

Barnet Brookside Methodist Church

The Messenger

June 2015

Farewells and End of Eras

This is a time of farewell and changes at Barnet Brookside.

We are now entering the last 6 weeks of the ministry of Revd Colin Smith who has been part of our church family for the last 14 years and has overseen significant change in the life of the church with the three stages of redevelopment of Brookside, the integration of High Barnet and Brookside churches, the setting up of the East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership to name but a few.

We will have a number of opportunities to say farewell but the main event will be on Saturday 11th July from 7pm at Brookside, where we will be holding a social gathering with buffet and barbeque. The other events are advertised inside.

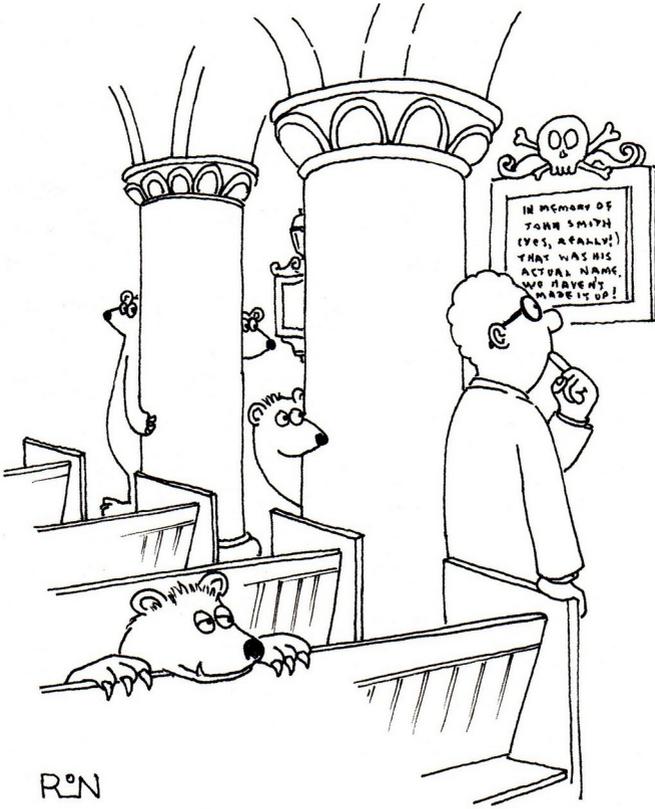
The circuit have been unsuccessful in the search for a new minister for us and Manor Drive, so for the next year we will have ministerial cover provided by Revd Shaun Sanders and Revd David Newton. Revd Michael Giles will be taking over as Superintendent. We will enter the next years stationing process in September.

We also saw the last meeting of the Wesley Guild in May due to diminishing numbers turning up on a weekly basis. Thanks must be expressed to Doreen Clixby and Vivienne Davies and all those before them who have organised such a wonderful varied programme. The Church Council will look at ways of hopefully carrying on the social elements and external speakers in a different format in due course.

This brings me to the last farewell on my list - and that is this magazine. Over the last couple of years it has been getting ever more difficult to fill the magazine with new and exciting things and with the closure of Wesley Guild my stalwart reporter Edward Eldred will have less to report on and the ministerial meanders will stop after this magazine. We had a discussion at the AGM and we will be publishing articles on the website - www.barnetbrookside.co.uk and we will look at having an expanded set of notices on a regular basis to advertise forthcoming events and reports on things that have happened.

Graham Wheeler, Editor

June 2015



Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

This is my last letter in the church magazine as Methodist minister in High Barnet and East Barnet after 14 years of ministry.

Strangely I am writing it in Rome.



I am writing it from a desk which has a superb view of St. Peter's and the Vatican, but I am very aware of the presence in this City of a huge variety of Christians.



On Ascension day I went to a wonderful ecumenical service at the Lutheran church in Rome. The preacher was a Lutheran bishop who wore a huge Jacobean style ruff round her neck. There were Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Waldensians, Anglicans, Romanian orthodox all taking part. I did not understand much of what was being said but it was a profound experience.

Earlier in the week I had met Muslims, Jews and a Buddhist.

This morning I took the Sunday morning service at the Ponte Sant' Angelo Methodist Church, an English speaking church at the heart of Rome and very close to the Vatican. The congregation is made up of Filipinos, Africans, Italians and visitors from all over the world - this morning from the United States, Hong Kong and Sussex. The singing was fantastic and the hymns traditional.



I have enjoyed my time in Barnet enormously, partly because of the great variety and diversity of the people I've got to know. I have lived longer in Barnet than I have lived anywhere else. I will miss it and all the people.

