

Witney Congregational Church

CORNERSTONE

November 2008



*Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole fabric is bound together,
as it grows into a temple, dedicated to the Lord – Ephesians 2:21*

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WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Witney Congregational Church offer a whole range of activities through which we seek to Worship, Work and Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in this community today.

Further information can be obtained from the Church Administrator, Minister, Church Secretary or the leaders of the particular activities who are listed at the back of this magazine.

WORSHIP

Daily Worship	9.30 am	Mon-Fri	Short time of Prayer and Reading
	10.30 am	Saturday	Short time of Prayer and Reading
Noah's Ark Service	2.00 pm	Tuesday	For under 5's parents and carers
Saturday Praise	11.00am	1 st Saturday of the month	
Sunday Services	10.30 am		
	6.00 pm		There is a crèche facility at both services

Communion is normally held twice during the month at the first Sunday evening and third Sunday morning services

PRAYER

The Church is open each morning for Prayer; also in the Garden Room on Sunday morning and evening prior to, and after, Worship - All welcome

STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday	7.30 pm	Church
Friday	10.00 am	Church

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30 am	Crèche, Noah's Ark & The K.I.C.K. on Sundays
Monday	10.00 am	Noah's Ark - Infant Group for babies and pre-school children

OTHER ACTIVITIES

	Monthly	Hi 5's
Tuesday	Monthly	Deacon's Meeting
	Bi-Monthly	Church Meeting
Thursday	10.00 am	Rest & Chat (Coffee/Tea available)
Saturday	10.30 am	Coffee Morning

SUNDAY LINK

Weekly bulletin for all Christians providing stimulating thought along with news and notices concerning our Church

WITNEY ECUMENICAL YOUTH TRUST (BASE 33)

4 Welch Way (Entrance - High Street) ☎ 01993 777870 Jude Levermore

St ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP

☎ 01993 709429

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 09.00 am - 5.00 pm



Into the month of November already, and the same time seven years ago, the USA had the continuing arduous task of finding, and bringing to justice, the terrorists who committed the atrocity in New York on 9/11. This month, the USA has another challenge in choosing a new President for at least a 4-year term in office. May we pray that their decision is based on wisdom and discernment, for the world is currently in economic turmoil and scores of areas of conflict; all of which need resolving, and the USA must be considered a major player in these matters.

Just like the 9/11 atrocity, time this year seems to have *flown by* as the shops already have their Christmas goods on offer. How good are we at remembering things? Norman & Karen Francis have recently left us for new challenges after 4 years; we have also just passed the 14th anniversary of our church premises, which was achieved through much prayer and a willingness to change. One thing is inevitable - change is here to stay and maybe this ought to be taken into consideration as we look forward to the future Ministry of this Church as Rev Jason Boyd and his family join us in the latter part of this year.

The magazine this month is not as large, but nonetheless the contents are once again varied, as alongside the 'Standard' features, there is a Lessons & Opportunities article by Nanna

Blackman; the series on historic Christian sites in Britain - Whitby is continued; Marjorie Lee's daughter Ruth, gives us an insight into Crossroads International, and Joyce Kearsley has submitted an alternative lyrics to the song - my favourite things, to name but a few.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition, but would also encourage anyone to consider submitting articles for the next double-edition by either:

- Floppy Disk/CD
- E-mail: terrypowlesland@hotmail.com or jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net
- Or, if you haven't got a PC, just plainly written on paper which can be typed up

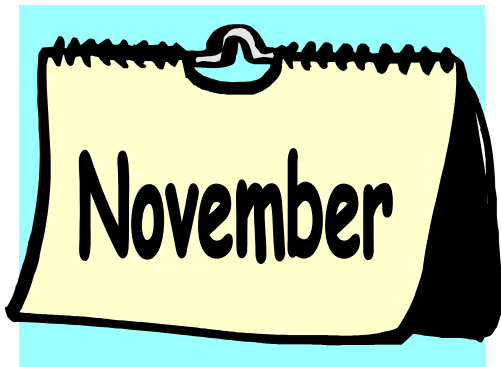
For your information, the last double-issue magazine for this year will be out on 30th Nov

ESSENTIAL NOTE: In order to meet these deadlines, all contributions should be submitted ***NO LATER THAN the WEDNESDAY*** of the week in which the magazine will be published.

Your Editor

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Daily Prayer Time:

Mon-Fri 9.30 am Sat 10.30am

Services (10.30 am & 6.00pm unless advised)

Nov

1st am 11.00am Saturday Praise (Praise, Prayer & Reflection)
 2nd am Nigel Lindsay
 pm Karen Brusch Communion
 9th am No Service - invitation to Join with High St Methodist at 9.45am
 Civil Service of Remembrance at War Memorial
 pm Elaine Gudem
 16th am Karen Brusch Communion
 pm Joint Service at High St Methodist church
 23rd am Elaine Gudem All-Age Worship Operation Christmas Child
 pm Nanna Blackman
 30th am Karen Brusch
 pm Madley Park Residential Home

The following events in November are given for your particular attention:

