

Monday 28th October 2024

Dear Friends

We had to travel to Scotland to find Ian Prowse.

The musician from Liverpool didn't cross our paths when we were living in that amazing city but, on one of Karen's trips to our little house in Carradale, he was booked to play the village hall, thanks to a friend he had in the village. Karen went along and was a little impressed - to the point that when he played the Half Moon at Putney, she dragged me along. We had a great night! So much so that when we heard Ian Prowse was booked to play our village again, we made sure we were there. In fact, we saw him twice - once in Campbeltown where I very nearly became his support act due to the cancelling of a plane, and then in our village hall. After the gig, we had a long chat with him about our faith, which was meant to continue this weekend after he played the Jazz Cafe in Camden - a conversation we had to delay, but I know it will happen some time.

Before you think this is just a fan review, there is method in my message. At each gig, Ian sings a song unaccompanied. Each time I hear it I get a little tearful, and it's really apt for this time of year. Called 'Lest We Forget', it's his take on songwriters Alun Rhys Jones' song, which tells the tale of the First World War (specifically the Battle of Ypres) and the calling up of the working men of Liverpool. This is no song of victory or celebration, but one of brutal honesty that is chilling...painful to hear.

War was never God's idea. It happens for multiple reasons from avarice and greed to power and a desire to possess. None of these things are found in the teachings or actions of Jesus, so shouldn't be in our thinking either. Those who use the Cross of Christ as an excuse to wage war are twisting the Gospel completely in the opposite direction Jesus intended. Thinking that we can use our faith to wage war, to force others to adopt our faith is not Love. Only one death was needed to bring salvation to the world and He has already been sacrificed for us.

We should never forget the mistakes of war - never forget those who have died in conflict, the members of the armed forces and the civilians. We should never forget but must do everything we can to ensure that it never happens again.

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The Middle East, the Ukraine and all the other places of conflict have to be in our prayers, as should all who are affected by the loss and pain war brings. **I hope you can join us at 10:45 am on Remembrance Sunday this year - it falls on Sunday 10th November** - when the video of 'Lest We Forget' will be shared after the two minute silence. And may we remember while working to make war a thing of ancient history.

Every Blessing,

Keith

Rev Keith Parr BSc MA (theo)

PASTORAL CARE AND VISITS

If you would like to have a chat with our Minister, Rev Keith Parr, or would like him to visit you, please speak to him after the Sunday service, call him on 07999 027803 or email him at Minister@earlsfieldbaptist.org.uk.



SUNDAY MORNINGS – 11.15 AM TO NOON

Sunday School for 5-11 yr olds with various activities including craftwork, learning songs and listening to Bible stories each week.



SUNDAY EVENINGS

6.30 PM TO 7.30 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME

Usually starting with a cuppa, some 12 or so people meet each week for some peace and quiet, meditation and reflection along with some Questions and Answers. Whether you have a strong faith, no faith or if you are wanting to learn more, why not come along to encounter God in a safe, non-judgemental environment for some time out with God, away from our busy world.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Our annual Remembrance Service to remember those who have died or been affected by conflict around the world is on **Sunday 10th November starting at 10.45 am** so that we can join with our nation at 11.00 am for two minutes silence.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ROADWORKS AT THE JUNCTION OF MAGDALEN ROAD AND GARRATT LANE MAY CAUSE CONGESTION AND LIMITED ACCESS TO THE CHURCH

Be with Jesus - Become like Jesus - Do what Jesus did

IRIS BEALE

With deep sadness, we record the homecall of our Life Deacon and Church Member, Iris Beale, on Thursday 24th October. One of Iris's final wishes was to stay at home and this was made possible under the loving care of her niece, Ruth, and her friend Johanna along with the support of other family members and friends and many wonderful medical attendants.

Born in May 1929 to Winifred and Harry Beale, Iris had a sister, Joyce, and two brothers, Arthur and Clive. Along with her siblings, Iris attended Sunday School and Girls Brigade serving as a Sunday School Teacher when she was 14, becoming a Church Member in May 1944 aged 15 and going through the leadership ranks of Girls' Brigade until she became Captain of the 38th London. She was also District Commandant and then Divisional Commissioner of the Wandsworth Division.

In her working life, Iris was a Primary and Infant School Teacher from 1951 until her retirement in 1989 – her final post was as Head of an Infant School in Thornton Heath, a position she held for 21 years!

Here at Earlsfield Baptist, Iris was elected to the Diaconate as a Deacon in 1973. She was Church Secretary from 1992 until the end of 2006 and was made a Life Deacon in January 2007.

Part of the Girls' Brigade Aim is 'to help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ' and Iris was a wonderful role model to so many girls and shared her Christian love and faith with children in her care and with those who worked alongside her at different schools, in GB and here at EBC. Whether you knew Iris as Aunt, Great Aunt, Miss Beale, Captain or Iris, your life was blessed and enriched by knowing this true servant of Christ. Please keep Iris's family and friends in your prayers.

