

# The Spire

*"Probably the best parish newsletter on the circuit"*

*(Creationtide 2024)*

## Spire Finances Need Extra Support



### Blue Sky Thinking!!

#### Blue Pagoda will need more financial support than originally planned

Unfortunately it has recently emerged that a relatively substantial source of financial support for the Spire is unlikely to materialize and whereas we originally thought that we needed to raise a further £50,000 to complete the project the estimates currently are this will require a further £100,000.

However, various avenues are being explored during September and more details will be forthcoming.

September will be a very busy month for the PCC as various aspects of the interregnum go into play and all sorts of meetings are being held to prepare for the choice of the new incumbent.

Meanwhile business as usual happily revolves around the season of Creation and in this issue Revd Alison Christian gives an insight as to what to expect.

We also have some wonderful pieces from our contributors on various aspects of Creationtide please check inside for all the details.

### Heritage And Harvest Festivals!

September is the heritage open day festival and Judith Shepherd has been exploring all the amazing stories behind the transport links which go through Harrow and we are hoping for a great community day on Saturday September the 14th as we take part in the nationwide heritage open day festival.

As September progresses we look forward to an amazing harvest lunch together on 22nd September and the harvest festival itself on Sunday 29th September

### In this issue:

- \* Pauline has written a wonderful article about a butterfly count with her grandchildren.
- \* Eric has written a beautiful piece about how he was able to do an experiment at school leading to better air quality.
- \* Ann Allen has written a lovely piece about her work in the churchyard.
- \* Dorothy Pope has some lovely poems about the autumn
- \* Matthew has written a piece about Eco-Church.

## The Season of Creation

Revd Alison Christian introduces the theme for this issue—

Sir Francis Bacon, Elizabethan statesman and essayist, once started an essay with the words, “God Almighty first planted a garden.” Yes, in the Creation story, not only the trees and flowers of the garden, but all bird, animal and insect life existed before Adam and Eve and when the humans are brought into being, God puts (them) “in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it” (Genesis 2: 15). God creates a garden and asks humankind to take care of it. No wonder so many of us love gardens. It is where we are “at home”, with nature, with ourselves and with our Creator.

We know that we have not tilled and kept the garden well. Through a mixture of ignorance and greed we have damaged and are damaging our home, the earth, which feeds us and protects us and could enable all human beings to thrive if we only took care of it.

This is a message that has been around in the Church certainly since I was ordained deacon, thirty-three years ago, and probably before that time. But the Church worldwide took very little notice of the prophets who were calling out to us for a long time. It was others, who understood the urgency of the issues facing the world. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1970, the first Earth Day was observed by 20 million people across the USA, calling upon students to fight for environmental causes.

Then, in 1989, the Eastern Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios, proclaimed a day of prayer for the environment. This was followed in 2000 by a Lutheran congregation in Australia, who developed a four-week celebration of creation. Creation-tide or the Season of Creation was born.

Today, the Church of England has taken the Season of Creation to its heart, saying on its website,

“This is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.” It is a time for congregations “to give thanks for God’s gift of creation, and to renew their commitment to caring for our planet home.”

We, at St Mary’s, will be celebrating the Season of Creation on Sundays throughout September, culminating with the Harvest Festival, a family service, on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope the Season will be uplifting, inspiring and a gentle challenge to all of us to live more gently and considerately with our earth.

# Seasonal Round-Up

## **Marian Patricia Small RIP**

Marian's funeral on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 was well-attended by family and friends and she was later interred next to her husband, John, at Carpenders Park Lawn Cemetery.

Marian was a Harrow girl born and bred; she was also intensely interested in the history and future of our parish church. The Funeral Service, in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer, was led by the Revd Alison Christian, the Reading was given by her childhood friend, Valerie Thomasson, and the eulogies were delivered by her cousin, Geoffrey Cleave, and our own churchwarden, Matthew Biggs.

Marian was a lady who believed in good manners, modesty and privacy. Rather than publish her eulogies here, it seemed more appropriate that copies of the Order of Service, the Address and both eulogies are freely available via the Parish Secretary on request!

