



outlook

Newsletter of **Pond Square Chapel** | Highgate United Reformed Church | **June - September 2026**



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• Minister's Reflection

How Would We Like to Be Remembered?

During a recent visit to Los Angeles, I spent some time walking along the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Stretching across the pavements are thousands of stars bearing the names of actors, musicians, directors, and entertainers — people remembered for achievement, creativity, and cultural impact. Tourists stopped to take photographs beside familiar names, while others searched carefully for their favourite stars.

It is, in many ways, a place dedicated to remembrance.

As I walked along those streets, I found myself reflecting on a deeper question:

How would we like to be remembered?

The Walk of Fame celebrates public success and celebrity, yet most of our lives will never be marked with plaques or stars in the pavement. Most of us will not leave behind global fame or headlines. But that does not mean our lives are any less significant.

In fact, some of the most meaningful legacies are often the quietest ones.

When people speak about those who have shaped their lives, they rarely begin with achievements or status.

More often, they remember kindness, encouragement, generosity, and compassion.

They remember the teacher who believed in them, the neighbour who helped during a difficult season, the friend who listened without judgement, or the church member who always noticed when someone was absent and checked in on them.

The Christian faith invites us to think about legacy differently from the world around us.

Jesus consistently turned attention away from power, prestige, and recognition, and instead pointed towards humility, service, and love. In the Gospels, greatness is measured not by influence or applause, but by care for others.

That can feel challenging in a culture that often encourages visibility above all else. We are surrounded by messages telling us to build reputations, gain followers, and seek recognition.

Yet many of the people who most reflect Christ's love will never receive public acclaim. Their impact is seen in quieter ways: in faithfulness, hospitality, patience, and acts of everyday grace.

Church life reminds us of this constantly.

Communities are sustained not simply by those at the front, but by countless unseen acts of care:

the person who prepares the tea and coffee each week; the volunteer who visits someone lonely; the individual who quietly prays for others; the musician who offers their gifts faithfully.

These acts may never attract attention, but they become part of the spiritual memory of a community.

Standing in Los Angeles, surrounded by names immortalised in stone, I was reminded that Christian remembrance is not ultimately about fame, but about love.

Scripture tells us that each person is known by God — not because of status or success, but because we are beloved.

Perhaps the question is not whether the world will remember us, but whether our lives reflected something of Christ to those around us.

Did we create spaces where people felt welcomed?

Did we show compassion in difficult moments?

Did we help others glimpse hope, grace, and kindness?

One day, people may tell stories about each of us. My hope is that they will not simply remember what we accomplished, but how we loved.

That they might say we were people who brought encouragement, who made room for others, who lived with generosity of spirit, and who reflected the compassion of Christ in ordinary, everyday ways.

That, perhaps, is a legacy far greater than any star on a pavement.



• Holy Week

Across Holy Week, the churches of Highgate came together in a visible expression of shared faith, worship, and community, marking the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter through a series of collaborative services and events.

Holy Week began with the Palm Sunday donkey procession hosted by St Michael's Church, Highgate, where members of both St Michael's and Pond Square Chapel gathered alongside the local community to remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The procession offered a joyful and reflective beginning to the week, bringing together people of all ages in public witness and celebration.

On Maundy Thursday, the spirit of ecumenical partnership continued as our Director of Music Dr Robert Manning, contributed to the Maundy Thursday liturgy at All Saints' Church. Music played an important role in shaping the solemnity and prayerfulness of the evening as worshippers reflected on themes of service, sacrifice, and communion.



Good Friday saw churches once again unite for a shared public act of worship and witness. Members of Churches Together in Highgate gathered for the annual Walk of Witness through the community. Before the walk began, Jonathan led a short opening service, helping to frame the significance of Good Friday and inviting participants into a shared time of reflection.

The walk concluded at Pond Square Chapel, where a service included contributions from others across the local church community. Through prayers, readings, and reflections, the service highlighted both the sorrow and hope at the heart of the Good Friday story, while also demonstrating the strength of partnership between churches in Highgate.

