



outlook

Newsletter of **Pond Square Chapel** | Highgate United Reformed Church | **October-December 2021**



Thanks for the Harvest!

Highgate Horticultural Show: 4 September, 2021

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Welcome Back!

Step by Step to New Life

As I start to write this minister's article for our Outlook magazine, I can't help but reflect on how well our congregation has done over the past eighteen months - personal shielding, lockdowns and restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic meant that we have had to get used to worshipping in other ways. And while online services Sunday by Sunday kept us going, and indeed meant that friends from other geographical areas were able to join us, we are nevertheless all delighted that we've been able to meet, and sing the Lord's praises, in our church building once again.

But it's taking time to build up our congregation once again to its full strength, so we've decided to make our Harvest Service on 3rd October a special "Welcome Back to Church" Service, and we're hoping as many as possible will make a special effort to be with us on that day.

'Welcome' in the Bible

There are a couple of very moving stories in the Bible about 'welcome' which should be central to our faith and practice.

The first is an Old Testament story of reconciliation in Genesis chapters 37 - 45. **Joseph** is treated very badly by his brothers, but later finds that he has the upper hand. After testing his brothers for a while, Joseph then decides to reveal all. This 'welcome back' is a real turning point - "And Joseph wept aloud And he said ' ... say to my father ... come down to me, ... you shall be near me' ..." (Genesis 45: 2, 9 and 10).

The second story is a parable of Jesus, and is perhaps the most famous 'welcome' in the Bible (Luke 15: 11 - 24). **The Prodigal Son** had distanced himself from the family, had trashed his life to the point of ruin, and was sure he didn't deserve to be accepted back into the family. Nevertheless, he decided that to return was the only option left to him, and what did he find? A loving father who had been patiently waiting for his son to return - 'welcome back'.

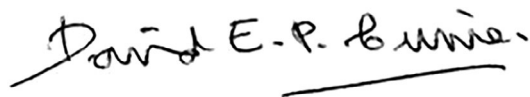
Pond Square Chapel - a Welcoming Church

This is precisely what we aim to be isn't it? - a Welcoming Church. Whether it's the number of local clubs and organisations we host in our building week by week, the Community Lunch, the Winter Shelter, or our Sunday morning services - we want to make people welcome so that they might experience something of the welcoming love of Jesus for everyone.

So, I hope to see you there on 3rd October at our 'Welcome Back to Church' Service.

Our aim at this time is to build up the congregation as we travel together **"Step by Step to New Life"** - see the summary sheet of the 12 Steps we're presently working through, using passages from the book of Romans as our foundation. And with God's help we can build our church. It starts with ourselves - growing in faith and confidence. Then others too will come and find a real welcome.

Wishing you God's blessing, and vision and strength for each one of us as we build our fellowship together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E.P. Currie." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

David E.P. Currie

Minister: Pond Square Chapel

The Winchcombe meteorite and Genesis

A few months ago I happened to turn on radio 4 and heard about the Winchcombe Meteorite. Part of a meteorite 4.5 billion years old had fallen to earth landing in a garden in Gloucestershire. The finder of the Winchcombe meteorite recognised the significance of the stone, and a piece of the original 540g stone and powder mixture is now on view at the Natural History Museum where I went to see it on display in the Vault.

Weighing 103 grams, the fragment of meteorite pre-dates our planet. The reason for the excitement about, and significance of, the Winchcombe meteorite is that it is classed as Carbonaceous Chondrite (a rare form of meteorite) which probably fell from an asteroid belt somewhere between Mars and Jupiter. It is the most primitive material of the Solar system, containing soft clay minerals, organic compounds and amino acids and can contain up to 28% water. It was once filled with frozen water ice. ("hydrated silicates"). Natural History Museum research into the origins of water on our planet has established that water did not originate here - it must have come from asteroids.

