

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 11.00 am - Morning Service and Junior Church
- Holy Communion 1st Sunday of each month.
- 4.00 pm - Afternoon Service on Special Occasions.
- 4 - 6.00 pm - Higher Kingdom Church International in the Hall—(Pastor Sam)

ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK

- SUNDAY - MWA - Meeting 3rd Sunday after service.
- WEDNESDAY - 7.30 pm - Bible Studies, on Zoom.
- THURSDAY - Men's Fellowship Meeting at 1pm -
(Normally on 3rd Thursday of the month on Zoom / Hall)
- FRIDAY - Intercessory Prayers - 1:30 p.m. on Zoom
- SATURDAY- 7.30—8:30 p.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting –
(Before Communion Sunday—Meeting on Zoom)
- Choir Practice. (To be confirmed).

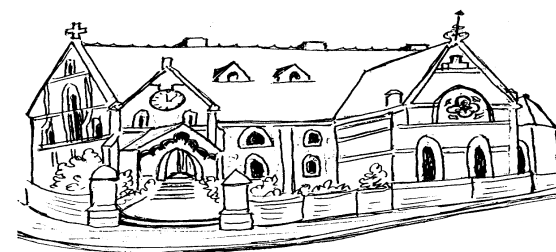
Disclaimer: Any personal articles expressed in the focus magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

St. Margaret's & St. George's United Reformed & Moravian Church Nicoll Road Harlesden London NW10 9AX

50 YEARS AND COUNTING



Focus: Church Magazine



September —October 2025 - Focus No 358

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. [Hebrews 4:12 NRSV 1989]. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. [1 Peter 3:8 NRSV, 1989].

MINISTER
Rev. Edwin Quildan
108 St. Joseph's Road
London N9 8NT
Telephone: 07840 946 102

TREASURER
Sr. Denise Allison

SECRETARY
Sr. Heather Anderson

ASSISTANT: Sr. Heather Bascombe

MINISTER'S LETTER

Sisters and Brothers,

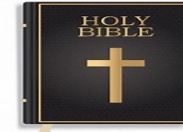
Greetings, to each of you, in the wonderful Name of 'Jesus'.

Many of you would have taken a summer break or summer trip to a place of interest. A time to refresh yourself and do something new, bold and different. Sometimes as an individual, whilst other times with your family and friends. I hope you are feeling refreshed. As we move through September, we will either be doing something new; or picking up where you left off. For some it will be starting a new school (or other educational establishment) and the challenges that go with it.

For some it will be starting a new job, meeting new people, making new friends. For others it may be doing something different. Remember to make time for God. As you start to re-pack your schedule, make time for prayer and worship.

Yet I know that life comes with its quiet times and unsettling moments. It is sometimes said that life, is not a bowl of roses and sometimes we may get caught by the thorns. What is currently taking away your peace. What is causing you sleepless nights. What is making you worry? Matthew chapter 6 vv 25 – 27.

25 "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"



10 Correspondence: An email received from the Moravian Church House, noting the sudden death of Sr Lindsey Newens last Thursday.

11. A.O.B Sr Geneva asked if the Bazaar should be cancelled. Following discussions it was agreed to run the bazaar on 15 November and improve the advertisement outside.

12 Date of next meeting: -Quarterly - Sunday 26 October 2025 after service.

13. Dates for Diaries –

Saturday 26 July -- Church Outing

14. Closing Prayer: The meeting closed with a prayer and then shared the Grace.

**Harlesden focus for International
Men's Day Event on Saturday 15th
November 2025**

From 10:30 a.m.—4 p.m.





c) Nursery - Br EQ noted that there was another leak found in the nursery from the flat above. We are scheduling the repair. Debbie has advised that she plans to re-start in September 2025.

d) Flat 65B, Craven Park Road: We are still in discussions with the estate agent on the update to the contract. repaired.

6: Youth and Children: Sr Audrey Kendall read the Sunday School report to the meeting.

7. Evangelism:

The Natural Church Development action plan is displayed in the Church. All present were encouraged to come up with suggestions and to use the suggestion box. Br Eddie was ill. He is still encouraging discipleship actions.

8. Ministers Update: Br Edwin's planned retirement will commence as planned in September 2025. He noted that all the services are covered to the end of the year. He again committed to cover one service a month until a minister is provided for the congregation.

