

UNITY



The Newsletter of the Ealing Green Church

Ealing Green Church, The Green, Ealing, London W5 5QS.



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*PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE CHANGES TO THIS EDITION
COMPARED WITH THE ONE PRINTED IN THE CHURCH TO
AVOID ANY PROBLEMS IN ZIMBABWE.*

October 2008

EALING GREEN CHURCH
(Methodist and United Reformed)
Ealing, London W5 5QT
Telephone (020) 8579 3759

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If you are new to the church, the following groups meet on a regular basis, either weekly or monthly:

Afternoon Bible Study	Thursday (monthly)	1.15 pm
Bright Hour (fortnightly)	Monday	2:30 pm
Choir Practice	Friday	7:00 pm
Luncheon Club	Thursday	11:00 am - 1:15 pm

Full details can be found in the weekly notice sheet

There are also a number of House Groups, which meet on a regular basis - see Church Notice Board for fuller details.

You are welcome to come to any meeting.

UNITY Please place contributions in the box in the vestibule, pass them to
contributions: Lee Horwich, or email to:
unitymagazine@hotmail.com

Last date for contributions for November - Sunday 19th October

From Alan's Desk

Writing this letter to the church knowing that by the time it is read I will have left the congregation is a bit like penning a note from the grave. However poignant that might seem to the author, the blunt fact is that for the living life goes on. When members of my Dad's ageing golf four-ball kept 'falling off their perch', so to speak, he reflected how soon it was that the living three put aside their sense of loss and focused on finding a replacement.

That we get on with life is such a good Christian principle, isn't it? Paul wrote: 'forgetting what lies behind we strain forward to what lies ahead.' Christians keep looking at the next appropriate steps to take on the path towards glory. We are heading somewhere. The past is another country to which we shall not return. We dare not waste valuable time hankering after it. I am finding this particularly relevant as I climb around our loft in preparation for our move to Northampton and keep discovering articles with priceless memories associated with them. It is so difficult to throw them away. And yet they have lain up there these past seven years gathering dust in the dark doing nothing but taking up space. That's fine when there is plenty of space, but Christians are called to travel light. I am told Ghandi died owning little more than a pair of sandals.

Why, what is the matter with holding onto the past? Let me return to my loft. One of the boxes I opened up there contained the family's snorkels, flippers and wet-suits. We have had wonderful times using them on the South African coast but over the years the rubber has perished and for some reason the wet-suits have become too tight. Life goes on, particularly in the church. New adventures, dreams and possibilities open to us as the Spirit fills our lives. Referring to the Spirit, Jesus suggested that new wine requires new wine skins lest the old skins perish and burst when the new wine is poured into them. I think the same would happen if I tried to get into my old wet suit. Put bluntly, religious nostalgia inhibits the work of the Spirit. It seeks to limit and confine God's freedom to the securities of the past.

Writing from the metaphorical grave, then, it is my dream that the Spirit would come upon you in gentleness and power to lead the congregation into new experiences of his love and faithfulness to his service.

God bless

Alan

Blessed are the forgetful: for they get the better even of their blunders.

Friedrich Nietzsche

UNITY

I recently read that people who belong to churches contribute much more to charities than those not associated with churches. 'Church', in this case, is defined very loosely and includes the whole range of religious organisations from temples to synagogues to Meeting Houses and Chapels and so on. In the works of '1066 and All That' this is a 'Good Thing' and it's just as well that we do because in terms of charity as represented by foreign aid, virtually all the major countries in the world have signally failed to keep their promises to help the poor. In 1970, at the UN, most of the major world economies promised to donate 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) as foreign aid to poor, now euphemistically named, 'third world' countries. That's the same as donating £140 a year if you were earning £20,000.

The Nordic countries have met and surpassed those figures, with Norway, and Sweden and some of their neighbours contributing 0.95% of GNI. We and many other countries only contribute 0.35%, half of what we promised. Some countries 'aid' consists of offering money, say, to poor farmers tied to them buying equipment from the donor country – even if it's not always what they want or necessarily need most. Not much in the way of 'aid', as we might understand it.

So, referring to the Lord's words on Faith and Charity (and the greatest of these . . . - you know the rest) – we have an obligation to try and fill the gap.

In the past the church has contributed to charities that offer help to people who have suffered loss and tragedy through natural disasters. The church has also contributed to those who have suffered through man-made disasters where man, through incompetence or weakness, and I include greed under that heading, has screwed things up for his fellow man. But this month I would like to draw your attention to the charity we have selected for our contributions. It addresses those who have suffered from the consequences of those in power taking on the devil's work.

