

HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

July - Aug 2019



Newsletter 1049

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Another translation from me for the summer letter! Once again I've taken on the enjoyable challenge of putting a Finnish rendering of a Namibian song into the best English I can. Hopefully there will be a good time to sing this during Sunday worship sometime soon! To be washed down with some words of wisdom from William Law...

“There is nothing that so clears a way for your prayers, nothing that so disperses dullness of heart, nothing that so purifies the soul from poor and little passions, nothing that so opens heaven, or carries your heart so near it, as songs of praise.

The difference between singing and reading a psalm will easily be understood, if you consider the difference between reading and singing a common song that

you like. Whilst you only read it, you only like it, and that is all; but as soon as you sing it, then you enjoy it, you feel the delight of it; it has got hold of you, your passions keep pace with it, and you feel the same spirit within you that seems to be in the words.

If you were to tell a person that has such a song, that he need not sing it, that it was sufficient to peruse it, he would wonder what you meant; and would think you as absurd as if you were to tell him that he should only look at his food, to see whether it was good, but need not eat it: for a song of praise not sung, is very like any other good thing not made use of.”

William Law: A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life, 1729

Here at the gates of mercy

Here at the gates of mercy,
O Lord, your people's rock,
listen, for on your doorstep,
your children stand and knock;
open the door, O father,
so we can all come through,
into that place of perfect peace Lord,
where we can be with you.

Truly the Lord has spoken,
and will not change his mind:
"Knock and it shall be opened;
seek and ye shall find."
Father, upon those promises,
by grace alone we stand:
remember our fragility,



and shield us with your hand.

Born unto toil and trouble
like sparks that upward fly,
our lives are like the bubbles
on time's stream rushing by;
comfort us all, our father,
with hope born from above,
scatter our sorrow, end our night,
enfold us in your love.

TREASURER'S NOTE

How's a church treasurer to cope with the cashless society?

Heath Street isn't (yet) geared up to accept contactless payments into a virtual collection plate on a Sunday, more's the pity, but I am aware that some of our congregation may be willing to support the work and running costs of the church but simply don't carry cash anymore.

There is a fairly easy way round it either through the occasional BACS transfer to our bank, or even better, a standing order for a regular payment, say monthly or quarterly. A few of us do the latter, and it is very comforting to see these payments coming in regularly! And every so often I have the pleasure of seeing a little extra in the account when someone has missed coming on a few Sundays and decided to catch up with a one-off contribution into

the bank.

Our account is with CAF Bank Ltd, sort code 40-52-40, account name Heath Street Baptist Church, and account number 00014178. Please consider setting up a standing order or remembering us with a one-off gift when you get home after a service. If you are a UK taxpayer and haven't signed a Gift Aid form so I can reclaim the tax paid on your donations (an extra 25 pence on every pound, really worth having!), please let me know how and when I could hand over the brief form.

With love and best wishes,

Gaynor

gaynor@eandghumphreys.plus.com



CONCERTS AT HEATH STREET

Tuesday 9th July 1pm

The Early and Contemporary Recorder

Eliza Haskins - Recorder

Jonatan Bougt - Lute

Tuesday 16th July 1pm

Part II of "1890s to 1919: The BMG* Era
Peak"

Matt Redman, multi-instrumentalist

Tuesday 23rd July 1pm

82 Degrees

Programme tbc

Ada Witczyk - Violin

Mark Walkem - Cello

MAY 2019

CHOIR IN ITALY

Whilst it's fresh in my mind, just how good can a feeling be? Ecstasy, euphoria, something calmer and beyond those two?

Singing in a group in a cavernous church has something exhilarating about it. The old place had a ponderous acoustic. Behind us, as our amplifier, we had the large semicircular recess and inner dome, which support the bell tower. Before us, the rows of seats, nearly full, stretched far into the gentle dim of the nave.

Our audience started interested in our English madrigals and became more engaged with our excerpts from *Messiah*. Two or three moments really stood out. We did a good job of *As Torrents In Summer*; Terry thought Emily's introduction, calling it her favourite, inspired a special expressive togetherness in the performance. *Since By Man*

Came Death had the audience rapt. Hildi called it a devotional moment, perhaps because the music keys in with the ritual and context of a regular congregation. We were all on the same ecstatic journey as quiet turned to loud and simmering understated intensity turned to outburst.

I could only see Andrea through the side door as the Corale Santa Cecilia sang. It made me think how conducting is part leading the group, part reflecting what the musicians are doing. The warm harmony of their programme carried clearly as we waited amid priestly apparatus in front of the ancient song book.

The silent pause at the very end of the Hallelujah chorus echoed louder than

all the coda's ringing chords. A universal nervous holding of breath before the grand release of the booming final refrain. Wow. I don't think we've had a standing ovation before.