I am looking forward to a new beginning in Cambridge but will miss you all greatly.

I began this letter with the words 'Dear Friends' and I do mean that word. I have been amongst friends these last 14 years. Thank you for everything.

Very best wishes

Colin

Congregation Items



Joyce Sweet wishes to express thanks for all the cards, condolences and prayers she and her family have received on the death of her beloved daughter Christine.

Wesley Guild

At the closing of the Wesley Guild, Doreen and Vivienne would like to thank the members who have so loyally supported us over the years. We would also like to thank all friends at Brookside who have given of their time, year after year, to come and entertain us. We shall miss you all.



Vivienne Davies & Doreen Clixby

On behalf of the church, I would like to thank Vivienne and Doreen for all the time and effort they have made over the years in arranging the Guild Programme and organising the evenings. It is very much appreciated.

Graham Wheeler - Church Council Secretary



Time to Say Goodbye

Saturday 11th July - 7pm

Farewell Party at Brookside

Sunday 12th July

Colin's last services

09:45 - Wesley Hall - 10:45 - Brookside

The Festival of Purim

Warmly welcomed at the Wesley Guild by Colin, Rabbi Barry Lerer of Barnet United Synagogue returned again providing further insights into Jewish life and customs. The Rabbi recalled a recent Festival of Purim by all accounts a very colourful affair. 'It was a very enjoyable time, a day of fun. We all wore circus dresses, I was dressed as a ringmaster and my wife as a clown'.

Purim we heard is a festival of Jewish deliverance, the story is told in the Book of Esther (q.v.). Apart from sartorial frivolity, family and friends gather to enjoy a festive meal with drinks and to provide for charities. During the reading aloud of Esther, every time the name of Haman the Amalekite is mentioned, the children furiously sound their rattles; for Haman is the arch villain of the narrative; briefly recounted here : -

“King Ahasuerus who reigned over provinces from India to Ethiopia, commands his wife Queen Vashti to come to a banquet of great splendour at the royal palace. When she refuses to attend the king was beside himself with anger. Subsequently the most beautiful young virgins were brought to the king's harem to find a replacement for Vashti. Mordecai was a Jew and the cousin of Esther, a Jewish girl 'fair and beautiful' “(NRSV). She was brought before the king, soon won his favour and eventually became his queen. Mordecai received an administrative position in the king's service. Enter Haman the Amalekite, the king's prime minister before whom Mordecai refuses to bow.

Haman (rattles must be noisiest at this point) plots not only the killing of Mordecai but the slaughter of all Jews in the kingdom. Our heroine Esther pleads with the king, the plot is foiled and Haman is sentenced to death.

The Amalekites were hostile to the Jews, Rabbi Lerer describing the word 'amalek' as a 'mind set' the embodiment of the powers of darkness. Indeed! - read again Esther 3 v. 13 (which could have been written for a heinous conference of more recent years) Haman's edict verbatim' giving orders to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews young and old, women and children and to plunder their goods... '

Thankfully when asked re local anti Semitism Rabbi Barry would recall few incidents.

He described Colin as 'not only a friend' but 'someone who supported our synagoguethe landscape is going to change when you leave'.



Photo: www.barnetsynagogue.org.uk

Edward Eldred.

Rafiki Village in Ghana

Eleven-year-old Asilevi Kekeli takes a moment to think when I ask him what his favourite subject is at school. We are sitting under the central canopy in Rafiki Village, a Methodist-run home and school for orphans in Ghana. His classmates are singing a song of welcome to David Friswell, World Church Relationships Team Leader, and the Revd William Davies, chaplain to the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship in Britain.

“My favourite subject is RME,” Asilevi tells me quietly. “Religious and moral education. I want to be a pastor when I grow up.”

The Very Revd Ekow Sey is the Director of Rafiki Village and has no doubt influenced Asilevi’s ambitions for the future. He became director when the Methodist Church in Ghana took over the funding and running of the orphanage from the Rafiki Foundation in America.

Founded in 2006, Rafiki Village can cater for up to 50 children. Grants, such as those given by the World Mission Fund in Britain, have helped to assist the Methodist Church in Ghana’s continued support for the 35 children living permanently at the village, and the five day-school pupils who come in from the nearby area to attend the village’s pre-schools. There are plans to expand the facilities for up to 100 children as soon as the Methodist Church in Ghana receives the financial assistance it needs to start the development.