Torture, sometimes to death, is the worst facet of our treatment of our fellow man that I can envisage. You would have to go a long long way to justify any kind of torture. In the cases that Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture helps there is no justification. The victims are invariably people who have stood up against oppression or been associated, however indirectly, with those who cause oppressors concern. Some die for their beliefs, some because of an association, some simply because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Some survive and are lucky enough to find outside support, such as Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture. Please read more about them in Collection Point later in this newsletter.

So we have an opportunity - we can achieve two goals this month. We can help, in a small way, to right the imbalance of our national contribution to others less fortunate than ourselves and we can contribute to a charity that helps some of those who need our help most. It doesn't take much thought to realise that Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture are doing the Lord's work. Please help them.

God bless you



Letters

From Mr. Frank Bedwell

Dear Friends

Next week I will be on my holiday in Falmouth, Cornwall with our deputy manager, Eric and Maria. It is the autumn when the leaves fall down from the trees. We thank God for a good summer time and the harvest festival. Soon the seasons will change again and it will be Christmastide again. This time we will not have a full time minister with us. We pray for all our good friends and we pray for Alan and Sheila Spence in their new church in Northamptonshire, especially for his induction on October 12th, when some of us will be travelling from Ealing to attend the service.

We pray that we will soon be getting a Methodist Minister to replace Alan. I am still a devoted Christian. Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ; help me to learn to listen to our staff and carers that look after us here at Madeley Road, Amen.

God bless you all
from Frank Bedwell

From Doug and Rene

We would just like to say 'thank you' for the flowers that have been passed on to us after the Harvest Festival. They brighten up the place and are most welcome. Thanks too for the prayers that have been said for both Doug and myself. It is very heartening to know that we are in your thoughts.

God bless you
Doug and Rene

To all readers of Unity

We have watched the results of the generosity of the church on the lives of those in Zimbabwe and have realised the vast gulf that lies between us. We believe that, along with all the other problems of the world, we ought to be doing something about it, where and if we can. We would like to continue payments to the clinic in Zimbabwe on a personal basis. Now doing that is fine, and we will, but the reason for this letter is to ask if anyone else reading this would like to join in on a regular basis.

We appreciate that others may choose to support other causes, or may not be in the position that we now find ourselves in. On the other hand, we would like to invite anyone else who feels they would like to contribute, whatever amount, to get in contact. If you would like to contribute with us, please email zimhelp@hotmail.co.uk

[Name and address withheld]

News of the Church Family

Congratulations & love to **Mosima and Nyimpini** on the birth of their baby son, named **Nyiko**, born 20th September.

Alan & Sheila 's house in Northampton will not be available for a few weeks, which means Alan boarding with members of their new congregation. Sheila will remain in the Ealing Manse for the time being. Their sons will of course be moving out, so we pray for them all at this time of change and wish them every happiness in their new homes.

Clive & Robina Thexton enjoyed a few days away, visiting friends in Dorset, but generally Clive does not manage to get out much.

As well as these friends, we also remember in our prayers those who are elderly or housebound, and their carers including **Rene and Doug Edwards, Christine and Denis Edwards**.

On 7th September, we were delighted to receive **Hannelore and Regan Galbraith** into Church Membership and to celebrate the Baptism of their son, Luke.

NCH

This Children's charity which is supported by the Methodist Church, has changed its name as from 18th September. Its new name is "**Action for Children**".

Gill Hatherall

Diary Reminders:

Diary Reminders:-

Saturday 4th October – 2.00pm – Induction of new Moderator of URC, Thames North
Saturday 11th October – Magic Evening at Kingsdown – 7.00pm
Sunday 12th October – afternoon – Alan's Induction at Northampton at 3.00pm
Sunday 19th October – Thanksgiving - Rev Hugh Sheehan, a former Minister of Ealing Green, will lead our worship at 11.00am.

Kingsdown Methodist Church event in aid of the Redevelopment Fund

Saturday 11th October at 7.00pm – a Magic Evening performed by the Fellowship of Christian Magicians, of which Rev Roger Dunlop is a member. Tickets priced £5 for this fun evening can be obtained from Hazel & Ken Pennells on ##### or Kath Jarrett on #####.

Alan's Induction Service at Northampton.

We have received an invitation to visit Abington Avenue URC, Northampton church, for Alan's induction service at his new church in Northampton. This will take place on Sunday 12th October at 3.00pm. If you would like to join the group, please give your names to Colin or Jonathan. We will then arrange transport.

Thanksgiving: Sunday 19th October

This is the anniversary of the joining together of the two churches; Ealing Broadway Methodist Church and Ealing Green United Reformed Church. We are pleased that Rev Hugh Sheehan (a previous opera singer known by all Methodists as the 'one with the voice') has agreed to return to his old church to take this service. We look forward to welcoming him back.