Has any pizza restaurant in Borgo San Lorenzo ever been shaken so thoroughly by a well trained, unconstrained rendition of *Jerusalem*? Has *Jerusalem* ever been riposted by *Va Pensiero*? How many requests did we have to consider the poor upstairs residents trying to sleep? Did it really only cost €15? Had Lucio cut us a deal?

Sunday evening rolled from food to drink to power cut. Eating and drinking by fire-, candle- and phone-light, we searched high and low for the fuse box but only discovered a secret, frozen-in-time bedroom and all the props for a horror film, including a drawer full of meat cleavers, but shockingly, "no toasting fork." Unplanned inconvenience made the night

all the more memorable.

Iain McNaught (bass)



WILF MERTTENS

EAT THE ZINE CLUB

I have some very exciting news! But it will take some explaining. You see, the youth of the church will soon be producing a zine. A zine is a little pamphlet or magazine that is designed and printed at home. In terms of format, they are often not all that different from the newsletter you are reading right now, but their primary function is to be a work of art rather than a bearer of information.

Truth be told, the children of the church have been making zines for a while now. For instance, they made some exploring their favourite words for Pentecost (see examples). We even started a “zine club” where the kids could produce their own individual zines on any topic they like. Annie Fang (on the occasion of negotiating her daughter Avie’s attendance at the club) inadvertently named the club when

she asked me, “And so can they eat the zine afterwards?” This confusion over the nature of zines delighted us all so much that we christened the club “EAT THE ZINE.”

So the club’s next plan is to work together to produce one zine collaboratively. The theme of our first issue will be “Heroes,” so we are now looking for poems, collages and essays that address that theme.

Please do get in touch if you have any recommendations.

If you know a young person (rather generously, we are defining “young” as under 35—which incidentally means that yours truly is exempted just by a whisker) who would like to join our EAT THE ZINE club or just submit some content on our theme, put them in touch. Email below.

stanleywilfridmerttens@gmail.com





READINGS

June 30th - July 6th

2 Samuel 1.1, 17-27

30th	For all who help at the Contact Club
Jul 1st	Jan Cowen
2nd	Jen Finamore
3rd	Gaynor Humphreys
4th	Gabrielle Falardeau
5th	Robin Thorne
6th	For Kasai province, DRC

July 7th - 13th

2 Samuel 5.1-5, 9-10

7th	Thomas Roy
8th	Nomsa Ndebele
9th	Rhona MacEachan
10th	Isabel Somers
11th	Christina Cairns
12th	Anselm King
13th	Nathalia Bell

July 14th - 20th

2 Samuel 6.1-5, 12b-19

14th	Susan Le Quesne
15th	Victoria Tjirimuje
16th	Thaddeus King
17th	Frida King
18th	Bala Kapi
19th	Tom Somers
20th	David and Eleanor Neil

July 21st - 27th

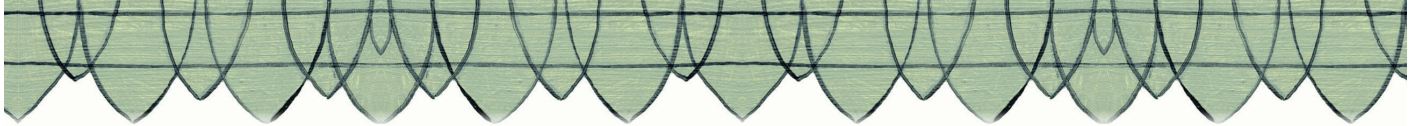
2 Samuel 7.1-14a

21st	Elya Ghasempour
22nd	Michael Bloxham
23rd	Fiona Ranford
24th	Ewan King
25th	Jeremy Fletcher
26th	Hildegard Williams
27th	Leo Patterson

July 28th - August 3rd

2 Samuel 11.1-15

28th	Joachim King
29th	Sarah Harper
30th	Genna Naccache



31st Mysie Johnson
Aug 1st Tom and Susan Brandt
2nd For AM
3rd Josh Somers

August 4th - 10th 2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a

4th Francesco Giannoccaro
5th Rebecca McLeod
6th Cole Ellenbogen
7th For HK
8th Peter Forrest
9th Annie Fang
10th Laura Somers

August 11th - 17th 2 Samuel 18.5-9, 15.31-33

11th Evelyn Baker
12th Theresa Thom
13th John Baker
14th Nesa Thorne
15th Leila Ranjbar
16th Lydia Baker
17th Selena Barrera

August 18th - 24th 1 Kings 2.10-12, 3.3-14

18th Beryl Dowsett
19th Paul Conrad
20th For HM
21st Stan Dorer
22nd Neil McLeod
23rd Andrea MacEachan
24th Eleanor Patterson

August 25th - 31st 1 Kings 8.1, 6, 10-11

25th Beauty Kunene
26th Ali Ghasempour
27th Wilf Merttens
28th Robin Thorne
29th Jen Finamore
30th Gabrielle Falardeau
31st Monsignor Phelim Rowland

MISSION HOUSING

SHARE* > IN OUR < OWNERSHIP

WHAT IS IT?