“We had one case where the mother of triplets died during childbirth,” Ekow explains. “The children were in danger of being killed because the community where they are from sees triplets as a bad omen.” He passes me a photograph of three toddlers sitting on a stoop wearing little clothing. “When we took them in they were malnourished,” he continues. “A year later, when their father came here to visit them, he wept

because he could see the transformation.” A second photograph showing three healthy-looking boys standing steadily on their feet clearly demonstrates the triplets’ transformation.

Under the canopy, sitting near to Asilevi, is eleven-year-old Naomi Haruna. She tells me she wants to be a nurse when she grows up. I am not surprised when I learn that Ekow’s wife, Eunice, is a professional nurse working part time at a local government hospital when she is not helping her husband at the village. Eunice is a career role model to girls like Naomi, as well as a maternal figure to the orphans whom she sees as her grandchildren. As we leave the grounds, having said our goodbyes, I turn to glance again at the motto underneath the welcome sign: “Rafiki Village,” it reads: “Home For Future .

Karen Burke

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Ministerial Meanderings

These meanderings are from Rome. I am here for my annual holiday but also to stand in for a Sunday for my friend Tim Macquiban. He and Angela are back in England for a long weekend. As well as being responsible for the Sunday service I'm also cat sitting, looking after an ancient, deaf cat called Piero. He is asleep most of the time in the Roman heat!



On my arrival here I was whisked by taxi from the airport to the Catholic lay centre for a seminar. We were given seats in the front row labelled 'diplomatic corps' and when the Latvian ambassador arrived late she had to find somewhere else to sit.



The theme of the seminar was 'Creating a culture of Peace: what can religions do?' The main speaker was a very senior Archbishop from the Vatican. The best speaker was the British Ambassador to the Holy See.

The audience was largely made up of young Islamic scholars and it was a joy to meet them later over supper. Many of them came from the Cambridge Muslim College and their leader invited me to go and speak about Methodism in the autumn.

A couple of evenings later I went to the Centro Pro Unione for a lecture held in a very grand room where, at Vatican II the ecumenical visitors met to confer. The speaker was a distinguished American rabbi and his theme was 'Violence: a Jewish perspective'. Unfortunately he didn't say much about his topic.



On Ascension Day, as I describe elsewhere, I attended an ecumenical service at the Lutheran church in Rome and a party in their garden afterwards. I can only

commend Lutheran hospitality. There wasn't a sausage roll or a scotch egg in sight.



.... from our Foreign Correspondent



We walked back across the City via the Spanish Steps and the most expensive fashion shops in Rome. Why would anyone spend a fortune on such ghastly clothes? But I must be careful, the Gucci family palace is next door but one to where I'm writing this. We have a better roof garden though!

Yesterday I walked a few miles along the banks of the Tiber to find the Milvio bridge. No tourists go there but it is the scene of events which changed the world. In the year 312 the Emperor Constantine did battle at the bridge (and part of that bridge still stands). The night before the battle he had a vision of a particular kind of cross and his army went into battle with that symbol next day. They won and Constantine promoted Christianity in the Empire. He founded Constantinople as his great Christian capital and Christianity eventually became the state religion throughout the empire. Our existence as Christians today owes a lot to the battle fought at the Ponte Milvio but there is no memorial there to the great event.



I have also been to the Napoleon museum round the corner. It must have the largest collection of Napoleon busts in the world but he never actually set foot in Rome.



Later I went to a concert of Latin American music at the Portuguese church.

It's hot and I'm not rushing around, just pottering and occasionally joining the cat for a snooze.

Colin Smith

Colin at Wesley Guild

Arranging a small selection from his library on the lounge coffee bar, Colin began his final talk at the Wesley Guild.

John Wesley we heard 'published more books, journals and letters than anyone in the eighteenth century....his brother Charles wrote countless hymns, some of the greatest poetry'. Associating painter and poet William Blake (1757-1827) with engravings and pictures, most of us knew little of his religious affinities. In 'Blake and the Methodists' a recent publication by Michael Farrel we learnt of Blake's sympathies with certain aspects of Methodism especially as preached by John Wesley.