9. Special services - The Harvest service will be led by Sr Valerie Williams on 28th Sept and the Church anniversary by Br John Danso on 2nd November. The harvest service will include a 'bring and share' lunch.

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

As I write this message (on 28th July 2025) the news headlines report on the English women's football team European Cup victory over Spain; on Sunday evening 27th July. The English nation will be celebrating the wonderful achievement of the women on Tuesday 29th July in a possession in central London. focuses even when they were losing by one goal. They kept going even when things were against them. Like the women, we too can learn to be determined and not give up.

In the United Kingdom (UK) many Churches will be celebrating a service of Harvest Thanksgiving. This is an opportunity for us to thank God for what he has blessed us with. For some we can donate food, money and toiletries that can be shared with those in need. We encourage those who will bring food to Church, to bring nonperishable items that can be passed onto the foodbanks and others.

We remember all of our young people who have completed their exams, and have started to receive their results. Some will be very happy. Some disappointed, whilst others will need support and guidance to step forward in life. Support the young people and remind them that God is still near.

We also remember all those who mourn the loss of loved ones. May God give peace.

Rev. Edwin.

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Hebrews 3:1-10 [NRSV, 1989]

Moses a Servant, Christ a Son.

1. therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

2. was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses also “was faithful in all God’s house,”

3. Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself,

4. “(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God).

5. Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later.

6. Christ, however, was faithful over God’s house as a Son, and we are His house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

Warning against Unbelief:-7. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, 8. do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as on the day of testing in the wilderness,

9. where your ancestors put Me to the test, though they had seen my works 10. for forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and I said, “They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not known my ways”.

ST. MARGARET’S & ST. GEORGE’S UNITED REFORMED AND MORAVIAN CHURCH

QUARTERLY CHURCH MEETING MINUTES -+ SUNDAY 20 July 2025 (After Service)

Present: - 23 Adults and 1 Child

1: Apologies for absence: Srs PL, GA, VW, ViW, VD, TA and Brs JW, TB

2: Acceptance of minutes: Proposed Br DE and Seconded Sr OE. The minutes were then accepted by the meeting.

3: Matters arising: The wedding planned for this year has been moved to 2026. Therefore, two weddings in 2026. The two prospective hirers visited the premises. One is not suitable, the other compiling information for home tutoring supplementary education.

4: Finance Report: Br EQ presented the accounts in hard copy to the meeting. The meeting received the report. Br EQ advised that Sr TA is standing down from the role of Treasurer, due to personal family issues in September 2025. We need to seek a new Treasurer.

5: Property: Update

a) Church and Hall The exterior windows are still planned for repair this year. The garden is currently being maintained by another gardener. We have commenced the improvement work on the rear Church Garden that is used primarily by the nursery.

b) Manse - - Estate Agents – The contract is renewed from 1st June this year for 6 months.

Cont..

Maybe if we start speaking differently to each other using different words than we are accustomed to, then the change we desire to see will become a reality.

With this in mind, I invite us then, in this brief Friday Focus-today, to see how we can all use this summer period (at least in the northern hemisphere) to expand our vocabulary. The FF today is a reminder of what I believe is a simple yet profound truth: NEW WORDS YIELD NEW INSIGHTS. I want to challenge us all to spend this period unearthing some new words, especially from languages and cultures that have been pushed to the margins.

We may just be surprised what new insights we may receive. I suggest one NEW WORD to use. When you see someone tomorrow, instead of saying ‘good morning’, say to them instead the Zulu word, ‘sanibonani’. Let them know what it means too: I see you! I embrace you! I accept you! Why do this? Because NEW WORDS YIELD NEW INSIGHTS!

Prayer

God of all knowledge, give us new words so that we will see each other and our world with new eyes. Amen.



A Time of Praise.

How excellent is Your Name in all the earth. Make a joyful noise unto our God, all ye lands. Sing for the honour of His Holy Name, make His praise glorious. He ruleth on high by his power forever and ever..

I will praise Thee, O LORD, My God with all my heart, and I will glorify Your Holy Name forever.

Scriptures to read Psalms 66. (To Thine be the glory) Peace.

