



Hendon Baptist Church

A CHURCH FOR ALL NATIONS



WE HEAR FROM OUR
GIRLS' BRIGADE
COMPANY WHO
HAVE RECENTLY
CELEBRATED THEIR
91ST BIRTHDAY!

The Chinese Church in Hendon

We talk to Pastor Alexis Chung and his wife Ada, about their experiences leading and worshipping with the Chinese fellowship

Pluralism

Pastor Errol gives us a very interesting insight on pluralism, how to engage with this social trend and why it is so important to remain strong in our faith in the face of pluralism

Unsung Heroes

We talk to HBC's superb cleaning captain. Read and be challenged to perhaps join the team responsible for keeping the bugs away, the wood & brass polished, disinfecting and cleaning toilets, sinks, cookers, cleaning windows and tidying the 'Baptist Cathedral'

IN THIS ISSUE



Perspective

Welcome to this, our second issue of *HBC Accord*! We have all been really pleased at the helpful comments we've received since the first issue was published, and we hope and pray that this new issue of the magazine will encourage, inform and stimulate all those who read it.

Our aim is to provide a balanced diet of articles, news and features on different aspects of our church's life, as well as on wider issues facing Christians in the world today. An article on pluralism by Pastor Errol is intended to get us thinking by looking at the uniqueness of the Christian message in a world of many (and no) faiths. We also carry an interview with Pastor Alexis and Ada Chung about the Chinese church that meets weekly in HBC, and ask the girls in GB what they enjoy about coming along on Tuesday evenings. Keeping the church clean is something that we can all too easily take for granted, so Norma Campbell tells us what's involved. Following on from Issue 1, there are Top Tips for free days out during the summer, as well as an article on Fairtrade and our second Bible quiz (together with answers to the first quiz). We also introduce new sections on prayer and book reviews.

In order to make it easier for everyone at HBC to contribute, we have a suggestions box at the back of the church and a magazine email address (please check in the weekly newsletter). We would love to hear from you with ideas for articles you'd like to see, letters and comments on what we have already published and photographs for us to add to our growing photo library for use in future issues - or simply talk to one of the media team (Jacqui, Lindsay, James and Brinta). The magazine is for all of us to enjoy - so please do!

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PASTOR'S PAGE



Pastor Errol

The purpose of this article is to stimulate you to think more deeply about your faith, the challenges we face and how we respond. I also hope that it can be the start of discussions, leading to some Q&A time.

BY PASTOR ERROL JACOBS

PLURALISM

Definition

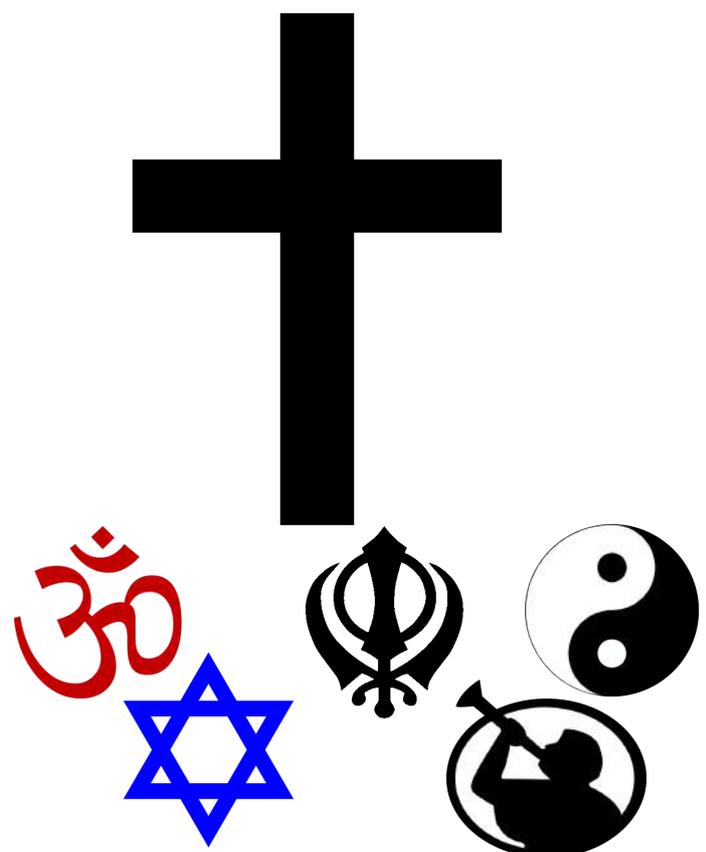
What is pluralism, you might ask? Pluralism is the belief that reality consists of many parts and it can only be seen and accepted as relative. In relation to religion or no religion, all claims must be given the same platform. Religious pluralism therefore, 'is the belief that the differences between the religions are not a matter of truth and falsehood, but of the different *perceptions* of the one truth'¹. The difficulty still remains as to what is the 'one truth' and who decides the truth? It is not possible for all religions to claim absolute truth and for all to be true. One of the chief proponents of this philosophy is John Hick, who believes that our Christian faith cannot continue claiming the revelation from God as final over others. The basic opposition of pluralism is against the idea of an absolute, correct system and belief.