Patrick Bronte, father of the literary siblings, was an Irish Anglican clergyman sympathetic to Methodism. Anne Bronte's hymns are found in Methodist hymn books one of which survives in H&P 708 -

*Believe not those who say
The upward path is smooth,
Lest thou shouldst stumble in the way
And faint before the truth.*

*It is the only road
Unto the realms of joy;
But he who seeks that blest abode
Must all his powers employ.*

*Arm, arm thee for the fight!
Cast useless loads away;
Watch through the darkest hours of night;
Toil through the hottest day.*

*To labour and to love,
To pardon and endure,
To lift thy heart to God above,
And keep thy conscience pure -*

*Be this thy constant aim,
Thy hope, thy chief delight;
What matter who should whisper blame
Or who should scorn or slight,*

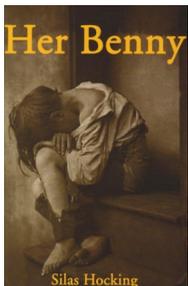
*If but thy God approve,
And if, within thy breast,
Thou feel the comfort of his love,
The earnest of his rest?*

Anne Bronte (1820-49)
© Public Domain

From Charlotte's social novel Shirley, Colin read a description of a prayer meeting at Briar Chapel, a large and raw place of Wesleyan worship. Darkness had fallen, the illumination from the windows casting bright reflections in the road: -

Prayers were attended by 'clamorous groaning' and hymns met by 'rousing cheering' e.g. 'What mercy is this, what a heaven of bliss' and 'Oh who can explain this trouble and for life. This travail and pain. This trembling and strife'.

Leaving these clangourous supplications we heard from George Eliot (1819 -1880) and Adam Bede, 'the one novel that portrays the Methodists positively'. Dinah Morris was a young Methodist lay preacher (apparently easy on the eye) who comes to preach on the green at the fictional village of Hayslope. Though reservations attended the appropriateness of a woman preacher, great excitement surrounded the event. Apparently Dinah's gentle manner and sincerity won the hearts of the villagers. Many of us by this time feeling like the great unread, hadn't heard of Methodist clergymen Silas and Joseph Hocking, highly popular novelists at the end of the nineteenth century. We finished with Silas's 'Her Benny' concerning social and religious problems, Colin reading some of the opening lines about a child match seller on the windswept streets of Liverpool.



'I wish Benny would come she said to herself. I wonder what has kept him?' and she wrapped her tattered clothes more closely round her and looked eagerly....but no Benny appeared in sight. Poor little waif! Her own mother she could not remember. She had only known a step mother, a cruel drunken woman and alas her father was no better. Almost as soon as she could walk she had been sent out into the streets with her brother Benny to get her living as best she could. At the time our story opens Nelly is nine years of age and Benny a year older. Never knowing a parent's love the affection of these two children had gone out to each other. Each to each was more than all the world.

Benny had not come and into the child's heart came a feeling of unutterable loneliness and she began to cry....'

Sadly this last evening with Colin addressing the Guild was quickly spent. Timeless classics and other works had provided new insights into Methodist history. A vivid glimpse of the hurrah of nineteenth century Wesleyan worship and another of the child poverty once commonplace on our city streets will remain with us.

Edward Eldred.

**If you like delicious puddings and
country dancing then why not come to our**

PUDDING DANCE

**SATURDAY 20th JUNE 2015
4-7pm**

**Manor Drive Methodist Church
York Way, London N20 0DZ**

**Country dancing
with LIVE music
and well-known caller
CHRIS TURNER**

**Tickets £5 inc. choice of puddings
Contact Ralph on 020 8521 1911**

Community Fish

Margaret and I visited a restaurant late last year and they had a Tropical Fish Tank. We were fascinated and Margaret said, "why don't we get one?!" As I always do what I'm told we toddled off to Wildwoods at Crews Hill and had a look. They were very helpful and we came away with an aquarium and several Community Fish. Over the next few months we learnt about Mollies, Guppies and Tetras, Ph water levels, filters and much more. The key to successful fish keeping is not to overfeed them. The fish get on very well together, hence "Community Fish". All sorts of colours and sizes they spend their time swimming around living in harmony. We even have a Pleco Fish called Rodney (don't ask why!) who keeps the tank clean. He is an algae eater and he even eats the dead fish when they die which they seem to do quite often!

It is said fish only have the attention span of a few seconds but the ones we have certainly know when it's feeding time and certainly know how to exist in a community with harmony. If only human beings followed their example.

John Mason

When God finished His work on creation we read: "God looked at everything He has made, and it was very good (Genesis 1:31). God with what He had made, just as artists get pleasure from their work. There is a lot of

On the lighter side ...

Noah started building several arks for different animals. One was a split level job for all the fish - A multi-storey carp ark.

Which fish go to heaven when they die? - Angelfish

Why are fish cleverer than humans? - Ever seen a fish spend a fortune trying to hook a human!



ICTHUS: Fish are often mentioned in the Gospels.

This is not unusual as Jesus carried out a lot of His teaching in Galilee, some of His disciples were fishermen and fish must have been a staple diet of the area.

