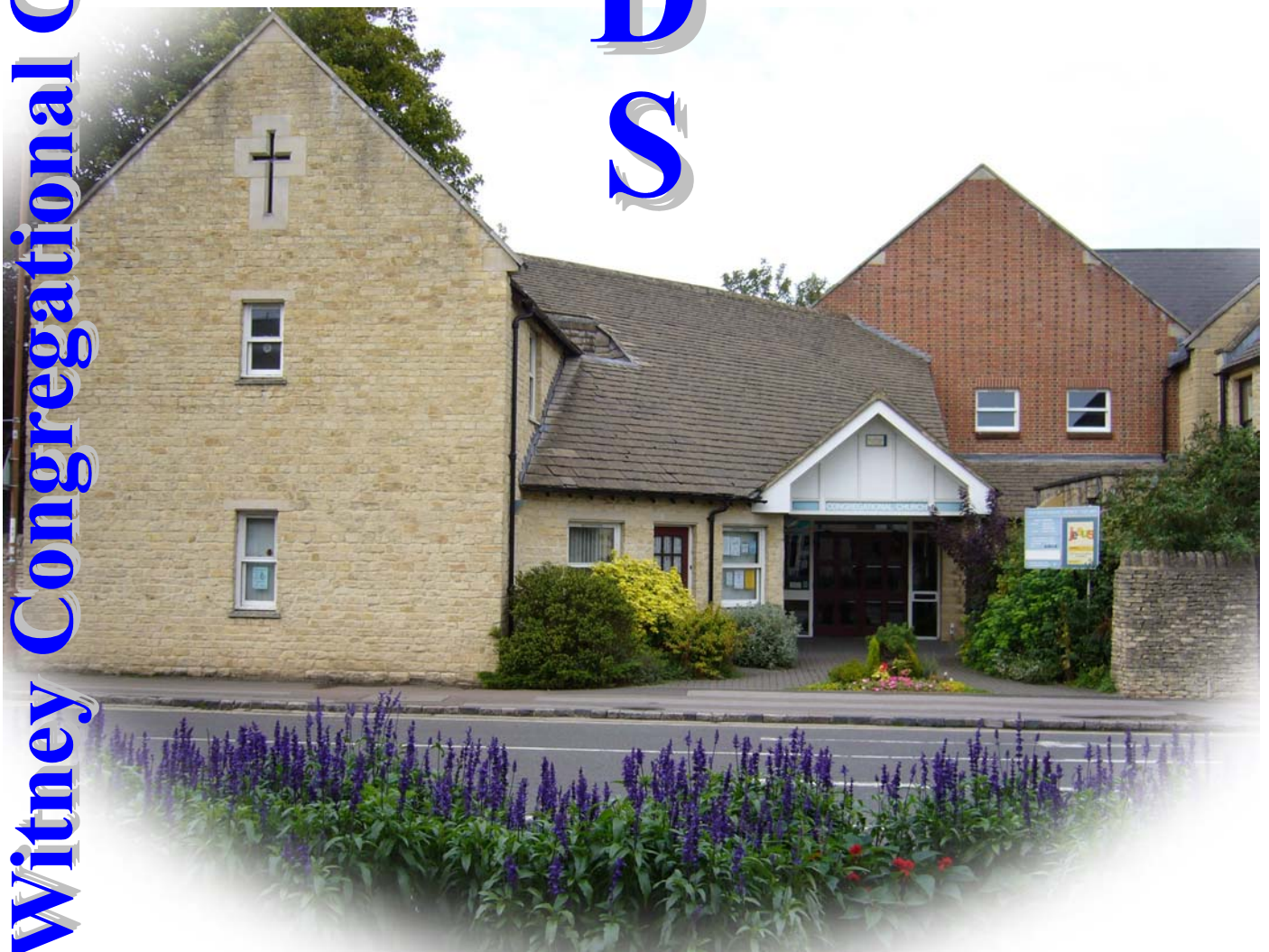


Issue 1

April 2009

R CROSS A D S

Witney Congregational Church



*Witney Congregational Church is a crossroads where we:
meet God in worship
meet one another in friendship
meet our community and world with the love of Jesus*

4 Welch Way Witney Oxon OX28 6JF
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Witney Congregational Church is a crossroads where we:
meet God in worship
meet one another in friendship
meet our community and world with the love of Jesus

Why Crossroads?

It is our geographical location.

It describes our current ministry of people coming and going, some stopping and staying.