Nov

4th Deacon's Meeting
 8th Prayer Chain meeting 9.15am
 Craft Stall →
 SWMA Executive at Cheltenham
 15th Shoe Boxes at 10.00am
 16th Meditation 7.30pm
 18th Church Meeting
 19th Support Group meeting for Judi Holloway
 20th Pins & Needles 7.30pm
 27th Fellowship Group 2.30pm at 9 Pensclose
 28th Christian Aid Concert - Gondoliers
 Base 33 AGM
Dec
 5th Hi5's Christmas Crafts

Craft Table
Saturday
8th November



Florence Smith is having a Craft Table from 10.00am during Coffee Morning. Many of the items she will have made herself

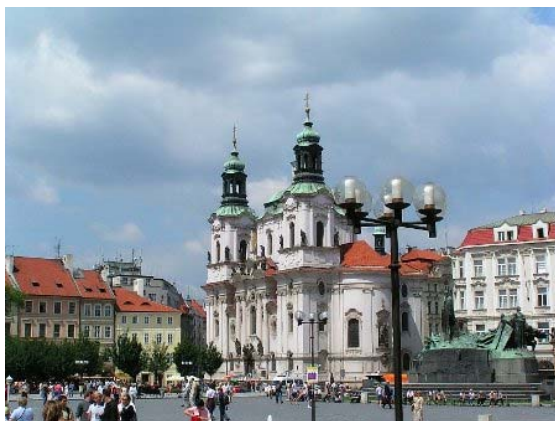
Do come along and see what she has. Maybe you will find a 'Christmas present'

Deacons Letter

Dear Friends

What a busy month October was for me! I retired from the bank on 3rd October, after working for LTSB for 28 years. I had been looking forward to this for some time, but as the time got closer, so I had the inevitable thoughts of should I or shouldn't I. But with the changes in banking I decided the time was right. My husband had already retired early two years ago. And, after the good wishes, cards and presents of my work colleagues I was able to look forward to our trip to Prague with friends.

Prague is really a beautiful city, the buildings so ornate. When Czechoslovakia split and became Slovakia and the Czech Republic, the info structure and main services were in Prague. Their transport system is so efficient - we could learn a lot from them. The weather was warm and sunny and the autumn colours could be seen in the trees. We returned home on my 60th birthday, so now I could continue my celebrations with family and friends.



Two weeks later 2nd Witney Brownies celebrated their 85th birthday with a

party for Brownies, parents and friends. Girlguiding has been a part of my life for many years and will continue to be so, and it has changed so much over the years - the uniform and programme several times, but we still have the three point Promise which we all try to live by. Girlguiding is the largest female organisation in the world, and celebrates its centenary in 2010 - more parties!



So as the month comes to an end, I can look back and be thankful that I was privileged to be there, knowing that Jesus is in our lives whatever we are doing or wherever we are. People say "What are you going to do now you are retired?" Many have replied that they are busier than ever. I intend to keep busy, the grandchildren will see to that, but also make time for Dave and myself. However, I'm sure Jesus will lead me to new beginnings.

Yours in Christ

Susan



News around the world

The following information has been taken from CWM Website dated 31st October, so is up to date at the editing of this month's magazine

Zimbabwe: Overcoming fear by faith

As President Robert Mugabe clings to power, so the people of Zimbabwe face economic hardship, food shortages, disease and the daily threat of violence. CWM has joined forces with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa and the South African Council of Churches to support the people of Zimbabwe both practically and in prayer.

As a mission community, it is our duty to uphold godly justice in Zimbabwe with spiritual and material support. Above all, we want to give the people of Zimbabwe hope for a better future, one that will bring back true democracy and allow men, women and children to live without the constant threat of violence or disruption.

A steering group, consisting of representatives from the four organisations, recently brought together ministers, church leaders and political activists from across the southern Africa region, including pastors and lay people from Zimbabwe, for a special summit meeting in Johannesburg.

At the summit, we heard terrible stories of violence and deprivation that confirmed our view that something has to be done.

By the end of the gathering, we felt that God wanted us to step out from our pews and take positive action, to take a stance against the atrocity that is taking place in Zimbabwe.

A special summit statement, addressed to President Mbeki and approved by all delegates, was taken to the Union Building in Pretoria and presented to a government minister. It was a highly significant and very powerful moment.

But this was just the beginning. On 21 December 2008 we invite churches across the region and across the globe to pray for the people of Zimbabwe, to seek God's will in bringing real change to that land and, above all, to bring peace and harmony into the lives of the families in this wonderful country.

This is an opportunity to plead with our Father in Heaven, and to ensure that the people of Zimbabwe are not forgotten. So, wherever you are in the world, please join us in prayer on Sunday 21 December.

Tuvalu

As a tiny population - just 11,000 people scattered over a vast area - the country is vulnerable to changes and influence from outside and faces many challenges.

Standing just five metres above sea level, the islands are susceptible to any rise in the sea levels. Combined with more frequent severe storms, Tuvaluans face the possibility that they will have to leave their homeland.

For now there are plenty of immediate concerns. The spread of HIV and AIDS is a challenge for pastors to connect with their flock with deeper understanding and compassion so they can deal with the problems in the community.

The church is aware that it needs to have an effective pastoral visiting

programme. It needs to span the gap between old and new, the traditional way of life and the needs of the modern world.