Meteorite rock was formed in the early stages of our world when dust and ice began to coalesce at the beginning of the solar system. Dust and ice had swirled without direction or form until the impact with exploding stars. This impact created shock waves through space and gravity then pulled star debris together and matter became denser. As the hot chaotic swirl of dust, ice and gas coalesced, the Sun formed in the centre, and other bodies were flung outwards into cooler regions. Asteroids pelted the young planet earth after it formed, delivering water in a process of gas and ice transformation which has isotopic values I can't begin to understand.

There is a hypothetical boundary called "the snowline", beyond which if you go further away from the Sun water vapour can condense into water ice, which was incorporated into asteroids as they formed. The "chemical signature of water" shows that almost all water on earth was delivered from asteroid impacts which delivered water in a transformative process.

As I listened to this programme, I was struck by the words of Genesis:

Ch.1 v. 1-2 "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while

a wind from God swept over the face of the waters” (Standard text Bible footnote: “When God began to create ...”)

v. 6-8 “And God said “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters. So God made the dome and separated the waters from the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky”.

Having seen this little fragment of rock, which is visibly fragile or friable, as I left the NHM I noticed a much larger piece of rock in the foyer. At c.2.6 billion years old this rock shows sedimentation bands indicating a process known as the Great Oxygenation Event - when the young oceans on earth were able to produce oxygen through photosynthesis following the development of bacteria. So begins the 3rd geological era at the beginning of the world - “And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 9.v10)

Linda Douthwaite



In Memoriam: Anne Greenhow

29th July 1931 - 12th August 2021



Our friend Anne, a member of Highgate URC since May 2012, died peacefully in Stamford Care Home on 12th August and a Service of Thanksgiving for Anne's life was held in the church on 8th September. What follows are extracts from the tributes paid by myself and one of Anne's nephews, Chris, and I'll start with his helpful summary of Anne's life -

"From 1930's semi-feudal Sark to 21st century Highgate, Anne lived through some of the most seismic changes this planet has ever seen. She was raised as a child of the vicarage, her father being the Revd. Edmundson Greenhow and her mother Kathleen, the youngest child of

5 siblings - Mary, Peter, Zoe, Faith and Anne. In June 1940 she was wrenched away from all that was familiar and evacuated with her sisters, Faith and Zoe, to Denbighshire in North Wales. After the war she trained and worked as a registered sick children's nurse at Alder Hey hospital in Liverpool, subsequently moving to London where she worked as a nurse, nursery nurse and child minder. Many people have paid tribute to her caring and compassionate kindnesses.

Anne was an intelligent and thoughtful searcher for truth and a spiritual seeker after meaning and purpose. She was never one to unquestioningly accept received wisdom, but in later life her quest took her back to her Christian roots. I know that she found the Meditation Group especially helpful and fulfilling.

Anne had many creative talents, enjoyed singing, and wrote some very accomplished poems.

Our thanks go to all at the Church, and in other walks of life, who cared for and supported Anne, especially over the last few years. Anne's earthly quest for truth has now found its fulfilment in the heavenly arms of God.

On behalf of Anne's family - Chris Feak: Nephew and Godson."

As minister, I very much enjoyed my visits to Anne's home over the past 4 years - she always made you welcome. I came to know her as a sincere, kind and thoughtful person, quietly getting on with helping others, and part of that was driving others to church!

We're privileged at Pond Square Chapel to have faithful members like Anne. She will

be greatly missed - regularly serving others, determined to get to church even latterly when that was not easy. She embodied that Christian attitude we're encouraged to have in Philippians chapter 2 - "In humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves which you have in Christ Jesus ... who emptied himself, taking the form of a servant ..."

We give thanks for Anne's life. Our faith is that she is now at rest, and in the presence of the God who promises that His love will never let us go.

Rev. David Currie



Giving

I give to those of whom I'm fond
And then when they do not respond
I curl into a hedgehog ball
And think, "I shall not give at all!"

I shall not give to anyone!
Lock up my heart. Shut out the sun.
Hold tightly to my pride and woe.
Instead of simply letting go.