Many Christians believe the fish symbol can be used as a symbol for Christianity. The Greek word for fish is an acrostic which can be translated as "Jesus, Son of God, Saviour" - **I**eous: **J**esus **C**hristos: **C**hrist **T**Heou: **G**od **U**io: **S**on **S**oter: Saviour). The symbol was simple to draw and was often used among Christians as a type of password during times of persecution by the Romans

beauty in our world, and this includes creatures that live in the sea, many of which are very colourful. God really loves variety!

Cont'd overpage

God loves variety



Many of the most colourful fish live in deep water, but they can be seen in aquariums or sea-life centres.

Evolution can't explain how all these fish came to be with so much variety, but the bible gives an answer: "Speak to the earth, and it will teach you. Or let the fish of the sea tell you. Every one of these knows that the hand of the Lord has done this" (Job 12:8-9).

There is much beauty in the world, but there are also bad things which were not there in the beginning. God's creation has been spoilt because we humans turned away from Him in the beginning.

All of us has a part in this since we have all done wrong. But God sent his Son who died on the Cross to bring us forgiveness. He rose again, and returned to heaven, but He will come to earth again, and the whole of creation will be restored to its original beauty. We can be part of that new creation by putting our faith in Jesus now.

John Mason

Just for fun

One Sunday morning a mother went in to wake her son and tell it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going" "why not?" she asked. I'll give you two good reasons," he said 1) They don't like me and 2) I don't like them!

His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church:

1) you are 56 years old and 2) You're the Minister!"

A Rabbi and a Roman Catholic Priest met at the town's annual lunch party. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious" the priest teased the Rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know its against your religion, but I can't understand why such wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you are missing! Tell me Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your Wedding."

Report from the Annual Church Meeting

The Annual meeting took place in the new refurbished Wyburn Hall on the Tuesday 28th April.

The meeting was opened for the last time by Revd Colin Smith with a prayer and he welcomed Revd Sam Korn, assistant curate at St. Mary's East Barnet who was representing Revd James Mustard who had sent his apologies.

The first part of the meeting was the election of Stewards and the Congregation representatives to the Church Council.

Christine Setchell has agreed to be the senior steward and Gwen Jones has agreed to join the stewards team. Robin Dyer has also agreed to be the steward rep for Celebration following the Rob & Jenny Noble recent move away from Barnet.

The 2015/16 stewards team is:

- Christine Setchell (Senior)
- Edward Eldred
- Lyn Forster
- Gwen Jones
- Millie Manywanga
- Dianne Mills
- Derrick Setchell
- Robin Dyer (Celebration)

Graham Wheeler was thanked for all his work as interim Senior Steward following from Mick Brandrick's resignation earlier in the year.

The AGM can appoint up to 6 representatives to the Church Council. This year only 3 people volunteered:

- Vivienne Davies
- Eddie Thompson
- Mick Brandrick

The meeting agreed that they should be appointed and that the church council can co-opt up to 3 more people if desired.

The next item on the agenda was a report on where we are in looking for a replacement for Colin from August.

It was noted that we did have a minister matched but it was decided not to offer the position and no successful matches were made in the subsequent rounds and the appointment was removed from the matching process in March.

From September the Superintendency will be moving to Revd Michael Giles in the Finchley section; Revd Shaun Sanders will be the minister responsible for Barnet Brookside and Revd David Newton, will be providing 40% of his time to provide pastoral support for Brookside & Manor Drive.

AGM Report Cont'd

The vacancy will be an opportunity to invite other preachers to take services over the year along with local arrangements.

A new application for minister for Brookside, Wesley Hall and Manor Drive will go into the next years round in September.

The meeting then went on to review the report on the life of the church, rather than the normal annual report this year, Colin produced a report on his 14 years at Barnet Brookside reflecting on the highs and lows in each section and supplied a set of questions where appropriate for the church to look at and think about. An initial review and discussion took place and a much more in depth review will take place at the church council meeting in September.

One highlight that Colin expressed was the thanks from the meeting to Vivienne Davies and Doreen Clixby for their sterling service to the Wesley Guild over the years, and noted the closing of the Guild following diminishing numbers. (Copies of the report are still available and if you have any thoughts on them please pass them onto a Church Council member to have them included in the forthcoming discussion)

We then moved onto a discussion about publicising the church .

As noted in the editorial on the front of the magazine, it was agreed that this will be the last edition of the magazine. Instead, from September we will enhance the use of the website to report on activities and forthcoming events, and will produce enhanced notices on a regular basis to include reports and advertising of activities. The meeting also noted that we have a Social Media presence using Facebook but it was felt that there wasn't a need to have a Twitter presence.