Mission under the microscope at General Secretaries' Conference

Learning from the past and deciding how best to shape the future of global mission was the key focus for the CWM General Secretaries' Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

CWM General Secretary Rev Dr Des van der Water set the tone for the conference with his opening speech exploring the theme, Partnership in Mission: the harvest and the hope. He offered his personal reflections on mission over the last three decades and outline his challenges for the future.

General secretaries gathered for the event between 13 and 17 October to share experiences on the growth of mission over the last 30 years - and to consider where it is headed. Delegates started each day with worship and Bible study before moving on to talks and workshops exploring the success of mission programmes past and present.

They also heard from guest speaker Jet den Hollander, WARC Executive Secretary for the Mission Project, who joined Executive Director of the Impumelelo Innovations Award Trust, Rhoda Kadalie in giving her perspective on the impact CWM has had on organisations outside the CWM community.

A key factor emerging from this year's event was the importance of shared resources in helping to facilitate mission around the world. Participants agreed that having the right people, funding and ideas was crucial to a thriving mission programme.

CWM Director of Communication, Steve Cox, who gave a talk on the importance of effective communication to boost mission throughout the six regions, said: "The meeting programme was both full and exciting. But spending time with these leaders outside of the conference was just as valuable. Member churches talked about the benefits gained from taking advantage of resources such as people, money and ideas that CWM has made available as part of its holistic approach to mission."

He added: "There were differences of opinion but there was also a general desire to unite and support each other in our mission programmes."

During the conference general secretaries also visited Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years, and the JL ZWANE Centre in Guguleto - a church community centre that provides care and support for individuals and families dealing with HIV and AIDS.

India: PM affirms the place of Christianity in national heritage

India's Prime Minister has hit out at Hindu groups that claim Christianity is a foreign

religion by hailing it part of the country's heritage

Prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh made the statement at a meeting with Rev Dr Samuel Kobia, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in New Delhi, saying: "Christianity is part of our national heritage."

He noted that Christianity in India has a longer history than in many Western countries and made reference to the Indian constitution which states that India "guarantees freedom to practice and propagate one's faith."

The statements are a strong rebuttal of the views of Hindu nationalist groups who have described Christianity as a foreign religion to justify recent violent attacks on Christians in India.

More than 5,000 Christian houses, along with 142 churches and dozens of Christian institutions have been attacked by Hindu fundamentalists in Kandhamal following the death of Hindu leader Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati on 23 August. At least 54 Christians have been killed.

Speaking out against the atrocities, Singh assured Kobia that his government will take measures to restore the confidence of the Christian community. He has also promised to extend financial assistance from the federal government to rebuild destroyed and damaged churches - and to support Christian families that have lost everything in the violence.

Zimbabwe: Education system on brink of collapse

Zimbabwe's education system, once heralded as sub-Saharan Africa's finest, is on the verge of total collapse, IRIN reports.

Education policies adopted by the government after 1980, which boosted the

sector and gave Zimbabwe a literacy rate of more than 96 per cent, have now disintegrated. An estimated 45,000 teachers have left the profession since 2004.

"It is difficult to imagine the meltdown in the education sector happening in a country that is at peace. You only see this kind of degeneration in countries that are experiencing civil strife or a full-fledged war," Raymond Majongwe, secretary-general of the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), told the United Nations' IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks).

"When Zimbabwe attained its independence 28 years ago, the new government inherited an education infrastructure that had been ravaged by war. It was almost like starting afresh, but children managed to attend classes, teachers taught, and examinations were written. Virtually all that has stopped," he said.

The first term in 2008, which usually runs from January to April, ended in March because general elections were held that month. Post-election violence prevented schools from opening as youth militias targeted teachers; school buildings were often used as bases for Robert Mugabe supporters.

Today, no meaningful learning is currently place, Majongwe said, as pupils have to pay teachers to give them private lessons; those who cannot afford to pay are left out. "Normally, at this time of the year, schools would be busy with examinations ... but it would be grossly unfair to conduct them, given that there was hardly any learning. Examinations should just be cancelled this year."



The following article has been submitted by Nanna Blackman, and is entitled:

Lessons and opportunities

I had a dream: Our Church building was full of people; all sorts of people, all over the place. There were workshops going on upstairs. The lounge was busy with conversation. In the Sanctuary there were small prayer groups, one large prayer group and individuals sitting in quiet contemplation. To feed all these people we had been selling sandwiches. It became clear that there was a discrepancy between the sandwiches sold and the money we had collected. As various individuals, unknown to me, had been commissioned to sell the sandwiches I set off, notebook in hand, to find those individuals and balance the books.

I went into the Sanctuary and made the announcement that there was a discrepancy in the sandwich money and I needed to speak to the sandwich sellers. I then started round the room. The first person I came to explained he had been selling sandwiches, but that was last week in his own church. He then wanted to tell me about his own Church. Irritated, I moved on. The next person, an unkempt young man, said he had indeed been selling sandwiches, but he wasn't sure how many he had sold and how many he had eaten himself. He handed over a fist full of crumpled notes and coins from his back-pocket. The third person, a tidy middle-aged man, had sold all his sandwiches and assured me he had handed the money over to the nice lady behind the counter. He was looking for approval

that he had followed the rules - Then I woke up.