Harvest is a time of sharing. A time to gather around and to teach new hymns. A time to renew our spirit, a time to be refreshed by our God. Teach us Gracious God how to be still in Your Presence. *Amen.*

Blessings from Sr. Precious

Courage, brother!

Courage brother! Do not stumble, though your path be dark as night; there's a star to guide the humble: trust in God, and do the right. Though the road be rough and dreary and its end far out of sight; foot it bravely, strong or weary, trust in God and do the right.

2. Perish policy and cunning, perish all that fears the light! Whether losing, whether winning, trust in God and do the right. Some will hate you, some will love you, some will flatter, some will slight; heed them not, and look above you: trust in God and do the right.

Author: Norman MacLeod (1857)

Via Hymnary.org.



News of the Fellowship

We continue to remember with love and prayers our members and friends who have been absent from worship due to illness or are housebound; as we lift them to the LORD in prayers.

Anyone who is aware of members or friends, who might be away due to illness, or for any other reason, please advise the Minister in order that pastoral visitations may be arranged.

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It is our custom to welcome all visitors to our services.

We trust that they enjoyed fellowship with us. Refreshments are usually served after the service in the hall. Please join us, if possible.

Congratulations, prayers and blessings to all those who have celebrated a birthday or an anniversary since our last Focus. We continue to ask for prayers for members and friends.

Condolences are extended to bereaved families. We remember before God all those who mourn the loss of loved family members, friends and colleagues.

Kindly keep them in your prayers, as well as those who have been absent from church services for a very long period.

Cont.

I was told that when you say ‘sanibonani’ that you are also saying to the individual: ‘I see all of you;’ ‘I acknowledge you;’ ‘I accept who you are;’ ‘I am ready to engage with you;’ ‘I embrace you.’ As I listened to the various sentiments attached to just this one word in Zulu, I could not help but feel just how lacking the English language can be at times. In some contexts where English is the main means of communication, some people don’t even have enough courtesy to say ‘good morning’ to another person.

One wonders when we even say these words, what do we really mean especially when the greeting is used and there is not even as much as an eye contact to the person(s) being addressed.

As I thought about this Zulu word, I wondered to myself, what other words or phrases, or even proverbs were diminished and/or cast aside in the process of colonization? How different would our present-day world be if there was a popularizing of words that came from these indigenous cultures where these words were and still are more than just words.

Could it be that the reconciliation and healing that we are so desperately looking for currently in our world might reside in the language and customs of people who have been made to think and feel as though their way of living is not progressive enough? What else can we discover about our human condition if we were to lean into the vocabulary of the thousands of non-western local languages?

Cont..

Social media is a continued crisis, online abuse, we pray for their safety and protection, particularly as the children are having a long summer break and hope they can speak up about uncomfortable problems.

Thanks to Sr. Betty, Sr. Patricia and Sr. Evelyn always supporting with God's teaching.

Thanks to Br. Edwin, organising the steel band for Father's Day service, having them twice has been wonderful. It was a hands-on experience for the children to be taught on the steel pans.

We look forward to the junior church service on 27th July and the end of year reflection.

They will continue in September.

Kind Regards,

Sr. Audrey Kendall.

From: Friday Focus <moravianfridayfocus@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday 4 July 2025 at 22:38:53 BST

Subject: Friday Focus - July 4, 2025 (3)

Recently, I learned a new word. It is a Zulu word 'sanibonani'. On the surface, I was told that it was simply a way of saying 'good morning'. But then the person explained to me that it was more than simply a greeting.

When this word is used to say 'good morning', I was made to understand that you are also saying some more things to the person who has been addressed.

Church Services in September 2025

7th - 11 a.m. - Morning Worship — Revd. E. Quildan

14th - 11 a.m.- Morning Worship — Sr. O . Lawal

21st - 11 a.m. - Morning Worship— Revd. E. Quildan

28th - 11 a.m. - Harvest Service — Sr. V. Williams

Church Services in October 2025

5th - 11 a.m.—Morning Worship - Revd. E. Quildan

12th - 11 a.m.— Morning Worship — Bible Study Group

19th—11 a.m.— Morning Worship— Men's Fellowship

26th - 11 a.m.— Morning Worship / Love Feast — Sr. H. Anderson

Stewards' Rota – September 2025

7th	Sr. Akua	Br. Cecil
14th	Sr. Ethney	Br. Paul
21st	Sr. Bernadette.	Sr. Grace
28th	Sr. Ava	Sr. Maya.