Next we reported on the building Works - at the last AGM we viewed various options relating to the upgrading of the halls and kitchen, and following this a formal scheme was worked up and presented to the Church Council in June who approved the scheme and Cuttles commenced work in mid-July with an expected completion date in early September. Unfortunately the works took much longer than expected and eventually due to unexpected additional works the costs finally came in at £193,000. The work has been deemed a great success and apart from a small amount of 'snagging' still to be completed the work has been done. It was also reported that there are still things that need to be done – we need new chairs and smaller go-pak tables for Wyburn Hall and where we now have a wonderful kitchen space we need to fit it out with appropriate cooking equipment and new crockery. We also need to spend some money in tidying up the Jackson Room but this can only be done though when we have the raised some money – ideally

through some social activities (the lack of which was mentioned in Colin's report). Graham Wheeler & Sally Wickenden in particular were thanked for the amount of time and effort that they spent on the project over the summer to ensure that it stayed on track and that the lets that could were incorporated in the rest of the building.

Next we looked at Finance & Fund Raising - both Brookside and Wesley Hall are breaking even, but both places need to increase their incomes. The staff at Wesley Hall are actively looking for ways to decrease the expenditure and trying to increase the number of lets. As mentioned earlier we need to still purchase items for the halls at Brookside and we can only do this by fund raising. It was also noted that Brookside's income from room letting has come down significantly last year partly due to the works over the summer and from the loss of a couple of long term lets.

The meeting received information that in 2014 £631.26 was raised for World Mission, £720.69 to MWiB and £765.84 was raised for Mission in Britain.

Finally Derrick Setchell presented a motion to the meeting which was endorsed by all those present. The motion reads:

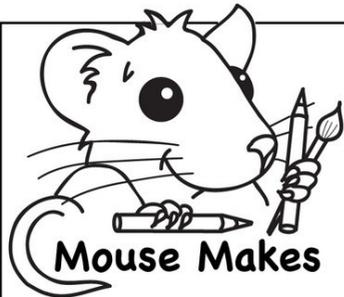
“This Annual Church Meeting unanimously thanks the Revd Colin Smith for his 14 years of leadership and service which have been outstanding in respect of:

- **The unfailing excellence of his conduct of our acts of worship and sacraments**
- **His dedication, patience and compassion in pastoral work of all kinds**
- **The vision and determination with which he has improved our premises and enhanced the life of the church**
- **The success of his initiatives in outreach to fellow Christians, new Christians and to those of other faiths (and of none)**
- **His exceptional wisdom and effectiveness as Superintendent**

Every member of Barnet Brookside Methodist Church can add to this list individual ways in which Colin has strengthened them in faith and church membership. Truly, we have been blessed to have you as our Presbyter and friend and offer our prayers and good wishes for your new appointment at Cambridge. We recognise the challenge that we face to ensure that all the good things that your self-sacrifice and energy have brought about in God's work in this church and circuit may be sustained in the future. We cannot thank you enough.”

Colin closed the meeting with a prayer

Graham Wheeler - Church Council Secretary



There was a time when the whole **world** spoke **one** language. Everyone used the same **words**. Then they said to each other, "Let's make some **bricks** of **clay** and **bake** them in the fire."

They used these bricks as stones and they used **tar** as mortar. Then the people said, "Let's **build** ourselves a **city** and a **tower** that will reach the **sky**, then we will be **famous**."