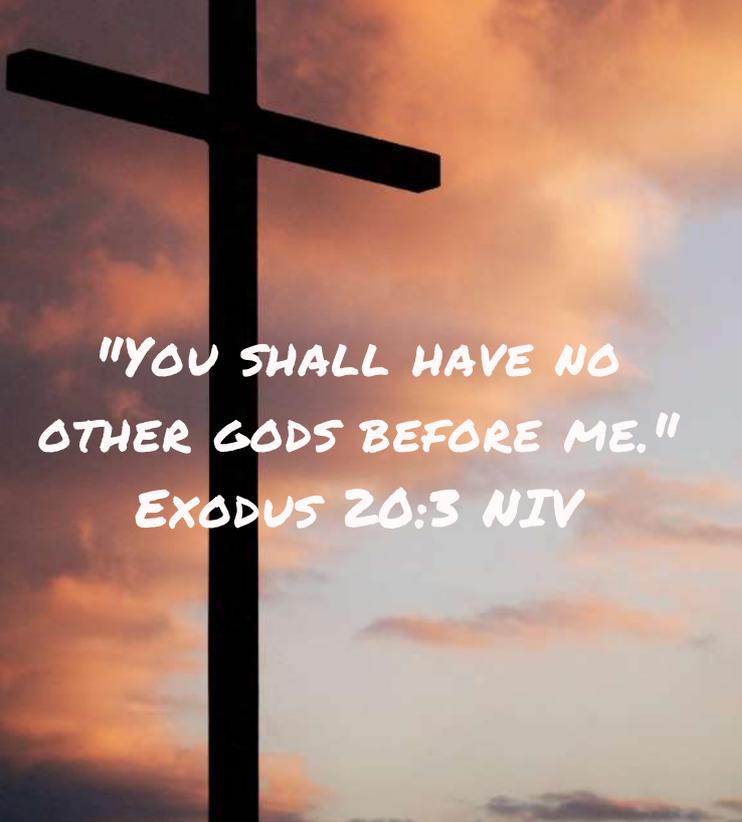
The negative aspects of pluralism

Christianity puts forth this claim of an absolute, correct system and belief and is therefore at odds with what pluralism promotes. Our claim as Christians can be seen in three principles that are directly attacked by the pluralist philosophy. Firstly, **WE BELIEVE THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD**. There is one absolute and supreme being (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 45:5). Pluralism promotes many different gods. Secondly, **WE BELIEVE THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUTH**. This truth is found in the Bible alone, as the only revealed Word of God. (2 Tim. 3:16; John 14:6). Pluralism accepts many truth claims and denies any absolute truth. Alister McGrath correctly states that 'the first casualty of the pluralist agenda is truth'². Thirdly, **WE BELIEVE THERE IS ONLY ONE SAVIOUR**. Jesus is the only way to be saved from the righteous judgment of God (Acts 4:12; John 14:6). Pluralism promotes many ways with various endings.

A positive aspect of pluralism

It creates dialogue. The formation of dialogue affords Christians the basis, along with others, to express truth. This does not, however, eliminate or minimize the effect pluralism has on Christians. McGrath gives a stark warning when considering dialogue with other religions. He believes 'the time has surely come to emancipate "dialogue" from 'the idea that dialogue between religions can lead to an enhancement of truth'³. Religious dialogue requires equal respect, not necessarily an equality of belief. Dialogue does give a voice, albeit a seemingly diminished one, as the lines of truth have been blurred.





"YOU SHALL HAVE NO
OTHER GODS BEFORE ME."
EXODUS 20:3 NIV

We must be true and faithful. Christians must always defend and uphold the truth of Christ and the need for conversion. If we as Christians allow pluralism to reign supreme, then 'people may base their lives upon an illusion, upon a blatant lie'.⁶ We have the correct resources to answer and deal with pluralism, one of which is sticking to 'asking the truth question'.⁷ There should be a continual focus on truth. There should be an assertive yet gracious focus from Christians, to maintain the need for a Saviour.

In conclusion, Nash (1994) rightly points out that 'when people adopt pluralism, they must abandon every core doctrine of the Christian faith'.⁸ In addition, Carson underscores the Christian concern about pluralism when he states that 'the ugly face of what I refer to as philosophical pluralism is the most dangerous threat to the gospel since the rise of the Gnostic heresy in the second century'.⁹ Pluralism should be regarded as a serious threat to believers, as it can have detrimental effects on Christian thought and practice if left unchallenged.

A Christian response

We must be tolerant. Pluralism requires tolerance towards all religions and none alike. Tolerance is a necessary public virtue and should rightly be promoted within society. It also allows Christians the base to accept the practical reality of pluralism, but not having to accept the principles of pluralism or to embrace any other perceived truth. Tolerance, however, should not come at the expense of truth.

Christians are called to be, and in some cases demanded to be, tolerant, but we are often not afforded the same privilege. Pluralism promotes tolerance of all theological views, but in the same breath disregards views that reject pluralism. Within the national school system in the United Kingdom, Christianity has become virtually non-existent. There is a suppression of Christian evangelical truth in order to promote the pluralist agenda. These attacks are highlighted in the *2015 Report of the Commission of Religion and Belief in British Public Life: Living with Difference, Community, Diversity and the Common Good*. This calls for changes to institutions and events, stating that it should reflect the 'pluralist character of modern society' and 'the UK's increasing diversity'.⁴ The report also calls for greater religious literacy 'in every section of society'.⁵ Ironically, it goes on to recommend a diminishing role for Christianity in schools.

We must be humble. Evangelical Christians rightly hold the values of the Bible in high regard and we should always be respectful and humble in approach. This, however, should not be misunderstood as weakness or lead to retreat and defeat.



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- 2 McGrath 1992a, 362.
- 3 McGrath 1992b, 490.
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- 5 Woolf Institute 2015, 8.
- 6 McGrath 1992b, 500.
- 7 McGrath 1992b, 499.
- 8 Nash 1994, 10.
- 9 Carson 1996, 10.

**THOMAS SAID TO HIM,
"LORD, WE DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU ARE GOING, SO
HOW CAN WE KNOW THE
WAY?" JESUS ANSWERED, "I
AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE. NO ONE
COMES TO THE FATHER
EXCEPT THROUGH ME. IF
YOU REALLY KNOW ME, YOU
WILL KNOW MY FATHER AS
WELL. FROM NOW ON, YOU
DO KNOW HIM AND HAVE
SEEN HIM."**

JOHN 14:5-7 NIV

THE CHINESE CHURCH IN HENDON

In our first issue, we focussed on the links that we in Hendon Baptist Church have with the church in Romania. In this our second issue, we put the spotlight onto the Chinese church that meets in our building every week. Michael and Jacqui Pearce talk to Pastor Alexis Chung and his wife, Ada, about their own experiences as Christians leading and worshipping with the Chinese fellowship here in the UK and in their home city, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.