May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

## **Decorating for Harvest**

We will be decorating the church for Harvest on Saturday 28th September at 10am.

It is always a very sociable morning, a chance to catch up with friends over coffee and work together to create lovely displays to celebrate God's bounteous gifts. It is rewarding to work as a team and if you have never arranged flowers before there are plenty of help and encouragement readily available, do give it a try!

Please bring scissors or secateurs and a few flowers or greenery if possible. We very much look forward to seeing you.

## **Harvest Lunch**

We will be holding our Harvest Lunch on Sunday September 22nd after the morning service in the church room.

The lunch will be a savoury buffet followed by fruit salad and coffee. We can cater for dietary needs with advance warning. There will be a selection of soft drinks but you are welcome to bring a bottle of wine if you prefer. You could arrange to sit with friends and share one.

Tickets will be available from September 2nd at the cost of £6 each. They will be on sale from the parish office, phone number 0208 423 4014 or in person or email [stmarys.harrow@btinternet.com](mailto:stmarys.harrow@btinternet.com)

There will also be a sign up sheet at the welcome desk if you

prefer.

We look forward to seeing you .

## **Handbells**

We will return to start practices in the choir vestry on Tuesday 24 September when anyone interested in trying out handbell ringing will be welcome.

## **Farewell to Tim Smith**

We will be thanking our Music Director for 20 years of outstanding service to St Mary's on September 8th. Tim has been an inspiration to us all in his amazing ability to create wonderful music for our services and Choral Evensongs.

It was fantastic to learn that Tim was awarded the British Empire Medal on the day of the Summer Fete—as it coincided with the Birthday Honours Announcements. We all wish Tim and his family all the very best with their move to Rickmansworth.

## **Tim Smith, Director of Music, St. Mary's Church, Harrow, 2004-2024-A few reflections from Doug Milsom**

I have known the Smith family since Tim's father, Tony, was appointed Organist and Choirmaster in 1968, and the Smiths soon became our firm family friends.

My first memory of Tim as a musician was him playing the timpani with the Harrow School of Young Musicians orchestra.

That was before he went to study for his music degree at Bangor University.

Tim transferred from his position as organist at St. Alban's, North Harrow to St. Mary's at Christmas 2004, and quickly established himself as part of our musical life. This was shortly after Tim and Brita had emigrated from Rayners Lane to Rickmansworth.

During the last 20 years, Tim has done much to keep the musical tradition at St. Mary's going, thanks to his skills as a teacher as well as an organist. Not a simple task, considering the wide range of ages and ability in the choir. He was responsible for introducing the RSCM bronze, silver and gold awards within the choir, coaching several members to a high level. St. Mary's Choir has also benefitted from having his children, Judy and Tom, singing with us.

Tim has also been heavily involved with the Harrow Deanery Choirs Festival, which performs a valuable function in encouraging high standards of music in the Churches in the district. We will all miss Tim's leadership and organ playing but wish him well in the future.

Douglas Milsom

# The Big Butterfly Count



One beautiful Summer's day with golden sunshine and not a cloud in the sky Michael and I travelled to rural Hampshire to join our grandchildren in 'The Big Butterfly Count'.

Already versed in the dangers facing our native butterflies the children had helped to plant flowers and shrubs, such as Buddleia, in their garden, to provide a butterfly friendly habitat. They had also researched the food needed by butterflies.



A few days earlier they had been fortunate to watch Painted Lady butterflies emerge from their chrysalises and fly out into the garden

Our elder granddaughter, Annabelle, ever the organiser, took charge of the books and charts needed for identification of the butterflies and our grandson, Gabriel, immediately fetched the laptop saying, "I'll record the data!" Our younger granddaughter, Alicia, asked, somewhat plaintively, "What can I do?" "Look after the binoculars and magnifying glass", replied Annabelle.

So, armed with the necessary equipment, we ventured out into the garden to identify, count and record all the butterflies we could see in the next 15 minutes. It was hectic with children, as well as butterflies, flying everywhere.