In the soft darkness I thought about the dream and what message it might have for me. There were three aspects: The busy, crowded Church - our Church My need to be in control of the details, in this case the sandwich money, and the needs of those persons that I came into contact with.

I have been known to say that our Church on a Saturday morning is like Piccadilly Circus. It is wonderful to see people use our Church, even if the reason is not to commune with God but to have a cup of coffee, a slice of cake and a safe environment for the children to play. Whatever the reason for people to enter our Church, even if it's just to use the loo, it is an opportunity to share God's love with them. Obviously the new Marriott's Close development is going to present us with increased opportunity to reach out to the folks of Witney and beyond. I perceive a challenge to invite people in, to give them a welcome, and to show them God's love through our actions. A full and busy building is indeed a dream worth having.

Then I look at my own actions; my need to be in control. There is an American saying "don't sweat the small stuff" or in other words keep the larger perspective. There are times when the worldly priorities are inappropriate for the situation. Was it more important, to balance the sandwich money or to maintain the fellowship? I know the answer to that and I hope you do too. It is a lesson I have had to relearn many times.

The last lesson from this dream though is one that I need to really focus on; the need to minister to people before anything else; the need to follow Jesus' example. We have all had people call on our time and attention when it has been inconvenient; when we have been preoccupied with more worldly and seemingly urgent tasks. Setting those tasks aside and giving love and attention to the person who needs it should be my first priority as a Christian. Why is that so easy to forget? I hope that when someone needs me to listen, to hold their hand, give them a hug or to pray with them I won't be too busy, with my notebook in hand.

In the soft darkness I prayed:

Lord Father

Teach me the lessons and thank you for being patient enough to teach them over and over again.

Let me remember to give of my time and attention, wherever I see a need.

Let me not be too preoccupied with worldly stuff and thereby miss an opportunity to bring Your love to someone.

Give us, Witney Congregational Church the wisdom, individually and corporately to find ways sharing our building, to increase that ministry so that we may indeed share Your love with many.



Amen

Thanks

Many thanks to all who sent good wishes and prayers after my stay in hospital
Florence Smith

Grasping my dripline (or Oxford dancing pole)

Pulling my oxygen capsule this is my starring role

Clad in my revealing gown, Parisian-style, with cooling vents

My journey starts with good intent



One deep breath, take up your stance
With windswept hair and frilly pants
I'm ready for my entrance

With mask-like clamp around my nose
I find it hard to talk
So I push with my left, and pull with my right
It's all I'm able to do

As I sashay down my exclusive catwalk
For a visit..... to the LOO!

The following article has been submitted by Elaine Gudem, and is entitled:

God

God looked into space
but nothing was around:
just darkness and wind,
not a smell, sight or sound.
Then God said to himself,
'I think we'll have light',
so the darkness stopped
when the time was right.

God made the night and day,
but they weren't the same,
Then he made sea and sky
and he gave each their name;
and when God saw the ocean,
which was sparkling and bright,
he was glad he'd made water
when the time was right.

God said to himself,
Now I'd like to see land.
I'd like meadows and mountains
and shores full of sand.'
So he brought earth from water
and was pleased with the sight
of the plants which all grew
when the time was right.

Then God looked at the sky
and he found it too plain.
It was all coloured blue
and was filled up with rain.
So he made sun and moon
to change day into night
and the stars blinked their eyes
when the time was right.

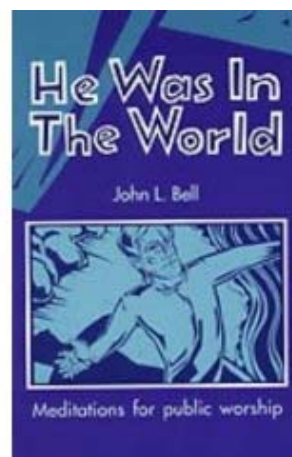
God looked at the land
and decided, one day,
to put fish in the sea

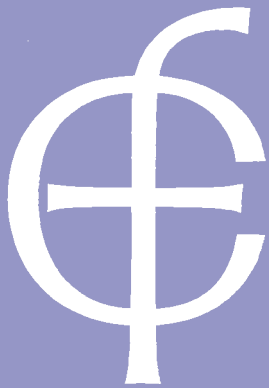
and make sure that they'd stay.
He put birds in the air
and they all shook with fright
till God taught them to fly
when the time was right.

Then God made the animals,
some small and some large,
and soon he was asking,
'Who on earth will take charge?'
So he waited and wondered,
till with careful insight,
he made man and made woman
when the time was right.

Then God watched from a distance
to see what they'd do
with the world and its creatures
and with each other too.
Sometimes they forgot
what God wanted or said,
then they'd go their own way
and do their will instead.
And it hurt God that people
whom he'd made out of love,
should forget how to live,
what to say, where to move.
Should he punish and hate them?
Should he leave them to fight?
No! He sent to them Jesus
when the time was right.
When the time was right

(Extracted from John. L. Bell, *He was in the World*)





The Mailing

Congregational Federation

Issue 2008/10

Bringing together independent free churches for mutual support through a vision of unity in creative diversity

Latest news and resources available from the Congregational Federation

Forthcoming Events

November

Investment Trust and Trading Board 5th
Remembrance Sunday 9th
CF Residential Council 14th to 16th
CFL Executive 16th

December

Go Weekend 5th to 7th
CF offices closed from 24th to Jan 2nd inclusive.