Chinese Church Christmas Worship

Meetings at Hendon Baptist

Alexis is Pastor of the North London Alliance Church (NLAC), with worship meetings held every Sunday afternoon at our own church, Hendon Baptist. The meetings start at 2.15pm and are held in the church hall. Numbers vary, but on average about 20 people come along – this can change, depending on the time of year, and sometimes the attendance is double that figure. People come from a wide variety of backgrounds and age groups, from babies to folk in their eighties. The fellowship started in 2006 with a ministry to students at Middlesex University, with evening meetings held at the Methodist Church in the Burroughs. On Christmas Day in 2007, Alexis and Ada and their family came to Hendon Baptist and were made to feel so welcome by the church and Pastor Tim Sutton that they felt drawn to pursue the possibility of holding their meetings here, at HBC. This was agreed by the leaders and church meeting in 2011, and from then on NLAC began to hold their weekly afternoon meetings in the church hall.

Pastor Alexis was ordained in November last year, and comes to services at HBC when he can, while Ada attends regularly. Dominic Delia helps with meetings as preacher once a month, and Catherine Gerrard assists Ada looking after the Sunday School almost every week (currently two to four children). Services are highly flexible and held in mixed languages – English, Mandarin and Cantonese, as well as sign language. The majority of the congregation lives locally, and that includes Colindale and Barnet, so Ada and Alexis (mainly) help out the elderly and young families without cars by giving lifts.

Alexis comments on the blessings on having elderly folk join them regularly – even if they may become sleepy or arrive late. He is just happy that they do come and receive something from the Lord, especially peace.

The London Alliance Church

In addition to the NLAC meeting at HBC, there are branches of the UK Chinese Alliance Church meeting in Harrow, Greenwich and Wimbledon, as well as outside London (for example, in Manchester). The origins of the English Alliance go back to the late 19th century and the work of Rev. Dr A. B. Simpson, as Pastor of a church in New York, in establishing an organization with outreach as its primary focus. The Christian and Missionary Alliance (the C&MA) was originally a major missions movement (founded at the same time as the late 19th-century holiness and evangelical movements). The vision of its founder, Dr Simpson, which is still being realized today, was to establish a 'deeper-life movement' that would take the **'whole gospel to the whole world'**.¹ Simpson died in 1919, and the movement became a denomination in 1974.² Despite the fact that the Alliance may not be well known in the UK and many other parts of the world, mission remains the major focus and emphasis that holds the movement together.³ The growth overseas is strong; at home, in the US, growth is primarily in the intercultural churches.



Chinese New Year pre-evangelistic music performance

In the early 20th century, there was an increase in the number of Chinese coming to Britain from Hong Kong and the New Territories (one of the three main regions of Hong Kong). Alexis came from Hong Kong in 1983, to study at the University of Manchester, and it was before Christmas in that year that he became a Christian. At the same time he felt called to full-time ministry of some kind, but he had no idea when this would come. Ada was already in the UK, having arrived in 1978 to study O Levels (now GCSE) at a college in Cardiff (later reading business studies in Stockport, Manchester); she too became a believer while at college. They moved to London in 2006, and began working firstly with Chinese students at Middlesex University. About 20 years ago, Alexis comments, things were very different - students had less money and were more open to the message of the Gospel. So now, they aim to work especially with vulnerable people, young struggling families and the elderly, bearing in mind the need to help those with mixed marriages (Chinese and non-Chinese in origin).

Ada (every year) and Alexis (less often) still visit Hong Kong to see their mothers, both in their nineties, and both yet to come to know Christ. The church is strong in HK, with, for example, over 100 churches in the Christian and Missionary Alliance (Hong Kong).

There are about 80 Chinese Alliance churches in the US, in addition to the US Alliance family, with national branches in many other countries as well, although the movement is still very small in the UK and Europe. The Alliance in HK does a lot of work in mainland China, helping the poor and disadvantaged. There are difficulties, however, and much tighter controls are being imposed on churches by the government, with the result that many fellowships have had to go 'underground' for years. There are also many cults active in China. One in particular is called Shincheonji Church of Jesus, Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony (SCJ), commonly known as 'New Heaven and Earth'. Originating in South Korea in 1984, its influence has even been infiltrating the Chinese Alliance Church in Harrow, where Pastor Gus has personally shared their recent experiences with Alliance pastors in London. Both Pastor Gus and Pastor Alexis warn that Christians need to be always alert to the dangers of such groups, with their subtly off-beam and ultimately dangerous messages that appear to be drawn from the Bible. They also urge us to pray for the other Alliance churches, to guard them against these dangers, which have been highlighted in a formal alert issued about the SCJ affiliate Parachristo by the Church of England to the 500 London parishes in November 2016.

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
Romans 10:12-13 NIV

THE MESSAGE TO HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH

We talked to Alexis and Ada about their message to HBC and they ask us to pray for the growth of the NLAC that meets in our hall every week. More than half the congregation are still seeking and reaching out to God. We pray for them to see their need to accept the Lord, for an appetite for the Gospel and for them to experience God through prayer. Pray also for Pastor Alexis and his ministry - that he should receive wisdom and power to deliver God's message; and pray against the opposition of the enemy through the work of cults. Even though the church is small, 'we're open, we keep learning, we keep sharing, we try new things'. And we in Hendon Baptist Church can wholeheartedly join with them in looking to see God moving in the Chinese community living in this part of north-west London, and sharing with us as part of the 'church for all nations'.

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2. Christian and Missionary Alliance website: <http://www.cmalliance.org/about/history/> [accessed 30 April 2017].
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HBC church outing

FOCUS ON – GIRLS' BRIGADE



JACQUI PEARCE

Remarkably, the 5th Hendon Company of Girls' Brigade celebrated its 90th year in 2016. The movement started in 1893, so will be 125 years old in 2018 (when the Hendon Company will be a mere 92 years of age). Pauline Earle has now been serving as Captain for 40 years, and is currently ably supported by Peggy Sue Delia, Catherine Gerrard, Esther Delia and Amy Bexon.

Pauline tells us that Girls' Brigade's aim is to help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life. GB acknowledges Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord according to the scriptures and seeks to fulfil its aim to the glory of the one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They witness to the standard set by Jesus Christ and give positive teaching on the Christian attitude to life, promoting a just society in which all people are equally valued. Their motto is: seek, serve and follow Christ.