"That's a Red Admiral", "There's a Peacock", "What's that?" came the cries as charts, books and magnifying glass came into action with Gabriel frantically trying to record all the data as shouts came from his sisters

In all we recorded 10 different species - those already mentioned and Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, Orange Tip, Meadow Brown, Small Copper, Painted Lady, Green Veined White and Brimstone. Great care was taken to record more than one of a species only when they were seen together.



A discussion ensued as to whether the two Painted Lady Butterflies seen were those that they had released into the garden a few days earlier, or a different pair. Two votes for 'the same', one for 'different' and two abstentions! (Grandparents don't take sides!)

Sitting in the shade, with well-earned refreshments, records were checked and the data input completed and submitted.

"Well!" said Gabriel, "That was fun and we've played our part in helping to conserve our native butterflies. Well done to all of us!"

"I think butterflies are the beautifullest (sic) things God makes", whispered Alicia.

## September

Bounty and relief, ripening and softening – September surely is the golden month. We have Ode to Autumn by Keats of course. This poem, perfect in my view apart from the slight mismatch of the ‘bees, cease’ rhyme, is glorious, isn’t it, with all those ripening verbs in stanza 1, the four women personifying and epitomising autumn in stanza 2 and the plea and contention in the last stanza that autumn has an underpraised beauty as well as that of the much-lauded spring. I also offer my Cool Morning, a Petrarchan sonnet, published in The Spectator magazine and my Autumn poem telling of a boy’s harvest of conkers and joys, this to be in the 2025 This England calendar. Dorothy Pope

I recommend you read September Song by Geoffrey Hill.

### Ode to Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats

### Cool Morning

Mid August, even so, a faint hint, gift  
of autumn momentarily - a sweet,  
soft breeze. With slender branches trees entreat  
a sift of foliage. Their fingers lift.  
Then half a dozen paper leaves adrift  
blow in and dance round summer sandalled feet,  
though brief, their restlessness another fleeting  
sign of imminent and massive shift.  
The season's on the very cusp. We'll see  
the great sun climb and midday will be hot  
but morning now, as evening later, spares  
relentless sultriness, humidity  
with temperate caress. Long shadowed autumn's  
in the wings. The old earth cools, prepares.

Dorothy Pope

### Autumn

Blown beeches squandering their lovely gold,  
I, lordly rich with hoarded chestnut treasure,  
all down the coppery October hours  
until the low sun squints the dwindled day,  
boots pushing paper leaves back home  
to evening cocoa jug, the fire glow  
polishing the dresser, porridge papered walls  
a dance of shadows, flickered flames of hearth  
and fendered brass, the chill of bedtime stairs  
warmed through by bless of blankets as the night  
owl ushers in my patchwork dreams.

Dorothy Pope

## The Wildflowers in the Churchyard

Ann Allen writes—This is an article to update readers on what I have been doing lately as a very small cog within the Ecology group of St Marys. With the help of Kellie O'Reilly's photographic skill I have identified and recorded the seasonal variety of the wild flowers of our churchyard. We have mounted our work on posters in the Church Room near the hatch. These show the seasonal progression of the wild flowers of St Marys churchyard. I send these records to 'Gods Acre' a charity compiling a map of the natural history of every churchyard in Great Britain from tiny city churches to larger suburban and rural churchyards, You can imagine the amount of data they are collecting of our special and mostly green spaces. St Marys churchyard is a good example of a suburban green space acting as a lung for us all and wildlife.

I plan to continue my interest in the wild flowers here, and my contact with 'Gods Acre.' I will also offer my very casual mini rambles around the churchyard. I have offered these after coffee/tea breaks in the Church Room on a seasonal and weather permitting basis, announced on the day. There is always something new to see and encouraging to see some very sharp eyed children seeing small things we adults miss or take for granted. Please join me.

Next, and here again you can help me, as I would like to record and name any bats, birds, insects and other small mammals of our churchyard, even some which overfly. This can be an exciting new adventure for us all.