Congregational Federation

*Travelling Together
to bring*



in our villages, towns & cities

Special points of interest:

- Honour and Respect latest news of CF Christian Aid Appeal
- Memorial occasion for George Stephens
- Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
- CF Committee focuses on evangelism
- News round up

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin...

Farmers always have to keep a close eye on the weather, particularly around harvest time, with crops needing to be gathered in. In Haiti and the Dominican Republic this harvest time, however, the weather has been catastrophic.

Haiti – the poorest country in the Americas – has been hit by four deadly storms in less than four weeks this August and September. More than 600 people are dead, and up to a million are homeless. There is extensive damage to crops in a country that was already struggling with soaring food prices.

The Dominican Republic (DR), where Christian Aid partner Onè Respé works, has also been hit, though the damage there has been less severe. We have had reports of flooding in Haina, one of the regions in which it works. Onè Respé is already providing food parcels, mosquito nets, medicines and building repair materials.

This harvest, as we give thanks for the good things we have, we remember



Storm-damaged houses in one of the areas Onè Respé works

the people of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, who have lost much of the little they had. Many people will have little or no harvest to celebrate this year.

The Federation has pledged 10,000 per annum to the work of Onè Respé and since May almost £4,000 has been received. Will you please consider sending us a gift.

Donations sent to CF offices by cheque payable to Congregational Federation and marked on the back Onè Respé

Celebration occasion for George's life

Many will now be aware of the immensely sad and sudden death of George Stephens on the 11th September. George has served in various capacities within the life of the Federation particularly in CF Wales and Gofrit. His wife Jill is currently CF President Elect and takes up her year

of office next May. A celebration occasion for George's life is taking place on the 1st November in West End, Ebbw Vale – at 3.00p.m. All are welcome and if attending are encouraged to let his daughter Gail know, email gail@gofrit.co.uk or telephone 01453 843855

**May Assembly
2009**

**The Pavilions
Harrogate**

Make it a date now

Saturday May 9th

The CF Main Event

A Time for Celebration - CF & URC Joint initiative

Council for World Mission – Thirty Years of Partnership Saturday 6th December Christchurch and Upton Chapel, Kennington Road 2.00pm until 4.30pm

The South East Area of the Congregational Federation and the Thames North Synod and Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church are celebrating 30 years of partnership with Churches around the world through the Council for World Mission.

As this is during Advent, worship will include a focus on the Christingle in our global situation. The ribbon in different colours will feature the Environment and Climate, Change, Justice and Peace and other issues. All of these affect our Churches especially those in developing areas

of the world.

Please encourage members and friends to be there. Refreshments will be available so it would be good to know how many people might be coming. It is an ALL AGE EVENT suitable for every age.

CHRISTIAN REBUILD - is seeking two young people (age 18–25) to help with the camps that are run by the Congregational Church in Saranda, Albania. The camps are held every July. There are three different camps—one for young people, one for children and one for the elderly. Helpers will be expected to do general chores to help facilitate the camps.

Christian Rebuild will cover all travel costs and accommodation.

For more details and an application form to the Secretary: Rev Christopher Gillhan, Crosslyn House, Spittal, Haverfordwest, SA62 5QT

tabernacle@haverfordwest.freeserve.co.uk



Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2009

Jointly Led by Rev. Dr Richard Cleaves of Highbury Congregational Church Cheltenham and Joanne Moston of St Gregory's R.C. Church Cheltenham

April 28th to May 7th
Full details, brochure and booking details are with Church Secretary

CF Committee to encourage churches to 'Break Free'

The most recent Mission and Society Committee meeting of the Federation had a common thread of the absolute need amongst churches of all denominations to find new ways of communicating the Good News. Reports from the CWM Regional meeting hosted by the CF in Coventry had heard how the URC, Uniting Presbyterian Church in the Netherlands, and the Union of Welsh Independents all highlighted the lack of proclamation in their mission programmes and how that must change. Sandra Turner Chair of Mission and

Society for the first time, welcomed many positive contributions as to how we might find fresh energy for mission. Building on the many recent positive developments the aim will be to stimulate churches into a renewed sense of confidence in the Gospel and to find fresh ways of expressing that within their communities. The Committee heard of exciting developments of growth and 'making a difference' in an increasing number of CF Churches. The challenge is to enable all our churches to be as effective.

Watch this space!



Take a holiday and enjoy the **INTERNATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP 2009 FAMILY CONFERENCE**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Thursday 23rd to Wednesday 29th July 2009
For full details contact the Rev. Barry Osborne, 4 Clarence Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7NE.
Email barry@ruralmissions.org.uk.

Register your interest now without commitment

News round up

Christian Enquiry Agency - the latest edition of their vibrant newsletter is now with our churches. It includes many articles showing how communicating the gospel needs to be constantly changing in our changing society.