You can find out more about GB from their website: <http://www.girlsb.org.uk> and about the 5th Hendon here: <http://www.hendonbaptistchurch.org.uk/church-life/childrens-activities/girls-brigade/>

They meet in the church hall every Tuesday at 6.30pm (for Explorers and Juniors) and 8.00pm (for Seniors and Brigaders). Every year they go away for a week-long camp, and this year will be sharing a joint camp with the boys from Campaigners at Margate Baptist Church, from 29 July to 4 August.

Girls' Brigade has been an integral part of the life of Hendon Baptist Church for a long time and a great many young ladies have benefited from the commitment and hard work of its leaders. We asked some of the girls who currently attend if they could tell us what they enjoy about coming to GB, and this is what they have to say:

WHY WE ENJOY GB

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade

because I like to play and

do different activities.

I like to have my drink and

have a snack. I like to pray and

do some drawing. I have fun.

Zoe (age 5)

Our motto
is: seek,
serve and
follow
Christ.

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade

to play with my friends and play
games.

I like to take things for the 'show and
tell'.

I like doing different stuff every week.

I like to have a snack and I like to draw

I like everything that we do.

Lexi (age 5)

Leila (age 8)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade because we play lots of fun games and I learn more about the Bible and God. We also eat biscuits and have a drink before we start learning more about the Bible and God. While doing that we do some crafts.



Nina (age 9)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade because my friends are here. We do fun things and learn lots of things about the Bible. I have met other children that I didn't know before joining Girls' Brigade.

Jessica (age 9)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade because it's fun. I can spend time with my friends. I learn something new about Jesus every time I go and I learn arts and crafts.

Esther (age 10)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade because of all my friends. Everyone is happy and kind. Also I like the craft that we do. Finally I like the games and the Bible stories.

Geoland (age 10)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade because my friends there are helpful and nice to me. When we start the games at the beginning they are always fun and active. After we finish the games we have drinks and biscuits. After that we do some arts and crafts. I always like making stuff for my mum and dad. At the end of the evening we have prayer and when something is wrong in my life I pray about it.

Mimi (age 10)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade because of my friends and leaders and the wonderful crafts. Also learning more about God and playing games and having lots of fun.



Scarlet (age 10)

I enjoy going to Girls' Brigade to meet new friends. We play lots of games and learn more about God. We do 'show and tell'. From 6.30pm to 7.00pm we usually play sporty games and from 7.15pm to 8.00pm we do fun activities.



THANK YOU!

UNSUNG HEROES

KEEPING THE CHURCH CLEAN!

In looking at spiritual gifts, Pastor Errol made a point of focussing in the first place on the less overtly 'glamorous' aspects of serving God through the gifts with which he equips his church. The people who exercise these gifts are the 'unsung heroes' whose work underpins all the many and varied activities that take place within the church. In order to celebrate these individuals who contribute so much to ensure that things run smoothly at HBC, we start by asking the question: who does all the housework? Who makes sure that everything is clean and tidy and fit for us to use week by week? Before we find out the answer, it might be helpful to look at just what's involved.

'The Baptist cathedral'

Hendon Baptist Church, the building that now occupies a large plot of land on the corner of Finchley Lane and First Avenue, was built in 1886. It's an impressive structure, built in imposing late Victorian style and sited in a prominent position - it's unsurprising that it came to be known locally as the 'Baptist cathedral'. The fabric of the building and its upkeep are now the responsibility of the Nehemiah team, but the day-to-day maintenance of the sanctuary and the complex of adjoining rooms are another matter. So just how many rooms and meeting spaces are there - and what is involved in keeping them clean?

First and foremost there is the sanctuary, the main body of the church where we meet to worship on Sundays. This is an impressive space, lofty, light and airy, with seating for 600 people. There is a central bank of 16 long wooden pews, with seven shorter pews on the left-hand side (as you face the organ), as well as the lift and AV booth; on the right-hand side there are 17 more pews of different lengths.

At the end of each pew there is a painted number (now quite faded) - and these go up to 81, which is a lot of seating to keep in good order! There is also the area used by the worship team, centred on the keyboard and drums, the communion table and chairs, and the lectern to be taken into consideration, as well as the tables at the back of the church and the two vestibules through which people enter the building. All these need to be kept clean and tidy.

Moving out of the sanctuary by doors each side of the baptistry, there are three rooms, one of which is used by the crèche. The room facing First Avenue, which used to be called the 'Minister's Vestry', also has a vintage toilet that rejoices in the name 'The Victoria'. Moving downstairs to the next level, there are two more rooms, the larger of which (the 'Prayer Meeting Room') is used, amongst other things, for church meetings. The other room houses a separate (and more modern) toilet.

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:42-45 NIV

Come down the stairs again to the ground floor and there is a room currently used for storage, but which will soon become the church office. The large kitchen is also about to be refitted. Then there is the hall, an area almost as large as the sanctuary and situated directly below it, sharing the pillars that support the roof – a very large area to keep free from dust and dirt brought in from the street.

Finally, there are the rooms on Level 1 (for those who use the lift), entered through the upper door on First Avenue. Two store rooms adjoin the 'Green Room', where the Seniors meet, and there are gents', ladies' and disabled toilets, with a shower in the last of these.

All in all, apart from the sanctuary and hall, there are seven good-sized rooms to be looked after and kept in order, plus nine individual toilets, a sizeable kitchen with sinks, cookers and other 'white goods', and various storerooms and cupboards. And these need to be kept clean, tidy and hygienic so that we can continue to enjoy using them and invite people to come and share them with us. That means a lot of work! So what is involved? There are carpets to be vacuumed, a considerable amount of sweeping and mopping to be done, dusting on a heroic scale, brass and wood to be polished (especially in the sanctuary), disinfecting and cleaning toilets, sinks, cookers and kitchen surfaces, cleaning windows (those we can reach, anyway) and general tidying. Who is responsible for undertaking this mammoth programme of essential maintenance? The short answer is – Norma Campbell.