Stewards' Rota – October 2025

5th	Sr. Avis.	Sr. Betty
12th	Sr. Heather A.	Sr. Geneva
19th	Sr. Pat F.	Sr. Vivienne
26th	Sr. Margaret	Sr. Heather B.



IN APPRECIATION

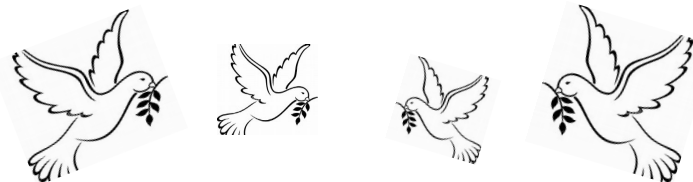
Flower Donations - July 2025

6th — Flower Fund.

13th— Sr. Vinnette D'Oyley for her birthday and Revd. Donald and Sr. Odette for their Wedding Anniversary.

20th — Br. Bill Graham for his wife Sr. Betty Bent— Graham's birthday; Sr. Shirley Sinclair for her husband Br. Keith's birthday; Sr. Margaret Logo for hers and her son Noble's respective birthdays and by Sr. Precious Mullins for her birthday and remembering her late Mother Ms Pearl.

27th— Sr. Mary Dabreo for her granddaughter Ambra's birthday and from the flower fund.



Junior Church Report

Once again particular thanks go to Sr. Margaret's grandchildren for their attendance in Junior Church Services.

They are a great pleasure to have, with their amazing confidence and spiritual awareness and wisdom, and their gifts and talents. All five are a joy to have from four years to a young adult, Evelyn, plus Rafael who is three years, so comfortable with the friendship he has made with four-year-old Edie.

Their early morning attendance at 10 o'clock to practice for all their morning services has helped to strengthen their confidence and how to make eye contact when performing. It is also a pleasure when Zakeya visits her grandparents Br. and Sr. Elliott, that she confidently participated in our service, the 25th May reading the Bible passage.

Also, Jean Paul Sr. Bernie's family member attended Junior Church, he spoke and wrote about his experiences for Father's Day.

Over the past months, children being part of the church family has helped them to be incredible with a positive attitude living in our modern world. For example, they can be distressed and anxious about toxic masculinity, now thankfully being taught in schools, encouraging boys and girls to have respect and positive relationships between each other.

Cont..

*Decolonize, I cry, let the old lies unravel,
Reclaim the truths buried beneath empire's,
A theology of freedom, where Blackness can rise.
Ecumenism reborn, not in cathedrals of stone,
But in deep solidarity, where no one's alone.
I reimagine a world where my roots are my crown,
Where Africa's unity lifts us, no force drags us down.
Reparations not begged, but demanded, restored,
For the blood of my kin, for the wealth they ignored.
True freedom is justice, not promises thin,
It's land, it's love, it's the right to begin.
Oh, Spirit of Ubuntu, guide us to mend,
Let ecumenical hearts join hands to transcend.
From the ashes of Berlin, let new futures bloom,
A decolonial dawn, where Black lives consume
The light of true freedom, unyielding, unbowed,
A young African's dream, unshackled, and proud.*

Prayer

*God, hear and answer as we pray from the depths of our
souls for justice. Amen.*

Rev Dr Mikie Roberts
**World Council of Churches ([https://
www.oikoumene.org/](https://www.oikoumene.org/))**
Programme Executive for Spiritual Life
Programme Executive for Faith and Order



Flower Donations—August 2025

3rd —The flower fund

10th —The flower fund.

17th — Revd. Quildan for his wife Sr. Wendy's and son Benjamin's respective birthdays;

Sr. Clarice Prosser for her great-granddaughter Leah's birthday; and Br. Joe and Sr. Pam Bogle for their Wedding Anniversary.

24th —Br and Sr Khan for Mahmood Khan's, Kyle and Alishbha Fretwell's respective birthdays; by the Adjei family for Sr. Gladys' birthday; from the Williams' family for Sr. Vivienne's birthday today; by Sr. Pauline for her dear friend Pat's birthday and from the family in memory of her brother Norman and finally from Sr. Vinnette in memory of her late husband Cedric D'Oyley.