I continue my life-long curiosity in Natural History dating back to my mother showing me her knowledge of the wild flowers of the chalk hills of Wiltshire where my family was relocated to in WW2. When I was seven years old my first flower book was 'The Observers Book of Wild Flowers' price £4.00. My how times have changed and I have been so fortunate to develop my hobby in many other parts of the world too where my late husband Hugh's work took my family and me, to mines, deserts, tropics, cities and far afield.

The accompanying photo shows a group of fritillaries, *F. melagris*, growing outside and below the main East window of St Marys. The small pendulous bells occur in

both white or brown/purple. Look out for it next Spring (2025)



Ann Allen 8. 24

## Eric's Eco Experiment

Hello everyone,

As it goes the old story, God created the earth in six days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Each day represents an important part of the earth for example, land or water to the sky. So just as he has created all of this for us to live and thrive in, we must take care of it. As Issac Newton said in his third law, every action has an opposite reaction. So when we don't try to properly nurture everything that God has given us, it has an opposite, usually negative, reaction. This is why the importance of global warming can't be stressed enough. What we do matters, and it impacts the earth but also future generations.

During school time, I carried out a small experiment. I was given couple of CO<sub>2</sub> monitors which also measure the levels of other harmful gases in the air, as well as carbon dioxide. I would leave them out by the road near the school in the morning - parents would drop off / collect their children during the morning and afternoon. During morning drop off and evening pick up, the air would be almost at the very limit between what is considered healthy air and air that is dangerous to breathe. But during lunch time they would read the air as being almost perfectly clean. So this was proof that not even adults only, but children too, are being exposed to dangerously toxic levels of air. This is concrete proof that we need to change our ways. Here it's the link to my school magazine where I had my research published (page 19):

[The Standard - Summer 2023 by johnlyonharrow - Issuu](#)

And as a young person there are many ways that you can go about this change to your lifestyle. What can put many people off from reducing their carbon footprint just that bit less, is the fact that they feel they have to make a dramatic change. For example, you don't have to suddenly stop driving your car.

You can start by making slight changes – like taking the bus part of the way on a Wednesday or take the train instead if the journey is longer. Even bigger steps to take afterwards, is investing in solar panels for example or some sort of green energy.

Personally, I think drastic measures are what we think we need, but not necessarily the only option to protecting our world. If anybody can put the effort in just the bit further and change even the tiniest aspect of their lives to help themselves and others, we could avert global warming. Just like when covid came, the entire world made an effort to avert this pandemic from destroying everything, and just like with climate change we will be able to overcome it. It will just take a lot of faith, research and commitment to lowering our carbon footprint.

So just as we started, I want to bring you back to the creation of the earth, if we protect our land, our seas, our fellow animals and ourselves, then we will be doing what God intended for his creation and with that fulfilling our promises to him

Eric

## Caring for God's Creation Matthew Biggs

In November 2023, St Mary's became the thirty-sixth Diocese of London parish church to hold an Eco-Church "Silver Award".

There are four hundred and three parishes in the Diocese of London. A plaque was been installed at the Church Room entry, a certificate is posted on a Church Room noticeboard and a badge is available for inclusion on the church's website.

The Diocese of London's "London 2030 Vision" has "Compassionate Communities" as one of its formal "ambitions", each designed to demonstrate the practical love of God in action. There are five different ways that the Diocese would like us to meet the "Compassionate Communities" ambition, including "Caring for God's Creation". The Church of England has committed to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 and General Synod expects parishes to use two measurement tools to support this: **the "Energy Footprint Tool"** and **A Rocha's "Eco Church Award Scheme"**.

**The Energy Footprint Tool** takes up our gas and electricity meter readings and compares it with our square footage and monitors our carbon footprint on behalf of the Diocese. I understand that the Diocese has decided that St Mary's is one of the twenty least-energy efficient churches in the Diocese. The Diocesan Environmental Officer is coming to meet our Treasurer, Roger Horne, at some point soon to discuss these readings and will suggest ways in which our energy efficiency can be improved. In reply, the PCC would probably observe that:

The church is a Grade I listed building in stone, glass, wood and lead;

Sitting at the highest point in the Diocese;

Lashed regularly by every passing wind-, lightning- and rain-storm;

And open daily to the public - winter, spring, autumn and summer - in daylight hours.