'How I started cleaning the church building' – Norma's story

We asked Norma to tell us about what she does and how the rest of us can get involved:

'I was first asked to help clean the church maybe seven years ago; this was when the Building Team was doing the cleaning. I was then asked if I could take over co-ordinating the work,

so I spoke to people in the church to see if they could help – some were willing to get involved, while others had reasons why they couldn't, and that hasn't changed after all this time. The helpers came on a Saturday and we cleaned every room in the building. I then made a rota with about six people helping. This would work on a four-monthly basis, with different people coming once a month. I would be there three out of four months and someone else would take over from me for the remaining month.

After a while everyone knew which area they were cleaning and we could manage to do the whole building in 1½-2 hours. I remember Alice Joliffe telling me that she took someone around who used to visit the church, and the first thing they said was how clean the building was!

Many of the people who were helping with the cleaning came from the University and had started attending church. As they began to move away it became more and more difficult to find volunteers to help with the cleaning. I have had to do it all on my own when no one else was available – and this takes 5-6 hours.

I can't take all the credit for keeping the church clean, as others are sometimes able to help, although Daciana, Lavinia and Esther are now the only regulars. Two years ago Ade paid for two cleaners from an agency to clean the church. It was two weeks before Christmas and I had just come back from Florida and didn't have time to organize anything. Susan has also been doing some cleaning on a Friday evening, although it was felt that she shouldn't clean the Gents' toilets while Campaigners were using the hall and might need access to them. She therefore works in other areas, and this I appreciate very much. If you speak to any of the four people who regularly clean the church they will tell you that they all started cleaning the church they attended when they were young.

I am praying that someone else will be able to come on board to organize the cleaning of our church, as I am having problems with my back and recently broke my wrist, and will soon have to give up this important work.'



CHURCH CLEANING – WHERE NEXT?

So here we have a challenge – a very large building, with lots of rooms and facilities, used not only for regular worship services, but also by many smaller groups throughout the week, every week of the year. We want to invite our friends and neighbours to join us and to make full use of the 'Baptist Cathedral'. But we need to keep it in good order, and look after it just as we would our own homes – this task is rather more than can be managed by four people alone, especially when there are health problems that can make such physical work difficult. These are the 'unsung heroes', whose work behind the scenes makes our building presentable, pleasant and clean for us all to enjoy. They are exercising the essential gifts of service that the Apostle Paul highlights: 'Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

'All in all, apart from the [600 seater] sanctuary, and hall, there are seven good-sized rooms to be looked after and kept in order, plus nine individual toilets, a sizeable kitchen with sinks, cookers and other 'white goods', and various storerooms and cupboards. And these need to be kept clean, tidy and hygienic so that we can continue to enjoy using them and invite people to come and share them with us. That means a lot of work!'

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating and various kinds of tongues' (1 Cor. 12: 27-8; ESV).

How then can we help to ensure that Hendon Baptist Church continues to be a building we can all be proud of? Please do think and pray about Norma's request for help and for someone to take over the cleaning rota. If there is any other way you can get involved, even if not on a monthly basis, then speak to Norma – and let's make what could be just a chore into something that builds us all up and encourages us as a fellowship! Finally, be prepared to be the answer to your own prayer – the more of us who come on board, the easier it will be.

BY JACQUI PEARCE



BIBLE QUIZ COMPETITION

Two prizes are up for grabs - one for children (under 18) and one for adults. Simply answer these questions and hand your answers in to Lindsay by 31st August. If no one gets all of the questions correct, the submission with the most correct answers wins. If more than one person wins, the names will be drawn from a hat. You may use a Bible to help you answer, but no internet searches are allowed!

Each question is a famous phrase/fact from or about the Bible that is related to numbers. However, most of the words have been removed, leaving just the first letter of each word. You need to identify the phrase.

1 **THE 12 D**

2 **THE P OF THE 10 V**

3 **40 D AND N OF R**

4 **66 B IN THE B**

5 **THE 10 L**

6 **THE 4 G**

7 **THE 12 T OF I**

8 **J F THE 4000**

9 **F 7 T 70**

10 **40 Y IN THE W**

11 **THE 3 F OF J**

12 **3 D AND N IN THE B OF A F**

13 **39 B IN THE O T**

14 **7 C IN THE P OF A**

15 **HE L THE 99 S**

16 **7 G L**

17 **THE 8 S OF J**

18 **300 D FROM C H**

19 **7 D OF M AROUND J**

20 **27 B IN THE N T**

ANSWERS TO QUIZ IN ISSUE 1:

1) Twelve (Matthew 26:14)

2) Turning water into wine (John 2:1-12)

3) Ninety-nine (Luke 15:4)

4) Fig tree (Matthew 21:19)

5) Purple (Mark 15:17)

6) Rock (Luke 6:48)

7) Ten (Luke 15:8)

8) Barabbas (Luke 23:18)

9) Mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14)

10) A fish (Matthew 17:24-27)

11) Heaven (Matthew 6:20)

12) Purple (Mark 15:17)

13) Beheaded (Mark 8:16)

14) Seven (Matthew 23:13-39)

15) Nain (Luke 7:11)

16) Samaritan (Luke 17:15)

17) Capernaum (John 6:17)

18) Nicodemus (John 3:3)

19) Eighty-four years (Luke 2:37)

20) Yeast (Luke 13:21)

And the
winner of our
last quiz is

.....
Indra Ganeshnaguru

A church for all nations



Celebrations of our new car park - Glory be to God for this blessing!



Easter 2017 Celebrations



An image from our 'Around the World' event celebrating the nations represented in our church



Easter 2017 Celebration Cake



Junior Church leading during our Mother's Day service



Easter 2017 Celebrations



HBC Couples Night



Ignite Youth Group bowling night



2017 Summer Church Outing



An image from our 'Around the World' event celebrating the nations represented in our church



Hendon Baptist Church



HBC Couples Night



2017 Summer Church Outing



Easter 2017 Celebrations



2017 Summer Church Outing



2017 Summer Church Outing



Our band at a worship event in Abbey Road Baptist Church



HBC Car Park



HBC Chinese Church Pre-Evangelistic Celebrations

TEN TOP TIPS FOR DAYS OUT IN LONDON

So you've been to the RAF Museum and you don't fancy the queues at the Natural History and Science Museums – so where else can you go for free in London? Lindsay Jacobs suggests a few places to try out.