76% of the population report having spiritual experiences, yet only 6.3% currently attends church. Why?

A new book, "How To Be Evangelistic Without Being Religious", provides insights into that question, as well as a handy summary of recent research findings.

The Christian Enquiry Agency is offering you a free copy of this book, as part of its

commitment to promoting best practice in mission and to helping churches to connect effectively with the millions of people interested in questions of faith, spirituality and meaning, but who do not automatically see church as a place to find answers to their questions.

Many such people contact us each year and we provide them with high quality materials, put them in touch with someone local to them who can answer their questions, and when they're ready, help them find a church or Alpha or other course.

See more on their website at www.christianity.org.uk



The Congregational Federation
8 Castle Gate Nottingham NG1 7AS
Tel: 0115 911 1460 Fax (1462)
E-mail: admin@congregational.org.uk

Visit the Website for more copies of this Mailing and much more at www.congregational.org.uk

The following article has been extracted from Church News Service, and is in four parts, entitled:

PILGRIM PLACES: Historic Christian Sites in Britain: WHITBY - Part three



The Synod of Whitby in 664AD was a gathering of Britain's Celtic Church leaders and Roman Church leaders that would determine the shape of Christianity in these islands until the Reformation. That story, however, began much earlier...

In terms of the Church year the important difference between the two Churches was in their celebration of Easter. The Celtic Church had a tradition, which it believed went back to St John and dated Easter in relation to the Jewish Passover. Canterbury Christianity, with its Roman identity, dated Easter differently.

While this was not a very important theological difference, it did have practical significance. As with Christians all over the world, British Christians put great importance on Easter and it was the major celebration of the whole Christian year.

Now in Britain this important festival was observed on different dates between the two Christian communities. Celtic Christianity

celebrated Easter on one date and Canterbury Christianity on another.

This division was particularly noticeable in the household of King Oswy, the very influential King of Northumbria. Among the Celtic Christians kingship was very important and the king was regarded as the anointed of the Lord.

In contrast Canterbury Christians recognised the Bishop of Rome, now being called a Pope (from the Latin *papas*, father), as the Head of the Church. To complicate matters further, King Oswy's second wife was a Roman Christian while he was a Celtic Christian. This meant that in the royal household King Oswy could be celebrating Easter while the queen and her attendants were observing the Lenten Fast!

Finally King Oswy decided that this question of the date of Easter must be settled once and for all. He called a Synod of both Celtic and Roman Christians and the meeting place was Whitby Abbey where Hilda was the greatly esteemed Abbess.



The two parties arrived to take part in the Synod; the Celtic monks and priests and the Canterbury clergy. They were easily distinguished from each other by their hairstyles! The Celts had adopted the tonsure, shaving the crowns of their

heads but the Roman clergy did not adopt this custom.

Colman, bishop of Lindisfarne, led the Celtic monks, supported by Irish and Scottish monks and Hilda. The Roman deputation was led by Agilbert, bishop of Dorchester, Wilfrid, abbot of Ripon, and James the Deacon. King Oswy presided and none of those attending that gathering in Whitby could have foreseen the long-term outcome of the proceedings.

Colman argued that the Celtic tradition went back through Columba, who brought the gospel to Iona, Polycarp, bishop and martyr in the 2nd century, and the Apostle John. Wilfrid, the Roman spokesman, said their tradition was now accepted by Christians all over Europe and that it could be traced back to the teaching of both Peter and Paul.

Argument and counter argument followed. Colman and his supporters emphasised that John was the Lord's beloved disciple and that his teaching therefore carried great weight.

Concluded next month



The KENNINGTON & DISTRICT
UNITED CHURCH CHOIRS

Present a Concert Version, in Costume, of
Gilbert & Sullivan's

The GONDOLIERS
—or The King of Barataria

on FRIDAY
28th NOVEMBER 2008

at Witney
Congregational Church

at 7.30 PM

Entrance FREE!

Collection for
• CHRISTIAN AID

An Evening of Music, Sparkle & Fun for the whole family!

The following has been submitted by
Maureen Miles, and is entitled:

Hold my hand

Hold my hand Lord
Walk me through the loneliness
and the valley of my sorrow
Hold on to me when I'm afraid
To think about tomorrow
Let me lean on you Lord
When I'm too weary to go on
Hold my hand Lord
Through the night until I see the light
of dawn

The following article has been submitted by Ruth Cooke, one of Ken & Marjorie Lee's daughters, and is entitled:

Crossroads International, Hong Kong

Recently my husband, Steve, and I went out to do some voluntary work in Hong Kong at Crossroads International. It was a wonderful experience and it was great to be able to make a small contribution to all that goes on.

Crossroads is a relief organisation, based at an old British Army Gekas base on the coast of the New Territories. About 80 people live and work on the site and we joined them for a few weeks. A large number of volunteers from Hong Kong come onto the site, from half a day a week to 5 days a week, to contribute to various aspects of the work. Crossroads exists to connect people in need with people who can help - in four different ways:

- ❖ **Global Distribution.** In Hong Kong there is no second-hand market - everything is purchased new. Crossroads collects (or has delivered to it) these excellent second-hand goods (clothing, furniture, hospital equipment, school supplies, electrical goods, etc, etc.) and distributes them to those in need, locally and internationally.
- ❖ **Global Hand.** Crossroads has created a website which enables those organisations that have things to give to link up, worldwide, with those who need what they have to offer.
- ❖ **Global Handicrafts** makes available fair trade goods from around the

world, thus assisting people to earn their own living.