31st — Sr. Norma Dixon for her birthday and from the flower fund.

In Appreciation: We give our God thanks for His numerous blessings which encourages anonymous donations for the flower fund.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Do you recognise the person being described? Who am I?

1. I was a shepherd. I took supplies to my brothers near the battle area. I used a sling? _____
2. I was a fisherman. I followed Jesus. I denied Jesus and was sorry. _____
3. I was a strong man. My strength was in my hair. I was betrayed by the lady I loved. I was able to push two large stone pillars apart. _____
4. I was a very clever man. My father was a king. When two women were fighting over one live baby and a dead baby, I had to sort it out. _____
5. I was a young woman when an angel told me I would have a child. I travelled on a donkey. My cousin was Elizabeth. _____

a. Complete the words of the hymn; Holy Spirit we

b. Complete the word of the hymn; Great is thy faithful-
ness _____

c. Complete the word of the hymn; Onward Christian ,
_____. _____ war.

d. Complete the words of the hymn; Holy Spirit we

*I walk on soil carved by lines not my own,
Borders drawn in Berlin, where seeds of pain were sown.
1884, they gathered, pens sharp as swords,
Sliced my motherland, no care for her chords.
My rivers, my gold, my people, my kin,
Plundered for profit, branded as sin.
The missionaries came, with crosses held high,
Preached love and salvation, yet let freedom die.
Their gospel, a chain, dressed in sacred disguise,
Built churches on graves, silenced ancestral cries.
Ecumenism promised unity, a holy embrace,
But too often it veiled the theft of my people.
Anti-Blackness festers, a wound unaddressed,
In global halls of power, in hearts that detest.
From cotton fields to mines, my sweat built their thrones,
Yet my name is erased, my story unknown.*

*Coloniality lingers, in systems, in minds,
In wealth gaps, in shackles, in futures confined.
I am young, but I carry the weight of the past,
Each scar on my soul, a history vast.
My dreams choke on borders, my hopes bear their chains,
Yet my spirit still rises, through sorrow and pain.
A divided Africa weeps, her strength torn apart,
But her pulse beats alive in my defiant heart.*

Cont..

NB: As for anniversaries, we are actually celebrating **10 years of Talking Through Art** this year! It's a big milestone for us, and we are deeply grateful for how far we've come—thanks to supporters like you.

From: Friday Focus <moravianfridayfocus@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday 23 May 2025 at 20:21:22 BST

Subject: Friday Focus - May 23, 2025 (3)

Just a few days ago, the World Council of Churches hosted a conference in Berlin. The theme of the gathering was “Berlin 1884–1885 and Anti-Black Racism: In Search of a Shared Anti-Racist Ecumenical Vision.” One of the attendees at this event was a young Kenyan Methodist clergywoman in the person of the Rev. Jackie Makena Mutuma.

Currently, she also serves as one of the vice moderators of the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order. During one of the plenaries, Rev Makena shared a most inspiring and thought-provoking poem which she had written. Believe me when I say that her delivery was just as impactful upon all who were present as we listened to her words.

I requested, and was granted permission to share this poem with you, capturing today's FF with the poem's title ECHOES OF 1884.

Cont...

e. Complete the word of the hymn; Great is thy faithfulness

f. Complete the word of the hymn; Onward Christian ,

_____. _____ war.

g. Complete the word of the hymn; The King of _____

h. Complete the word of the hymn; O Jesus I _____

_____ to _____ thy

i. Complete the word of the hymn; Amazing _____

_____ the sound.

Find the words in the word search: September is a time of new Beginnings'

B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	E	L	L
C	R	J	E	S	U	S	U	D	D	E	N
R	A	A	O	S	U	T	D	E	N	O	F
O	T	I	M	E	R	A	K	R	O	W	A
S	T	G	A	I	F	R	M	A	R	K	T
S	C	H	O	O	L	T	C	S	T	A	R
O	S	A	U	N	O	I	S	I	C	E	D
N	E	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	S	A	R

Beginning, Cross, Decision, Mark, New , Jesus, School, Start, Sudden, Time, Witness, Work.

Noticeboard

Prayer Meetings on zoom —Every 1st Saturday before Holy Communion on the Sunday of each month. Kindly contact Revd. Edwin if you are interested. Thank you.

