

CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2010

Wednesday 1 st	7.30 pm	time@tyndale - Meal
Friday 3 rd	7.15 pm	TYC Club Evening
Sunday 5th	10.30 am	Communion – 2nd Sunday in Advent
	5.30 pm	Communion & Reflection
Tuesday 7 th	7.30 pm	Deacons' meeting
Wednesday 8 th	7.30 pm	time@tyndale - Moral Maze
Sunday 12th	10.30 am	Morning worship – 3rd Sunday in Advent
	5.30 pm	Giving Tree Service
Wednesday 15 th	7.30 pm	time@tyndale – Carols & Mince Pies
Sunday 19th	10.30 am	All age Nativity Service – 4th Sunday in Advent
	5.30 pm	Carols By Candlelight
Friday 24th		Christmas Eve
	11.15 pm	Communion at Tyndale
Saturday 25th		Christmas Day
	10.00 am	Joint Service at Redland Park URC
Sunday 26th	10.30 am	Joint Service at Victoria Methodist Church

All services led by Revd Michael Docker unless otherwise indicated.

From the minister...

Now's a good time to remember the link between Tyndale and the King's (King George VI) speech at Christmas 1939. At a concert in Tyndale in 1914 Dr Richard Glover heard a singer and church member called Katherine Gerrish read lines from a poem:

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown
And he replied
Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way.”

The poem was written by Minnie Louise Haskins, from Warmley. She was a Sunday School teacher and, later, a lecturer at the London School of Economics. Richard Glover asked Katherine Gerrish for a copy of the words. They were found among his papers by his daughters after his death. They quoted them on an annual Christmas card to friends, one of whom, a Mrs J C Allen of Clifton, sent them to the Times newspaper in 1939 in response to its request for readers to send in uplifting words.

There's a new film coming out in 2011 called 'The King's Speech' that shows how difficult King George found it to speak in public and how the Queen – Queen Elizabeth – helped him. It was she who found the words of the poem in the Times and passed them to the King, and he realised that they expressed just what he wanted to say in his speech.

He followed the lines with these words, 'May that almighty hand guide and uphold us all.' 2011 doesn't loom in front of us in the same way that 1940 did, nor indeed 1915, which followed soon after the reading of the poem here at Tyndale. Both those years were marked by terrible suffering that touched the life of this land directly. Next year – who knows? There will of course be the usual mix of disasters and triumphs that have always marked human history. The current economic woes haven't blown over. Many view the prospect of the New Year with trepidation, as redundancy threatens and the cost of living soars. Financial destruction isn't the same as war, but is still devastating.

Christmas celebrations can feel like a climax, followed by a long hibernation. In terms of the Christian story this is mistaken, however understandable it may be in human terms. Hibernating through the long dark weeks of winter does sound quite inviting, doesn't it?

Still it is fortuitous that this edition of the Link straddles the last month of one year and the first month of the next. It requires that we do not allow Christmas to be the end, rather that it be the beginning – of the telling of the Christian story that has its climax at Easter... well, not even then; still we wait for the coming of the peaceable Kingdom.

We shall, as ever, attempt to ensure that the Tyndale Christmas celebration this year is rich and true to the spirit of the story, but in doing so we won't allow ourselves to forget that for many people 25th December passes unnoticed or else has to be endured as loneliness remains unrelieved. For them the New Year looms all too quickly – but if it looms bleakly then it is part of our duty to proclaim that the bleakness cannot have the final say. The light that lightens everyone is coming into the world.

Who knows what 2011 will bring? Ours is the privilege to anticipate it in faith:

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown
And he replied
Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light
And safer than a known way.”

Please allow me to echo the words of King George VI, 'may that almighty hand guide and uphold us all'.

Have a good Christmas,

Michael

PS The story of Minnie Louise Haskins' poem and its connection with Tyndale and King George VI will be told in a BBC Radio 4 broadcast in the 'Adventures in Poetry' series on December 19th – repeated on Christmas Day.

Update on the Church Meeting held on 14 September 2010

Finance

Julian West reported on the figures for the first five months of the current financial year. Income was just above the budgetary expectation and expenditure just below. All of the regular mission expenditure for the year has now been paid. The meeting recorded its thanks to Julian.