- ❖ **Global Village** provides Life Xperiences, enabling participants to experience what it is like to live in a slum, or to be HIV-positive, or to be a refugee. In the last 3 years over 20,000 people have participated. We experienced a brief taste of what it might be like to live in a slum and it has had a profound effect on our understanding.

If you are interested in knowing more do look at the website:

www.crossroads.org.hk.

Thanks

I want to say 'Thank You' to all the many people who sent cards, gifts, greetings and offered good wishes on the occasion of my attaining to the age of four score years. It was truly humbling to receive such a plethora of congratulations for merely becoming an octogenarian.

As many of you will know I am not a great fan of anniversary celebrations, so it will come as no surprise to read that I have told Jacqui, in her role as Church Secretary, that I do not expect to hear the word 'birthday' in association with my name for at least twenty years.

By that time I may well only be dwelling in God's eternal NOW, where time has ceased to have any meaning and birthdays are quite irrelevant. But, while we still live in time, my sincerest thanks to you all

Kenneth L Lee



PRAYER LETTER No 127

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

During your life as a Christian have you ever been prevented by the authorities from going to Church, praying in Church, reading the Bible or listening to the Bible being read? Have you been prevented by the authorities from doing any of these things in your own home?

For over 300 hundred years Non Conformists have experienced the freedom of expressing the Christian faith by worshipping and praying together. We in this Church, in this town, in this country still enjoy that freedom. Do we use it? One way is to support through prayer our fellow Christians in parts of the world where freedom to worship is not possible and where many suffer persecution and even death.

We were reminded in the sermon Barbara Bridges gave last week of Jesus' commandment 'to love your neighbour as you love yourself'. (Matt 22 v 39) In Luke's Gospel 10 from verse 30 Jesus explains 'who is my neighbour?' By the familiar story of the Good Samaritan. To love your neighbour as you love yourself means to love, care, think about their needs and act appropriately, not only physically but emotionally and spiritually too. If we cannot be there in person we can certainly pray for them.

Paul in Corinthians 12 spoke of the church being Christ's body and if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.

Sunday 16th November is International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. In 'Open Doors' Frontline magazine an article explains this day.

'Across the world churches and individuals use this day as an opportunity to focus prayer on those in our Christian family who face physical, emotional and social pressure because of their faith in Christ. Prayer is a wonderful expression of fellowship. It overcomes the barriers of distance and experience. It puts us in touch with the heart of God for His people.'

I would urge you to pray for those who are persecuted for their faith not just on this designated day but throughout November and always remember them in your prayers.

Prayer Diaries for November give detail about specific needs for prayer in certain countries. These are available in the Foyer. If you would like a free Frontline magazine which highlights the situations that individuals, families and churches are facing please ask me for one.

Every Blessing
Beryl

Please note that for up-to-date prayer requests contact Beryl Cartwright (703717)

The following article, origin unknown, has been submitted by Terry Powlesland, and is entitled:

Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder (A.A.A.D.D.)

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my new cheque book but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye -they need water. I put the Coke on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put

them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

- ❖ The car isn't washed
- ❖ The bills aren't paid
- ❖ There is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter
- ❖ The flowers don't have enough water
- ❖ There is still only 1 cheque in my cheque book
- ❖ I can't find the remote
- ❖ I can't find my glasses
- ❖ I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all damn day, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....

Ring any bells?

The following article re Julie Andrews, has been extracted from Keeping in Touch, and has been submitted by Joyce Kearsley

To commemorate her 69th birthday, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favourite Things' from the Sound of Music, with the following alternative lyrics, and if you sing it, it's especially funny!:

Botox & nose drops and needles for knitting
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings
Bundles of magazines tied up in string
These are a few of my favourite things

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings
These are a few of my favourite things

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak
When the knees go bad
I simply remember my favourite things
And then I don't feel so bad

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring
These are a few of my favourite things

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinning

Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames
When we remember our favourite things

When the joints ache, when the hips break
When the eyes grow dim
Then I remember the great life I've had
And then I don't feel so bad

The following has been extracted from Church News Service, and is entitled:

War.....with Remembrance Day in mind.

With the 90th anniversary of the end of World War One in mind, here's what great writers over the centuries have said about war....

- ❖ John Donne Sermons, 12 (1622) As peace is of all goodness, so war is an emblem of all misery.
- ❖ A great war leaves the country with three armies - an army of cripples, an army of mourners, and an army of thieves. - anon
- ❖ The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. - anon
- ❖ Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind. - John F Kennedy
- ❖ Let men who delight in the cruelties of war remember that their day is coming - Louis Mumford

What love means to age 4 to 8-year old children

Slow down for three minutes to read this. It is so worth it..