The roof and spire have been, or are being, replaced in order to deal with urgent water ingress and heat loss;

Despite the PCC's best endeavours and a great deal of money, the building is still not water-tight;

We heat the building to a minimum temperature specified by our Quinquennial Inspecting Architect, via the most efficient gas boiler we can afford.

PCC is keen to avoid the serious problems allied to penetrating, rising and/ or condensation damp. The PCC takes energy efficiency seriously and continues to improve the building premises as time, cash, inspection reports and its own energy levels allow.

**A Rocha's "Eco Church" Scheme** revolves around a single detailed questionnaire completed by applicants. The mark received determines the level of the Award. At Bronze and Silver Award levels, the questionnaire is self-certified. At Gold Level, A Rocha auditors visit each church and extra independent paperwork is required.

The main questionnaire themes and sample questions are:

Worship & Teaching (10 Questions)

How often do we preach and/ or pray about the environment?

Is Creation care part of our youth work?

Do we have guest speakers? Is "Caring for God's creation" part of our routine communications?

Buildings (33 Questions)

Do we measure, plan to reduce and then off-set our Carbon emissions?

Do we have a "green" energy tariff?

Is everything insulated, double-glazed and lit by LED?

Are all our consumables environmentally friendly?

Are there solar panels/ wind turbines within our boundaries?

Land (16 Questions)

Do we have Bird/ Bee/ Bug Boxes in the churchyard?

Feeding stations for wildlife?

Responsible tree-planting/ lawn mowing/ fruit and vegetable planting regimes?

Composting Facilities?

Does the PCC have a "Land Management Plan"?

Community & Global Engagement (27 Questions)

Do we lobby decision-makers on behalf of the environment?

Are we part of the local green "scene"?

Are we part of Car-Sharing/ Toilet Twinning/ Fair Trade Schemes?

Do parish meals include a vegetarian/ vegan option?

Lifestyle (15 Questions)

Is there an Eco-Champion appointed from within the congregation?

Do parishioners self-audit their environmental impact?

Do we have a communal Christmas/ Easter card scheme?

Do we all both personally and as a PCC invest ethically?

Do we reduce, re-use, recycle?

Are practical lifestyle tips included in our parish communications?

Pursuing an Eco-Church Gold Award was not included in our objectives for the current five-year Mission Action Plan: parishioners may feel that it should have been.

There is currently no "Creation Care" Group leading on "Caring for God's Creation"; the Group was unable to re-assemble after Covid19, so the ambitions behind "Caring for God's Creation" are managed as part of the PCC's wider remit, overseeing all church activity.

If any parishioner (young or old) feels specifically moved to support, monitor or learn more about this aspect of "Compassionate Communities", PCC would be delighted to hear from you!



## Harvest Time recollections

*David Muriss writes*—Several of us were asked to write an article for The Spire; I was told to write something on Harvest Festivals in my childhood. This would take me back to the Second World War or just after and I wasn't sure if they had them then. However I was on the phone with my cousin, who is three or four years younger than me, who said she remembered when she was three or four her mother dropping her off at Ickenham Church to help the lady set up for Harvest Festival and they gave the proceeds to local hospitals after.—so they did exist about that time.

I was a choir boy in St Peter's Choir, the original church before it was rebuilt inside. The foundation stone was laid in 1911, and it was consecrated in 1913. It was similar to St Mary's but smaller with no south and north doors or central aisle. I don't remember any Harvest Festivals when I was in the choir but that doesn't mean that they didn't have them. Adjacent to the Church, where the present car park now is, was a Hall. I can remember singing a solo on the stage there, who knows if I had carried on singing there may have been another Elton John in the neighbourhood! Darts were played every week there, about ten teams I think, and my father ran one, my mother was in it, and I played when I got older.

