

Now!

at
**Bromley and Lee Green
United Reformed Churches**
August 2011



Guides and Fellow-Travellers

By Cecilia Yardley, Editor

As the front page of *Now!* carries images of summer and winter, we're reminded of the cycle of the seasons of growth, aging, death and renewal.

These things were on the mind of our dear Church Member, Pat Sharland, who died last month. On page three, you'll find the poem Pat carried with her which opens, "There's a season for beginnings.."

Joining Pat in heaven last month was British evangelical church leader, John Stott, who followed in the footsteps of King Ethelbert and St Augustine, the focus of Rev. Michael Camp's 'Under the collar' article, in spreading Christianity within and beyond these shores. Coming to England (specifically Bromley) in August is American Shane Claiborne, one of the most exciting young Christian voices to emerge in recent years.

We continue to pray for Town Centre Chaplain, Russell Chadwick, who led our service at the end of July, as he reaches out to local business and community leaders. And we wish Revd. David Morgan, the former Chaplain well as he moves on from our neighbours, Trinity URC, to settle into his new church surroundings on the south coast.

We respond to the pain of needless distress and death in Norway and East Africa through prayer (see pages 3 and 4). And we also give thanks for the many blessings God has given us including the ongoing work of the 5000 Project, the new friends coming into the building (recent new lets include a Brazilian Zumba Dancing Class and a Bellydancing Group!), the encouragement to press forward offered by improved finances and the faithfulness of our leaders and longstanding members, including Margaret Harrison shown celebrating her 80th birthday last month, who are both guides and fellow-travellers with us.

Success for our talented ladies at Bromley Floral Society's Annual Flower Show!

Abundance of colour
(1st Prize)
Eve Johnson ▶

Summer Meadow
(2nd Prize)
Janet Kite ▼



**The next Church Meeting is on
Sunday 18th September at
11.45 am**

Bromley URC Church Quiz

Saturday 24 September
6.45 for 7.00pm



**Tickets £8.50
including
Ploughman's
Platter from
church office**

**Teams of up to
eight people**

**Bring your own
drinks & nibbles**



Early Notice

This year's **Christmas Table Top Fair** will be on Saturday 12th November between 10.00 am – 2.00 pm. with the emphasis on Christmassy stuff! Please think about stalls or table tops – your own or helping with other people's – and we'll get going after the summer holidays.



Under the collar....

This month our 'Minister's View' comes from Rev. Michael Camp, Vicar at Bromley Parish Church

King Ethelbert

Being made an honorary Canon of the Cathedral was a very affirming and encouraging thing for me and I was delighted to be given such an honour.

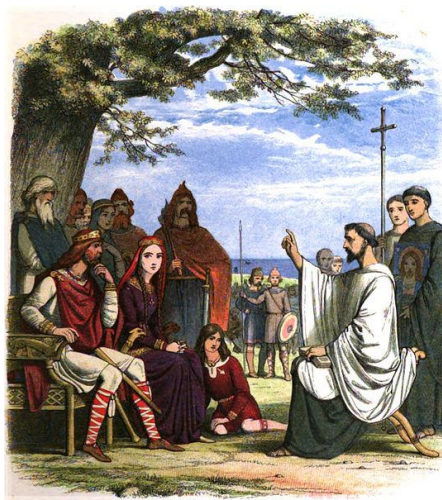
In practical terms it doesn't amount to very much, red buttons and my very own seat in the Cathedral are the only visible differences. All the Canon's stalls are named after significant figures in the life and history of the Diocese so there's one named for Justus, our first Bishop, another for Gundulf who built the Cathedral; one for John Fisher the Reformation Martyr Bishop and so on.

When I got back from holiday (which was lovely, thank you) I discovered that my seat was to be the one dedicated to Ethelbert.

Ethelbert was King of Kent from around AD560 until his death in about AD616. He was reputedly descended from Hengist who, with his brother Horsa was hired from the continent in the mid 5th century to help protect post Roman Britain from barbarian invasions. He landed at Pegwell Bay (not in a hovercraft!) and settled. Ethelbert himself became quite powerful and Bede says that he came to control the whole of England south of the Humber. He made a good political marriage with Bertha who was the daughter of the Frankish king Charibert, and a Christian.

Charibert insisted that his daughter be permitted to continue to practise her Christian faith and Ethelbert, though himself a worshipper of Odin, fulfilled this commitment even to the point of giving his wife the old Roman Church of St. Martin in his capital, Cantwaraburh (Canterbury).