1 Ruislip Lido

This 60-acre lake has an artificial beach, woodlands, play area and narrow gauge railway (small charge for rail tickets). There is a free car park or you can use Ruislip tube station on the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines.

Website:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ruisliplido>

3 Golders Hill Park

Landscaped grounds, beautiful plants, water garden, café, tennis courts, zoo, butterfly house and children's play area. This amazing park has been open to the public since 1898 and can be reached from Golders Green or Hampstead underground stations. Search for Golders Hill Park on the City of London website:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

5 Tate Modern

A collection of British and international modern art; however, the best thing about this gallery is the view of London from the top – a free alternative to the view from the Shard. The gallery is situated 600m from Southwark underground station. Website:

<http://www.tate.org.uk>

2 The Wellcome Collection

Dubbed 'The free destination for the incurably curious', this is an unusual place to spend an afternoon. With ever-changing exhibitions, and hands-on activities, this is a place you can visit more than once; easily accessible from Euston underground station.

Website:

<https://wellcomecollection.org>

4 The Parkland Walk

This 4.5 mile walk between Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace follows the course of an old railway line. Remnants of the line can still be seen, including old platforms and tunnels, but the walk also provides a wonderful place to see wildlife, boasting over 200 species of wild flower and the possibility of seeing hedgehogs, foxes, butterflies and birds. Search for Parkland Walk on the Haringey website:

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk>





The South Bank



Parkland Walk

6 Trent Country Park

This former royal hunting ground covers 413 acres and includes meadows, brooks, lakes, ancient woodland and historical sites, including an imposing mansion. If you're lucky, you might spot a deer or a pheasant. The closest underground stations are Oakwood and Cockfosters. Website: <http://trentcountrypark.com>

8 Imperial War Museum

A great place for learning about the history of modern wars and to complement the school curriculum. Some areas are off-limits to young children. The nearest tube stations are Elephant and Castle and Waterloo. Website: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london>

7 Primrose Hill

Part of Regents Park, this hill offers panoramic views of London. A great place for a picnic! It is near to London Zoo - if you walk past, many of the animals are visible without having to pay for entrance. Search for Primrose Hill on the Royal Parks website: <https://www.royalparks.org.uk>

9 Museum of London

Another great museum for learning about history, charting how London has changed through the ages, across nine galleries. Situated a five-minute walk from Barbican or St Paul's underground stations. Website: <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london>

10 The South Bank

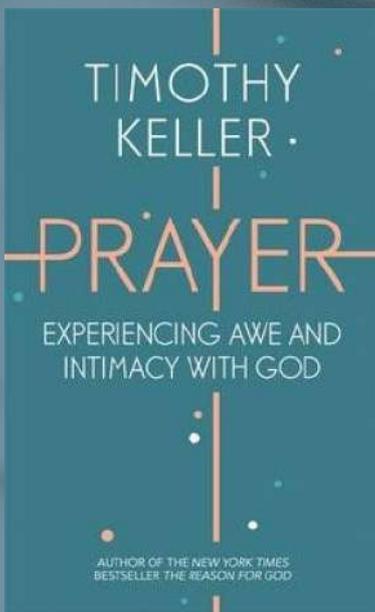
A summer walk along the South Bank of the Thames feels like a trip to another country. Watch the boats go past, enjoy the entertainers and if you time it right, there might be a free show at the South Bank Centre. Website: <http://www.southbanklondon.com>



Primrose Hill

GOOD BOOKS

In this new section, we focus on books recommended by members of the editorial team and others in the church. If you have read something you have really enjoyed, that has challenged and encouraged you, and made you think then you may like to tell us about it. You can talk to one of the team or send us a short review (up to 200 words) and we would be delighted to consider including it in the next issue. There is such an incredible wealth of Christian literature available to believers – let's make sure we share as much of its riches as possible!



Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, Hodder & Stoughton (2014)

Tim Keller is shortly to retire as Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, which he co-founded with his wife in 1989 and which now has a weekly attendance of more than 5,000. He has published widely, and has a gift for making complex theological questions understandable for a wide audience. His approach to prayer is summed up in the subtitle of this book, 'experiencing awe and intimacy with God', presenting believers with the astonishing realities of encountering the creator of the universe as Father and God, and knowing him for who he is through the work of Jesus Christ.

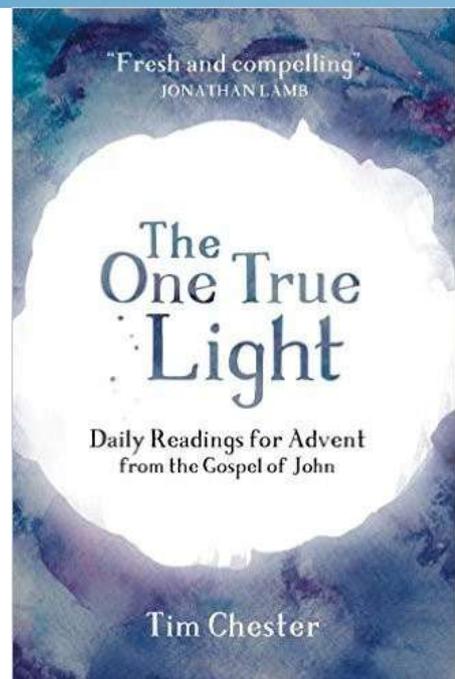
Right at the start of the book, Keller sets out his aims: 'Some years ago I realized that, as a pastor, I didn't have a first book to give someone who wanted to understand and practice Christian prayer', acknowledging that all the best books on prayer had already been published. Since many of these works were written in 'an archaic idiom', they were not always easily understandable for today's readers. In writing this book, he sets out to address that need for an up-to-date work on the practise of prayer in the 21st century, while drawing on earlier Christian writers such as Augustine, Luther and Calvin, and the Puritan John Owen.