Iris's funeral will be held at Earlsfield Baptist Church on Monday, 18th November, at 12 noon. The service will be followed by interment at Wandsworth Cemetery at 1.30 pm and then refreshments back at the Church.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Having read the tribute to Iris, are you wondering how one person can 'wear so many hats'? Our Leadership Team is currently made up of our Minister and six Deacons – all are also Trustees of Earlsfield Baptist Church in its charitable status. A lot of work for a small team.

Keith has recently spoken about Generosity – the giving of your time and talents. Please spend time in prayer, asking God for His guidance and for courage to offer your time and talents to the Leadership Team.

If you are a Church Member and feel lead to offer yourself as a Deacon, that would be even better. Louise recently led our service and talked about getting out of the boat and walking on water, keeping your eyes on Jesus. Is it time for you to get out of your comfort zone and stand for election. More details about becoming a Deacon will be in the next newsletter.

“CHIMNEY POTS”

Dear Church Family and Friends

I must commence with a confession, albeit one which will come as no surprise to those who know me; **I simply LOVE Christmas!**



Perhaps I have been blessed (in fact, I know that I have), but never have I experienced a 'bad' Christmas; not even the year that Lesley and I missed an entire Christmas Day by unintentionally sleeping throughout 25th December, as we had both been working at the theatre until Christmas Eve (THREE performances!) and were, thus, obliged to celebrate on Boxing Day, although not until after working the matinee performance (THE most chaotic and riotous of the year), of course. Not even the year when I was, literally, penniless and had to trudge across London, in the snow, from my frozen, unheated, garret in Turnpike Lane to 20 Tranmere Road for Christmas Day dinner; naturally, I told my parents that I had arrived by taxi – although I know, for a fact, that they didn't believe me!

And, as for the year (1978) that my wonderful grandfather, Horace, died - well, that was one of the happiest times ever. All credit to 'Orrie' for not actually passing away until the early hours of December 27th, following a surfeit of roast potatoes and dark navy rum at Boxing Day dinner! But, what a truly beautiful smile greeted us, when Dad and I called round to check up on him the following morning and found him, as we had left him, tucked up in bed with his arms folded across his chest. We had all enjoyed a great family Christmas that year - not least Grandad, who, clearly, felt that even he would struggle to outshine himself in future years and that, perhaps, the time was right for him to take his leave of us, happily and peacefully – and with a full belly!

And, so, yes – I really DO love Christmas, which is why it saddens me to see empty church pews during this most joyous of festivals. Orrie's son, my father, Roy, was a quite exceptional sales and marketing man, whether it might be promoting a new line in frozen desserts, publicising a school play or 'getting the word out' for one of my 'business' ventures, Dad would always rise to the occasion; he had three basic rules for success:

- 1) Offer something that people either want or need.
- 2) Have a visible presence.
- 3) Count the chimney pots.

Yes, Dad really DID count chimney pots. He would even count chimney pots whilst we were enjoying a day out in the country or 'relaxing' on holiday. In fact, Dad's enthusiasm for counting chimney pots became something of a running joke within the immediate Sharp clan. But, of course, Dad was correct. It really doesn't matter how wonderful one's 'product' or 'concept' is; nor does it matter if one has grand shopfronts in prominent locations, for without the 'chimney pots' one will never have a viable business.

The Christian Church has a great 'product'. Eternal life? Pretty impressive, by any 'marketeer's' standards. The Christian Church certainly has some pretty impressive 'shop fronts', too - most of which are in prime locations.

Be with Jesus - Become like Jesus - Do what Jesus did

And here in Earlsfield, at least, the Christian Church has plenty of chimney pots. So, why the empty pews? Not just during Christmas and Easter, but throughout the year.

Ah, yes. Dad's fourth 'rule' for maintaining a successful business: Personal recommendations. Given that we, as a church, have a great 'product', a high-profile shopfront and plenty of chimney pots surrounding us, perhaps we might be falling short on the 'personal recommendation' front?

But, as we approach the season of Advent and culminating in Christmas, what better time is there for us to gently remind some of those chimney pot owners that The Church is open for business? I know that 'spreading the word' might be difficult for some people, but, for what it is worth, I have never experienced a negative reaction when casually dropping in to a conversation with some random person a reference to my being connected with our local church; quite the opposite, in fact – although, having taken one look at me, they might, equally, just be at a loss for words, negative or otherwise! As I write this, at the beginning of October, I don't know what might be on offer at EBC throughout Advent and Christmas; I do hope that there will be many opportunities for us all to invite new friends into the church.

Which brings me on to my final point; and this one is from me – although I am proud to confirm that Dad approved it! As some of you might know, I spent a number of years working in the 'glamorous and exciting' world of popular entertainment, in which an old adage still prevails; that of 'being in the right place at the right time'. Utter rubbish. Being in the right place at the right time and BEING PREPARED is what actually matters.