Following the service, attendees gathered together for hot cross buns and light refreshments, providing an opportunity for conversation, hospitality, and fellowship after the morning's events. The gathering reflected the warmth and unity that have become central to Churches Together in Highgate's shared ministry and witness within the local area.

Throughout Holy Week, these events demonstrated the value of churches working collaboratively across traditions, offering opportunities for worship, public witness, music, hospitality, and community engagement. From the streets of Highgate to shared spaces of prayer and reflection, Holy Week became not only a remembrance of the events leading to Easter but also a lived expression of Christian unity in the heart of the community.

• Stained Glass Window

There is something deeply moving about entering a church and seeing the light pour through stained glass windows. Even before a word is spoken or a hymn is sung, the colours and images invite us into a different way of seeing the world. They remind us that churches are not simply buildings, but sacred spaces shaped by prayer, memory, beauty, and story.

Recently, we were reminded of this in a particularly meaningful way when Grant Durrant and his wife Patricia visited the church shortly after celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary. George Whight had bequeathed one of our stained glass windows, and it was deeply moving to welcome members of his family and reflect together on the lasting gift he left to the congregation. Their visit reminded us that stained glass windows are not simply historical features or beautiful decorations; they are woven into the lives, memories, and faith of real people and families across generations.



George's connection to the church is also preserved in the church history written by John Thompson, where his contribution and place within the life of the congregation are remembered.

In many ways, this captures the deeper significance of stained glass windows themselves. They are not only works of art, but testimonies of faith, memory, and belonging that continue to speak long after those who commissioned them are gone.

For centuries, stained glass windows have helped Christians tell the story of faith. In times when many people could not read, the windows became what some called "the Bible in glass."

Scenes from the life of Christ, the saints, the prophets, and the resurrection filled churches with visual reminders of God's presence and promise.

• Pam Furse Remembered



For me, to best understand Pam is to view her as a traveller who explored all that life had to offer. This exploration gave her the capacity to understand the complexities of being human and the ability to see life as something profoundly special.

Usually, when you are born to British parents, you would most likely be born in Britain - but not Pam. She started life differently. As most of you will know, Pam was born in Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia.

She had such happy childhood memories of that special time in her life. She may not have known it then, but in later years, she realised the importance of growing up in the rich and vibrant Culture, that was Africa.

What an adventure for one so young and what a way to start life! After returning to the UK, she later found herself working in Saudi Arabia. This was another significant experience for her and one so different from African and Western Culture.

Pam went travelling again, but this time, back in time! She immersed herself in British and in particular, English History.

She extended her knowledge about the great Kings and Queens of the Ages and the associated politics that always seemed in lockstep with the ruling Monarchy of the time, and whether it was Henry the 8th, Mary Queen of Scots, Stonehenge, Shakespeare, the Jacobite - Rob Roy, the Battle of Hastings or whatever else peaked her interest, her inquisitive mind soaked it all up.

She appreciated architecture too and visited historic buildings and monuments throughout England, mostly criticising modern architecture, whilst marvelling at the design and workmanship of Englands treasured and iconic historical buildings.

Later, Pam travelled to a place she came to love and that was Greece. Again, it was its rich culture, architecture and natural landscapes that drew her back multiple times and the place she loved most of all, was Rhodes.

To stay in touch with world events, Pam would spend hours reading her favourite English Newspapers; something she did right up to her final days. She would also travel to America in order to keep abreast of the news there.

She did this via the airwaves where she tuned in religiously to Alister Cooks "Letters from America". To exchange news between herself and my parents who lived in Australia, they would each record on tape everything that was important to them and send this news using the airfreight postal system. How quaint now, yet how deeply connecting this form of communication was.

Pam also journeyed into the field of the arts by making frequent trips to Art Galleries, Theatres and by watching films. She also took up painting as a way of personal expression. Adding to this, she inadvertently and reluctantly, became a Yoga teacher to boot!