All of this made Ethelbert's Kent a fertile place for Pope Gregory to begin his mission to 'Christianize' these islands and so it was that he sent Augustine to Bertha for her to introduce him to her husband, the most powerful figure in England.



Augustine preaching before Ethelbert

Ethelbert seems to have welcomed Augustine's mission warmly; he was himself Baptised soon after Augustine's arrival and he encouraged the missionaries and gave them land to build their first monastery. He didn't force his people to join him though many did.

By 601 Pope Gregory was writing to Ethelbert as his 'son' and referring to his earlier Baptism. In time Ethelbert was able to help Augustine extend his work and establish new Bishops in Rochester and London and it was Ethelbert who built the first Cathedral in Rochester.

Ever since the days of the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine it had been the case that the Church did well where it had a good relationship with the secular leaders. In one sense this is obvious but it's worth remembering and it underlines the significance of Ethelbert as the first British Christian King. The success of Augustine's mission was due in large part to the

support of Ethelbert and he was later Canonised (made a Saint, that is, not a mere Canon) in recognition of this massive role he played in the establishment of Christianity in our country.

I'm pleased to be associated with Ethelbert and as it turns out his feast day is near my birthday too!

Michael Camp



God our ruler and guide, we honour you for Queen Bertha and King Ethelbert of Kent who, gently persuaded by the truth of your Gospel, encouraged others by their godly example to follow freely the path of discipleship; and we pray that we, like them, may show the goodness of your Word not only by our words but in our lives; through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

<http://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/2011/05/27/morning-prayer-5-27-11-queen-bertha-king-ethelbert-of-kent-616/>



Our Christian Aid collection raised £62.50

Memories of Pat

Our dear friend Pat Sharland died peacefully in the Princess Royal Hospital last month. Her funeral is on Wednesday 3 August at 3pm for the committal at Beckenham Crematorium followed by a Celebration of Pat's Life, conducted by Revd. Terry Sparks at Bromley URC at 3.45pm.



Pat's Cousin, Lindsey, very kindly shared these thoughts, found on a little piece of paper that Pat was carrying around in her jacket pocket. The paper has the distinctive look of one of Dorothy Faulkner's encouraging words:

*There's a season for beginnings
when the world is fresh and new,
when we shape our dreams of all
the things we plan and hope to do.*

*A season for maturing
when we think and work and grow
and a season for the harvesting of
all we've come to know.*

*And each successive season
grows richer than the last,
as treasures of the present
add to memories of the past.*

Pat became a member of the church in 1945 and she touched all our lives.

Talking of memories, Russ and Elizabeth say that they will miss working out and discussing Bill's crossword answers with Pat on a Sunday morning.

Esther says, "My memory of Pat is that she was always smiling and telling me that nothing is too difficult for Him. Cecilia's lasting impression will be of Pat's stalwart help whenever sandwiches were to be made or tea was to be served. "I thought of her as a lady of true grit who never let her own needs get in the way of a commitment to the church."

Judy recalls, "Some years ago she nagged me to become a serving elder again, saying, 'We need someone young – you can do it!' A wonderful compliment because I already had my bus pass at the time.....". Stephen has remarked on the 'twinkle in her eye'. We loved her dearly and will miss her a very great deal. Our loving thoughts and condolences go out to Lindsey and Johnnie and all the family.

**True godliness does not
turn men out of the world, but
enables them to live better in it.**

William Penn

John Stott dies at 90

Extract from
www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/15183

Tributes from across the world and from Christians of widely differing backgrounds have been pouring in for British evangelical leader John Stott, who died at the end of July aged 90.

New York Times columnist David Brooks once famously wrote that if evangelicals chose a pope, they would likely select John Stott.

At the end of an interview published in 2006, John Stott concluded: "My hope is that in the future, evangelical leaders will ensure that their social agenda includes such vital but controversial topics as halting climate change, eradicating poverty, abolishing armories of mass destruction, responding adequately to the AIDS pandemic, and asserting the human rights of women and children in all cultures. I hope our agenda does not remain too narrow."



A Big Thank You from Phill and Stillness Junior School for all the World War II books ☺

Thank you, also, to Terry and Pauline for their generous invitation to a Garden Party at the Manse on Saturday 13th August, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Cecilia asks, "Does anyone want to join me at **An Evening with Shane Claiborne** on Wednesday 31 August at Bromley Baptist Church?