Ministry Review

Michael Docker reviewed the situation so far: and then mentioned that the deacons had looked again at the various options:

- a church worker such as a family worker or youth worker,
- an administrator
- an associate minister
- a student in ministry

We can afford a half-time post and there would be no shortage of applicants for these posts. The last church meeting had emphasised how important it is for Tyndale to look to the future, as with falling church membership and an ageing congregation, we have to be realistic that a new worker would rightly expect an increased commitment from the Tyndale congregation. The deacons were uncertain that we have the personnel to provide this.

The meeting considered again the needs of the area and heard of a list of needs expressed by the wardens of the Friends Meeting House in Hampton Road.

The deacons were going to have a fuller discussion of the various options at their next meeting; but meanwhile were recommending that we open up for discussion these options at the proposed Open Church Meeting on Sunday 24 October. The proposal is that we then have a period of reflection and prayer leading to decisions in February 2011.

Examination of our regular meetings

Church Life

Michael Docker said that this group meets regularly to plan and co-ordinate 'fixed points' in the church's regular programme, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as 'mission focussed' events such as the Spring Supper. It also takes on the planning of special events and also the forthcoming Sunday morning Church Meetings.

Friends of Tyndale Court

This group meets about four times a year and reflects the relationship between Tyndale and the Court. It is chaired by the Minister and also enables the warden to have a 'safe place' to share concerns and receive support.

Catering Committee

This provides catering support to church functions, but is not responsible for Coffee Shop, time@tyndale or lunch for Tyndale Circle. It also has responsibility for ensuring that kitchen equipment is looked after properly.

Update on the Open Church Meeting held on Sunday 24 October 2010

Ministry Review

Michael Docker gave a brief summary of the discussions which have been taking place in recent months. The meeting split into small groups to discuss the following three questions:

- What do you see as the greatest challenge to the Christian faith today?
- What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the people of Tyndale today?
- What would you identify as the greatest priority for Tyndale Baptist Church today?

Following the discussion of each question the meeting reconvened to consider some of the responses.

Following the discussions, Michael distributed a short leaflet asking for the views of the church family on what Tyndale should be doing in the short term. These should be completed after prayerful consideration and returned early in the New Year.

City of Sanctuary

The 'Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation' group brought a proposal to the November Church Meeting that Tyndale should become a signatory to a motion that was to be put before Bristol City Council, that would result in Bristol being designated a 'City of Sanctuary'.

'City of Sanctuary' is a movement begun a few years ago by a Methodist minister in Sheffield. It aims to create a 'culture of welcome' in cities in this country so that refugees and asylum seekers from around the world will come to expect a welcome if they find themselves in England. So far Sheffield has become a 'City of Sanctuary' and Bristol is one of several cities that, it is hoped, will soon join the movement.

A long list of local groups and organisations, including churches, community groups, businesses (such as Rolls Royce, and the Merchant Venturers) and trades unions have signed the proposal, and now Tyndale has been added to the list (have a look on the website cityofsanctuary.org for the full list and for more details).

As far as it goes for now, this is simply a matter of adding the church's name to the list. In doing so, though, we recognise that some action is going to be required. JPIC is intending to bring suggestions for action to the church for it to consider from time to time. The first and perhaps most valuable thing has to do with listening. Few of us will have had any direct encounter with a refugee or asylum seeker. The whole subject is surrounded by all manner of suspicion and exaggeration and part of the hope of the movement is that some of this can be dispelled, as real people with real life stories have the chance to tell them.

The Church Meeting was reminded that the whole idea of 'sanctuary' is deeply embedded in the history of the Jewish and Christian faiths – from the stories in the Bible about cities of sanctuary to the use of churches down the ages as places of sanctuary – it is, perhaps, part of the challenge of today's Christian Church to recognise and to support those initiatives that have little immediate contact with the church but that have grown out of Christian ideas in the first place.

In many parts of the Bible God is referred to as 'our refuge'. Here is an opportunity to show to some of the world's most needy people the same kind of welcome that 'we who believe' claim to experience through a living faith.