Earlier in Pam's life, she embarked on another journey; this time a spiritual one. She drew a lot of strength from her faith and like her other journeys, it significantly shaped who she was as a person. Her faith provided comfort and a moral compass in which to live her life.

I really got to know Pam when I lived with her for about three months in my early 20's.

What Pam had that few people have, was the ability to appreciate the importance of existing in and moving through the present, peacefully. She could sit in her own stillness appreciating the beauty of life.

I vividly remember Pam and I going for one of our weekly walks to Hampstead Heath. On one particular Autumnal morning as we stepped outside in what was a glorious crisp, windless and sunny morning, I watched Pam's face take on the most joyful of expressions as she inhaled that crisp morning air, with her face reflecting the wonder of that morning. You could tell how alive she felt.

As we walked to Hampstead Heath, Pam would comment on the nuances of seasonal change, the various colours of the falling leaves, and at her suggestion, we playfully tried to outdo each other by catching as many leaves as we could before they reached the dewy ground beneath our feet!

She loved pointing out various birds or the squirrels that were squirrelling away their winter food.

In her last years, she drew such comfort watching the ducks move gracefully across the pond in the gardens below her room in Baxendale Care Home.

Speaking of birds and squirrels - she loved David Attenborough! Like Attenborough, Pam understood more than most, the inter-connectedness of the animal kingdom and gave equal standing to all animals.

When living in Highgate, Pam's pride and joy was her allotment where she could harvest fresh fruit and vegetables. This simple pleasure joined both her ability to be in the moment with the pleasure of growing her own food.

Pam could at times be incredibly stubborn and politely insistent, something she shared with my father! For me, Pam also found it hard at times, to express her feelings.

Given I am a totally flawed human being, I racked my brains trying to find at least one more foible in Pam in which to lessen the golf between myself and her, but I couldn't!

Whilst our Family hoped that Pam might move to Australia to be with family, it was never going to happen, she loved England that much!

Pam was a kind, caring and considerate person, independent to the core and a lover of life. She loved adventure.

She was creative, She had integrity, was honest, loyal and could be trusted. She was stoic. She was thoughtful of others, she wouldn't complain when the chips were down and she gave far more than she received.

AND she had an oh so wry sense of humour!

We are so grateful to have had such a beautiful Aunty and to have been part of her long life, lived well - may she travel well on her next journey.

Our family would like to acknowledge the Baxendale Staff whose care for Pam has been nothing short of outstanding and the work they do for those under their care, provides a light for other care providers to follow. We really do thank you.

Martin Furse

• Poetry at work

Local poet and long-time community supporter Dennis Evans recently hosted a special poetry reading in support of church funds and outreach work. The evening brought together members of the congregation and wider community for a warm and enjoyable event filled with reflection, humour, and storytelling through poetry.

Jonathan opened the evening by reflecting on Dennis's remarkable career and his ability not only to remain deeply creative himself, but also continually to encourage emerging talent and inspire a new generation of creatives. He spoke of Dennis's generosity in supporting others and his commitment to using the arts to bring people together.

Through a selection of original poems and favourite readings, Dennis created an atmosphere of encouragement and community while helping to raise valuable funds for the church's ongoing ministry and outreach within the local area. The event highlighted the important role that creativity and the arts can play in strengthening community life and supporting meaningful causes.

Those who attended expressed their appreciation not only for Dennis's talent and generosity, but also for the opportunity to support the church's work in such an uplifting way. The funds raised will help support community activities, hospitality initiatives, and outreach projects in the months ahead.

The church would like to offer sincere thanks to Dennis Evans for his time, creativity, and commitment, as well as to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the evening.



• Poem

Albert Street

A married man,
he was homeless.
But still a member of his local Church.

Living at the Albert Street hostel,
his children came every 2 weeks.