It describes the encounter with Christ...will we follow him or not...we will choose the Way of the Cross...?

It describes an open community where we allow people to stop and stay, to pause and move on, or to simply pass through.

It describes a community of faith that allows people to approach faith from different directions with respect and common purpose.

Aspirations:

❖ In worship:

Our church fellowship desires:

to be a living, growing congregation, open to people of all ages.

We long to enjoy:

inspiring, meaningful, Spirit-led worship inclusive of the various needs of each member and user-friendly for people coming in.

❖ In Christian friendship:

Our life together will reflect God's love and grace:

through serving one another and those in our community and world.

❖ In outreach:

We open our building to the community:

to be a place of prayer

and a base for varied activities.

We develop outreach into the community through school chaplaincy, nursing, home ministry, and neighbourhood groups (e.g. - exploring faith - Alpha or Emmaus, Pilots, etc.)

We commit ourselves to prayer and practical support:

of the Congregational Federation, Council for World Mission, & other groups in touching the world with the love of Christ.



Time is certainly passing by as Easter is almost upon us - the greatest of all Christian feasts in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ and let us not forget the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice made for us **ALL** on the cross.

JESUS
is
ALIVE

As you read this, I hope you managed two things; firstly, did you notice the new cover to reflect our new Vision statement, and secondly, but not in the magazine, that you **ALL** set the clocks forward to signify the start of BST.

Turning now to the contents, here is just a glimpse of some of the articles that have been submitted; Nigel Lindsay updates us on his experiences in Maraland; there is a new series on Pilgrim Places; there is also a series of Pause for Prayer, and there will be some awesome (especially in colour via the Web-edition of the magazine) hand paintings 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 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 magazine for the remainder of the year is due on: 3rd May; 31st May; 28th June; 30th Aug; 4th Oct; 1st Nov & 29th Nov

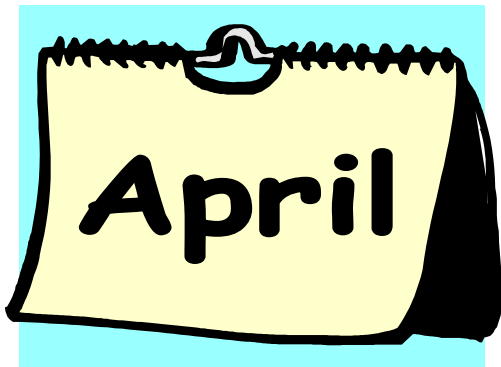
ESSENTIAL NOTE: In order to meet these deadlines, all contributions should be submitted **NO LATER THAN the WEDNESDAY** of the week in which the magazine will be published.

Your Editor



Contents

1. Editorial
2. Diary
3. Minister's Letter
4. CWM News
7. An Easter meditation
8. 5 weeks with Mara people
10. Pilgrim Places - 1
11. Prayer Letter No 131
12. Pause for Prayer
13. The Church Family
14. Rotas
15. Directory
16. What's On



Daily Prayer Time:

Mon-Fri 9.30 am

Services

10.30 am & 6.00pm and will be led by Rev Jason Boyd

The following events in **April** are given for your particular attention:

30th Mar - 3rd Apr Rev Jason Boyd - University of Wales (Lampeter)

4th Saturday Praise 11.00am

7th Deacon's meeting

9th Maundy Supper 7.00 for 7.30pm

10th Good Friday 9.45 - 10.15 am

High St Methodist for witness march 10.30am

11th Prayer Chain meeting 9.15am

12th 6.00am Dawn Service at the paddocks, Cogges

8.00am Communion

8.45am Easter Breakfast

10.30am All-Age Worship & Communion

6.00pm No evening worship

14th - 17th Rev Jason Boyd & family at Ministers Conference at Willersley Castle

Derbyshire

19th Joint Service at Davenport Road Methodist church 6.00pm

Meditation 7.30pm

23rd Pins & Needles 7.30pm

24th Pilots information meeting with Stephen Haward 7.30pm

30th Emmaus Course - Living the Gospel 7.30pm



Is coming

again

1st - 4th May

2009

Minister's Letter

A Moment with the Minister.....

"Follow me. I'm going somewhere amazing." These words were splashed in white against a red background. I did not read this on the sacred pages of scripture but rather on the back of a lorry.

