

ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter

No 8 June 2018



A PEOPLE OF HOPE

A year on from the Grenfell Tower fire, for many people it can still be hard to be hopeful: the tower is still grotesquely visible, many still wait to be rehoused, and thousands are still suffering the psychological effects, let alone the bereaved.

We do need to lament before we can be open to hope, but we still need to believe in its possibility, and to be defined by it ('always be ready to give an account of the hope that is in you', 1 Peter 3:16).

That means finding a way to come to terms with all the injustices and grudges we have, so that – without putting these aside – we (as a church, or a community) are not determined by our brokenness but for our abilities and potential. There is, of course, a long litany of grievances locally: the Westway, racism, K&C housing policy, and overcrowding among them. But I long for that day when our community will be seen not as victims of an appalling tragedy, or deprivation, but for our capacity to hope: to believe in a better world and to be active in making it appear. Our Easter faith is about belief in the victory of right from wrong, healing from brokenness, and hope from despair.

Mike Long

GRENFELL ANNIVERSARY – CHURCH EVENTS:

June 6 Launch of 'After the Fire' book by Alan Everett, and Theos report on the churches' response to the Grenfell Tower fire. (St Clements, 6.30pm)

June 13-14 Joint churches' 24-hour prayer vigil at St Clements

June 14: 5pm Joint Service at St Clement's, with the Bishop of Kensington Graham Tomlin presiding and Mike Long preaching

7pm Silent March leaves from outside the church

Iftar (breaking of the fast) and speeches at St Mark's Park

On **Saturday June 16** (3-6pm) we are holding a special **Thank You Event** to express our appreciation to all those in the church and community who were in any way involved in the relief effort. We'll have some free Caribbean food, among other things. Other events are also taking place locally.

Thanks to, and from, Richard Goldstraw

We said goodbye to Richard at the end of April. Here is his letter of thanks:

Just a line or two to say a very big thank you for all your kindnesses on the 29th April 2018 when I finished my time with you before my sabbatical and then move to High Wycombe.

I haven't bought a Hoover with the Circuit cheque but I do plan on adding to our collection of Kate Lycett pictures which show scenes around the Calder Valley in West Yorkshire in all their magnificence. Thank you to the Bible Study group for the voucher of one of my favourite stores – very thoughtful and generous of you; I will probably buy something for the new manse. The food and the cake were great – a lovely surprise!

In my last sermon I preached about abiding in the vine and our Lord as the gardener. Filled with early sabbatical enthusiasm, I decided to undertake some gardening, mowing the lawns, and promptly mowed through the mower chord; it's been repaired but not functioning properly! Maybe God is trying to tell me something!



My continued thoughts and prayers are with you all as you minister where God has placed you. Abiding in Him may you know His love, grace, hope and peace.

Kind thoughts and prayers

Deacon Richard

BUILDING WORKS UPDATE

Work started many weeks ago and appears to be proceeding smoothly, if noisily! The basement is out of action until September for the underpinning works, but we hope the lift will be working again by the end of June.

Ministry & Management Committee recently approved a new design for the toilets which will provide separate male and female facilities in the basement.

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The choir singing at Richard's last service



Staff Restructuring

After much thought and prayer the church has embarked on a programme of staff restructuring which will reorganise how we manage the various church and circuit properties. The immediate, and painful decision, has been to make the Facilities Manager and Property Administrator posts redundant, and to change the way we arrange the cleaning. This means that sadly Kevin and Caroline will be made redundant at the end of August, and Americo's role as our contract cleaner will also cease. Two new posts: Operations Manager and Caretaker will be created, and we will be advertising these very soon. In the meantime, prayers especially for Kevin, Caroline & Americo would be much appreciated.

NEWS ITEMS

We are pleased to have a student presbyter with us during June (6th – 15th): **Deacon Phil Osborne** will be working with us during this time and we hope he will find it a helpful and stimulating experience.

Andrew Sullivan has been recruited for a few weeks to assist with administrative support over the Grenfell Anniversary period.

The granite statue by Drew Edwards has been moved temporarily to the railings outside the church, and will return to its position against the wall by the door when the building works are completed.

Our summer **Seaside Outing** will be to Bournemouth on Saturday 23rd June. The church barbecue will be held at Kelfield Gardens on Saturday 7th July.

The next **Community Meeting** will be on June 17th, when we will appoint church stewards and reps to Ministry & Management Committee.

Bible Month

In June our service and Bible Study themes will explore the book of Jonah.