My father belonged to the West Harrow Allotment Society, and they held a Harvest Festival or Supper in the Hall every year. You had to bring your own plates, cutlery and drinks, a slice of ham or something was put on the plate, and you supplied whatever else you wanted. After the meal there was a raffle mainly of flowers or vegetables (which tended to go on too long) and a bucket was brought round for the rubbish and scraps from the meal quite often by my father or me. The tables were moved away, and space was made for dancing.

Because of lack of congregation, St Peter's Church closed in 1982. St Mary's had some of its communion vessels. The main chalice we use came from St. Peter's, maybe we still use it but since my health caused me to retire as sacristan, I don't get involved in setting up. The inside of St Peter's was virtually stripped and rebuilt, and a new floor was put in the nave. It reopened in 1989 and it was probably during this period that the Hall was demolished and replaced with a car park. However, the Allotment Society still had their Harvest Supper but moved it to St George's Hall in Pinner View.

I was no longer a youngster but as a server still helped arrange the harvest produce on the altar. There is a tale told by a choirboy that when the harvest produce was also

arranged on the chancel step an apple fell off the step and rolled all the way down the nave during the sermon! How true this is I don't know but it brings nice thoughts to the mind.

David Muriss



There is also a drawing I have done.

## Heritage Pages

### John Lyon's Roads and John Lyon's Charity

*Judith Shepherd writes* whilst I've done a lot of work on the history of Harrow school as well as St Mary's church a great big gap in my knowledge had been understanding the history of John Lyon's roads. As the theme for Heritage Open Day Festival this year is Routes, Networks, Connections I have taken this opportunity of diving into the stories behind the Harrow and Edgware roads.

Father James's parting gift to me was the coffee table book "A Long and Winding Road. the story of John Lyon's charity" by Nick Owen. Below I am highlighting some of the amazing facts which came from this book and which I will also be talking about on the Heritage Open Day on Saturday September 14th

In 1572 John Lyon was granted the royal charter for founding Harrow school. This charter anticipated that John Lyon would establish a separate Trust for the purpose of maintaining two roads from London to Harrow.

In 1578 John Lyon provided an endowment in the form of a farm of some 48 acres in the area now known as Maida Vale. For that purpose several hundred years later the income from the estate in Maida Vale continued to be paid to the various authorities that were responsible for the roads. In 1991 a charity commission scheme came into effect giving the governors of Harrow School discretion to apply the income for the benefit of the inhabitants of nine London boroughs Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow Kensington and Chelsea and the cities of London and Westminster. Now 440 years later the charity has supported 700,000 children and issued them with £65 million in grants.