"I've been inspired by Shane's writings over the past year and have used them in a service I led at Bromley URC. Part of a community called the Simple Way that lives in downtown Philadelphia, Claiborne has written extensively on issues relating to discipleship, justice and peace-making. He is an engaging and provocative speaker with a vital message for today's church."

A prayer for Norway

God our saviour,
we pray with those in Norway who are shocked, grieving or in pain.
In your mercy, look on this wounded world,
and hold us closely to your promise of hope
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Pray for East Africa



One of Cecilia's friends is helping the Christian charity, Mission Aviation Fellowship, to promote a prayer campaign for East Africa. If you have any suggestions about how to encourage more people to join in this prayer movement, please pass ideas to Cecilia. Here's an extract from their website: http://www.maf-uk.org/Pray_for_East_Africa/6939.id

We invite you to join us in praying for the growing famine crisis in East Africa.

Our staff and fleet of seven aircraft based in Kenya are working with aid agencies to deliver help to where it is most needed, both now and in the long-term.

The situation is heartbreaking and the scale of the required global relief efforts is vast, but we believe that our compassionate God is in control and listens to the prayers of His people.

Pray for:

- Effective and efficient mobilisation of resources by nations, governments and organisations to meet the needs in East Africa
- Wisdom for all those involved in decision making in how to plan the famine response
- Great cooperation between organisations on the ground working to assist those in need, and efficiency in distributing supplies
- For our Kenya programme, as they seek to respond to the increased demand upon their service
- For protection over our staff, and grace as they work under pressure to optimise MAF's ability to respond
- For people in remote locations, far from the main food distribution points – help their need to be made known and MAF to reach them at their place of need
- For protection over our planes – that there will be no unexpected engineering needs

To join the prayer movement, visit www.maf-uk.org/prayermovement

"Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD.' (Psalm 12:5;NIV)

Lord God, creator and giver of all that is,
defender and protector of those in need,
we ask you to bring the peoples of East Africa
beneath your loving care.

Their children are hungry and their land is dry.

Lord God, bringer of hope,
your love brings water to flow in the desert
and light into the darkness of despair.

Show us how to be witnesses to your love
and bearers of your light,
alongside our sisters and brothers,
who face the urgent challenges
and terrible fears of lasting drought.

Linda Jones/CAFOD

Alone by Dolly Baldwin

In my loneliness I reach out,
Grasping all the love I can get.
For as I've aged love's disappeared,
Endurance has taken it's stand
At times I have no identity,
My name is seldom called
I am there to make the numbers up
That seems my one only reward
I speak, no one answers me
They're far too busy for that
Have little time to listen to me yet
have time for the cat.

.....
Why don't you turn and speak to me?
Or glance my way that I might see
That someone cares that I am there
When all around seems bleak and bare.
I am a person, though growing old
Many stories I could unfold,
I've even been, where you stand now,
In my prime, oh, how I planned.
Spare some time and you will see
How human I can really be.

To read about Dolly's life, see page five.

Russell Chadwick the **Town Centre Chaplain**, who led our service at the end of July asks for our ongoing prayers as he reaches out to local business and community leaders on behalf of Churches Together in Central Bromley.



Could you lead Pause for Prayer?

Our weekly prayer group, needs one or two people to go on the Leaders' rota.
The group meets in either the Shortlands Room or the chapel each Wednesday 12:00 – 12:15

Please contact Judy Davies at home (numbers in church directory) if you can help or would like more information.
Thank you

Anna's Corner

A column devoted to examples of older people serving God, named in honour of Anna, the prophetess described by Luke 2:36-37 as 'very old'.... Thanks to Dorothy Faulkner for sending in this month's account....

It was a sunny summer's day. We had arranged 18 chairs in a large circle with cushions handy and easy access and a pleasant view of the garden. A group of friends from Contact the elderly were coming to tea. We didn't know quite what to expect. We had been told that usually what was most appreciated was a chance to chat.

The guests arrived, we chatted and then started to serve tea. Another ring. The front door was opened to admit 2 more guests. Dolly had arrived. She was a lovely smiling lady in her middle eighties, walking with a stick and bringing an atmosphere of love.

After tea, I sat to chat with her and she mentioned that she wrote short poems. I asked her had she always written and this is what she told me.