But there was more: "Follow me. I'm going somewhere amazing. TK Max." Imagine that! An invitation to shop! Having been immunised against the shopping bug, I cannot imagine how people can find it amazing. Even if I did feel the urge to "shop 'till you drop", I hardly think I would go to TK Max for the ultimate experience.

"Follow me. I'm going somewhere amazing. Jesus Christ." Now that's something I can buy into. Following Jesus. Yes. That's it.

"What's that you say Jesus? I mustn't be hearing correctly. Where are you going? What? A cross? Oooh...I don't like the sound of that at all."

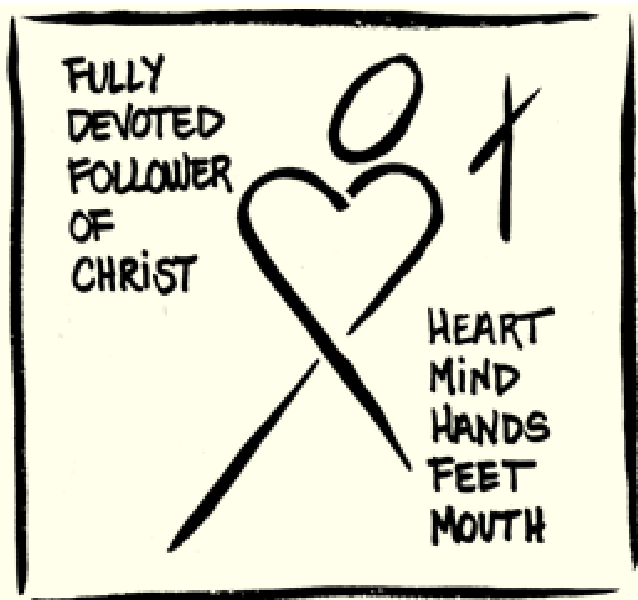
Jesus speaks, "If you want to follow me...if you want to find life...then you have to die. Dying to selfishness...dying to pride...dying to violence...dying to all that is not love. Following me is to be faithful even though it means death for my sake. Don't you remember what I said, 'For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it' (Matthew 16:25)?"

Jesus' resurrection was only beginning to sink in for Peter. Jesus told him

"...the kind of death by which [he] would glorify God. Then he said, 'Follow me!' (John 21:19). Will we die and discover that Jesus himself is the 'someone' amazing?"



Prayer: Jesus, I hear your call to follow. By your grace may I die to all that is not love. By your grace raise me to the life that is truly amazing. Amen.



Editor's Note: In last month's edition under 'Thanks from Cumnock', I spelt a name incorrectly, and it should have been Margaret McIlvean



News around the world

The following information has been taken from CWM Website dated 27th March, so is up to date at the editing of this month's magazine

Dalit discrimination under spotlight at global conference

The discrimination suffered by Dalits worldwide will be the focus of a global conference set up by church leaders this month. The term Dalit means downtrodden. Dalits have the lowest place in the Hindu caste system.

Organisers from the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran Federation have called for international solidarity with the world's 250 million Dalits. They have invited 100 delegates to a special conference in Bangkok this month (from 20 to 24 March), where church leaders, Dalit activists, theologians, representatives and rights advocates of excluded communities will thrash out human rights issues and raise awareness.

Organisers are hoping the event will provide a sharper focus on Dalit suffering following the 2001 Durban conference which some church leaders felt did not satisfactorily address caste-based discrimination.

Churches challenge G20 leaders on real leadership

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church leaders have challenged the G20 heads of government, meeting in London

next week, to show real leadership and ensure that solutions to the current economic crisis lead to action on global warming.

They want the G20 nations to grasp the opportunity for investment in new technology, which will save energy and reduce carbon output. In particular, they are urging the richer nations to agree generous support for developing countries, so they can afford the initiatives they need to take.

The three churches have already urged the European Union to adopt stronger measures on global warming. Some European leaders have resisted any further burden on industries at this time and have argued that the priority should be on restoring growth.

The Church leaders say, in a globalised world, if growth is to be 'green', countries must make binding commitments. One key area could be emission targets for new cars, as a condition of manufacturers obtaining state support.

In a joint statement, they add: "The health of any economy cannot be measured solely on economic indicators such as growth, debt and employment. "Climate change has the potential to disadvantage millions in the developed world and in developing nations. The G20 leaders must not allow the economic crisis to divert us from tackling this challenge. "This is precisely the right time to be making concrete commitments on low-carbon growth."