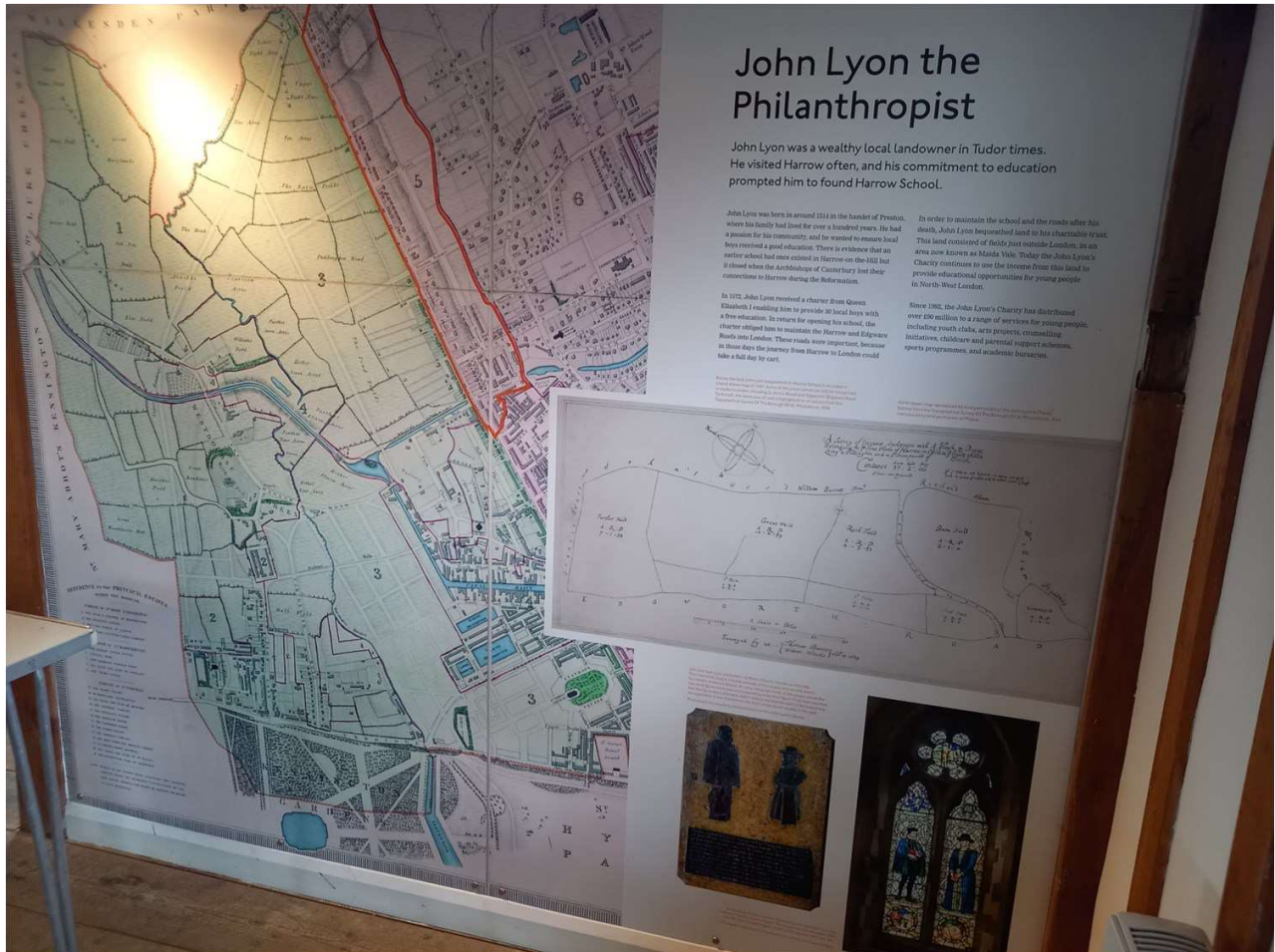
The Northwest London lands were a prime wheat growing area in Lyon's time but all the available histories of the schools suggest that Lyon wished the Harrow and Edgware roads maintained in order to transport vegetables to the London markets in his lifetime and thereafter. However, this is a curious and unsubstantiated claim. Lyon bought and occasionally sold land but the time he left his holdings and instructions for looking after them to the governors there was no reference to using them for agriculture of any sort only to the appropriate terms on which to let them. Perhaps Lyon was an early investor and dealer in land, what today might be called a speculator not a market gardener.



Lyon entrusted the additional task of maintaining the two thoroughfares to the Keepers and Governors of the school. To facilitate this he purchased two farms just off the Edgware Road and specified that their income had to be used for the upkeep of the roads. The first task however was to apply the revenues of all the lands including the Marylebone estate left by Lyon for three years only to the erection of the new school building.

The first of the farms purchased to fund the road obligations was bought from William and Gilbert Gerrard in 1579 for £340 pounds, three years later Lyon bought adjacent lands from William Sherringham for £321.10s- thus the endowment to maintain the roads was provided as an income that would be the cause of much dispute was placed in the care of the governors. The two parcels of land combined extended to less than 50 acres and produced rents of no more than £50 a year being used entirely for agricultural purposes.