Circuit News:

Some of us from The Green were present at the Circuit Service at Hanwell on 7th Sept., when we were officially introduced to the new Superintendent Minister, Rev Michaela Youngson and to the Associate Minister, Rev Salamat Zindani who will be pastorally responsible for the Asian speaking congregation at King's Hall, Southall.

At the September Meeting of the Methodist Circuit, it was agreed that the appointments of Rev Roger Dunlop and Rev Kip Bennett be extended for a further three years.

The Invitations Committee confirmed that the Circuit and Church Profile for Ealing Green be put forward for consideration in the next stage for seeking a new Minister to be responsible for Ealing Green. This appointment would be a 50% position for Ealing Green and the remainder for a newly created position in the Circuit.

Due to change of Moderator in the URC, we are still waiting to hear whether we will be provided with temporary cover until August 2009. In the meantime, we will be inviting old friends and contacts from outside the Circuit to come and preach at our Church. Other slots will be filled by ordained or lay preachers within the Circuit. So it is still 'business as usual'!

The Circuit is looking for a volunteer to accept the new appointment of a **Circuit Complaints Officer**. Please contact Michaela Youngson if you are interested or require further details.

India Project

The November dates previously suggested proved to be the most convenient, so the Team was selected based on the ability to be available in November rather than January. The members willing to travel to see and research the Project on 18th – 22nd November are:-

Hema Souris Parsons, John Collingbourne, Charles Kenny with Stalin Sundarraj as facilitator. We wish them well as they make the necessary arrangements for travel and 'jobs' and pray that the planning will proceed without any problems.

The Shooting Star Children's Hospice

This is a charity which we have supported in the past and one of our members has been on the committee of the local group of fundraisers. The Hospice is holding three Open Days on 5th, 6th & 7th October to show supporters the specialist care provided to children, young people and their families. A poster showing details and directions is on the Notice Board.

London City Mission

Please see the Notice Boards for details of their Open Day when you can take a tour of their mission work on a Routemaster bus. You will travel through parts of London that you didn't know existed.

Colin Hatherall

A message from the Finance sub-committee

We received an enquiry in August from Jonathan Martin (who many of you will know is Marian Martin's son) who works with Sport England. He was organising a team of boys to travel to Australia and play in an Australian Rules Tournament.

He wrote saying: "The purpose of the trip is to target health, well being and social issues amongst the boys, using the game of Aussie Rules as a vehicle to do this. If the boys are playing sport, it keeps them healthy and gets them off the streets, diverting their attention away from crime and other bad influences.

Essentially the trip involves the three games that the boys will play, but the benefits are much wider. Many of squad are from deprived areas of London and have never been on a plane before. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for many of them. The trip will give the boys a good experience of life in another country and will develop and shape their personalities so that they will influence their peers back at home in a positive way. Part of my role during the trip is to mentor the boys, reach out to them and to be an example to them, so that their minds and lives can be changed as a result."

The finance sub-committee decided that it was appropriate for the Church Benevolent Fund to make a contribution towards the trip. We did so not only to help in a small way (£100) to give some young people opportunities to succeed and to chose not to get involved in drugs and crime; but also because we thought that it was great that by this means we could take an interest in and keep in touch with our wider church family and some of the fantastic and interesting things that they are doing. More similar requests please.

Jonathan

PS to Finance sub-committee: The decision to which I refer in the note above was an impromptu sub-sub-committee of the finance sub committee comprising Vera and Ron and me one Sunday after a service.

From Carien:

I'm very happy with the decision of the sub-sub-committee!! Great idea and cause!

[Read Jonathan's article on the next page.]

ANNUAL REPORTS BOOKLET 2008-09-28

Reports for inclusion in the booklet to me by Monday 20th October at the latest.

Thank you

John Collingbourne, Administrator

GB Bulldogs

As the world looked on and the medals kept coming in Beijing, another Great Britain team, on 22nd August, was boarding a plane bound for Melbourne, Australia. This was the Great Britain under 16 Aussie Rules Team (The Bulldogs). 22 boys aged 15 and 16 (supported by a 7 strong Management team) made history by becoming the first Great Britain junior team to play Australian Rules Football on Australian soil and just like any other sporting encounter between the countries, the rivalry and determination of the squad was in abundance.

The tour took place during the AFL International Cup, which involved 16 teams from all over the world, including the Great Britain Senior team. As part of the preparation for our games, we mingled with these teams so that the squad could learn techniques, skills and positional play. We were also able to coach short skills drills on the playing field during the quarter time breaks. This proved valuable when they played their games. It was also good to show our support to our Senior compatriots.

