gardening wellies with more appropriate footwear. Everyone knew him as an amiable and even-tempered man whose occupation was to teach history at the local girls' grammar school. Leslie and his wife Sheila brought up four children and were delighted to become grandparents and, in Leslie's case, a great-grandfather when Evelyn was born.

As their children grew up and flew the nest the Johnsons decided to downsize and moved to Gidea Park, one of their criteria being that their new home must be within walking distance of a Methodist church. So began their long connection with Gidea Park MC, where Leslie accompanied the hymn-singing for many years. He and Sheila were always happy to return to HWMC to share activities and when he was left on his own Leslie started coming to our Tuesday Lunch Club, enjoying the lovely meals and the comradeship and playing the piano to accompany the singing of Christmas carols after the Christmas lunch. Alongside this he became a member of the Women's Own and accompanied the singing there too, which was greatly appreciated. We were all greatly saddened by his sudden death but will remember him with great affection.



Someone once asked Billy Graham, "If Christianity is valid, why is there so much evil in the world?" His reply was, "With so much soap, why are there so many dirty people in the world? Christianity, like soap, must be personally applied if it is to make a difference to our lives."

## Our PROGRAMMES for MARCH & APRIL

**Wesley Guild:** *Monday evenings at 8 pm in the Lounge unless otherwise stated. New members and visitors are always welcome.*

**Please note:** After Christmas the Guild will take their usual winter break, resuming meetings again on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Pater Caton  
**9<sup>th</sup>:** Devotional Evening led by Phil Goldsmith  
**16<sup>th</sup>:** Sri Lanka: Rev David Jebb  
**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Beetle Drive led by Maggie & Diana  
**30<sup>th</sup>:** The Cloth Trade in N Essex: Dr Jenny Ward
- April 6<sup>th</sup>:** Holy Week: Jerusalem, led by Debby Freeman  
**13<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Monday: no meeting  
**20<sup>th</sup>:** RMS Titanic: Dennis Lynch  
**27<sup>th</sup>:** Armchair Sports with Tim & Leslie



**Women's Own:** *A friendly group for older women and men, meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 1.45 pm in the Lounge*

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Renee Francis  
**10<sup>th</sup>:** A Fun Afternoon  
**17<sup>th</sup>:** 'Opinions'  
**24<sup>th</sup>:** Musical Bingo  
**31<sup>st</sup>:** 'Busy Bees'



- April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Penny Masters: 'Love'  
**14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>:** Easter break - no meetings  
**28<sup>th</sup>:** Pamela Coles

## Our DIARY for MARCH & APRIL

- March 4<sup>th</sup>: Stewards' & Helpers' Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Women's World Day of Prayer at H Park Baptist Church: 1. 30 pm  
Guildonians Extra Rehearsal: evening [Halls]
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Guild Sunday Service: 10. 30 am
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>: Guildonian Play [see p 10]
- 14<sup>th</sup>: COME FLY [9] at Rainham MC 9. 30 am ~ 1 pm
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Extraordinary Circuit Meeting at HRd MC: 7. 30 pm
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Preschool Easter Bonnet Parade: 10. 30 for 11 [Church]
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Preschool Easter Bonnet Parade: 12 for 12. 30 [Church]
- 9<sup>th</sup>: West Cluster Maundy Thursday Service: 7. 45 [Church]
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday Worship: 10 am [Church]
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Church open 10 ~ 12 am for decorating for Easter
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Finance & Property Committee: 7. 30 [Lounge]
- 16<sup>th</sup>: LP & WL Meeting at HWMC 7. 30 pm [Church]
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Prayer Café at CMOPC ~ all welcome 2 pm
- 19<sup>th</sup>: General Church Meeting following morning worship
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: West Cluster Meeting at HxMC 7. 30 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Church Council 7. 30 pm [Lounge]

### General Church Meeting:

This is held annually to make or confirm appointments and to keep check on what we are doing, via reports from each of our organizations. This year Ann Barnes has kindly offered to produce the booklet and asks that all those responsible for writing the reports forward these to her as soon as possible, please. The reports should give an account of activities from the GCM in April last year. Thanks!