The Revd John Marsh, moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church added: "This is a fundamental issue of justice, which is very important in Christian theology. We would like to see the G20 leaders articulating a vision for a more just and

equitable approach."

Madagascar: Church leader calls on Christians in military not to kill

The leader of the CWM-member Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) has issued an appeal to Christian soldiers in the military not to kill. In a message broadcast repeatedly this morning on the radio station of the FJKM, Rev Lala Rasendrasahina called on Christians in the military not to commit violence, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches reported.

Speaking by telephone from Antananarivo, Mr Rasendrasahina said, "I have asked Christians in the military to remember they are baptised and that they are not supposed to murder nor to accept orders from superiors to kill."

The CWM-member Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar has been involved in an initiative by the Christian Council of Churches in Madagascar to mediate a peaceful resolution to the violent political crisis which has caused at least 135 deaths since a dispute over democratic reform broke out in late January.

The Christian Council of Churches will meet this afternoon in the midst of what is now being called a coup d'état, in order to arrange a date and a list of participants for the national conference. Attempts to organise a meeting on 12 March failed because of concern expressed by the opposition group that the proposed list of participants included too many government supporters.

Mr Rasendrasahina said the situation for church people is very tense. He has received two threats that his

home will be "burned out". He and other pastors have hired security guards.

Tensions are exacerbated by the prominent role of President Ravalomanana in the Church of Christ in Madagascar where he serves as its lay vice-president. Violence broke out on 26 January when the former mayor of Antananarivo, Andry Rajoelina, called a demonstration to protest the government's closure of a private radio station that had been campaigning for democratic reform. Although the radio station has since reopened, violent confrontations between Mr Rajoelina's supporters and those of President Marc Ravalomanana continue.

Farming boost crucial for Bangladesh food crisis

Government chiefs in Bangladesh have warned better farming is crucial in the battle to beat the food crisis. The country's food minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said more money needed to be ploughed into introducing modern farming technologies and agricultural research if the country wanted to effectively tackle increasing food shortages.

The warning came at a three-day conference organised by Bangladesh initiative One World, One Health and the Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), where agricultural development was lauded as a must for ensuring food security and food safety.

Delegates also discussed plans to set up a food bank in the South Asia region to bolster the impact of future food shortages. Agricultural experts from seven countries in South Asia attended the Chittagong conference.

Dream of a new Jamaica, urges pastor

Jamaican pastor Rev Dr Roderick Hewitt has called on the people of Jamaica to join forces in a new drive to address social, economic and spiritual unrest in the country.

The Kingston-based Hope United Church pastor and CWM moderator Dr Hewitt lobbied peers at the National Leadership Prayer Breakfast which took place recently stating that recent hardships had left society with a "deeply infested wound that requires surgery."

Encouraging individuals to "dream of a new Jamaica", he urged people to bear in mind the importance of a shared sense of identity that underpins national unity.

The National Leadership Prayer Breakfast took place at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel in Kingston under the theme: "No Transformation Without Reconciliation".

Disadvantaged youths from inner city areas were also invited to the event to pray over the increase in crime that is affecting the children's lives in Jamaica.

What is God's will in all this?

The situation in Zimbabwe has not only drawn a lot of international attention but as Christians, we all have become theologians in some way - each attempting to appropriate our experiences with biblical reflection so that we are able to see something of the hand of God. Otherwise we cannot survive.

I started battling with many questions back in 2002 when Mugabe won the controversial elections and the major question then was: "What is God's will in all this?" Despite biblical reflection, more

questions seem to come my way than answers.

This week I have been following the legal wrangle that is heating up between the Johannesburg Central Methodist Church and the business community around the City. The community wants thousands of refugees accommodated at the church vacated immediately, citing health concerns. The fate of these refugees is uncertain.

This is a looming crisis in the city. If the ruling is in favour of the businesses, thousands of these refugees (including women and children) will have to vacate the church. The consequences will be devastating leading to high levels of crime, prostitution and hunger.

Sometimes it seems to me like when problems start coming, they keep coming. Let me devise a theology out of this: "We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us...(Romans 5:3).

Let us hope someday things will work out and please pray that the courts will rule against the eviction of refugees in the Johannesburg Central Methodist Church.

CWM are a worldwide community of Christian churches. The 31 members are committed to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally. CWM was established in 1977 in its present form. It grew out of the London Missionary Society (LMS, founded 1795), the Commonwealth (Colonial) Missionary Society (1836) and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Missions (1847). Most member churches have backgrounds in the Reformed tradition. Many are united churches.