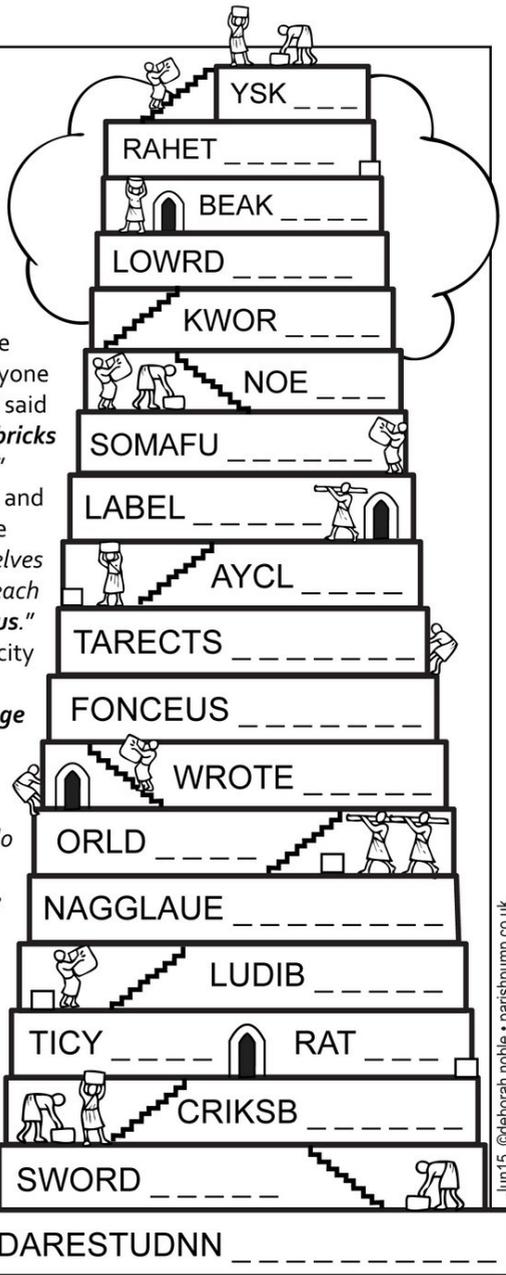
The **Lord** came down to see the city and the tower and said, "These people all speak the same **language** and I see that they are joined together to do this **work**. This is only the beginning of what they can do, soon they will be able to do anything they want. Let's go down and **confuse** their language then they will not be able to **understand** each other."

So people stopped building the city and the **Lord** **scattered** them all over the **earth**.

That is the place where the **Lord** confused the language of the whole world.

That is why it is called **Babel**.

The words in **bold** in the story have become jumbled up on the tower, can you unjumble them?



READ Genesis 11:1-9

Jun15 ©deborah noble - parisstpump.co.uk

Alban - The First Christian Martyr in Britain

A 'martyr' is someone who has died for the faith - the word literally means 'witness'. He was probably killed during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian in the early years of the fourth century, in the late stages of the Roman occupation of Britain. His martyrdom took place in the amphitheatre outside the Roman city of Verulamium, which is now St Albans, in Hertfordshire.



The church historian Bede, writing six hundred years after Alban's death, records that Alban was a Roman citizen (possibly a soldier) who gave shelter to a priest who was being hunted by the Romans. During the priest's stay in his home, Alban was converted to the Christian faith. When the soldiers eventually tracked the priest down, they arrived at Alban's house and insisted on searching it. What they found was Alban dressed in the priest's clothes, while their real prey escaped. They arrested Alban and demanded that he make a sacrifice to the Emperor - a common test of loyalty. He refused. He was then condemned to death and taken into the amphitheatre, which still stands in the fields below St Alban's Abbey, to be put to death. One of his executioners was converted, Bede claims, but the other one took a sword and beheaded him.

He was buried nearby, on a site where a shrine was later erected. In the early fifth century two Continental bishops, Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, were sent to Britain and record that they visited the shrine of Alban at Verulamium. The date of their visit was given as 429.

The martyrdom of Alban is a reminder that Christianity was planted first in these islands during the Roman occupation, though it was all but extinguished in England in the dark centuries that followed, until people like David, Cuthbert and the other Celtic missionaries restored the faith in many parts of the land - especially in the north. The fact that his shrine existed and was venerated right through to the time of Bede also demonstrates that the faith did not die out completely, even in the south of England.

Not a great deal is known about Alban apart from the story of his martyrdom, but what we do know is probably enough to give him a substantial claim to be the patron saint of England ahead of the foreigner George. The magnificent abbey dedicated to him in St Albans is, of course, a permanent reminder of his place in the nation's story.

Alban should be the patron saint of anyone who impulsively offers to help a stranger in need... and finds their own life turned upside down as a result. The story goes that Alban was a Roman citizen quietly living in England in the third century. Then, miles away in Rome, the emperor, Diocletian ordered a persecution

of the Christians. Nothing to do with Alban... except that suddenly he found a desperate priest on his doorstep, being hunted down by local soldiers. Alban decided to give the priest shelter, and within days was converted to Christianity himself, and then baptised.

As if this was not brave enough, when the soldiers arrived, Alban decided to take the priest's place. He dressed up in the priest's clothes to enable the priest to escape. Not surprisingly, the soldiers then arrested Alban himself. Now a Christian, Alban refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and so was condemned to death.

But the story doesn't end there, for Alban went to his execution with such holiness and serenity that one of the executioners was converted, and the other executioner's eyes fell out (or so the story goes). Alban was buried nearby, and the shrine built to his memory was soon known for its healing powers. Alban's cult extended all over England, and nine ancient English churches were dedicated to him.