Mission Housing is a Christian charity that operates a scheme for Christians working in churches within the M25, helping them to live closer to their church. Our city's housing crisis makes it impossible for most London church workers to rent or buy anywhere near the church where they serve. The opportunity opened up by Mission Housing benefits workers, churches and local communities.

WHO?

We (John-Henry, Lydia and Evelyn Baker) are currently living in St. Albans. We believe that our involvement in ministry is where we should be, but distance inevitably limits our working involvement with the local community and presents many challenges for the whole family to be

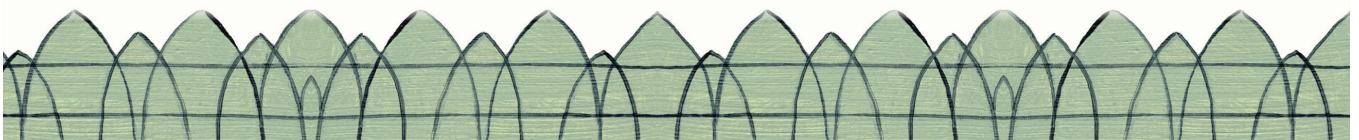
involved in the church community. Renting is not a viable long-term solution for our family. And even with the government Help to Buy schemes, buying anywhere near North London is not an option. We might need to move further away from the church, but are hopeful that Mission Housing provides a better option.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

We (John-Henry and Lydia) have had interviews and been assessed by Mission Housing Staff/Trustees, who have offered to help us raise the support and purchase a property for us under their shared ownership scheme. This would mean us purchasing 25% using our own money and Mission Housing purchasing 75%. The money Mission Housing use would largely be invested by our supporters. The breakdown of the purchase price would be as follows:

Purchase Price

= Our Deposit / Savings + Mortgage



- + Loans / Investments from friends, family & sponsors
- + Capital from Mission Housing (if needed)

HOW TO HELP?

Anyone can support us in prayer! You can also put money into the scheme in one of two ways:

1. EQUITY LOAN SCHEME

The Equity Loan Scheme provides investment into a particular property where a % is owned by you, the investor. Also, at the end of the loan period, minimum 5 years but usually 10 years +, the prospect of capital gain exists linked to the increase in property values. There is no return on the investment until the end of the loan period.

2. STANDARD LOAN SCHEME

The Standard Loan Scheme provides an investment opportunity in the association itself. You can receive an annual interest return up to 2%, typically over a shorter

period of 2, 3 or 5 years and is unsecured.

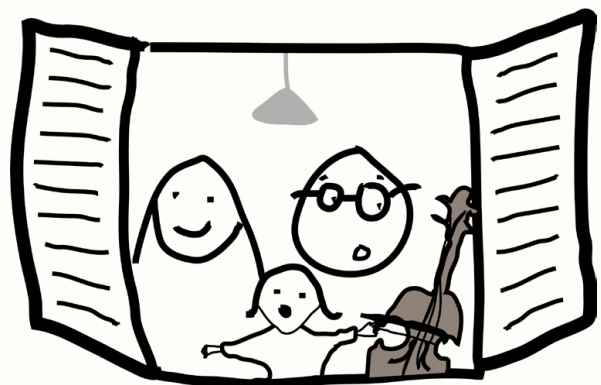
WHERE?

We have been looking at the areas around Hampstead and have found properties in e.g. Colindale, which would be close enough to the church via transport links yet within our potential budget. We would be looking at a 3-4 bedroom house with space for family and instruments as well as hosting people coming to Heath Street on mission trips, concerts, and visiting the church.

Please contact us if you would like to know more!

johnhenry@heathstreet.org |

07840456593



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



For requests regarding church membership, Baptism or opportunities for Christian ministry in the church please contact the minister.

For questions regarding space use and room hire please contact the minister.

Copy for the next newsletter should reach Sarah Harper not later than Wednesday 14th August.



Sun	11am-12 noon 7.30-9.30pm	Divine Worship (inc Sunday Club for children) Contact Club
Mon	7pm 8pm	Swing Patrol:Beginners class (Swing dancing) Swing Patrol:Improvers class (level 1.5)
Tues	10-11am 1-2pm	Oldtime Nursery Lunchtime recital
<u>2nd</u> Tues	7:30-9:30pm	Sacred Harp hymn singing
Weds	4:30 pm	Storymakers Club
Thurs	10:30am 7:30-9pm	Oldtime Nursery Heath Street Choir

Full information about all our weekly activities is available on our church website.

www.heathstreet.org

HEATH STREET BAPTIST



Minister Ewan King

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