In May, I had the great privilege of being able to travel to the north of Iceland to visit and study some of their church buildings.

The architecture of Iceland, and its church architecture in particular, is remarkable in a number of ways. First, it is a recent tradition: having been governed by the Norwegians and then the Danes until 1945, there was no “national” architectural tradition or identity. Secondly, in the 1920s, the architecture leapt from effectively Iron-Age techniques (hollowed-out homes, lined with rock and roofed with wood, whalebone and turf) to modernism expressed in concrete. Thirdly, from the 1920s onward, the widespread harnessing of geothermal hot water for heating domestic and commercial buildings enabled adventurous design without compromising the sustainability or comfort of buildings.

The twentieth century architecture of Iceland is intimately connected with the life and work of one man, Guðjón Samúelsson (1887-1950). He was the first Icelander to train as an architect, and was appointed “state architect”. From the 1920s onward, he used concrete and pebble-dash to construct bold, modernist public buildings with distinctive monumental, symmetrical facades that resonated with the dramatic geology of his nation. Well-known examples of his... continued on page 4
July and August worship

Sunday 2 July
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  All-Age Parish Eucharist
11.45am  Songs of Praise in Oak Hill Park
at the East Barnet Festival

Sunday 9 July
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  Parish Eucharist
with a welcome to the Revd Patrick Moriarty, assistant curate
6.30pm  Evening Prayer

Sunday 16 July
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  Parish Eucharist
6.30pm  Evensong

Sunday 23 July
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  Parish Eucharist
6.30pm  Evensong

Sunday 30 July
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  Parish Eucharist
6.30pm  Evensong

Sunday 6 August
THE TRANSFIGURATION
10am  Parish Eucharist
6.30pm  Evensong

Sunday 13 August
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FESTIVAL)
10am  Parish Eucharist
6.30pm  Broken alternative worship

Sunday 20 August
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  Parish Eucharist
6.30pm  Evensong

Sunday 27 August
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
10am  Parish Eucharist

For the younger generation

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10.30–11.45am, alternate Mondays
St Mary's Church
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Church Hill School
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Info: Parish Office, 020 8441 4401

Little Tots
Pre-school playgroup
Every Friday 1.30–3pm in term time
Brookside Methodist Church Hall
Info: Parish Office, 020 8441 4401

“Let the little children come unto me”
In Bennett’s story, there are two competing visions of what education should be all about. One teacher – Irwin – is interested only in what will impress the academics doing the Oxbridge interviews. The other – Hector – wants to give them a broader understanding of life.

This leads to the boys singing, acting out a scene from a French brothel and – yes – learning that scene from *Brief Encounter* word-for-word.

Irwin goes to Hector and demands to know what on earth he is teaching them. The answer that comes back is “Sheer, calculated silliness.”

Irwin is not impressed with this method of pedagogy. Neither is the headmaster, who doesn’t think that knowing every word of George Formby’s “When I’m cleaning windows” is a useful life skill – especially for boys considering going to university.

I’ve always held the opposite view. Formal learning from books is great – as is the occasional contrary opinion. But practising silliness can be great as well.

We live in a very serious age, especially for children. No longer is the easy game-playing and fantasy of a previous generation possible. This is a great pity. In all the focus upon learning and exams, it’s easy to forget that they aren’t everything life is about. And this is true for adults too – how easy it is to get sucked into a world of work and duties and to forget to play!

This is a kind of summer manifesto, then – be silly. Be deliberately silly.

Because there is so much that cannot be learnt in any other way – not least the feeling of joy.
work are the National Theatre of Iceland (1950), the University of Iceland (1935) and the Hálgrimsfirja (1945-86), Akureyri Church (1940).

Beyond Reykjavik, from 1945 onwards, the next generation of architects continued to use concrete as material enabling avant-garde expressionism, seeing churches as bold "legacy" works, viewing them as public artistic statements as much as places of worship means that some have remarkable exteriors, but somewhat conservative interiors. Indeed, the priest of one such church, Stykkisholmur (1992), observed that the congregation, having been given perhaps the most extreme, avant-garde building in all Iceland, was initially horrified by the building until they went inside, where they were comforted by its familiar, almost mundane, interior (exterior photograph on page 1; internal photograph opposite top). How very unlike England, I reflected, where congregations and communities are mostly far more willing to embrace architectural experimentation inside churches, but treat their exteriors with extreme caution and conservatism!