For some 200 years after Lyon's death and more than 200 years before the expansion of London produced the demand for building and building leases that was to become the foundation of the assets of today's charities these farms were formerly part of the huge Middlesex forests. In the reign of Henry VIII they were still part of the King's Hunting ground and appear only to have become partially cleared for agriculture in the 16th century. These lands together with the adjoining but larger Eyre Estate were part of Saint John's Wood in the Manor of Lilestone- it may have been given to the knights hospitaliers of Saint John of Jerusalem hence the name St John's Wood. For 200 years after Lyon's death the estate was used for agriculture -there was provision for gravel to be extracted from the lands to maintain the roads.



The Edgware Road as provided for first in the Lyon bequest starts at its City end at St Giles Circus and runs in an east-west line the whole length of Oxford Street to Tyburn now Marble Arch. Here it turns North and remains the Edgware Road for most of its length to Kilburn Bridge where Kilburn High Road begins for a short stretch before that it becomes Maida Vale where the charity's estates sit on its eastern side before reverting to the name Edgware Road. This second leg of the road after Kilburn Bridge is a straight Roman Road part of Watling Street and the A5 and, until the advent of the motorways, the principal route to Chester and North Wales. The total length of these two legs is less than seven miles and the charity's road ends short of Edgware itself by another five miles or so which is a surprise. Furthermore it passes through what is now much of the most valuable and most visited shopping locations in Britain which in Lyon's time were of course simple fields!

The Harrow Road is more predictable if only because it remains almost unchanged. It starts from its junction with the Edgware Road at Lisson Grove half a mile north of Marble Arch and winds its way up to Harrow on the Hill a distance of some eight miles. It has always been a secondary route compared to the Edgware Road and the expenditure of the charity's income was intended to reflect this ranking. In Lyon's time the Harrow Road was probably a little more than track on the other hand the Edgware Road had already taken its place as a highway of importance for many centuries when William the Conqueror landed in Sussex and defeated Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 he did not immediately advance on London instead he marched around to the west crossing the Thames at Wallingford before approaching London down the Edgware Road as far as Saint Giles Circus where he is said to have diverted to establish himself at what is now Westminster. His was not the first army to use that road. It was a Roman road much used by the Roman legions most famously by Suetonius Paulinus as he marched his troops down from Northwest Wales and then hurriedly away from London in fear of Queen Boudicca.

## Giving back -The Season of Creation and Harvest Festival

Celtic Christianity believed that God created two great books by which humankind can know him: the Bible and Creation itself; nature all around us, the seasons passing by, the stars and planets in the skies. The Celtic vision carried through into Anglo-Saxon and early medieval times. In one of the earliest and finest Christian poems in English, "The Dream of the Rood", the creation itself cries out at the death of Jesus.

*Shadows spread  
grey under the clouds; all creation wept,  
mourned the King's fall: Christ on the cross.*

Somehow, as time passed, we lost touch with the sacredness of nature, seeing it and the animal world as something to be used only for human ends. "Dominion" of the earth, which originally meant "taking care of it" became "Domination", abuse of it. And we are seeing how such abuse is coming back to bite us, not only materially but spiritually. We have lost touch with ourselves in losing touch with nature.

It is out of this that the Season of Creation or Creation Time, was born. We will celebrate different aspects of creation on three to four of the Sundays in September, starting on **September 1<sup>st</sup>**. The last Sunday of this five Sunday month, will be our **Harvest Festival**.

We want the Harvest Festival this year to reflect not only our thanksgiving for all that God gives us through his abundant creation, but also our giving back to those who are in need. So, we intend to collect items through September – different ones each week – to give to our local food bank. The items will be kept back until the Festival itself, on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and used as part of our Harvest display in church.

We would like to include at least one eco-friendly product, so for one week we propose asking people to contribute economy wattage light bulbs. For the other 3 Sundays we propose

September 1<sup>st</sup> Economy wattage light bulbs.

September 8<sup>th</sup> Toiletries (soaps shampoos, tooth paste, toothbrushes etc.)

September 15<sup>th</sup> Tea /coffee or long life milk/ juice

September 22<sup>nd</sup> Tinned fish.

Please note, the foodbank **does not need** tinned soup, cereals, pasta, biscuits.

Thank you, in advance, for your gifts. May we all have a truly blessed Season of Creation.