For all meetings on Zoom kindly contact Revd. Edwin for the Identification (ID).

Calendar September 2025.

Sat 2nd —Church Prayer Meeting from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on zoom

Wed 10th—Bible Studies Resumes at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Sunday 28th—Harvest service. Bring and Share Lunch.

Calendar October 2025

Sat. 4th—Church Prayer Meeting from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sat.18th - EDC Meeting at Bedford from 10 a.m.

Sat. 18th - Thames North Synod from 10 a.m. at Lumen.

Sunday 19th - Men's Fellowship Anniversary Service

Sun 26th - Quarterly Church Meeting after service.

Saturday 15th November 2025—Church Bazaar—from 10:30-4 p.m. please keep the date in your diaries. Thank you.

Cont..

Every gift, no matter the size, helps us continue this work and gives real hope to families who once had none.

We believe that together, with faith and compassion, we can continue changing lives—one basket, one child, one woman at a time.

Thank you for taking the time to read our story and for considering supporting us. We would be deeply grateful for your prayers and generosity.

For your kind donations, we can receive them on our Rwandan bank account via international transfer. The bank details are:

Bank name: BANK OF KIGALI PLC

Bank account: 000-4400-69618-6015

Account name: TALKING THROUGH ART

Iban number: RW48040100020847381646

Swift code: BKIGRWRWXXX

Bank address: street KN4 Ave, house number 12, Kigali, Rwanda

We can also receive donations via PayPal using email petr@talkingthroughart.org

With love and gratitude,

Petr Kocnar, CEO and founder of TTA- Talking Through Art

<http://www.talkingthroughart.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/talkingthroughart>

A Letter of Appeal from Br. Petr Kocnar from Rwanda.

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all.

My name is Petr Kočnar, and I'm the founder of **Talking Through Art**, an organisation based in Rwanda that supports over 100 women with disabilities by providing them with dignified employment through basket weaving, sewing, and cultural activities.

Nearly 11 years ago, I had the joy and blessing of being part of the United Reformed and Moravian Church in Harlesden, London. I hold those memories close to my heart and miss you all dearly. It was during that time that the seed was planted in me to serve others, and that spirit continues to guide the work I do today.

This year, we are celebrating 10 years since we began Talking Through Art. What started as a small art project has grown into a vibrant community that empowers women, sends their children to school, and shares the message that disability is not inability.

We are reaching out with a humble appeal:
Would you consider supporting our work with a donation?

Your contributions go directly towards: School fees, uniforms, and supplies for the children of our members. Materials for weaving and sewing so the women can continue to earn income. Running English and literacy classes to build confidence and independence.

Noticeboard

Gift Aid: Are you a taxpayer? The one way that taxpayers can give more to the Church, without it costing them anything, is to Gift Aid their contributions, this is money that can be claimed back from the Inland Revenue and can make a difference to a congregations' income.

Therefore, if you are not already doing so, I would urge you to contact the treasurer and **complete a Gift Aid Form**.

Our Natural Church Development (NCD) champion is Sr Heather A. If you have any ideas to strengthen our fellowship or to spread the gospel, please use the suggestion box in the Church or speak directly to Sr Heather A.

The coronavirus Protocols

The coronavirus is still around. As a church we believe in looking after each other. The wearing of mask is optional. However, hand sanitizers are to be used frequently.

Thank you for maintaining the coronavirus protocols.

Children's Activity: We are thinking about running some children's activity during the year. If you have any ideas of the things we can do (either on-line or physical) please let the elders know or the minister.

‘THE WORLD’ IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Some reflections by Br. Donald following our Bible Studies

Dear friends,

I realise that I may have caused some difficulty at recent sessions of our weekly studies about the mentions of ‘the world’ in parts of the Bible. And I feel that I should explain myself.

Of course, the Bible we refer to are all translations into English from the original Greek. This language was used widely in the Roman empire in the days when the New Testament was compiled. The word translated as ‘the world’ was usually ‘tos kosmos’.

‘ton kosmon’ is how it looked in The Gospel of John in the famous chapter 3 and verse 16: ‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life’

This is where I wish to start this reflection.