Every day under the morning Melbourne sunshine, the squad trained, working on their ball handling, fitness and kicking skills through a variety of drills. There were also afternoon sessions the day before games. The extensive preparation was clear to see on the pitch as, in our first game, we ran one of the top teams in Victoria, very close. An encouraging performance and result. The positive effects of which resonated for the rest of the tour. We were, however, brought crashing down to reality with a thrashing in our next game. This made the boys more determined to win, the natural rivalry stronger than before. The win that the boys and management desired so much came just 2 days before flying home. Before the game, the desire and passion was flowing with the loud singing of our National Anthem. That was taken on to the field of play and this time, we gave our opponents a thrashing. This was a fitting end to the tour, one that the boys deserved, and it ensured that we returned home victorious. Beating Australia at their own sport, in their own backyard, was for me, and the rest of the team, very sweet. Bring on the Ashes!

Aside from the football, the trip gave the boys a good experience of life in another country. It developed and shaped their personalities in positive ways that they can take back to their peers and influence them. I can say that this applies to me too.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the church for the generous donation which helped make this a successful tour.

Jon Martin

Bible Study

The daytime Midweek Bible Study will meet on the following Thursdays after lunch club at approx. 1.15 pm in the Minister's Vestry. All are welcome. We are currently studying a MDRF course on 'What the Bible Has to Say About Climate Change'

October 9th
November 6th
December 4th

Any further details from Fleur on 8248 6776 or John

Harvest Festival

A couple of people have asked that the poems used during the Harvest Festival be reproduced in the newsletter. For those and any others who would enjoy them, here they are:

flimsy like paper lace

Flimsy like a lace paper window pane
Rattled in a heavy wind blown rain
The rain
The rain came quickly down
And the shutters leaked as they tried in vain
To curb the pelting sound
The rain the rain falls wet and cold
And weakens the hillside ground
Which then gives way and
Tumults over the wall which cannot hold
The rain the rain
When will it end
The rain will never cease
The rain will someday wash our weary souls I am told
The rain the rain the rain the rain

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Drought

When will it rain?
The farmer's cry.
Drought.
When will it rain?
Will it ever?
Never?
Cracked parched earth,
Animals die,
Rot.
Birds are songless, most
Long gone like the
Grass.
Black thunder clouds gather
Lining the horizon –
Rain?
Each heart prays and
Aches for rain –
Now?
Clouds loom, dark, foreboding,
Gigantic masses of
Promise.
Lightning flashes, thunder rolls.
Clouds pass – dry
Storm.
Broken, weary, hopeless.
Downcast we
Wait.

Alan's Induction Service at Northampton.

It is the tradition for a group of members to travel to the Minister's new church, to see him welcomed and inducted into its fellowship. Alan's induction service at Northampton will take place on Sunday 12th October in the afternoon. If you would like to join the group, please give your names to Colin or Jonathan. We will then arrange transport.

Church Secretary

What happens now

With Alan leaving at the end of September we are now in what is called the stationing process within the Methodist system. Whilst between holidays the URC and Methodist District people are discussing ways of helping our situation we as stewards are currently working on the stationing process to get some one for 1st September 2009 which is the time when departing and arriving ministers within Methodism make their moves. Last year was my first experience of the system and in a way, though appearing quite complex, it has a certain logic and symmetry about it.

Once the profile for the Southall/Hanwell Superintendent post was delivered in September last year it went into a pool centrally of posts available then all the details of ministers were collected and sent out to us on a CD. Individually and collectively the stewards had to look for roughly five candidates that would appear to be a good fit for the profile of the available post. These were then relayed back to the district chairs whose first task was to try and match the superintendent posts. In effect though we had the details of candidates and the candidates are aware of vacancies one is not allowed direct contact. This ensures a degree of fairness and allows the Chairs to weigh up individual needs. As it worked out the ministers who was recommended to us was not on the list we were sent. So after a November Saturday visit to Kings Hall where Rev. Michaela Youngson met with stewards from the churches as well as circuit stewards and ministers a decision had to be made quickly by both sides that it was a good match. So Michaela started at the beginning of the month and is settling in well. In order to help with the afternoon congregation we were able to recruit a part time associate minister Rev Zindani who will together with Michaela hopefully give the congregation there the love that it needs. So whilst we are currently looking to fill the post as an LEP with my Ealing hat on we may need to get members to turn up to meet any potential minister. Hopefully by October we would have a rough idea of when that could be but it may be at quite short notice.

As a church we may think that we have uncertainty, but when Alan was on his Sabbatical we enjoyed a stimulating period of differing preachers. With our fifth Sunday we have also established something which is very worthwhile. When Jonathan and I did ours it was a lovely experience. To stand up there and feel the warmth of the congregation towards us was a marvellous experience. So is there a sermon in you? Is there a lesson of faith that you can share. From a personal point of view I would like to thank all the people who came that day and thank you for the kind comments. Please support the other members who are doing it.