The hostel Warden had been a Prison Officer,
was referred to as 'the gaoler'

The Church Committee requested
that the 'inmates' elect reps:
one man,
one woman.

Duly elected, they met the Committee.
It used its *dispensation.

Evicted the woman,
then the married man.

It was snowing at the time.

© Dennis Evans FRSA

**Dispensation from the Landlord & Tenant Act*

• Church Heating Update

Thank you to all who have given so generously towards the replacement of our unreliable and elderly boilers. We are now in receipt of £21,000 total from all donations including a £15,000 Congregational and General Trust grant. A good start, which will also enable PSC to apply for grants which require funding to be raised by the applicant.

Thames North Synod grant application required a completed Energy Audit before they would consider an application - they also offered to pay for it. We went ahead and in February, received Brontide Consulting's Energy Audit evaluating the condition of the current heating system, the chapel's thermal characteristics, its energy consumption and the feasibility of standard upgrade options. Their stated aim is to improve resilience, reduce running costs, and support the church's environmental commitments. We also asked them to independently assess our gas boiler replacement journey and preferred option.

Receiving their impartial review of the PSC boiler options was invaluable as was the conclusion that Viessmann boilers would be the best option. Brontide rationalised that installing new Viessmann gas boilers will provide higher efficiency, the installation will be straightforward by using the existing pipework, replacing the existing old chapel fan heaters with new will improve their efficiency. The new system will be more reliable, rapid heat response, with an estimated carbon reduction of 20-25% in annual CO2 emissions compared to existing. Even when downside issues surrounding continued reliance on fossil fuels, gas price fluctuations and moderate carbon emissions are considered, this is the best current option for PSC. Furthermore, they recommended commencing the next stage of PSC eco journey with the boilers replacement.

Confirmation that this seems the right course of action is reassuring and their assessment can also be used in grant applications. The Managers and Elders are still considering the best way to maintain heating if the one boiler option unexpectedly lets us down during the winter and expect to have enough information to make this decision shortly.

Should you wish to make a donation towards the heating replacement here are the church bank account details:

BACS Details: TSB
Highgate United Reformed Church
Sort Code: 30 14 00
Account No. 00395420

Helen Roe
Managers

• Dates for the diary

JUNE 2026

Thur 4th 10.00 am
Little Village Donation Drive.
11 am Informal Bible Study.
Noon Community Lunch.

Fri 5th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 7nd 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Fri 12th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 14th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.
The service includes communion.

Thur 18th 11.00 am
Informal Bible Study. Noon Community Lunch.

Fri 19th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 21st 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Thur 25th 11.00 am
Informal Bible Study. Noon Community Lunch.

Fri 26th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 28th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Thur 9th 11.00 am
Informal Bible Study. Noon Community Lunch.

Fri 16th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 12th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.
The service will include communion

Thur 16th 11.00 am
Informal Bible Study. Noon Community Lunch.

Fri 17th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 19th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Thur 23rd 11.00 am
Informal Bible Study. Noon Community Lunch.

Fri 24th 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sun 26th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Thur 30th 11.00 am
Informal Bible Study. Noon Community Lunch.
*(Bible Study & Community Lunch will take
a break in August and return Thursday, 3rd Sept).*

Fri 31st 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

AUGUST 2026

Sun 2nd 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Sun 9th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.
The service will include communion

Sun 16th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Sun 23rd 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

Sun 30th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.

JULY 2026

Thur 2nd 11.00 am
11 am Informal Bible Study.
Noon Community Lunch.
10am- 1pm Little Village Donation Drive

Fri 3rd 12.30 pm
Meditation via Zoom.

Sat 4th 12noon
Church Garden Party at the Manse

Sun 5th 10.30 am
Morning Worship.



SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to join us!

Where?

at 42 Onslow Gardens, N10 3JX
or the church's annual garden party

When?

Saturday 4th July

What time?

The event will run from 12noon to 4pm

Feel free to drop by & stay for as long as you can!
Refreshments will be waiting for you