The book is very thorough and very practical, covering aspects of the way believers encounter God through sections on desiring, understanding, learning, deepening and 'doing' prayer, in which we learn about the awesome nature of daily communion with the living God, a conversation that he has initiated. There is a very helpful chapter on the Lord's Prayer, summarising lessons drawn from earlier Christian writers and a valuable section on what Keller calls the 'touchstones' of prayer, covering a wide range of ways in which we can assess our prayers 'for honouring and connecting us to God'. And it is here that he makes a striking and memorable point: 'Imagine that you are rooming with someone and he or she virtually doesn't speak to you. All she does is leave messages. When you mention it, she says "Well, I don't get much out of talking to you. I find it boring and my mind flitting everywhere, so I just don't try."'

Now I have to confess here that I haven't finished reading the book yet. But I wanted to share here something of the impact it has made on me in time for the publication of Issue 2, so this can only be a partial review. And that image of non-communication because it's 'boring' has left a powerful impression. Keller's book is 'marinated in scripture', as a review quoted on the back cover claims, and it's well written and highly readable, fully referenced and with a helpful 'selected annotated bibliography on prayer', based on sources that were helpful to the author in his own prayer life. I'm looking forward to starting on the practical suggestions that bring the work to a close, but even at this unfinished stage of my reading through it, I can wholeheartedly recommend Tim Keller's book to all those who want to learn more of what it is to pray.

Jacqui Pearce

EXPLORING OUR FAVOURITE BOOKS



Tim Chester, *The One True Light: Daily Readings for Advent from the Gospel of John*, The Good Book Company (2016)

John's gospel has lost none of its power and depth, despite the 2,000 years that have elapsed since it was written. Tim Chester's series of readings based on Chapter 1 make John's words accessible to the present generation without losing any of the sense of awe at the depth of their writer's thought. Although written for the 24 days leading up to Christmas (Advent), the book may be read with profit at any time. Chester writes well - his style is engaging and approachable at many levels.

'We cannot know God fully, but we can know him truly, for Jesus is the Word through whom we hear the voice of God' (page 19). The 'Word' is important in Greek thought and John's use of the term has provoked much discussion. Tim Chester's enlightening view helps us all to understand for ourselves its continuing importance today.

This book reinforced to me John's close companionship with Jesus, and his insight into the teachings and person of the Saviour. Each of the books reviewed here quotes extensively from the writings of the Puritans. In the 17th century, these Christians were unhappy at the moral and doctrinal laxity of the established church, and preferred meeting in their own groups. This made them unpopular and opened them up to persecution. Tim Chester and Tim Keller both show that the Puritans are still to be taken seriously, despite their unjust modern reputation as over-strict. Both writers highlight the richness of the Puritan heritage and what we today can learn from their closeness to God.

Michael Pearce



What is Fairtrade?

ARTICLE BY LINDSAY JACOBS

Back in 1994, Fairtrade started with one brand each of chocolate, coffee and tea. I remember someone coming to our church to talk about it and to let us sample the chocolate – and it was horrible! Since then, Fairtrade has grown (and their chocolate has improved) – along with consumer awareness of the importance of ethical purchases. Twenty years later, by 2014, Fairtrade had grown to 450 companies selling 4,500 products in the UK, and awareness of Fairtrade had increased from 25% in 2003 to 78% in 2013. This number is likely to have risen since then. Most importantly, in 2014, 697 producer groups from 60 different countries were benefitting from selling their products through Fairtrade.

SO WHAT IS FAIRTRADE?

It is an organization that insists that its businesses pay their workers a minimum wage, protect workers' rights, look after the environment and provide their workers with a premium to invest in their local area. The Fairtrade mark also protects children from forced labour and helps to lift people out of poverty – trade, not aid. Products available are hugely diverse – from bananas and honey to clothing and engagement rings.

No one sets out to oppress the poor, although the consumer decisions we make can do just that. Fairtrade often costs slightly more, but opting for these products is a small way to help those in developing countries. In addition, the more we buy Fairtrade, the more other producers will be encouraged to join the scheme. Imagine a world where everyone was paid fairly for the work that they did and no children were forced to work. Consumer power can achieve this!

'WHOEVER OPPRESSES THE POOR SHOWS CONTEMPT FOR THEIR MAKER, BUT WHOEVER IS KIND TO THE NEEDY HONOURS GOD' (PROVERBS 14: 31).



Fairtrade Farmers



The Challenge

My challenge to you is this: substitute three products that you normally buy for Fairtrade ones. More and more products are becoming available so this is increasingly easy to achieve. To get you started, here are five ideas:

1) Chocolate

There are many brands to choose from including Co-op's own brand, Green and Black's Organic, eight brands of M&S chocolate and Sainsbury's Taste the Difference. Divine chocolate is 44% owned by its farmers, so they receive not just a fair price for their cocoa but also a share in the profits. Another company of note is The Meaningful Chocolate Company, who produce Fairtrade advent calendars and Easter eggs with a Christian message included.

2) Bananas

An incredible 1 in 3 bananas eaten in the UK is Fairtrade. Most supermarkets in the UK include a Fairtrade brand, but The Co-op, Waitrose and Sainsbury's have gone one better - they ONLY sell Fairtrade bananas!



Fairtrade Bananas

3) Coffee

Whether buying coffee to brew at home, or to consume on the go, there are lots of options available. These include: M&S, Wildbean Café, Greggs and Starbucks.

4) Sugar

This commodity does more than just sweeten our lives. Last year £5 million was sent to sugar cane smallholders as a premium from the sales of Fairtrade sugar. This money was used for a range of projects, from improving farming techniques to investing in schools. Tate & Lyle are major suppliers of Fairtrade sugar, along with Waitrose, Steenbergs, Sainsbury's, Traidcraft and the Co-op.

5) Flowers

Almost 50,000 flower workers work with Fairtrade to get a better deal. This ensures safety and a 10% investment in healthcare, education and other social benefits for the local community. Most supermarkets now stock a Fairtrade option and you can also order them from Interflora and Moonpig. So next Valentine's Day, why not buy your other half an ethical bouquet?

There are many other options available - see how many you can spot next time you go shopping! I leave you with Micah 6:8: 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

For a more comprehensive list of Fairtrade products, visit the Fairtrade website at www.fairtrade.org.uk

Image credits

Fairtrade Media

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"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35



ST MARK'S COPTIC CHURCH

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Jesus calls us to identify with the disadvantaged, the poor and the needy, and to pray for those who are suffering persecution. We are privileged both to pray and to act, and in this section we bring together needs from around the world to focus our prayers.

