

## Fellowship autumn chamber music series

The Fellowship autumn chamber music series will be performed this year in the Quaker Meeting House in North Square as building works are taking place at Fellowship House.

The six concerts start at 3pm on Sunday afternoons from October 26 until December 7 and will last about one hour. There is also a Fellowship fundraising concert on Sunday November 23 at 2.30pm in the Free Church Hall and the details of this can be found on page 9.

The concerts are followed by refreshments which permit

the audience members to meet the artists over a glass of wine.

Artistic Director Deborah Calland, who lives in Denman Drive, has organised an exciting group of concerts. On Sunday November 9 Counterpoise, which includes Deborah on trumpet, return and the programme includes a new work composed by pianist Iain Farrington. The Schubert Ensemble play Piano Trios on November 16; works to include Beethoven, Dvořák and David Matthew's brother, Colin Matthew's, Nowhere to Hide. After a gap of one week Tristan

Hambleton will perform Schubert's Schwanengesang and the series comes to an exciting conclusion with a violin recital which will include music by Beethoven, Brahms and another work by Colin Matthews.

The hall at the Quaker Meeting House is no larger than Fellowship Hall so there is only space for an audience of 65 people. There are still a few seats available.

Anyone wishing to book for the remaining available concerts should contact the box office on 8458 5042.



Suburb resident and Artistic Director Deborah Calland plays trumpet

NICKY COLTON MILNE

## The Third Tablet of the Holy Covenant

As his profile in the last Suburb News eloquently testifies, Michael Baum is something of a Renaissance Man. To his list of achievements as eminent oncologist, surgeon and world-renowned breast cancer pioneer, he first added 'artist' and can now include 'novelist'.

The Third Tablet of the Holy Covenant is a surprise package, being part-Holy Grail-style quest, part thinly-veiled memoir, part-popular science, part-philosophy and part-history. In fact to try and distinguish between what's real and what's imagined is an enjoyable challenge of the read, though our author is thoughtful enough to guide us in an appendix.

The idea at the heart of Third Tablet is simple and inspired. What if, instead of the known two tablets of the Ten Commandments, there was a secret third? What would it say and how does it speak to us now, down the ages?

From this beguiling notion, Baum spins a tale that crosses the centuries from the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the legendary siege of Masada to the present day and beyond.

On the epic journey, we meet many colourful characters, be they the twin sisters charged with the protection of priceless artefacts (the tablet and a pair of candlesticks) from the Temple, doctors, rabbis, politicians, archaeologists and scientists. Through the life and eyes of the hero, Martin Tanner (an oncologist specialising in breast cancer!), we follow two plotlines interwoven like the DNA double helix: the search for the lost devotional objects

and the even more heroic mission to reveal the genes that cause breast cancer.

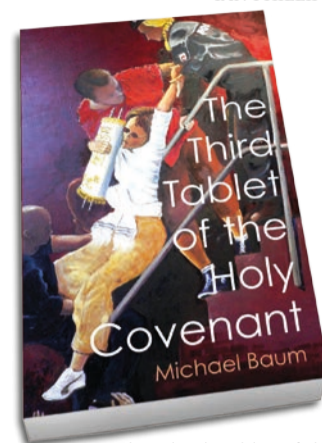
The author is possibly a little too generous in sharing his historical, religious and scientific knowledge, weaving into the book seemingly encyclopaedic understanding of complex medical research, detailed history, the rituals of Judaism and the geography of Israel.

Adhering to the unwritten code of book reviewers, I feel bound to warn those readers who, like me, find typographical mistakes and grammatical errors galling that there really are far too many. I really do urge Michael Baum to exploit the print-on-demand model and undertake a thorough edit. As I know all too well, when you are embarked on a labour of love such as this, it's not always easy to distance

oneself sufficiently to see the flaws.

And it would be a real shame if the Third Tablet's moving resolution was deprived of a deservedly satisfied audience through easily-resolved blemishes.

IAN PHILLIPS



The Third Tablet of the Holy Covenant by Michael Baum. Published by Troubador Publishing

## SUMMER WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

You were probably all too busy gardening to have time to tackle a slightly more difficult Summer wordsearch. So, second time round, give it a try! Answers next time.

### WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of rocks, stones or metals of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!) Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Entries should be listed on paper or a postcard and sent to Diana Woodfield, 5 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HA with your name, address and phone number. The closing date is December 15. All correct entries go into a draw to win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

A	C	F	G	O	M	P	O	O	L	I	T	E	L	A
W	M	R	S	Y	S	N	D	I	Z	B	M	F	K	A
E	U	B	A	S	A	L	T	G	S	D	L	O	G	T
V	X	W	E	P	N	O	N	Y	A	I	J	H	D	R
M	Z	C	G	R	D	Q	I	E	P	F	A	E	I	E
J	E	B	O	T	S	X	L	A	P	I	S	Y	A	N
U	N	P	R	C	T	L	F	Y	Z	D	U	E	M	O
Q	O	A	H	S	O	S	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	U	T
N	T	I	B	G	N	E	C	J	K	I	E	K	N	S
H	S	L	A	T	E	Z	B	L	N	O	R	L	D	E
T	R	E	V	L	I	S	A	A	S	V	E	I	X	M
D	A	M	L	N	P	H	R	E	T	Z	P	G	A	I
R	C	I	J	Y	C	G	Q	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L
A	W	S	G	V	F	X	U	K	O	N	A	R	V	E
M	U	I	N	I	M	U	L	A	H	C	J	A	D	E

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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## Japanese schoolboys visit the Free Church

For the third year running a large group of Japanese teenage boys from the Rikkyo High School in Tokyo came to the Free Church morning service on Sunday August 17. They had spent some days in Cheltenham learning English in the mornings and enjoying some British sports – soccer and cricket – in the afternoons (not clear how much they understood of cricket or the offside rule in football!). They were hosted by local church families overnight in the Suburb.

The boys sang the traditional song 'Red Dragonfly' and the choir joined them for another song 'Homeland' later on. The two readings were done first in Japanese and then in English. The chaplain, Masahito Saikai, who accompanied them, told the congregation that the school was an off-shoot of Rikkyo

University that had been founded by an American missionary Bishop Williams in the 19th century.

After lunch the boys had the congregation join them to try their hands at traditional Japanese writing and Origami and

Japanese games such as Kendama – a difficult cup and ball game, managed this year for the first time by the Minister Ian Tutton!

Yoshimi Gregory thanks all the church members who accommodated and entertained

the boys in their homes for two nights and we hope the boys and their teachers enjoyed the fellowship as much as we did, and returned to Japan with fond memories of the Free Church.

JOHN DITCHFIELD



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