The church of Talkafjordur (2003) is notable, being the first Icelandic church in one hundred years to be made of wood (photograph opposite bottom right). I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing the architect of this church, Elisabet Gunnarsdottir. I was amused to discover that the decision to use wood was made, not because of zealous ecological or historical concern, but because a local timber merchant was in the congregation and using his materials would reduce the cost of the build by around one third! But the church, using steel rather than concrete, is in extraordinary "dialogue" with its surroundings, has remarkable light and a dramatic altar and altarpiece designed and given by the Icelandic artist Hreinn Friðfinnsson in gratitude for his first love, a local resident!

One notable feature of all the (many) Icelandic churches I visited was the dignity, order and lack of clutter in the churches themselves. Whereas in England congregations are being encouraged to remove pews, set up children’s corners, introduce refreshment stations and attract people with “Messy Church”, the very opposite is true in Iceland: there is a strong sense of "sanctuary" to the churches, places dedicated solely to worship. The idea of a messy church is anathema to them! Every church I visited had extensive rooms serving the church: halls, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen and, of course, loos, and they were well-used and managed. Indeed, I was told, it would be unthinkable to have a church without such facilities. This, again, is a sharp contrast to England, where many churches still struggle even to provide a toilet.

The funding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (the “State Church”) may explain some of these differences. Since 1991, the Icelandic State has taken charge of the church’s historic endowments and properties, in return for which it guarantees (and pays for) one priest for every 4,000 residents, whom must find his or her own housing. If a person joins the membership roll of a church, they pay a “church charge” of 10,000 IsKr (£79) per year. 80% of this charge goes back to the church and pays for building maintenance, administrative support, cleaning, the organist and any lay-workers. The remaining 20% of the charge is kept in a central fund and parishes
may bid from it for grants for capital projects or repairs (new roofs, for example). So, despite these buildings being often complex to maintain, they are in very good condition.

Iceland describes itself as a strongly secular nation (with 10% self-professed atheists, is the “most atheist” nation in the world), and the church has seen its attendance drop significantly in recent decades. In some cases this is causing the churches significant anxiety as, though the priests are secure, the funding to support their church buildings and activities is dependent upon the “church charge”. Nevertheless, around 70% of all people still pay the charge to their local church, and around 10% of the population attends church on Sundays.

It was an extraordinary privilege to see and be shown round these and many other churches. I came away two impressions. First was the great importance of local “story”. Everyone I met, even those who did not go to church, were very proud of their local church and of the work that it does. Secondly, it reaffirmed for me the importance of sanctuary, a place of holiness within a community, a place that is both part of a community, but quite distinct from it, a place where the business and storms of the world are hushed and people can focus, undistracted, upon God. And in Iceland, they have the privilege of doing so in some of the most dramatic locations in the world in some of its most extraordinary buildings.
Martha’s life hacks

School’s out! Keeping your children entertained over the summer really shouldn’t cost a fortune. So here is a selection of ideas – and adults may be interested in a fair few of these too...

There are plenty of free museums in London and many have children’s trails and activities, especially in the summer.

In South Kensington, the Natural History and Science museums, and the Victoria and Albert museum, have lots to see. Try the Museum of London, or the British Museum. The National Maritime Museum, the Imperial War Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood (which is easy to reach by train from Enfield) are also worth a visit.

But don’t forget smaller, quirkier ones like the Sir John Soane Museum near Holborn, the Ragged School Museum in the East End, or the Bank of England museum. The RAF Museum in Hendon is also a good place to go.

Try the Museum in Docklands, and the Horniman Museum (which you can reach by P4 bus from Brixton tube station, making it easy to get to.)

Art galleries are also free and have children’s trails. The National Gallery, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, and the National Portrait Gallery are all well worth a visit. The Wallace Collection has lots of armour as well as beautiful rooms and artworks – try to be upstairs when the hour strikes, and listen to all the clocks!