Peter Chadburn.

India Project

The charity is delighted to hear the news that the team from our Church is going to visit them in November 2008. I am extremely thankful to the congregation for agreeing to send a three member team to assess the viability of supporting the school project. I am so proud of my church, which cares for even the unseen.

Whatever be the team's recommendation, I wish that relationship between the charity, its 180 children, and the church will blossom as a mutual platform for learning and understanding the value and true spirit of Christianity as well as in sharing and experiencing the grace and love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The team as well as the charity have to be remembered in our daily prayers as there is going to be a conflict in matching the actual needs of the charity and the possible support which can be offered by our Church. Though the task is really huge, I am confident that the profile of the team is strong enough to bring an unbiased recommendation to the church. However, let us continue to pray that our Gracious God will bless them with wisdom and knowledge, and more importantly, good health during this trip. I am going to be available when the team visits the project to facilitate their visit and I will be meeting my expenses for the trip. I will not be party to the decision making.

Though it has been mentioned in the last two church meetings, I would like to once again politely remind you that the charity has asked for financial help for the following:

1. To purchase a van to transport children from the neighbouring villages as well as the running cost towards fuel and driver's salary for at least 3 years.
2. Salary to the teachers of the school for the next 3 years.
3. Construction of a new building to provide more spacious seating arrangements for the children.

The team is going to stay in the project area for three days to visit the school and the charity's other activities in the neighbouring villages in order to understand the integrity and profile of the charity as well as to assess the viability of supporting one of their above mentioned requests with a special focus on the charity's sustainability when our support stops. The team will also look into records and books to verify the reliability of the Charity.

Regardless of the team's positive or negative recommendations, the school is going to stay for ever with God's grace. I consider this as an opportunity for the church to understand the high level of faith on the other side of the world as this school is a typical example of how God can help even the most ordinary to accomplish extraordinary achievements. This school can be also a potential overseas outreach place for the future children and young people or any one from our church family if they are interested to do some voluntary work in a third world country.

I understand that Luncheon club has taken the initiative to send their love to the children of the school in the form of chocolates and I would like to record my appreciation to all its members for this moving gesture. I am also greatly thankful to Alan, Colin and Jonathan and the council for being very supportive to me in taking this proposal up to the present level. Now, the ball is in the court of the visiting team (John, Hema and Charles). Let us pray and wait for their report.

Stalin sundar Raj

Fabulous Christmas Gift!

Ealing Green Church Cookbook

Inspired by our wonderful potluck lunches, what if we all contributed our favourite recipes to an Ealing Green Church Cookbook? With our culturally diverse congregation, this means not just great British food, but delicious dishes from all over the world.

- ✓ A fabulous inspiration for delicious food
- ✓ Guaranteed to work, all tried and tested - by us!
- ✓ Your recipes in print, for others to enjoy
- ✓ An ideal gift– this Christmas
- ✓ Raising money for charity, too

Please start collecting recipes now for all food you know others will appreciate - family favourites, dinner party specials, sweets, snacks, picnics and barbecues - whatever you and your friends and family like best to eat.

Give your recipes to Helen Harper and Tina Berry

- ü At church, when you attend
- ü By email to tina@dalrymple.cc
- ü By phone, if you like – our numbers are in the Church Directory

Thank you!

What's happening in Zimbabwe

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 5:14 AM

Subject: Re: The Handicapped Centre.

Thanks for your mail. Yes, it has become very difficult providing for the youth at Handicapped Centre. Basic mealie meal, cooking oil, rice can only now be bought with foreign currency. Our currency is still in free fall (inflation is running at 2.7% PER HOUR). So we are more than grateful for Ealing Green's support with which I can buy US dollars and purchase the basics for the staff and children. Our staff has been very faithful and the centre is running well. I am buying medicines for the epileptics from a chemist in South Africa, which would be impossible were it not for the donation from your fellowship and my brother's church. I am hoping that our new accountant will have a report for me to present to our AGM in November and will certainly send you a copy. Meanwhile, we await to see if Mugabe will honour the agreement reached. Somehow we are doubtful whether the leopard is capable of changing his spots. Nevertheless, it is a step forward for which we thank God.

Every blessing to you,

Love in Christ

Subject: Orphange

I write to share some good news with you. Thanks to Ealing Green we have paid before the beginning of term (which starts next week) all of next term's school fees for all of the orphanage children. This is the first time we have been able to do this. Previously, some would be sent home from school because their fees weren't paid. So now we won't have that disgrace! Things are going well in the orphanage even though it is a battle everyday to find food for them all. Mealie meal is very scarce and there is no bread. We can buy potatoes though the cost has sky-rocketed. Our inflation is up to 11 million % pa! But God is good!