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, and the answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

- ❖ When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love
Rebecca- age 8
- ❖ When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth
Billy - age 4
- ❖ Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs
Chrissie - age 6
- ❖ Love is what makes you smile when you're tired
Terri - age 4
- ❖ Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK
Danny - age 7
- ❖ Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more.
My Mummy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss
Emily - age 8
- ❖ Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen
Bobby - age 7
- ❖ If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate
Nikka - age 6
(we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)
- ❖ Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well
Tommy - age 6
- ❖ During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore
Cindy - age 8
- ❖ My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night
Clare - age 6
- ❖ Love is when Mummy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'
Elaine-age 5
- ❖ Love is when Mummy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford
Chris - age 7
- ❖ Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day
Mary Ann - age 4
- ❖ I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.'
Lauren - age 4
- ❖ You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget
Jessica - age 8



- Nov 03 Jordan Pinnock-Trotman
 17 Elaine Gudem
 19 Nanna Blackman
 Gavin Suter
 26 Ellie Rose Esapa
 Hilary Pratley
 29 Marina Bowerman
 Holly Hazell

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October answers

Thanks

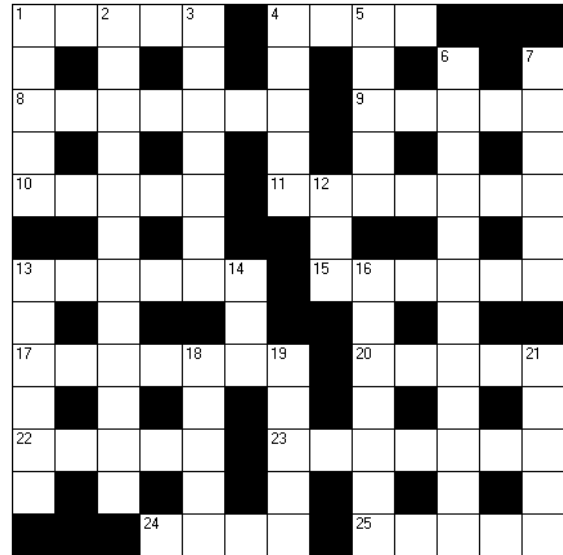
Dear Friends

Sincere thanks on behalf of all who will benefit from your wonderful Harvest Gifts.

When Jacqui told me our favourite charities were to receive the food it came just at the right time. I had been told that week how much they were in need and anything I could do, however small, would help.

However, I was completely amazed to receive so much. You are a really caring church and have always been faithful to the homeless cause.

On behalf of many needy people, I once more say 'thankyou' and God bless you all
 Sylvia & Alan Fernehough



Across

- 1 Plant under which the behemoth lies in Job 40 (5); 4 Do not ____ a young goat (Lev 23.19) (4); 8 Holy war (7); 9 What the wicked do to the Lord's people in Ps 94 (5); 10 Loaded, as Israel was loaded with silver and gold in Ps 105 (5); 11 Processions (7); 13 In wrath you _____ through the earth (Hab 3.12) (6); 15 Description of the wolves in Acts 20 (6); 17 Hates, as the Lord hates the way of the wicked in Prov15 (7); 20 How can I _____ you like Admah (Hos 11.8) (5); 22 Like the crowds following Jesus in Matt 19 (5); 23 25 cents (US slang) (3,4); 24 The lilies in Luke 12 do not do this (4); 25 Haul on a rope (5)

Down

- 1 Description of the councils mentioned in Mark 13 (5); 2 Atmospheric disturbance having a path cut in Job 38 (12); 3 Coloured like the glass in a church window (7); 4 Inexpensive (5); 5 Happen (5); 6 The first Sunday in Lent (12); 7 Morally pure (6); 12 Donkey (3); 13 Seat in which Rachel put the household gods in Gen 31 (6); 14 ..fathers will ____ their children (Ezek 5.10) (3); 16 Home town of Nicolas in Acts 6 (7); 18 Abram fell into a deep one in Gen 15 (5); 19 The Devil (5); 21 Do not handle! Do not _____! Do not touch! (Col 2.21) (5)

ROTAS

DEACON & STEWARDS

Nov	02	Nanna Blackman & Val Obriain
	09	No Service
	16	Susan Wass & Theo Howells
	23	Pip & Beryl Cartwright
	30	Pat & Ben Smith
Dec	07	Nanna Blackman & Iris Lindsay



COMMUNION

Nov	02 pm	Susan Wass	
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay
	16 am	Judi Holloway & Peter Gamston	
		Susan Wass & Jacqui Powlesland	
		Preparation	Irene St Clair
Dec	07 pm	Pat Smith	
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay



FLOWERS

Nov	02	Beryl Cartwright
	09	No flowers
	16	Jill McBride
	23	Alison Hazell
	30	Rita Hayes
Dec	07	Joan Currie



COFFEE

Nov	02	Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey
	09	No Service
	16	Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee
	23	Susan Wass & Theo Howells
	30	Jill & Robbie McBride
Dec	07	Pat & Ben Smith
	Note:	Reserve Irene St Clair



REST & CHAT

Nov	06	Jill & Robert McBride
	13	Pat Smith & Gwen Mee
	20	Marjorie Lee
	27	Jean Stanley
Dec	04	Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie



Every effort has been made on the rota list to meet individual circumstances. However, please change with someone else if the dates are not convenient for you - Thank You