To get involved is what I fear
So stay away, don't come too near
For I can see possessiveness
Within myself which causes stress.

When spiders weave their webs like lace
The heedless flies they will encase.
The dainty web delights the eye
But is a prison for the fly.

Can I escape the wish to claim,
Which like the web does bind and maim
We have been told to give and give
That we might then be free to live.
So if the ones of whom I'm fond
Ungracious seem and don't respond,
I must not flee but firmly stand
And still hold out a friendly hand.

But giving should not only be
To those I like or who like me.
Out to the highways I must go
And give to Mary, Tom and Joe.

To cross old ladies I must give,
To tramps and beggars all who live,
For though it's sometimes hard to see,
I am in them and they in me.

And they are in my loved ones too.
By serving them and serving you
The ones I love I cannot shun
Because it's true that, "All is one."

Anne Greenhow

REV. DUGALD MACFADYEN

Minister Highgate Congregational Church (Pond Square Chapel) 1902 – 1914

Patricia Judd invited me to write a brief note for your 'OUTLOOK' about my grandfather, the Rev. Dugald Macfadyen's life and that of his broader family.

John Handby Thompson has written a good history of Pond Square Chapel in his book "Highgate Dissenters" in which he devoted pages 31 to 35 to the tenure of the Rev. Dugald Macfadyen, which I recommend you review to give clarity to these notes.

The Rev. Dugald, was the second son of the Rev. John Allison Macfadyen, of the Chorlton Road Congregational Church, Manchester. The Rev. Dugald had 6 siblings and his parents had adopted Helen Wood Longwill all in a span of 16 years. The household of 5 boys and 3 girls must have been rather active. The boys all grew up as achievers, all graduated from Oxford and, all married. Three of the men went abroad and married abroad. William, the oldest, was a university Professor in South Africa; Quentin, an official in HM Government initially went to South Africa then Hong Kong; Norman an MD established his practice in Letchworth; Eric, the youngest, went to Malaya in HM Civil Service after the Boer War and Oxford and subsequently founded several rubber plantations. Their adopted daughter Helen married William Howard Goulty, a respected and successful Solicitor in Manchester and a member of Rev. John Allison Macfadyen's church. None of the other girls married. In 1894 the Rev. Dugald Macfadyen married Mary Olivia Goulty, who was Howard Goulty's sister. Dugald and Olivia were at Oxford together.

Rev. Dugald and Olivia moved to St Ives where their first child, my aunt Jean Alison, was born in 1895, then Rev. Dugald responded to the call of Hanley Congregational Church around 1896.

During his ministry at Hanley, Olivia gave birth to a further three children: my uncle John Dennis (killed in the last stages of WW1 and commemorated on



the memorial cross in front of the church), my father Eric Anderson and, shortly before moving to Highgate, my aunt Olive Elspeth. I leave to your imagination the stress the Rev. Dugald must have placed on his wife. Mary Olivia was a very supportive Minister's wife, confidante, active in the community, and shared the Rev. Dugald's concern for the welfare of working people. My aunt Jean after coming to the USA in the early 1920s as a private tutor and caregiver for the children of a family of means, married the Rev. Glion Benson in 1926. He was an Episcopal Priest. The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion. Having firsthand experience of how aunt Jean made so many things happen and helped make my uncle Glion an outstanding Parish Priest, I have great respect for the wife of a Minister.



Before arriving at the Highgate Congregational Church, the Rev. Dugald had written and published 5 books, translated one by a French author into English and edited and published a book of essays by Congregational Ministers which included a few of his essays. Two of his books were written while at Manchester Grammar School and at Oxford. The others while he was Minister of a Congregational Church in Hanley.

While at Highgate he wrote and published 7 books. In 1905 he published a memorial to the Rev. Alexander Mackennal, who had written a memorial book of his friend and colleague the Rev. John Allison Macfadyen, my Great Grandfather. The other 6 books include a translation of Poems written by a French Author.