God bless

Children Day Centre

Thanks for your e mail. We are happy to hear that you are well and also that you continue to pray for us. The funds are not going according to our plans. All the funds you sent have been used for food. We had planned to pay for uniforms and fees for the children, but that did not happen. Cost of food is very expensive especially mealie meal because it is our staple food and at the mean time it is going for \$120US dollars per 50kgs. Also other commodities can be bought in US dollars because they can be found on the parallel market and not in the shops. The first instalment bought 40 bags of mealie meal at 12.20 US dollars each and the second one was 10 bags for 50 US dollars each and the last instalment was 4 bags at 120 US dollars each. I know this is going to shock you but this is what is happening here. Many people are going without food for days or are feeding on vegetables only daily. I would like to thank you very much for all the help you have given me because without your support the children would have had no food, may be we could have closed by now, but we are still going on. Please convey our gratitude to all our friends and continue to pray for the children.

Warmest Greetings

A College

Our Dear friends

After nine years of negative and depressing news from, and about, Zimbabwe, here at last is something to smile about. Yesterday leaders of ZANU-PF and the two MDC formations signed an agreement for an all-inclusive government. Only a little while ago these same leaders were demonizing one another. Mugabe said he would not talk to Tsvangirai whom he accused of being a stooge of the British government. Now Tsvangirai is Prime Minister of the new Zimbabwe!

The agreement is based on painful compromises on both sides. It contains a number of imperfections as any compromise agreement is bound to have. But the agreement deserves to be supported for a number of reasons:

1. The agreement creates the first realistic chance for the nine-year long suffering of Zimbabweans to come to an end. That suffering was getting progressively more intense and has reached unbearable levels. The suffering centres around rampant inflation (perhaps 20 million percent!), hunger, shortages of commodities, exploitation, intimidation and even torture. As I read the agreement, it contains measures that allow for beginning to address these ills. We know, however, that the suffering benefited some people (on both sides of the political divide), and it is those people who already show signs of resenting the agreement. For the majority, hope has at last been realistically revived.
2. For the first time in 28 years, Mugabe's power has been greatly curtailed. The agreement unfortunately still gives Mugabe and his party more than 50% executive power, i.e. more than his performance during the March elections deserves. However, the cabinet will have a one person majority from the combined opposition. The fact that the new prime-minister will also have executive powers means that Mugabe's power is no longer absolute. Checks and balances have been built into the agreement. This is positive.
3. One key task of the new government will be the crafting of a new constitution within 18 months. To me this is one of the most positive aspects of the agreement. Much of our suffering during the past 9 years has been a bad constitution that concentrated power in the president. The new constitution will have to address this issue so that Zimbabwe never again reverts to a situation of oppression.

I could go on if I had more time. I would encourage you to read the agreement for yourself (available on the internet e.g. www.zimbabwesituation.com). I am sure you will discover more positive elements in the agreement.

In summary, the agreement is very positive more because of the DIRECTION it is taking the country than because of its current provisions. We pray that the agreement will be implemented in good faith and as expeditiously as possible. .

For us the agreement creates hope that the long-shelved dreams and plans may at last be realized. These include:

- Infrastructural development to allow for expanded teaching facilities and to enable us to better look after our students and staff.
- Consolidating our existing programmes and positioning ourselves for postgraduate programmes.

Thank you very much for praying with us over the last years of suffering. As we watched the signing ceremony, history was unfolding in front of our eyes. When God intervenes in situations, what seemed impossible becomes possible.

Be blessed

Soul in Ealing debt counselling centre – September 2008

Throughout the summer we have continued to work at providing a top-class debt counselling service to those in need in Ealing. People with disabilities, those struggling with depression or who feel isolated or forgotten by their friends or families. People going through hard times not just because of their debt: divorce, illness, tribunals, housing problems. Our initial home visit really helps to establish a relationship with clients, and not only do we find a solution to get them debt-free within five years, we're also able to bring peace, hope and love into what can be very dark places.

We have helped people from many of the world religions – Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jew and Buddhist. And with each we have been able to share something of Jesus, whether through the help we provide, showing care and support, praying with them, or telling them of Jesus' love.

You may remember we had a picnic for our clients in July, in Kew Gardens. It was a great afternoon - there were 24 of us, and we treated the clients to a lovely picnic, including Krispy Kreme doughnuts and lots of strawberries! The weather was perfect, everyone was relaxed and people made friends with each other. I had an email from one client afterwards who said 'the food was delicious, you spoilt us, it was wonderful.' Her child said it was the "best day out ever".