In John 3:16, most people I think take the meaning of ‘the world’ here as the whole human race, including its defects. So I believe that God as the world’s creator loves this world, but sent his son to save the world from its defects and their consequences. An example of those defects today would be human brutality and idolatry.

But it seems to me that this meaning is not held consistently in the New Testament .

**St Margaret’s & St George’s United Reformed & Moravian
Church**

AND

St Kitts and Nevis London Association (SKANLA)



Working in the Community

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AFTERNOON TEA

£10.00

SATURDAY 18TH OCT 2025

2.00-5.00PM



Serving up a fun filled relaxing afternoon of companionship and laughter, sandwiches, savouries and cakes all washed down with a cup of tea of choice

Join us at

THE CHURCH HALL, NICOLL ROAD, HARLESDEN NW10 9AT

CONTACT TONY 07814 555635

BOOKINGS ONLY



**St Margaret's & St George's United Reformed & Moravian
Church**

St Kitts and Nevis London Association (SKANLA)

AFTERNOON TEA

£10.00

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

2.00-5.00PM



Serving up a fun filled relaxing afternoon Of companionship and laughter,
sandwiches, savours and cakes all washed down with a cup of tea of choice

Join us at

THE CHURCH HALL NICOLL ROAD HARLESDEN NW10 9AT

CONTACT - TONY 07814 555635

BOOKINGS ONLY CONTACT TONY 07814 555635

PLEASE STATE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES WHEN BOOKING



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So, for example, in the First Letter of John chapter 5 and verse 19, we read that 'the whole world is under the control of the evil one'. This is a true translation of the Greek, but could mean that 'the world' is out of the control of God and controlled by demonic powers. That is not my faith, nor what I see every day.

There certainly are alien powers about today that Christians should confront and seek to overcome. And these are not mythical, but are real and can be named. Like Zionism, among some Jews and Christians; and Jihadism, among some Muslims. And these do cause real damage to human life, even starvation or mass murder. They need to be exposed and, if possible, made illegal.

As I read the story and stories of Jesus, especially as recorded in the first three Gospels, I am struck by how much Jesus Christ expected his listeners and followers to embrace their freedom under God the Holy Spirit to do the generous and humane thing. This is what so rattled the religious lawyers among them, and led to his public murder 'under Pontius Pilate' the Roman governor.

My suspicion is that the change of tone about 'the world' as between John 3:16 and I John 5:19 came about as the Christians of the first century were becoming increasingly aware of the danger to them posed by the Roman Empire.

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That Empire had developed into a religious institution requiring the utter devotion to its Caesar. In other words, it had become a totalitarian idol. As such, it was hostile to all other faiths, including the Jews and the Christians who believed in the God above all gods.

For the Christians, this might have suggested that a world dominated by Rome was viewed as ‘under the control of the evil one’.

But under Christian influence, the Roman Empire eventually collapsed and democracy developed. So we live in a different context today. One in which we have more freedom to think and choose than those early Christians who had to be very brave indeed to follow Christ.

In my understanding, Jesus Christ looked to ‘the world’ to choose to be saved from its own defects by noticing and introducing his life-story of service and sacrifice into its very being. So ‘the world’, despite its gross defects, is – according to Jesus - redeemable.

It is not a lost cause, but holds within its soul the memory of the God the Father of us all. The Christians’ job is therefore to remind the human race of its true nature and origins and choose to be redeemed by Christ.

That is why I became a minister and missionary of the gospel.

Donald Elliott

URC Diary of Events

Aspiring to More Taster Session - Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 19:30 to 21:30 via Zoom training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Youth Mental Health First Aid 22 September - 1 October www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa

Light on Friday 26 September 2025 at Lumen 6:15-8:15pm.

Book with Maggie Hindley m@maggiehindley.com

Messy Church Fun Day Saturday 27 September 2025

10:30am - 4:00pm Lumen London WC1H 9RS. Register online at www.bit.ly/messy-fun-day

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

Wild Goose Resource Group 3-5 October 2025 at St Albans URC gilldotelliott@googlemail.com

Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025

Godly Play Accredited 3 Day Training Powys, Wales 14-16 October 2025 judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) 24-26 November 2025 at the Hayes Centre training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

18 October 2025 Venue: Lumen

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

Please note: Synod meetings are usually on the 3rd Saturday of March and October.