Let us all be well prepared, this Christmas, for whatever we might be able to offer our chimney pot owners, both old and (God willing) new. I would, also, churn out yet another old epithet, 'One never gets a second chance to make a first impression', but that really would be a Christmas cracker motto too far, wouldn't it? I wish each and every one of you a Christmas filled with peace, joy, love and friendship – and keep counting those chimney pots!

John Sharp



Get ahead of the
Christmas Rush by
coming to church
NOW!

RENDEZVOUS

At October's meeting, we had a guest speaker from Age UK, Debbie Foster. Debbie told us of many up-to-date scams that were happening. She also gave us lots of information via leaflets and went through an A-Z of all the services that they offer. These included how to get a Befriender, local DIY person, any local events, day centres and their information.

Debbie also gave out some bells which you can attach to your purse or such like so, if you're out and someone tries to take your purse or you accidentally drop it, you'll be able to hear it. I have a set of bells attached to my front door handle so if anyone comes in, I'll know. (Handy if it's the grand kids as I can quickly hide the sweets.) So basically, if there is any information you want to know, go online at www.ageuk.org.uk or phone their main line 0800 1696565 and I'm sure they can help.

The November meeting is on **Thursday 7th November** when we will be making something for Christmas, a tree decoration of some kind. For all our meetings, the doors open at 12.45 pm with the meeting starting at 1.00 pm. Cost is £1 per person which includes a cuppa and biscuit.

Dawn Smith

WHEN OUR DOORS ARE OPEN, PEOPLE COME IN!

We continue to open our Church whenever we can at different times during the week for an hour or so. Please drop in for a cuppa and a chat or to spend a quiet time with our Lord. Open to all.



MONDAYS

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Zoom joining details are sent out by email each Monday.



TUESDAYS

Currently the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group meets at the Church at 11.00 am and choose a coffee shop to go to – we hope they will find a new base soon – why not come along to help them choose?

The **Manse House Group** meets on **Tuesdays** at **6.00 pm** at 27 Ellerton Road, SW18 3NG. Discussions on any subject or topic that arises. It's relaxed and informal and open to all. If you struggle to get up the hill, please let us know and we will happily run an EBC taxi service (particularly after the meeting to get you home safely.)

Be with Jesus - Become like Jesus - Do what Jesus did

PRAYER TEXTING

Please also join the Prayer Texting Group. Just text **07579 796157** – no name needed – and your number will be added to the distribution list. You can also phone this number from your landline and leave a message. Prayer requests are circulated daily to all in the distribution group, quite often with a ‘thought for the day’ too. No other action is required from you – you only need to pray! Please keep all your Church Family in your prayers and perhaps contact them by phone or letter or card to let them know you are thinking of them.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING AND TABLE TOP SALE SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 10.30 AM TO 12 NOON



**GOOD AS NEW SOFT TOYS
BOOKS, PUZZLES & BRIC-A-BRAC
CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS
TEAS, COFFEES & CAKES**

**SPEAK TO DAWN
TO BOOK A TABLE**

**A WARM SPACE FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT
FREE ADMISSION – EVERYONE WELCOME!**



ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE: SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER AT 11.00 AM

On the third Sunday of each month, our service, which will include Communion, will be for **all members of our Family – young and old**. Please come along to worship our Lord with all members of our Church family.



MISSION FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER EARLSFIELD FOOD BANK COMMUNION SERVICE 17TH NOVEMBER

While you read this newsletter and perhaps reach for your cuppa, think about how you might be able to help the Earlsfield Foodbank. Doreen Dorman volunteers every Thursday and would be happy to tell you what she does and what the Foodbank needs. There is a collection box in the Church foyer for tins, jars and packets of food and toiletries.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, please use the Communion Offering envelope in the pews and place it in the offering plate on any Sunday in November.

Be with Jesus - Become like Jesus - Do what Jesus did



JOINT BB/GB REUNION SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER



Over 40 people gathered to enjoy reminiscing, coffee, tea, cakes and a delicious lunch. There was much chatter and laughter and we raised money for two charities – the 'Alzheimer's Society' in memory of Shirley Saker and 'Young Lives' which helps young people with mental health problems.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Thank you to everyone involved in preparing for and leading our Sunday services. They don't 'just happen'.

1 Corinthians 12 v 12-31 - please take a moment to read the passage again.

"¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ **Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.**"

In other words, we are all essential parts of the body - each of us is needed to make a healthy body (the Church).

You could help every week or just once a month will take pressure off the Leadership Team.

Please be encouraged to come in person to Sunday services in Church at 11.00 am or to Comfort on Sundays at 6.30 pm so that you can physically meet others in our Church Family. Morning services continue to be available on Zoom if you are unable to attend in person. Here are the joining instructions:

- **Join Zoom Meeting from computer or device**
 - <https://zoom.us/j/98894345143?pwd=eUdkNWJFakl2Q044V1JBZEdrMFh1dz09>
 - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143
 - Passcode: 769098

- **Dial in from landline phone – standard rates apply**
 - 020 8080 6591 or 020 8080 6592
 - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143 followed by #
 - Participant number: this can be bypassed with #
 - Passcode: 769098 followed by #