Last week three Ealing clients and their children went on a short break organised by CAP for clients from around the country. As well as plenty of fun activities, there were meetings to help them in their spiritual journey. One said "The break gave me the chance to give my child a holiday. It also brought me even closer to God. It also helped me relax in a way I never thought possible with all the worries and stresses I have in my life.

We recently had success with an appeal over back-payment of housing benefit. This issue had resulted in high rent arrears and the housing association were becoming quite aggressive. It seemed a clear case to me, however the clients' first language isn't English and they struggled to put their case in writing, so we did it together and the resulting benefit brought the arrears down by £1000!

On a practical front we were awarded two grants from a local charity, to buy pieces of furniture for two clients, including a bed for a client who was sharing a broken bed with her teenage daughter.

Opportunities to help – contact me on ##### or ealing@capuk.org

Showing hospitality in Jesus' name can speak much to people about the love of God, especially if they are lonely or isolated. I would love to be able to extend

invitations to some of our clients to a meal in someone's home. If you think you could welcome a few clients to your home for a one-off Sunday lunch or evening meal over the coming year, let me know and I can tell you more details.

Thanks to those of you who voted for CAP on the money saving expert website. We got enough votes to be one of the site's charities and will receive a significant sum of money from that.

Maybe you'd like to do an event to support CAP? Are you up for a skydive? www.capuk.org/skydive. Or if that's too adventurous, you could host a meal to raise both funds and awareness of what we do.

Please lift our clients up to God:

- Pray for the physical and mental health of clients, including one client seriously ill in hospital.
- Pray for several clients going through divorce at the moment. Pray for comfort, endurance and a just financial settlement.
- Pray for continued favour from creditors in dealing with the most tricky debts – rent arrears, council tax arrears, bailiff debts and parking fines.
- Pray for me, and all those involved in this ministry in Ealing. Pray that we'd have compassion and would be able to walk alongside clients in their time of need. Pray that we'd be creative in showing God's love in practical ways, which would speak into people's hearts. Pray also for the Holy Spirit's anointing on us, for boldness and sensitivity in telling people the gospel, that they might understand, believe and respond.

Our next prayer meeting is at 8pm on Thursday 11th September at Ealing Christian Centre. If you would like to commit to praying regularly for this ministry, please let me know, as I also produce a more detailed prayer letter each month, with specific prayer requests for individual clients.

Bible Reading Notes

Begin each day feeling graceful and at one with the world!

New Members especially – Have you thought about daily Bible Reading?

The church has a number of helps and guides. They are:

Every day with Jesus – bi-monthly - £2.25 per copy

Daily Bread – quarterly - £3.50 per copy

Light for your Path or Words of Today – both are annual - £7.50 per copy

Look at the Vestibule as you come into the church. Also visit the bookstall that is in the hall, when we break for coffee after the Morning Service. I have a number of back-issues for anyone who wants to try out Bible Study.

Once you have decided more definitely, what you would like, you can contact me on 020 8933 8315 with any details or requests.

Frances Groves

Action Aid

Big School Dinner Day Saturday 18 October 2008 12noon - 2.00pm

Action Aid's Big School Dinner Day is on Friday 17th October, but in the case of Ealing Green it will be on Saturday 18th October between 12noon and 2.00pm.

The idea is that you bring a very simple packed lunch to eat on the day and also make a donation of the amount you would normally spend on a meal out or what it would cost if you had a meal at home.

Action Aid is one of the UK's largest international development charities. They work with nearly thirteen million people in countries such as Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. They work in partnership with communities on practical projects such as wells, schools and health centres. They also help people tackle the causes of poverty by making sure their voices are heard on a local, national and international level.

Through Action Aid, I sponsor a young boy by the name of Victor Danjuma, he's 12 years old and he's one of a family of six children. Victor and his family live in Nasarawa, Nigeria. The family are Christian and they speak Eggon. Victor goes to school and is learning to read, write and is at his best in mathematics. He also likes playing volley ball with his friends. When at home he helps his parents with the domestic duties and likes reading his books at night.

Nasarawa is one of the poorest areas in Nigeria. It is a relatively new state, created in 1996 during the military regime. Typical of other states, Victor's community has seen little development. All the monies raised at the dinner will go towards development in Victor's community in Nasarawa.

Make note of the date in you diary now and bring your simple packed lunch along on the day and join in the fellowship. There will be Traidcraft stall and why not dig out some of those old school photographs to put on display. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available.

See you there.

John Collingbourne.

He hoped and prayed that there wasn't an afterlife. Then he realized there was a contradiction involved here and merely hoped that there wasn't an afterlife.

Douglas Adams



Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture

This is not a Collection Point aimed at Zimbabwean excesses, but when you go to their website, the stories below are the first thing that you see. It is something we are probably all aware of. We can do something to help.