London parks, again, are great to explore. St James’ Park has lots of water birds – you may even see some pelicans – and there is a small playground, too. Go and see the dinosaurs at Crystal Palace, enjoy the views on Hampstead Heath, go to Battersea Park (which has a small zoo with an entrance fee) Hyde Park or Kensington Gardens.

If it’s got to be the Zoo, the London Eye, Sea Life London, etc, you can take advantage of an offer by National Rail. If you book tickets to travel from a train station you can get two adult tickets for the price of one. See https://www.daysoutguide.co.uk/ for details.

Getting there can be at least half the fun, and getting around London can be entertaining in itself. The Docklands Light Railway has wonderful views of East London including the airport and the skyscrapers on the Isle of Dogs, and a bus ride through the city has its own charm.

For slightly more than the cost of your Travelcard, you can go on the river bus, which stops at many places of interest on the Thames. There is even a small shuttle which will take you from North Greenwich through the Thames Barrier to Woolwich.

As a general rule, travel above ground is more interesting than travel below it, but in any case, make sure you have something to entertain the children with you in case they do get bored. If you’re feeling brave you could put your older children in charge of finding...
a route and looking after the travel cards for you!

Closer to home, catch up with friends and family for picnics and games in the local parks. If the weather is wet, you can get everyone painting. Making prints or marbling paper could give you a stock of thank you cards and birthday cards for family members in the future. Or why not get the children cooking at least one meal a week?

From the educational point of view it is worth encouraging children to read, write and use maths over the long summer break – you could offer a prize for the best journal entry each day, chant times tables over chores, and most importantly, read favourite books to them and with them.

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In the St Mary’s churchyard: John Hadley

John Hadley was born 16 April 1682 in Bloomsbury, the eldest son of George Hadley of Enfield Chase and his wife Katherine FitzJames. His younger brother George Hadley became a noted meteorologist.

In 1717 John became a member (and later vice-president) of the Royal Society. In 1729 he inherited his father’s East Barnet estate. He died in 1744 and is buried in our churchyard with other members of his family. He had married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Hodges, FRS (former Attorney General of Barbados) and had one child, a son and heir John, born in 1738.

In 1730 he invented the reflecting octant, which could be used to measure the altitude of the sun or other celestial objects above the horizon at sea. A mobile arm carrying a mirror and pivoting on a graduated arc provides a reflected image of the celestial body overlapping the image of the horizon, which is observed directly. If the position of the object on the sky and the time of the observation are known, it is easy for the user to calculate his own latitude. The octant proved extremely valuable for navigation and displaced the use of other instruments such as the Davis quadrant. An American, Thomas Godfrey, independently invented the octant at approximately the same time.

Hadley also developed ways to make precision aspheric and parabolic objective mirrors for reflecting telescopes. In 1721 he showed the first parabolic Newtonian telescope to the Royal Society. This Newtonian, with a 6-inch-diameter (150 mm) primary mirror, compared favourably with the large aerial refracting telescopes of the day. He also made Gregorian telescopes with accurately shaped mirrors.

Rima Hadley and Mons Hadley on the Moon (pictured here behind the Apollo 15 astronauts in 1971) are named after him. The Oasis Trust Academy in Ponders End is called Oasis Academy Hadley in his honour.

The internet states that he died in 1744 but his modest epitaph is inscribed 1743 which must, as a mathematician, irk him immensely, but we are honoured to have him resting in our graveyard.

“John Hadley, of East Barnet, esq. dyed the 14th February 1743, aged 61 years. Here also lies the body of Elizabeth Hadley, relict of the said John Hadley, who died the 15th September 1752.”
Apple and blackberry crumble

It is thoroughly the wrong time of year for thinking about apples, blackberries or crumbles.

When it comes to desserts, however, I am an anarchist, so when I fancied an apple and blackberry crumble for a dinner party recently, I made the most of modernity and went to get what I needed from the supermarket.

This is one of those classic English desserts where the less fussy the meal is the better! Lots of modern recipes call for oats in the crumble topping, but I always find this a little odd, a bit like a flapjack, so I prefer my crumble topping the old-fashioned way.