THE CHURCH IN EGYPT

On Sunday 9 April -Palm Sunday - we in HBC celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week that was to end in his crucifixion. We remembered his death with communion, Pastor Errol focused on Jesus' humility as he rode into the city on a donkey, and Junior Church encouraged us to bring short written prayers to attach to a chart of 'prayer circles', prayers for ourselves, our families, for our church and for the world. And while we were enjoying our freedom to come together for worship in this way, two churches in Egypt were devastated by bomb blasts for which the so-called 'Islamic State' quickly claimed responsibility. One explosion, outside St Mark's Coptic Church in Alexandria killed 13 people, and an earlier blast in St George's Coptic Church in Tanta killed 27 people. The bomb in Tanta, 58 miles north of Cairo, was detonated close to the altar; at least 113 people were injured in the two blasts, which appear to have been timed to make the maximum impact by targeting those celebrating Palm Sunday.

These atrocities are part of an increased wave of attacks against the Coptic Church and Christians in Egypt, which appear to have gathered momentum since 2013 when the elected President, Mohammed Morsi, was ousted by the military.

We hope to run a more in-depth article on the church in Egypt in a future issue of HBC Accord. But meanwhile, please do pray for believers in Egypt who risk their lives to worship Christ and face increasing opposition from extremists.

Information from BBC News web page, 9 April 2017:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-39544451>.

EAST AFRICAN CRISIS

Famine may be hard for us to imagine in England - we read about it, we see images on television, but we do not experience for ourselves the day-to-day realities of living in a part of the world where drought, mismanagement of resources, ongoing conflict and high-level corruption wreak destruction on the land and threaten countless lives. Sixteen million people are close to starvation in South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan, where people desperately need food and clean water, and levels of malnutrition among children are very high.

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which is made up of 13 of the UK's leading charities, including Tearfund, Christian Aid and CAFOD, organized an emergency East Africa Crisis Appeal, which raised over £50 million in just three weeks. According to DEC's CEO, Saleh Saeed: 'We have reports about aid delivery making an immediate difference to the lives of affected communities; for example Concern Worldwide is supporting children at the Weydow nutrition centre just outside Mogadishu in Somalia; Save the Children is supplying food, water and medical care to 40 of the most drought affected communities in Ethiopia and Somalia; Oxfam is providing water and sanitation to hundreds of thousands of people in Kenya and British Red Cross has delivered emergency food supplies to thousands of people in South Sudan.'¹ The appeal is still open for donations, which can be made online at <http://www.dec.org.uk>.

Message from Romania

The Lord Jesus our Saviour sends you grace and peace from Carmel Baptist Church in Giris de Cris, Romania. We thank God for all the spiritual and material support you faithfully give every year. We always keep you all in our prayers, being grateful to God and altogether motivated to intercede before Him for our brothers and sisters in Hendon Baptist Church.

The Lord's ministry in Giris is growing in His hands. This year we have felt more and more the guidance of the Lord in the ministry of mission. This has been taking the form of reaching out into the village, offering its people compassion and material help, and bringing them the good news of the gospel. A couple of months ago, a 2-year old girl was knocked by mistake by her mother into a pot of hot soup, and was scalded on her face and 70% of her back. The church was mobilized to pray for the girl and her family, and we managed to support her financially for the several surgical interventions she needed. Marin, the girl's father, began attending the church worship services, being moved in his heart by the church's love for them. His daughter is now back at home.

A girl called Violeta has been regularly attending church services for two years, in spite of being illiterate. She comes from a poor family, where they have to work on a daily shift basis simply to survive. Their house is made of earth, and one wall was almost collapsing. Our church has been mobilized into rebuilding that part of their house for them, and one of the men who will be involved in the work is Marin, the father of the scalded girl.

Another evangelising ministry has taken place in a family who invited us, as a result of their seeing the way God transformed the life of a family in our church who turned to Jesus three years ago. We also rejoice that God has answered our prayers concerning the Levites. Being a church formed of people without any musical background, we did not have anybody to serve by playing instruments. This year, lunia, our daughter started playing the organ in the church, and this is a great joy in God's grace toward the church.

The vision and the motto of the church for this year comes from John 4:35: '...lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.' We continue to pray for each other and especially that the Lord's hand may protect you in these present circumstances where we see terrorist attacks multiplying in London.

Be blessed!

Toma Adrian and Adriana family



A report in Premier Christianity quotes a spokesperson from Christian Aid as saying: 'It's been brilliant to see churches all over the country responding so generously to the desperate call for help from East Africa. At Christian Aid we often talk about "give, act and pray". Please remember the people of East Africa in your prayers, their need will remain once the spotlight of media attention has moved on.'²

Continuing conflict in South Sudan, areas of Somalia controlled by Al-Shabaab, and in the Yemen have made the work of aid agencies far more difficult, and heightened the need for long-term, sustainable solutions. These areas may be remote from London and the need hard to imagine, yet it is very real, it is urgent and it is continuing. We can only repeat the words quoted above: 'give, act and pray'.



Oxfam distribute water

References

1. <http://www.dec.org.uk/press-release/dec-east-africa-crisis-appeal-reaches-a-staggering-£50-million-in-just-3-weeks> [accessed 1 May 2017].
2. <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2017/May-2017/Christian-Charities-respond-to-East-African-crisis> [accessed 1 May 2017].

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SERVICES & WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday service: 11.00am in the church

Girls' Brigade: Tuesdays, 6.30pm

Campaigners: Fridays, 6.00-7.15pm (Junos); 7.30-9.00pm (Crosstrax)

Ignite (young adults): every 3rd Friday, 8.00-10.00pm

Tuesday Fellowship: Tuesdays, 2.00pm

Sparkles Parent and Toddler Group: Tuesdays, 10.00am-12.00pm

Home groups: Wednesday evening (8.00pm) and Monday morning

***HENDON BAPTIST CHURCH, FINCHLEY LANE, HENDON
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