## Jesus

was a political prisoner, imprisoned and tortured  
 by the occupying forces of his country.

He was a prisoner of conscience,  
 hated and persecuted.

He wasn't the first prisoner of conscience,  
 and he certainly won't be the last.

Today, more than half a million political and religious prisoners  
 are detained all over the world,  
 often in conditions no better than his  
 back in the time of Tiberius.

Would you have done anything for him?  
 Will you do anything for them?

Lord Jesus, you experienced in person  
 torture and death  
 as a prisoner of conscience.

You were beaten and flogged,  
 and sentenced to an agonising death,

though you had done no wrong.

Be now with prisoners of conscience  
 throughout the world.

Be with them in their fear and their loneliness,  
 in the agony of physical and mental torture,  
 and in the face of execution and death.

Stretch out your hands in power to break their chains.

Be merciful to the oppressor and the torturer,  
 and place a new heart within them.

Forgive all injustice in our lives  
 and transform us to be instruments of your peace,  
 for by your wounds are we healed.



Amnesty International works for people who are tortured or  
 wrongfully imprisoned anywhere. Please pray for its work.

Romford Circuit: West Cluster Study Groups  
for Lent 2020

Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>

## **'A PASSION FOR CHRIST'**

by Michael Baughen

Prepare for Easter by coming to meet with friends from our sister churches in the West Cluster to discuss, ponder, share your thinking – or just sit and listen - during this 6-week course, based on Paul's letters to the church at Corinth.



If possible, please let the leaders know which group you will be attending each time – it does not have to be the same one each week. Timetable giving names of leaders for each session displayed on noticeboard in Welcome Area.

Wednesdays: Trinity MC: 10.15 am

Thursdays: Gidea Park MC: 2 pm  
[Soup & Roll lunch at 1 pm if required]

Hornchurch MC: 7.30 pm

Saturdays: Havering Rd MC: 10.15 am

Week One: 'Share in the sufferings of Christ'

Week Two: 'be a church marked by love and holiness'

Week Three: 'Share in the hope of the Gospel'

Week Four: 'Shine the light of Christ's glory'

Week Five: 'Use suffering as a personal testimony'

Week Six: 'Give our lives as a living sacrifice to Christ'.

All are welcome! Attend any you wish.  
Same content at each one each week.

## **The Hornchurch PASSION PLAY**



This is something of a misnomer as a play implies entertainment and, as anyone who has been to one of the previous Passion Plays will know, it is an experience, as those attending become part of the crowd at Jerusalem. It takes place on the Green alongside the Queens Theatre on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday – this year on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7.30 pm. Although those taking part come from churches of different denominations in the borough, the Play is masterminded by professionals and covers the events of Holy Week. This year one of our own church members, Jonathan Coles, has been cast as Nicodemus. The audience moves round the Green with the actors as the story unfolds. Many people who find standing for long periods difficult take a fold-up chair with them, which is perfectly acceptable. No one who attends can fail to be moved by the experience. If you have not been before, do not miss out this time.

### **A Carer's Prayer**

Let me be kind when tiredness overwhelms  
My weary brain and turns my legs to lead;  
Let me be brave when truths must be conveyed,  
Confronting the past and all things left unsaid;  
Let me fight on for you when various rules  
Make nonsense of your rights and reinforce your fears  
Grant me the stamina to speak and treat with fools,  
Remaining calm when biting back the tears.

Help me to know somehow that life goes on  
Beyond this time of stress and sleepless nights;  
Help me to smile and love you in the midst  
Of endless pointless and exhausting fights.  
And when the caring ends, help me to be  
Kind, in my guilt and weariness, to me.