In my childhood, apple crumbles were always enlivened by loganberries from my grandparents’ garden. They are quite hard to come across in the shops, but blackberries perform a very similar function and are much easier to find. I’ll just have to plant a loganberry bush some day...

Filling

3 cooking apples
1 small punnet of blackberries
1 tbsp brown sugar
2 tbsp water
1 tsp ground cloves

Method

1. Peel and core the apples. Chop them into small cubes (maybe half an inch cubes) and place in your dish.
2. Add the blackberries, sugar, water and cloves. Mix well.
3. Cook in the microwave (or on the hob if you prefer) until the fruit has gone reasonably soft. This will take about 5–10 minutes – stir regularly.
4. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Crumble topping

70g wholemeal flour (or plain if you prefer)
30g caster sugar
40g butter

Method

1. Chop the butter into small cubes.
2. Add the flour and sugar and rub together with your fingers.
3. Keep going until the mix resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Putting it all together

1. Heat your oven to 180°C (gas mark 5).
2. About half an hour before you want to eat, pour the topping evenly over the fruit.
3. Immediately, place the dish in the oven and cook for 25 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before serving.
5. Serve with cream or custard.

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Pre-season news from the Hive

The playoffs have taken place, and Blackpool has been promoted to League One – that’s an away trip fans will miss. We wish them all the best.

Joining us from the Conference playoffs are Forest Green Rovers, promoted to League football for the first time. Founded by the Reverend E J H Peach in 1889, Rovers are based in Nailsworth in Gloucestershire. They play in a solar powered stadium with organic turf, and catering at the New Lawn Stadium is entirely meat and dairy-free, with only vegan food served on match days and in the club canteen.

Several years ago, Barnet fans on an away trip were diverted from their destination with the news that their match had been cancelled, and stopped to watch the Rovers play, taking their side for the day and altering the Barnet songs to fit their players and team. The Forest Green fans were unused to this, and rather bemused, but realised that enthusiastic support encouraged their team to winning ways, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Looking at the new league as a whole, we are again playing in the second smallest stadium. We are also now the only London team in League 2. Our average away game distance will be 100 miles, with the farthest afield being Carlisle, and nearer games including Luton, Wycombe Wanderers and Stevenage.

News about the club has been slow to emerge after the season, but we heard that we have a new assistant head coach to join Rossi Eames, who has now been confirmed as the head coach at the age of 32.

Alex Armstrong has a background in sports science and has worked at a number of leading league clubs over the last twenty years. He has worked at Wolves, and at Cardiff, and was assistant coach to the New Zealand squad. He should be a great asset to the team, so let’s not make jokes about us ending up “Pointless”... Michael Nelson has signed as a player coach, and aims
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The League matches begin on Saturday 5 August. The club website (www.barnetfc.com) has had a makeover and is a lot easier to use, so please look at it for more up to date news, travel arrangements, and ways to support the Bees.

to play every game, which is also really good news.

Some changes to the ground are in prospect – away side directors and the press are being moved from the East Stand, where up to now they have got the full benefit of sun and rain, to the West Stand.

The following pre-season friendly matches have been arranged at the time of writing:

- 8 July 3 pm away to Maidstone United
- Wednesday 12 July 7.45 pm home to Swansea City
- 15 July 3 pm home to West Ham under 23’s
- 22 July 3 pm home to Millwall Tuesday 25 July 7.45 pm away to Braintree Town

The following pre-season friendly matches have been arranged at the time of writing:
New life for old things

Recently, the ignition, light and time display on my oven failed. I enquired at a local electrical shop whether they knew of an electrician who might sort out the problem. “Oh, chuck it out and get a new one,” was the reply. “Anything over three years old isn’t worth repairing.”

But I didn’t want to ‘chuck it out’. I liked that oven; I had looked after it and wanted it working again. I tried the manufacturer’s help line. They wanted £150 just to come and look, so in despair, I called a local electrician who had been recommended by a friend.

He could not at first find any obvious cause of the problem and I began to think that I would indeed have to ‘chuck it out’, but then he said, “Give me a day or two. I’ll do a bit of research and get back to you.”