In 1912 he wrote a book that is a memorial to his wife Mary Olivia, who died in January 1912. John Handby Thompson has noted in his book 'Highgate Dissenters', the dedication of a stained glass window in memory of Olivia (this window is on the left-hand wall of the chapel, near the pulpit). Rev. Dugald's book "A Modern Puritan" is a wonderful tribute to her and seemed to me a way for him to express his grief as in those days many were not supportive of expressing one's feelings publically. I think without his wife beside him he must have found being the Minister of Highgate very difficult. She had been his sail and his support and I sense they were very much in love with each other.

The Rev. Dugald left Highgate Congregational Church in 1914 and moved to

his mother's house in Letchworth. In 1915 he married Edith Barnett Bates, the daughter of a friend of the family. He devoted the next 21 years of his life to writing and publishing 4 books, 2 of which were widely distributed and issued in multiple editions. I assume they must have brought him significant revenue. One of these books was about Andrew Swan, a relation of the Macfadyen's by marriage. The other was about Sir Ebenezer Howard and the town movement. Edith Bates's father was involved with the planned towns.

The Rev. Dugald Macfadyen made a few trips to the U.S.A. in the late 1920s and preached and spoke at several Congregational Churches. He established a bond with his son-in-law, the Rev. Glion Benson who told me my grandfather was a highly respected and powerful personality.

A brief note about the Rev. Dugald's brother Norman Macfadyen, MD: He established his practice in Letchworth in the early days of this Garden City. He was chairman of the Parish Council and then the Urban Council, Medical Officer of Health for North Hertfordshire and devoted to the welfare of the elderly. He left a substantial legacy, along with a similar legacy from Mr. Webb, to establish the Macfadyen-Webb Homes for the elderly on Norton Way. The homes were opened in 1970 by his niece, Elspeth Olive Bristow (née Macfadyen) and his grand niece Rosemary Macfadyen, my twin.

A brief note about the Rev. Dugald's youngest brother, Sir Eric Macfadyen: He went to Malaya initially in the Malay Civil Service after graduating from Oxford. He was a pivotal person in mastering the details of rubber tree cultivation, planting and production. He created numerous plantations on which he relied on his brother-in-law, Howard Goulty, to raise the capital from wealthy persons in Manchester to clear jungle, plant seedlings, and tend the trees until they started to produce. He was pivotal in establishing the United Planters Association. He returned to England in the 1920s and had a leading role in the amalgamation of the various plantation companies into Harrison and Crossfield (now Harcross and long out of the rubber business). He was the Managing Director of Harrison and Crossfield for many years and remained on the Board of Directors until 1955. He was instrumental in creating the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. He was Chairman of the Rubber Growers Association and several other associations related to the rubber industry in Malaya. He was knighted in 1943 for his role in the science of rubber growing.

My Father, Eric Macfadyen, (named in honour of his uncle), yielded to the Macfadyen penchant to travel abroad. After graduating from Magdalene College, Cambridge in 1921, he joined a London based International Bank that specialized in funding exports from South America and was sent to their office

in Santiago, Chile in 1921. The bank did not survive the depression and he subsequently formed a Stock Brokerage firm in Santiago, and in WW 2 held a financial position in a tin mining company in Bolivia and after the war at the big copper mine in Chile of the Anaconda Copper Company. He settled in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in 1953 and died in 1977.

John Dugald Macfadyen, PE

New London, Missouri U.S.A



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Sunday's COOL

at Pond Square Chapel

It is so great to be back at church after the summer holidays! We have a lot of fun things coming up as well as our new resources (called Energise) which we have started to use.

These are our themes for the next few months.



September: Jesus' I AM's

A series of plans unpacking the "I am" statements of Jesus.

October: Sermon On the Mount

Learning about what Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount.

November: 'Children's Take Over' & Christmas

Children will be able to 'take over' Sunday's Cool by choosing the story, song and activities. (with help from adults). Christmas themed Fun Sunday.