Heather Smith



## Food for Thought

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son,

"How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yes," said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

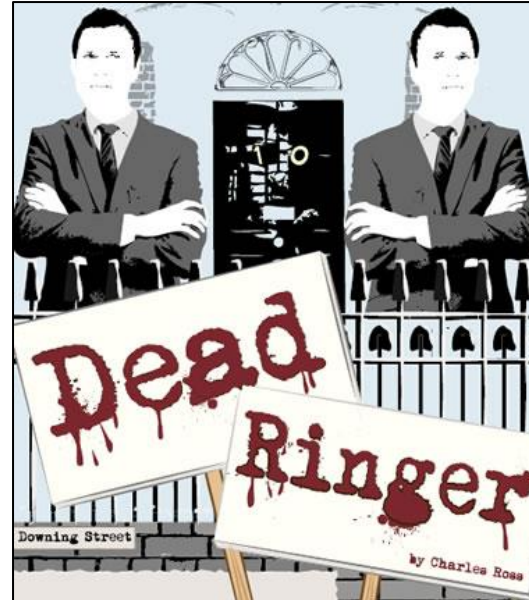
The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls round our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them. With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, dad, for showing me how poor we are."



Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one's person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for all the bounty we have instead of worrying about wanting more. Take joy and appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends.

## *'Dead Ringer'* by Charles Ross



The Guildonians are now in rehearsal for their spring production - *Dead Ringer*, by Charles Ross. The play is based on the book *The Prime Pretender* by Logan Gourlay and takes place in the early 1980s in the Prime Minister's Study.

Imagine the consternation when the PM drops dead the night before the election! The party needs his charisma to win - could they bring-in a 'dead ringer' to impersonate him until after the election? What if the ringer likes playing the role and won't let go? Then what happens if he finds out that the PM was murdered?!

This initially amusing fantasy turns into a tangled web of intrigue, so put the dates in your diaries now!

March 11 - 14 at 8 pm plus Saturday matinee at 2. 30 pm

Tickets £8 on the door:

you can reserve in advance by calling 01708 476534

May your day be blessed by moments of quietness,  
light in your darkness, strength in your weakness,  
grace in your meekness, joy in your gladness,  
peace in your stillness.

May your day be blessed.

## ROTAS for MARCH

### Duty Stewards:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Evie & Marilyn	22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Jonathan & Barbara
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Jonathan & Ann	29 <sup>th</sup> :	Evie & Marilyn
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Evie & Barbara		

### Church Flowers:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Marilyn Robinson	22 <sup>nd</sup> :	MOTHERING SUNDAY
8 <sup>th</sup> :	The Guild	29 <sup>th</sup> :	Beatrice
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Yvonne Weston		

### Book and Offertory Stewards:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Barbara Pyle
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Marilyn Robinson
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Ann Barnes
22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Margaret Palmer
29 <sup>th</sup> :	Joan Nicholas



### Bible Readers:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	Rob & Genny Allen
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Leslie Banks & John Adams
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Margaret Palmer & Ann Barnes
22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Uniformed organisations
29 <sup>th</sup> :	Evie Song & Yvonne Weston

### Refreshments following Morning Worship:

1 <sup>st</sup> :	John & Diana Adams
8 <sup>th</sup> :	Guild Members
15 <sup>th</sup> :	Yvonne Weston & Marilyn Robinson
22 <sup>nd</sup> :	Ann Barnes & Barbara Pyle
29 <sup>th</sup> :	Kean & Evie Song



**Changes in our Church:** our Sanctuary floor has been levelled, to make it safer for users. We thank Alan and Kean for overseeing this work and our Guildonian friends, Martin, Nigel and Peter, for their generous help with this project.

## ROTAS for APRIL

### Duty Stewards:

5 <sup>th</sup> :	Kean & Marilyn	12 <sup>th</sup> :	Jonathan & Alan
9 <sup>th</sup> :	Kean & Pamela	19 <sup>th</sup> :	Jonathan & Ann [GCM]
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Jonathan & Pamela	26 <sup>th</sup> :	Evie & Marilyn

### Church Flowers:

5 <sup>th</sup> :	Andry & Jonathan Coles	19 <sup>th</sup> :	Margaret Clarke
12 <sup>th</sup> :	EASTER	26 <sup>th</sup> :	tba

