

HEATH STREET

BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022



Newsletter 1062

A photograph of a small wooden boat, possibly a rowing boat, resting on a bed of white daisies. The boat is made of light-colored wood and has a sandwich inside it. The sandwich is wrapped in a purple and green wrapper. The boat is positioned in the foreground, and the background is filled with more daisies. A green banner is overlaid on the top left of the image, and another green banner is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

THE FIRST ANNUAL
MOSES AND MIRIAM
BOAT RACE!

SEE INSIDE
FOR MORE

POEM

I TURNED AWAY

I saw the grass, I saw the trees
And the boats along the shore
I saw the shapes of many things
I had only sensed before.
And I saw the faces of men more clearly
Than if I had never been blind,
And the lines of envy around their lips
And the greed and the hate in their eyes.
And I turned away,
Yes, I turned away,
For I had seen the perfect face
Of a real and proper man,
The man who brought me from the dark
Into light, where life began.

I hurried then away from town
to a quiet and lonely place.
I found a clear, unruffled pool
And I gazed upon my face.
And I saw the image of me more clearly
Than if I had never been blind.
The lines of envy around my lips
And the greed and the hate in my eyes.
And I turned away, yes, I turned away,
For I had seen the perfect face
Of a real and proper man,
The man who brought me from the dark
Into light, where life began.

I made my way into the town
To the busy, crowded streets,
The shops and stalls and alley-ways
To the squalor and the heat.
And I saw the faces of men more clearly
Than if I had never been blind,
The lines of sorrow around their lips,
And the child looking out from their eyes.
And I turned to them, yes I turned to
them,
Remembering the perfect face
Of a real and proper man,
The man who brought me from the dark
Into light, where life began.

-Anthea Lahr

OUR STONEMWORK PROJECT

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

The last newsletter explained why we are shrouded in scaffolding and what is going on behind the plastic screens and encouraged all who love our church - its mission and activity as well as the building - to give a contribution to making the stonework façade safe and restoring it to a clean and properly decorative state. We had no choice but to get on with the work rapidly as weather, time and pollution had wreaked their worst and left us at risk of pieces of stone tumbling to the ground. We have been fortunate in finding contractors who know their specialisation well and seem careful and efficient.

We didn't know how bad the situation was until the work started and every inch of the stonework could be tested and the depth of London dirt and grime measured (you would be horrified to know!). Our surveyor and the contractors look at every stage of work and are helping us find the right solution to each challenge as cost-effectively as possible.

One shock was that one of our two spires had a very long split in it, the result of decay over the years. For safety the top of it has had to be taken down and a replacement section is being carved of Bath stone to match the rest of it and will be hoisted into place soon.

We will do as much as we can in this phase of work, but unless we have lots more help from donors, we will not have enough money to do it all, so once the scaffolding is down you are likely, sadly, to see a tidemark and grimy, unrestored stone at ground floor level - we will gird our loins to commission and pay for that to be done, little by little (it won't need fixed scaffolding), perhaps starting next year. Even putting some of the work off in this way, we are drawing heavily on our savings as a church and so I want to urge you to help, please.

We have had some wonderful donations, large and small, some from people who love the church or our music activities but aren't church members, as well as from

our regular congregation. Some of the money has come from fundraising such as proceeds from concerts. The Brazilian congregation who worship at the church on Saturdays gave us a generous £500. We have had a refund of some of our VAT on the project from a special government programme for this sort of work on listed buildings (we are classed as Grade II). Our biggest donation so far is £10,000 and our smallest £10. We hope to raise at least £50,000 and are halfway there.

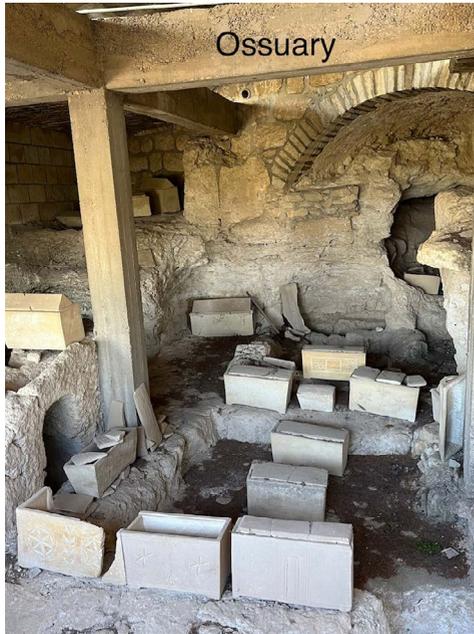
No need to hang back! Support us if you can (and remember if you are a UK taxpayer Mr Zahawi is obliged to add 25% to what you give us). Tell your friends and neighbours. Get them to sponsor you for 12 uninterrupted hours of hymn-singing or counting parakeets on Hampstead Heath. Do find some way of helping! The website has details of how to make donations, or contact me for any information: gaynor@eandghumphreys.plus.com.