Sure enough, within the week he arrived with a small component which he fitted, and, hey presto—ignition and time display, as good as new! And the cost? A modest amount for the work plus £8 for the part. How refreshing to find someone who was prepared to problem solve rather than take the easiest option.

In today’s society, it is often cheaper and quicker to replace something entirely than to take the time and effort to investigate why it has gone wrong. Goods and appliances are manufactured differently nowadays than formerly; they are not designed to have worn parts removed and replaced. The days of taking your iron to the electrician or your wristwatch to the watchmaker are long gone, never to return.

The issue of belongings has...
been at the forefront of our family's thinking over the past weeks as we have completed the task of emptying and disposing of the contents of my parents-in-law's home. We realised that regrettably, many perfectly usable appliances would have to be thrown away, since owing to safety regulations they could not be sold by most charity shops and this seemed a dreadful waste.

Our parents were of a generation that had worked hard for what they acquired and had experienced the stark austerity and shortages of post World War II years. They had looked after their possessions; they had cleaned, patched, mended and repaired whenever possible and discarded only as a last resort.

It seemed right to make the effort to pass on what we could, so, with this in mind, we wrapped, packed and boxed everything that could possibly be re-used and headed for local charity shops, half expecting to be told that our donations were not needed. However, to our surprise our gifts were warmly welcomed and we were assured that anything that could not be sold would be passed on and could still raise money.

Moreover, as we looked around, we were further surprised and impressed by the attractive way the goods were displayed; the clothing pressed and neatly arranged by size and colour, tableware in sets and books on shelves.

Clearly these were not shops full of unwanted paraphernalia; they were well-organised places where one might buy something of good quality to use or wear. And people were buying. Both of the shops we visited were busy with people browsing books, mums sorting through the children's clothing and little ones exploring the toys. It was heartening and indeed comforting to feel that much of the home that we were dismantling might find a new lease of life, to be handled, used and enjoyed in someone else's home.

Maybe the pendulum is swinging and we will begin to see a greater trend towards the recycling of possessions as well as of materials. So, well done to the many charity shops and all who run them; they are making a considerable contribution towards encouraging us to recycle our belongings.

Sadly though, reversal of the culture of 'chuck out and replace' is unlikely to happen any time soon.
News from the PCC

The first meeting of the Parochial Church Council since the Annual Meeting was held on 22 May. Newly elected members of the PCC Matthew Eade, Christine Watson and Barbara Campbell were welcomed to their first meeting.

Heather Melling attended the meeting to report on the progress of the Stewardship Campaign. The ‘Money Matters’ leaflet had been distributed to the congregation. 27 Parish Giving Scheme Packs had been requested, half of which were to potential new regular givers. Those who have transferred to the scheme have generally maintained or increased their giving. We need to encourage more people to give on a regular basis.

David Howard reported that steady progress was being made on the various documents being drawn up with the developers setting out the terms for the development of the Church Hall site and the Church extension. The

Roger Melling
PCC Lay Chair

Developers have been speaking to the Planners and it is hoped that there will be a pre-application meeting to support our formal planning application.

The Sound System in the church has been repaired and as a result there is a noticeable improvement in sound quality. The contract for the supply of gas and electricity will be renewed in July on terms that will be lower than we have paid for the last three years. Work on installing the telephone mast in the tower commenced on 23 May.

We will again have a ‘stand’ at the East Barnet Festival with information about the church and its activities. St Mary’s along with Brookside Methodist Church and East Barnet Baptist Church will be sponsoring the tea tent.

Sam Korn reported that a number of people had expressed an interest in the ‘Pilgrim Course’ which he will be starting shortly.

The speaker at a recent Barnet Deanery Synod meeting had spoken about how we can attract new people to church. The PCC discussed how our approaches to worship might be adapted in ways that would be more attractive to those who do not attend church. There are no specific proposals at present but further consideration will be given to this issue as we develop our Mission Action Plan.

(The Deanery Synod is a meeting of representatives from all Church of England churches in the ‘Barnet Deanery’ which stretches from Totteridge to Borehamwood.)

The PCC agreed to a plaque being put up in the church in memory of Arthur Perks who had been a church member for many years and a member of the church choir for 60 years.

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