When Dolly was well into her seventies, her husband died. At the same time one of her sons was going through a divorce so Dolly did not see her grandchildren for a while.

Dolly attended the Baptist Church at Bromley Common and they were very supportive but still she was very lonely. One day, in despair, while in the middle of pegging out clothes in the garden, she fell on her knees and pleaded with God, 'If you want me to go on living, give me something to do.'

The answer that she received amazed her but was very clear, 'Write about your life and feelings.' She answered, 'But how can I do that? I've never written anything in my life.' Again a clear answer came, 'I will give you the words.'

She went indoors, found pen and paper and sat down.

She sat with God each day and was given verses to write--each with message of its own. Encouraged by her pastor, who had a poem printed on the back of the order of service each week, Dolly had the poems printed as a small book.

Dolly Mixtures 1 was published and sold well. After Dolly had deducted the smallest of expenses she donated the money she received to various charities. £100 of this was taken by a friend to Rumania where many orphans were in need of clothes. The friend went first to Hungary so that she could get the clothes more cheaply than she could have done here, then went on to deliver them.

We asked Dolly to come to a Friendship Club Meeting and talk a little about her life with God and read some of her poems. It was a lovely meeting and we all wanted to buy her book.

Dolly used to phone me and we talked of our spiritual journeys which was a great help to me. She was still writing and produced Dolly Mixtures 2. Through the kindness of her publishers she had many more books than she had expected. I bought a batch of these and Dolly donated the money to our CTCB charity, JusB. Most of the books have now been given away or sold again for charities but I still have some if anyone would like one.

Dolly developed cancer and decided with her doctors not to have any treatment but pain killers. We miss her.

Readings, preachers and rotas

Sunday 7 Revd. Terry Sparks

1 Kings 19.9-18; Psalm 85.8-13;
Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

Flowers: Russell Heath
Coffee: Elaine Muirhead
Steward: Audrey Smith

Sunday 14 Stephen Fellingham

(with our friends from Trinity URC and Bromley Methodist Church)

Isaiah 56.1,6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11.1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15.(10-20) 21-28

Flowers: Peter and Dorothy Faulkner
Coffee: Janet Kite
Steward: Eve Johnson

Sunday 21 Revd. Terry Sparks

Isaiah 51.1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

Flowers: Elizabeth Major
Coffee: Eve Johnson
Steward: Brian Harding

Sunday 28 At Bromley Methodist Church (there will be no service at Bromley URC)

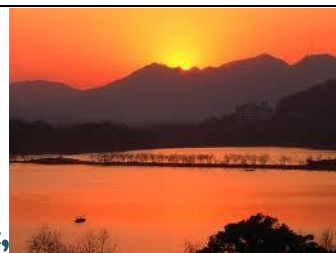
Jeremiah 15.15-21; Psalm 26.1-8;
Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Flowers: Plant on the stand

August Flower Committee
Co-ordinator: Dorothy Faulkner

Food for thought from Bill Shawcross

- **God doesn't ask for your ability or your inability. He asks only for your availability.**
- **True happiness may be sought, thought, or caught -- but never bought.**
- **God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak.**
- **When speaking to your children: say what you mean, mean what you say, but don't be mean when you say it.**
- **When there's a will, there's a way...when there's a won't, there isn't.**