-Gaynor Humphreys
(backed up by St Stephen and St Cecilia)



A TOUR OF ISRAEL - SUSAN BRANDT

Tom and I recently completed a tour of Israel which was both educational and wondrous. We began our tour in Nazareth at the place where the Virgin Mary was visited by the Angel Gabriel in the Church of the Annunciation and continued to many of the significant Biblical sites. However, we also had one-on-one multi-hour discussions with an expert on Palestinian-Israeli relations, visited the Chagall stained glass windows, toured the Holocaust and Archeological Museums, and learned a great deal about Herod the Great. In other words, our week was amazing.



The Valley of the Shadow of Death from the 23rd Psalm is a real place. There is a valley running beside Jerusalem lined with steep

cliffs with caves where bodies were placed after death to decompose before the bones were later placed in an ossuary. The valley also had been a place where lepers lived and had food lowered to them. I thought the "Valley of the Shadow of Death" was a metaphor, but it is not.



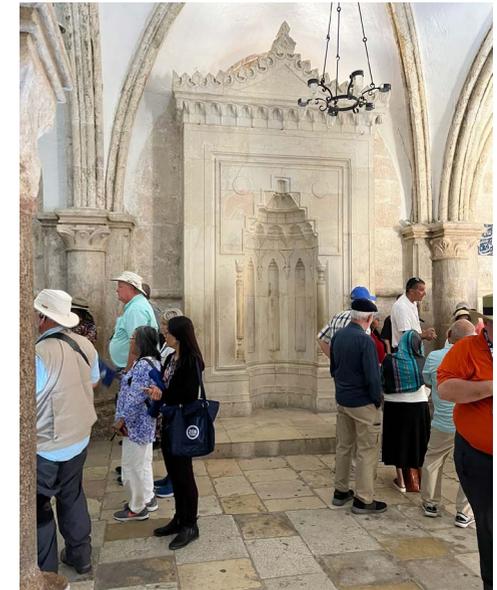
There are multiple places that claim to be the spot from which Mary ascended into Heaven. We first visited "Mary's House" on a hilltop in Ephesus Turkey. The Ephesus location is widely accepted as the place where Mary died, and at least two Popes have accredited the location. However, we then went to a Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem at Gethsemane that also claims to be the place where Mary's body was placed and from which she ascended to Heaven. There is also another place in Jerusalem that makes a similar claim.



I think that many of my visions of Bible stories were based on paintings I have seen in museums over the years. For example, I always envisioned that the cave in which Jesus's body was placed was a distance from the place where he was crucified. However, both of the tombs are relatively close to the place of crucifixion and would have been outside Jerusalem's city walls at the time.



In Capernaum, we visited the exact place where the paralytic man was lowered through the ceiling by his four devoted friends. In the 4th century, a church was built over the



site, and in the 5th century, the church was improved with three concentric octagons which still exist.

My vision of the Last Supper was firmly fixed by DaVinci's painting in which Jesus is seated at the middle of a high table. In fact, Jesus as host would never have been at the middle of the table, and the table would have been low to the ground. We visited the room where the Last Supper was held and discovered that it was later used as a mosque and that there is sadly a writing on the wall (which cannot be removed for historical reasons) denouncing Christ.

Thank you for allowing me to share my photographs and a few interesting facts I learned from the trip. My wish for you is that one day you will have the privilege of visiting Israel (and especially Jerusalem); that you feel the awe of sacred places; and that your faith continues to bring you great comfort and joy.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MOSES AND MIRIAM BOAT RACE!

The children at Heath St have been learning about symbols in the bible. It is hard to resist the poignantly frail safety communicated by the image of someone cradled in a basket. We see it in Acts 9 as the recently converted Saul is lowered from the city walls of Damascus. Sunday Club were recently focusing on the inauguration of this memorable symbol in Exodus 3: the precious baby entrusted to the care of the Nile by the Hebrew mother with few other options. Scripture has it that the baby's sister Miriam 'stood at a distance to see what would happen to him'. And surely our young competitors in **'THE FIRST ANNUAL MOSES AND MIRIAM BOAT RACE'** had an inkling of how she may have felt, as their paper mache babies were laid in homemade vessels to be carried downstream by the stately currents of St Albans' river Ver. Of course, I would love to tell you that no babies were harmed during the event, but paper mache is especially vulnerable to water damage, and many a little Moses fared rather less well than their namesake

in scripture! However, the children made brilliant boats (as you can see), and we had prizes not only for 3rd, 2nd and 1st places, but also for Driest Baby, Most Beautiful Vessel, Most Original Design and sundry other categories. Well done everyone, and here's to next year's race!





Léonie Scott-Matthews BEM, who was awarded the British Empire Medal at the 2020 New Year's Honours List for her services to British Theatre and to the community in Hampstead, at the entrance to Buckingham Palace with her partner, Godfrey Old, attend the 2022 Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Wednesday, 25 May 2022.