December: Christmas

Christmas programme and Nativity Play.

Stephen - Children's Leader

Finding Jesus

Conversion is at the very centre of the biblical message. Throughout the Old and New Testament, the message is that it's never too late to change. You need not be locked into what you have always been and done. You are not a prisoner of your past.



Whilst we would agree with these words, it's sad to say that even today we come across children who feel that they have committed an 'unforgivable act' of some kind and therefore cannot know the Lord's true forgiveness. The enemy will always look for a foothold to use in order to condemn, and when it comes to his methods, he is no respecter of age.

Our final assembly of this school year is on the story of the miraculous conversion of Zacchaeus. I've often wondered why, out of the entire city of Jericho, Jesus zeroed in on Zacchaeus.

As always, we find the answer in the scriptures. Verse 3 begins, '*He wanted to see who Jesus was...*' and I believe that as Jesus went through that town he was looking for someone with an open heart to receive what he had to bring. As he looked up into that tree, he saw the face of someone who simply wanted to know Him, and from that moment Zacchaeus' transformation from darkness to light began – hallelujah!

Please pray for every child that watches this assembly, either via video or live in their school, that they too will realise that the Lord does indeed have the power to transform their lives.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers,

Darren Chubb
Pathway Team Leader

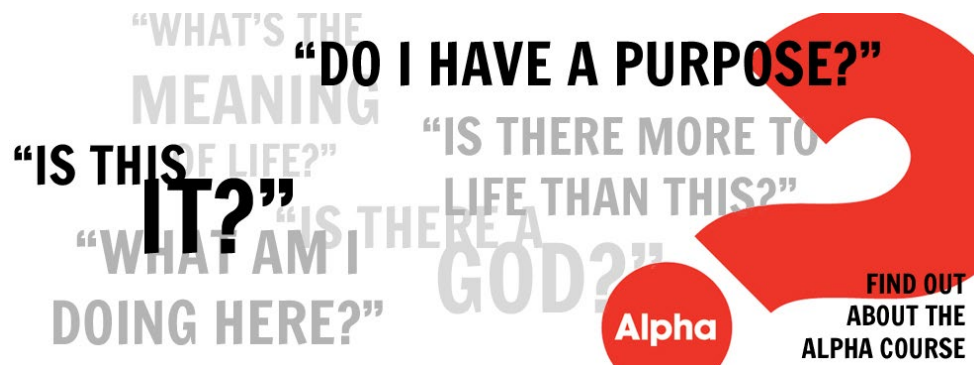


A personal note from Darren

Thank you to all of you who have supported and blessed me during the last 20 years as I have headed up the ministry of Pathway. It has been a delight to

serve the Lord within such a wonderful organisation and I have never taken it for granted that I get up every morning to do work that I enjoy!

Please continue to pray for me as I begin my new role as Assistant Pastor at Three Rivers Church Bedford, and also as I prepare for married life with my wonderful fiancée Libby next year.



Joint Churches Alpha Course

Many will of course already be aware of the existence of the Alpha Course - you may have seen the logo depicted on the sides of buses or on notice boards outside some churches.

As with anything enjoying a measure of success it has those who are fully in support of the course, but it also has to be said that it has its critics. Having said that, it is nevertheless one of the most used 'Basic Introductions to the Christian Faith'.

It is no secret that Christa, one of our members, refers to herself as 'an Alpha convert' - the way she found her way into the Christian faith and into more meaningful church commitment. So, since we were about to restart Wednesday Home Group anyway, usually held in Christa and Richard's house, we decided it would be good to encourage both regular Home Group attendees and others at Pond Square Chapel to attend this Churches Together Alpha Course.

The course will be held at **Highgate International Church**, 272 Archway Road at **7.30 pm, starting Wednesday 6th October**, and running for around 10 weeks.

Minister - D. Currie

Recruitment of New Minister

Did you know that our minister, David, had a 5 year contract with Pond Square Chapel & that this contract will be completed in May 2022?