Black and White Harmony

Across

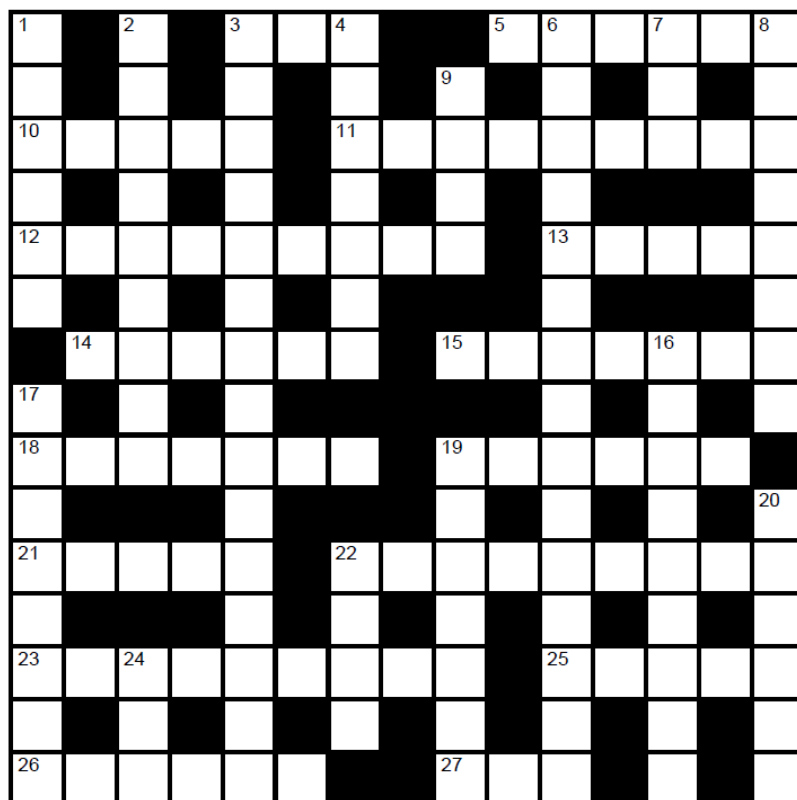
- 3 For making holes in leather. (3)
- 5 Very popular equipment to access data. (6)
- 10 Many fruits taste better in this condition. (5)
- 11 Deceived from a pack. (4,5)
- 12 Can be presented humbly. (9)
- 13 It often keeps the tempo at the Royal Albert Hall (5)
- 14 Total lack of interest (6)
- 15 Worn in bad weather conditions. (7)
- 18 An adverb describing an intense situation. (7)
- 19 Goes together with Down. (6)
- 21 A character in Oscar Wilde's popular play (5)
- 22 Needed at control points. (9)
- 23 Not Strictly included yet on TV. (9)
- 25 Shakespeare said men and women have these after their entrances. (5)
- 26 Can be collected on beaches. (6)
- 27 Which ever way you look at it it's urgent. (3)

Down

- 1 A must for TV clarity. (6)
- 2 Descriptive of an "off the cuff" remark. (9)

- 3 For a happy landing we hope. (7,8)
- 4 Fortunate to avoid an accident. (7)
- 6 They can be egotistic in their writings. (15)
- 7 Sounds as though it would be worn round the neck in Asia. (3)
- 8 A breed of dog. (8)
- 9 You would find this in a Circus. (4)
- 16 Fully catching your attention (9)
- 17 Played in a Tattoo North of the Border. (8)
- 19 Not a pleasant find in the body. (7)

- 20 Leaves the platter bare (4,2)
- 22 Two's company. (4)
- 24 A Porky maybe. (3)



Solution to July's Crossword

Across: 1 Avoid, 4 En, 5 Ablush, 10 Lee, 11 Con, 12 Lochs, 13 Basil, 15 Oar, 16 Rip up, 17 Sleaze, 18 Gap, 20 Buy, 22 Bedlam, 24 Ethic, 26 Ern, 27 Nasal, 28 Tarot, 29 Can, 30 Ski, 31 Eldest, 32 F A, 33 Guess.

Down: 1 Ad-libs, 2 Owe, 3 Devil's advocates, 4 Enclose, 6 Ballroom dancing, 7 Uncap, 8 Hosepipe, 9 Snarls, 14 Sally, 18 Goals, 19 Absentee, 21 Bleach, 22 Bonanza, 23 Plaits, 25 Herod, 30 Sue.

Who's who Bromley URC....

Ministe Revd. Terry Sparks **020 8464 7674**
minister@bromleyurc.org.uk

Local Church Leader Stephen Fellingham **020 8290 5399**
lcl@bromleyurc.org.uk

Church Secretary Mrs Judy Davies **020 8464 7674**
office@bromleyurc.org.uk

Premises Manager Phillip Powell **020 8464 8217**
(for room hire) lettings@bromleyurc.org.uk

5000 Project Case Worker Sandy Greenfield
bromleyurc homelessproject@googlemail.com **020 8466 0257**

Bromley URC 20 Widmore Road, Bromley BR1 1RY

For more about info visit: **www.bromleyurc.org.uk**

And why not join us for:

Oasis Cafe Monday to Weds & Saturday 10am to 12 noon
Pause for Prayer Every Wednesday 12 to 12.15pm
Free on a Friday Every Friday 10am-2pm Free tea, coffee, biscuits and smiles!
Sunday Worship 10.30am

We'd love to see you!