Stop press...as of 17th November Bristol is now recognised as a City of Sanctuary

Harold Taylor

Tyndale recently received a substantial legacy from the estate of the late Harry L Taylor. Although he had died in 1951, his estate had been held in a trust fund for the benefit of his daughter until her recent death.



Harry Taylor was born in the St Paul's district of Bristol in 1877. His father, Moses Taylor, a member of the Plymouth Brethren, worked for E S & A Robinson, then, and for many years afterwards, one of the principal employers in the city. When he left school (St Barnabas) at the age of 13, Harry too joined Robinson's, as an office boy. The head of the firm was Edward Robinson, a prominent member of Tyndale. Robinson noticed young Taylor as someone who had potential and encouraged him to advance in the firm. That his judgment was right is shown by Taylor eventually becoming a Director of the firm. At the age of 19 he became a travelling salesman and in 1902 was sent to work in Australia. There he not only gained business experience, but also developed his skills

as a lay preacher. He also met his future wife there – Amy Mackay. After five years in Australia, he was sent to South Africa, where Amy joined him and they were married.

The couple returned to England in 1911, but Taylor went on several overseas trips for the firm in subsequent years. Harry Taylor became a member of Tyndale in 1920 and served the denomination in many ways. He followed in the footsteps of his 'boss', Edward Robinson, as Treasurer both of the BMS and of Bristol Baptist College. Then, in 1937, he was chosen as President of the Baptist Union. It was in this capacity that he attended the Coronation of King George VI. This was the first time the Free Churches had been represented at a coronation. Later he described how 'we were given front seats in the Abbey, immediately facing the Thrones'.

Those who remember him say that he was not noted for his sense of humour! Nevertheless he told an *Evening Post* reporter in 1944 about the occasion in Australia when his name appeared on the notice board outside a Presbyterian church as the preacher, followed by: 'The anthem will be "Lord, have mercy upon us"!"

In the *Forward* to a booklet which he wrote in 1942 about Edward Robinson he told how, when he became Treasurer of the BMS, Robinson 'gladly and readily placed at my disposal his own experience in that position, and particularly in regard to the clearing of deficits!' He concluded the booklet with this tribute to Edward Robinson: 'his name should be included amongst those to whom well deserved and unstinted tribute is paid'. Those words could be applied to Harry L Taylor himself.

David T Roberts

Cyrille Regis M.B.E. - His Story

It may not have escaped the notice of some at Tyndale that I have a certain partiality for a West Midlands Football Club*; I first went to see them in the late 1930s and they won the F.A. Cup in 1954, the year that I graduated. Now the autobiography of one of their most distinguished players, Cyrille Regis, has been published and reviewed in the Baptist Times (Oct 29).

The review sketches his life story from its beginning in French Guiana through his career in football and the award of the M.B.E. in 2008; how his life came apart at the seams through the high life and its repair having met Colin Day of Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church and then making a personal commitment to Christ. I'm itching to get my hands on the book but the Baptist Times' two page spread has whetted my appetite and revived many happy memories. Cyrille was one of my heroes during his distinguished playing career; my admiration has been enhanced by the article.

Derek Parsons

- West Bromwich Albion, for those not familiar with such matters

CALENDAR - JANUARY 2011

Sunday 2nd	10.30 am	Communion service
Tuesday 4 th	7.30 pm	Deacons' meeting
Sunday 9th	10.30 am	Morning worship
Tuesday 11 th	7.30 pm	Church meeting
Wednesday 12 th	7.30 pm	time@tyndale – Faith Matters
Friday 14 th	7.15 pm	TYC Club Evening
Sunday 16th	10.30 am	All age worship
Tuesday 18 th	7.30 pm	Home groups meet
Wednesday 19 th	7.30 pm	time@tyndale - Communion
Sunday 23rd	10.30 am	Morning worship
Wednesday 26 th	7.30 pm	time@tyndale – Holocaust Memorial
Friday 28 th	7.15 pm	TYC Club Evening
Sunday 30th	10.30 am	Morning worship

All services led by Revd Michael Docker unless otherwise indicated.