CWM has 31 members in: the Pacific (9), Europe (5), East Asia (6), Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (5), South Asia (4), and the Caribbean (2)

The following article, written by Dr Herbert McGonigle, has been extracted from Church News Service, and is entitled:

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow
- an EASTER meditation**

The New Testament not only reminds us that Christ rose from the dead on the first Easter morning, but it also reminds us that his resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Paul could hardly say it more plainly. 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins' (1 Cor. 15:17).

But that is not all. Paul adds that if Christ still lies in the tomb then all those who died in the Christian faith have perished and the gospel offers no more hope than the pagan cults. He gives the same emphasis to Christ's resurrection when he writes to the Roman Christians. Our Lord was 'put to death for our sins and raised for our justification' (Rom. 4:25). Salvation is offered to all who sincerely confess that Jesus is Lord and who believe 'that God raised him from the dead' (Rom. 10:9).

Faith in our Lord's resurrection is not peripheral to the Christian gospel; it is absolutely foundational. Abraham, Moses, Confucius, Mohammed and all the religious leaders of every age and creed are all dead - Christ alone rose from the dead and lives forever. Only the Christian gospel has an Easter Day!

And from the first Easter Day comes the story of the Emmaus Road and how two disciples were transformed when they discovered their Lord was alive. Luke recounts the event in some detail (24:13-35). Two disciples, one named Cleopas, were returning from

Jerusalem to Emmaus on that Easter evening. As yet they did not know that their Lord was risen and they were downcast and desolate.

When a stranger joined them on the road they told him of the mighty works that Jesus of Nazareth had done, for 'he was a prophet mighty in deed and word.' Then they added 'We had hoped ...it is now the third day.' 'We had hoped.' Having been eyewitnesses of our Lord's ministry, they were sure he must be the Messiah.

But it had all gone wrong. He had been arrested, falsely accused and crucified. Now his body lay in Joseph's tomb and three days had come and gone. How they had hoped! Hoped for a sign, hoped for a miracle, hoped that somehow God would intervene, but nothing happened. They were going home, sad, disconsolate and with so many memories.

They invited the stranger into their home and as he broke bread they suddenly realised it was the Lord! He WAS risen! He WAS alive! He was with them! Without waiting for the morning, they headed back to Jerusalem to share their great good news with the other disciples. Their meeting with the Risen Lord changed everything! Fear and doubt and sorrow evaporated as their hearts grasped the Easter gospel. Jesus lives! And when our hearts truly embrace this great truth, it will transform all our tomorrows!
Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because
He lives! (William J Gaither, 1936-)

Dr Herbert McGonigle is Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology and Church History in Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

The following continuing article has been submitted by Nigel Lindsay, and is entitled:

Five weeks with the Mara People - Part 2

I thought I was going to a boring meeting with the elders of the 6 or 7 Churches in that area and knew we had to travel to a village a bit remote. It was exciting as we travelled in a kind of Jeep (gipsy), no seat belts, no roof, in fact it looked quite basic, but it did get us to all the places safely - Thank God. I started by travelling in the front, but after we stopped I got in and sat back and what with my body being so big and legs so long, I managed to break the seat. Eventually, our driver Mr Harkeye lashed a pole behind it, but from then on I travelled in the back, where I was able to stretch my legs more and wedge myself with my leg so I didn't get knocked about too much. I held on to the roof bar, but that came off in my hand, I managed to repair that myself and hold on to where it connected.

We stayed the first night at Lachhua's mother's house in Tankalo village and I had the chance to preach in the village Church, and many people came to hear this strange white man talk about James 2: 14-24. I could hear something running in the roof at night and discovered the next day it was rats. Lachhua recons he got his foot nibbled. We travelled on to Bymari Village where we stayed four nights for this conference that was for everyone from the Church and not just the elders. The numbers were apparently higher than usual, as people came to see this white

man. I was told I was the first to come to that village. We were near the Burma border and some came from there to see me, or was it for the Rice distribution, by 'Save the Children' and funded from the EU?

I was well looked after and they had built a corrugated iron toilet for me out the back, but it had no door so they found a curtain. This was fine for me. However, after we left I discovered people had been viewing me from above (it had no roof and all the houses are built on the side of hills). The bed was a tad short and I could just jam in between the foot board and the head board and the big event was me cutting my head on the roof beam, (white men have **Red Blood** was a revelation). I attended many services and had the chance to preach at one, I did a talk on the field before the volleyball match and to my complete embarrassment sung 'The Lords My Sheppard' saved by a man on the keyboard. For me the most moving time was the baptism of about 12 young people. One mum came to get one to stand back and not go ahead, but he was clear he wanted to acknowledge Jesus as his Saviour. It is difficult to video when you have tears in your eyes.