Léonie founded Pentameters Theatre in 1968 and continues to run it above the Horseshoe Pub, Hampstead. In the photograph Léonie and Godfrey are wearing their Pentameters "uniform". The t-shirts were designed by Godfrey, an accomplished musician, whose band plays every Friday night at the King William IV pub on Hampstead High Street and at Moon At Night open evenings of poetry, music and theatre, compère Léonie, every Sunday at Pentameters.



Shots of Rachel Ho's Kintsugi inspired scared pots, and Micah Purnell's You Are Enough oak engravings, for their Gift to the City collaboration which saw 120 gifts of each left around Manchester over a 12 day period for people to find and keep, to remind people they are not alone. Follow #gifttothecity on social media or go to www.gifttothecity.org for more.

READINGS AND PRAYERS

July 17-23 Amos 8.1-12

17th Isabel Somers
18th Birgit Leuppert
19th Cole Ellenbogen
20th for the children who attend Storymakers
21st Wilf Merttens
22nd Tom Somers
23rd Zahra Safaryazdi

July 24-30 Hosea 1.2-10

24th Anselm King
25th Thomas Roy
26th Genna Naccache
27th Frida King
28th for the World Baptist Alliance
29th Beauty Kunene
30th Andrea MacEachen

July 31-August 6 Hosea 11.1-11

31st Gaynor Humphreys
1st August Ali Ghasempour
2nd Paul Conrad
3rd Thaddeus King
4th for Ukraine
5th Kylo Layton
6th Mysie Johnson

August 7-13 Isaiah 1.1,10-20

7th Margarite Biadun
8th Elya Ghasempour
9th Sarah Harper
10th Peter Forrest
11th for all who sing in our community choir
12th Nathalia Bell
13th for our deacons

August 14-20 Isaiah 5.1-7

14th Nathan Biadun
15th Annie Fang
16th Susan Le Quesne
17th Nesa Thorne
18th for Kasai Province, DRC
19th David Neil
20th Emad Eisapour

August 21-27 Jeremiah 1.4-10

21st Beza Geberegziabher
22nd Josh Somers
23rd Christina Cairns
24th for those in hospital
25th Theresa Thom
26th Laura Somers
27th Ewan King



READINGS AND PRAYERS CONTINUED

August 28-September 3 Jeremiah 2.4-13

28th Coco Ellenbogen
29th Ethan McLeod
30th for our worshipping congregation
31st Otilie Johnson
1st September Esme Baker
2nd Fiona Ranford
3rd Susan Brandt

September 4-10 Jeremiah 18.1-11

4th Gabrielle Falardeau
5th Evelyn Baker
6th Nomsa Ndebele
7th for all who attend Contact Club
8th Lydia Baker
9th for the life and ministry of St. Mary's Hampstead
10th Beryl Dowsett

September 11-17 Jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28

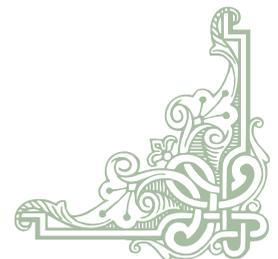
11th Leila Ranjbar
12th Joachim King
13th Michael Bloxham
14th for the bereaved
15th Robin Thorne
16th Rhona MacEachen
17th John-Henry Baker

September 18-24 Jeremiah 8.18-9.1

18th Francesco Giannoccaro
19th for our Sunday Club
20th Hildegard Williams
21st John Walsh
22nd Leo Patterson
23rd Monsignor Phelim Rowland
24th Selena Barrera

September 25-October 1 Jeremiah 32.1-15

25th Victoria Tjirimuje
26th HK
27th for the parents, carers and children who attend Oldtime Nursery
28th Edward Humphreys
29th Eleanor Patterson
30th Jen Finamore
1st October Rebecca McLeod



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays	11 am	Divine Worship Live from the church on Zoom and followed by after-church Zoom coffee, both using the following Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179878823
	7:00 pm	Contact Club
Mondays	5:00 pm	Storymakers Club An after-school club aimed at children between the ages of 7 and 13.
Wednesdays	5:30 pm	Storymakers Club
Fridays	8:00 pm	(online) Dante Pilgrimage A Zoom reading of the whole of Dante's Comedy, to take place weekly until 2024.
	Zoom	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179878823

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PATRON SAINT
OF STONE MASONS

PATRON SAINT
OF MUSIC



* REQUEST YOUR HELP *

FUNDRAISING FOR
STONEMASON REPAIRS



Please see the church website for updates: heathstreet.org

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

Copy for the next newsletter should reach Eleanor Patterson (eleanorlaise@gmail.com) not later than Wednesday 14th September:

Church Officers:

Gaynor Humphreys (Treasurer)
Wilf Merttens (Church Secretary)
Annie Fang (Deacon)
Sarah Harper (Deacon)

Minister Ewan King
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