Working with torture survivors

The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (MF), a registered charity established in 1985, is the only organisation in the UK dedicated solely to the treatment of torture survivors.

Since its inception, more than 45,000 people have been referred for help. In 2007, the four centres received nearly 2,000 new requests for help. Clients came from almost 100 countries, with significant numbers from Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Iran.

The MF offers medical consultation, examination and forensic documentation of injuries, psychological treatment and support, and practical help. Central to the MF's vision are its efforts to educate the public and decision makers about torture and its consequences, while advocacy work strives to ensure that the UK honours its international obligations towards survivors of torture, asylum seekers and refugees. The MF employs some 200 paid and voluntary staff, comprising full and part time members including doctors, caseworkers, counsellors, legal advisors, physiotherapists, psychotherapists, psychologists, interpreters, child and family therapists and group workers.

Impartiality is paramount in enabling the MF to advocate for the rights of torture survivors and our clients. We therefore remain independent of the Government by not accepting funding from them for our work. The only exception is funding we receive from the Department of Health which is put solely towards the production of guidelines for assessing torture survivors and to train health professionals.

Torture is used to intimidate, repress and dehumanise individuals. People are pushed to unbearable extremes of physical and psychological pain. Men, women and children sustain brutal injuries and are often forced to witness the violent subjugation of those around them. Arriving in the UK, having reluctantly fled their homeland, victims must contend with unfamiliar procedures of asylum and authority while struggling with their past experiences. Treating a torture victim therefore requires a holistic approach that responds to their physical, emotional and practical needs.

Referrals to the Medical Foundation are considered by an intake panel which assesses whether a person falls within our remit, how they are coping psychologically and practically, and whether the MF can offer a timely and effective

response. Referrals are made by doctors, schools, refugee community organisations, community mental health teams, family members and other voluntary and statutory bodies.

The Government's growing appetite for dispersing torture survivors outside London means services offered by our centres in the North West, North East and Scotland are always expanding. Outreach work is vital in building the MF's capacity and equipping existing voluntary and statutory services to deal with the specialist needs of torture survivors.

Key to the entire process is the contribution of some 80 interpreters offering services in 65 languages, matched where possible according to language and gender. A client's progress with the MF is consistently monitored by the intake panel to ensure we continue to meet their needs.

An example of our work:

Fleeing Zimbabwe: The stories behind the headlines

11th September 2008

The struggle between President Mugabe's ruling ZanuPF party and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) is well known and frequently reported by the media. What is less known is the extent of the torture and ill-treatment at the hands of Mugabe's regime as evidenced by some of the estimated 11,000 Zimbabweans thought to have fled to the UK as a result of wide-spread violence and repression.

Tendai narrowly escaped execution at the hands of ZanuPF officials whose murderous tactics she had exposed after discovering that pathologists were falsifying the post-mortem reports of opposition supporters killed by state agents. As the niece of a prominent MDC campaigner, and as someone who had spent time in the UK, Lindie came under suspicion of spying on government officials to fuel the opposition. She was detained and tortured twice before being forced to leave her children and flee to safety.

Ndaka was a low level member of the opposition but that did not stop ZanuPF supporters targeting her and her husband. Years after the events that forced her to leave her home, Ndaka is still haunted by the lingering image of her husband's eyes as he was made to watch while his torturers raped her.

You can read the background to these stories, and more at:

www.torturecare.org.uk

Further information is available at:

Medical Foundation London
111 Isledon Road
Islington
London N7 7JW

Please give generously.

Thankyou

October Rotas

October		Preacher	Readers	Prayers	Communion Stewards	Coffee Duty *
5 th	11:00 am	Ken Howcroft	Scott Scotland Rose	Martin Sarbicki	MC, C du P, BL, SS	<u>Patsy & Charles</u>
	6:30 pm					
12 th	11:00 am	Cameron Holder	Ken Shallis	Helen Harper		<u>Kathy & Peter</u>
	6:30 pm					
19 th	11:00 am	Hugh Sheehan	Tina Berry	Jane Horwich		<u>Merle & Colin</u>
	6:30 pm					
26 th	11:00 am	Vera Marston	Jean Rose	Ken & Shirley Shallis		Margaret Lewis & <u>Louise</u>
	6:30 pm					

*Notes: Could we please have some volunteers for the Coffee Rota. All help is welcome - and it would be nice to see other faces behind the counter (no offence to those who already volunteer). Please could the underlined person bring milk.

Bible Readers for

November

2nd Hazel Humphries
 9th Ramesh Khanna
 16th Shirley Shallis
 23rd Fleur Hatherall
 30th Charles Kenny

December

7th Janette Pender
 14th Ron Honor
 21st Pat Sucher
 28th Kathy Dobbin

If any of the above dates is inconvenient, please arrange for a substitute.