### Book and Offertory Stewards:

5 <sup>th</sup> :	Ann Barnes	12 <sup>th</sup> :	Diana Adams
9 <sup>th</sup> :	Pamela Coles	19 <sup>th</sup> :	Margaret Palmer
10 <sup>th</sup> :	Marilyn Robinson	26 <sup>th</sup> :	Pamela Coles

### Bible Readers:

5 <sup>th</sup> :	Ann Barnes & Pamela Coles
9 <sup>th</sup> :	to be appointed
10 <sup>th</sup> :	John Adams & Yvonne Weston
12 <sup>th</sup> :	Pamela Coles & Margaret Palmer
19 <sup>th</sup> :	Jonathan Coles & Marilyn Robinson
26 <sup>th</sup> :	Evie Song & Ann Barnes

### Refreshments following Morning Worship:

5 <sup>th</sup> :	Marilyn Robinson & Yvonne Weston
12 <sup>th</sup> :	John & Diana Adams
19 <sup>th</sup> :	Alan & Barbara Pyle
26 <sup>th</sup> :	Kean Song & Pamela Coles



**The Methodist Connexion:** the Methodist Church is much more than HWMC. For anyone who would like to know more about what happens beyond our little patch a magazine, 'the connexion', is published four times a year. It contains interesting information about what is happening in other areas. Why not take a look? Copies can be found on the table in our Welcome Area. Please feel free to pick up a copy.

## **OUR WORSHIP in MARCH & APRIL**

March 1<sup>st</sup>: 10.30 Mr Jonathan Coles

8<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Dr Leo Cheng **GUILD SERVICE**

15<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Miss Janet Tweedale

22<sup>nd</sup>: 10.30 Mrs Joan Pugsley  
**MOTHERING SUNDAY & PARADE**

29<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev Karen Bell **PASSION SUNDAY**

April 5<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Mrs Stella Holland **PALM SUNDAY**


9<sup>th</sup>: 7.45 pm Holy Communion West Cluster Service  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

10<sup>th</sup>: 10 am Devotional Service **GOOD FRIDAY**

12<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev Judith Maizel-Long [Holy Communion]  
**EASTER DAY**

19<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Local Arrangement followed by AGM

26<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 Rev David Jebb [Holy Communion]

—  —

The peace of God be in your heart  
The grace of God be in your words  
The love of God be in your hands  
The joy of God be in your soul  
and in the song that your life sings.

John Birch

### **PLEASE NOTE: LINK deadline for the MAY/JUNE Edition:**

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April : collation on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Please forward anything you wish to be included to Pamela Coles [348325] by that date, *sooner would make editing much easier*. E-mail items very welcome: [haroldwood.methodists@gmail.com](mailto:haroldwood.methodists@gmail.com) Thanks!

## **OUR WEEKDAY PROGRAMMES**

**Pre-school** meets during term time on:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 9 am - 3 pm

Tuesdays: 9 am till 12 noon

Please see their website for more info.

<u>Mondays:</u>	Tots & Co [Top halls]	9.45 - 11.45 am
	Wesley Guild [Lounge]	8 pm
	Guildonian Players [Rehearsals]	8 pm
<u>Tuesdays:</u>	[All in term time]	
	Lunch [Order by previous Sunday]	12.30 pm
	Women's Own [Lounge]	1.45 pm
<u>Wednesdays:</u>	Guildonian Players [Hall]	8 pm
<u>Thursdays:</u>	Table Tennis Club [Top halls]	7.30 pm

## **UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Harold Wood Guides:	Tuesdays:	7.15 - 8.45 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Harold Wood Rainbows:	Wednesdays:	4.30 - 5.30 pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Harold Wood Brownies:	Wednesdays:	6.00 - 7.30 pm

8<sup>th</sup> Squirrels Heath Scout Group at Kingsland Hall, off Station Rd

Beavers (6 - 8 yrs):	Thursdays:	4.45 - 6 pm
Cub Scouts (8 - 10½ yrs):	Thursdays:	6.30 - 8 pm
Scouts (10½ - 14 yrs):	Fridays:	7.00 - 9 pm
Explorers (14 - 18 yrs):	Yvonne Weston has details	