When he first came to us in May 2017 the initial contract was for 3 years to 2020, later extended 2 years to 2022.

The Coronavirus pandemic has caused us (along with everyone else) to lose almost 2 years of church life & possible development. Things have gone along quietly with the development of streaming & zoom to keep contact with our congregation & establish an online presence, involving the minister & elders & the techie staff.

David made out a timeline with a list of steps needed in the advertising for & interviewing of applicants for the post of minister at PSC to take up the work after May 2022. Many of these steps are already being followed, whilst allowing the work of the church to go on week by week.

So in January 2021 the Church Meeting elected a support group of 11 people & also elected 8 members to form the Core Group, who would advertise for a new minister & produce necessary material about all aspects of the church for applicants, conducting interviews as needed. We have got to this stage now & the work will continue until there is a suitable candidate willing & able to fill the post.

More about this topic soon, as we shall need help from as many people as possible.

If you would like to see some of the material that has been produced for candidates have a look at our website

https://www.pondsquarechapel.org.uk/Groups/360874/Recruitment_of_a_New_Minister.aspx

Rowena Courtney

Step By Step To New Life

1. **HONESTY** - We admitted we were powerless over our sin—that our lives had become unmanageable.
Romans 7:14-25
2. **FAITH** Came to believe that God could restore us.
Romans 1:16-25
3. **MAKING A DECISION** - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him
Romans 10:5-13
4. **MAKING A PERSONAL INVENTORY** - Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
Romans 13:11-14
5. **CONFESSION** - Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
Romans 8:31-34
6. **SURRENDER 1** - Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
Romans 6:11-18
7. **SURRENDER 2** Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
Romans 5:1- 5
8. **RECONCILIATION 1** - Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became unwilling to make amends to them all.
Romans 12:9-21
9. **RECONCILIATION 2** Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. **SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE** - Continued to take personal inventory and, when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
Romans 12:1-8
11. **GROWTH & GUIDANCE** - Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
Romans. 8:12-17; 26-30
12. **MISSION & EVANGELISM** - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.
Romans 10:14-21

• • • • • **Diary Dates 2021** • • • • •

October

Sun 3	10.30 am	'Welcome Back to Church' and Harvest Thanksgiving Service; followed by Bible Study led by Robert Courtney
Wed 6	7.30 pm	Alpha Group meetings at Highgate International Church (and every Wednesday for 10 weeks)
Thurs 7	12 - 1.30 pm	Community Lunch Club restarts (every Thursday)
Sun 10	10.30 am	Sacrament of Holy Communion, and Sunday's Cool
	6.30 pm	Ecumenical CTH Service with London Gallery Quire
Sun 17	10.30 am	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Sun 24	10.30 am	Minister on Annual Leave
Sun 31	10.30 am	Service conducted by Alan Argent

November

Sun 7	10.30 am	Service conducted by Worship Group
Sun 14	10.30 am	Remembrance Day Service, and Holy Communion
Sun 21	10.30 am	5th Sunday before Christmas, and Sunday's Cool
Sat 27	7:30pm	Ceilidh in the chapel with live band
Sun 28	10.30 am	First Sunday in Advent, and Fun Sunday
[Possible dates for the play "Mr. Darwin's Tree" - 5 and 6 Nov., or 3 and 4 Dec..]		

December

Sun 5	10.30 am	Second Sunday in Advent, and Holy Communion
	4.30 pm	Christingle Event
Sun 12	10.30 am	Family Nativity Service with Highgate and Muswell Brass Band
Sun 19	10.30 am	Service of Carols and Lessons
Frid 24	6.30 pm	Candlelit Service for Christmas Eve
Sat 25	10.30 am	Christmas Day Family Service. All welcome.
Sun 26	10.30 am	Service for last Sunday of the Year

January 2022

Sun 2	10.30 am	Service for First Sunday in the New Year
Sun 9	10.30 am	First Sunday after Epiphany: Holy Communion and Sunday's Cool