Parish Pump

Sunday 19th July - 6:30pm

Circuit Farewell Service at Brookside



Led by

Revd Shaun Sanders & Revd Colin Smith

Preacher:

**Revd Gareth Powell
Secretary-Designate
of the Methodist Conference**

Followed by refreshments



DADDY?

You know how sometimes we mishear things? A little boy that I know said that they had sung 'Away in a Manger' in the Nativity play at his preschool. He was convinced from singing this carol that Jesus had another name because he had heard it as 'little George Jesus asleep in the hay'.

In the same way a little girl said that she knew God's name because every time people said the Lord's Prayer she heard it as 'Harold be thy name'.

When Jesus gave us the prayer we call The Lord's Prayer he told us what to call God – you can read about it in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 6, verses 5-15.

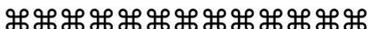
The word that Jesus used for 'Our Father' was 'Abba' which is the way that children then spoke to their father, like we use the word Daddy now. Every time we say the prayer we remember that God is our loving father.



FOUR OF A KIND



Can you find a common English word of 8 letters which contains 4 Gs? Here is a clue... it's a laughing matter. Answer at the bottom of the page.



What do they call ministers in Germany?

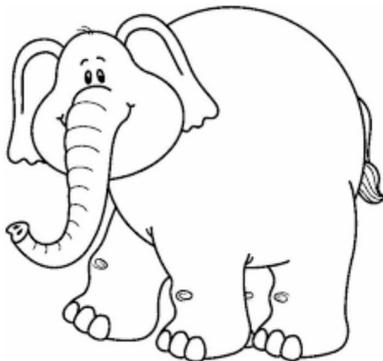
German Shepherds.

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Samson. He brought the house down.

Who was the first person in the Bible?

Chap One.



Why does an elephant use his trunk as a bookmark?

That way he always nose where he stopped reading.

What do you call someone with an elephant on their head?

Squashed!



Answer: giggling

Services

7th June	09:45 10:45	WH B	Local Arrangement Revd Dr. Jenny King
14th June	09:45 10:45	WH B	Revd Colin Smith George Franklin
21st June	09:45 10:45	WH B	Revd Colin Smith - Holy Communion Revd Colin Smith - Holy Communion
28th June	09:45 10:45	WH B	Revd Dr. Jenny King Local Arrangement - All Age Worship
5th July	09:45 11:30	WH St.M	Local Arrangement EBF United Songs of Praise Service
12th July	09:45 10:45 18:30	WH B St.M	Revd Colin Smith - Holy Communion Revd Colin Smith Revd Colin Smith - Evensong
19th July	09:45 10:45 18:30	WH B B	Local Arrangement NO MORNING SERVICE Circuit Farewell Service for Revd Colin Smith
26th July	09:45 10:45	WH B	Revd Dr. Jenny King - Holy Communion Revd Shaun Sanders
2nd Aug	10:45	B	Diana Jones
9th Aug	10:45	B	Revd David Newton - Holy Communion
16th Aug	10:45	B	Farai Muchuchuti (Joint Service with MD)
23rd Aug	10:45	B	Revd Dr. Jenny King
30th Aug	10:00	MD	Robert Alderman (Joint Service)

(B - Brookside, WH - Wesley Hall, St.M - St. Mary's, MD - Manor Drive)

CHURCHILLS

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

263 East Barnet Road EN4 8SX

Tel: 020 8440 1413

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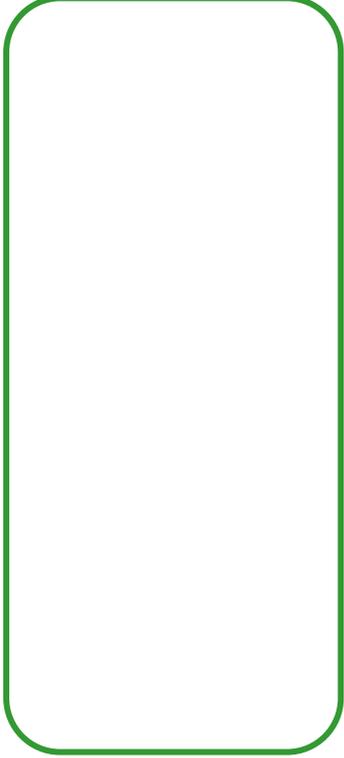
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A caring and personal service at all times

Established in East Barnet since 1999


The Methodist Church
Barnet Brookside

Part of the East Barnet Anglican Methodist Partnership



**Farewell to
The Messenger.
Information and articles
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