We travelled back and stayed in Phura village where again I preached at the Church and then gave my testimony at the Community singing after. I also had the chance to play frisbee and football as they have a flat piece of land (unusual for Maraland). I spent the next 8 days in the city of Saiha in Lachhua's house and experienced the wedding and reception for about 300 people of his brother-in-law. I went on a walkabout with Francis (Lachhua's brother) and

preached at one church 4 times, but I did not get to do the training that I had planned.

We travelled to Srkohur the village the missionary had gone to. I stayed there from 20th - 30th January in the room with Lachhua which was where Rev A.B Lorrain Foxall had lived after his wife died. I had the chance to preach at both the village Church and the Lorrainvill Church on a number of occasions and twice at the Youth Conference. I enjoyed doing an interactive service with the youth in the village Church and talked to the Woman's meeting about Martha and Mary, or was it Worship and Action? I also told the Woman that like in many situations they have the role of mediation, in the church between the split Mara Church.

It is my view that the Congregational Church in India (Maraland) is struggling and that reconciliation with the bigger Evangelical Church of Maraland needs to take place. I have had a lot of informal conversations, but more is needed to help these people. They need your prayers for the Missionary family, for the Leadership, for reunification and for wisdom. I have photos, PowerPoint, and video; can teach a Mara Dance, do an interactive talk about my experience, or preach on a Mara theme that I have done. Give me a ring or e-mail to arrange a date.

Nigel Lindsay 07917222304
nigel_lindsay@yahoo.co.uk

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

Inflation madness

Zimbabwe introduced a bank-note worth Z\$100bn in response to rampant inflation - but the note will barely cover the cost of a loaf of bread or a few eggs



Some Zimbabweans are already calling for higher denominations in a country where the official annual inflation rate has exceeded 2,200,000%. However, independent economists believe the real rate is many times higher.

Zimbabwe's meltdown has left at least 80% of the population in poverty, facing mass shortages of basic goods. But Zimbabwe residents say the latest note is already worthless, and does not even cover their daily lunch so this note is worthless.

Zimbabwe was once one of the richest countries in Africa. But it has descended into economic chaos in recent years, with many international observers blaming the policies of President Robert Mugabe

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

PILGRIM PLACES:

In Britain, there are places long linked with the Christian gospel. They are a part of our great heritage of 1800 years of the Christian Faith in these islands. With St Patrick's Day coming this month, we consider:

1 - St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

Thirty-five miles south west of Belfast in Northern Ireland, among the rolling fields of Co Armagh, stands the city of Armagh. The pride of the city is its famous cathedral, St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral. While Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland and Dublin of Southern Ireland, Armagh is the undisputed ecclesiastical capital of the whole country.

High on a hill in the city stands the Cathedral named after Ireland's patron saint, Patrick. According to tradition it was Patrick who caused the first church building to be erected on this hill more than fifteen hundred years ago. Dublin, New York and Melbourne in Australia also have their own Cathedrals named after Patrick. So who was this Patrick who has cathedrals in his memory and after whom so many families around the world have named a son Patrick?

Patrick was a 5th century monk but his exact dates are uncertain. Although Ireland has long claimed him as the country's saint, one of the few things we know for certain about him is that he was not born in Ireland. He was born

c.400 and his home was most likely somewhere on the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. We know from his own writings that he was brought up in a Christian home and that his father, Calpornius, was a deacon and his grandfather, Potitus, a priest. When he was about sixteen years of age his village was attacked by Irish raiders and he was carried off to Ireland. He was sold as a slave in Co Antrim and was put to work tending cattle. During the next six years he prayed daily and experienced a spiritual conversion. He escaped from captivity, travelled nearly two hundred miles and then boarded a ship. Eventually he made his way back home to his family. A few years later he had a vision in which he felt he was being called back to Ireland. Believing he had heard the voice of God he returned to the land where he had been a slave and preached the gospel there until his death.

Such, in outline, is Patrick's life. There are no certain dates and although we have his Confession, a kind of autobiography, it has many gaps. It is fairly certain that he was ordained to the priesthood but he doesn't tell us where this took place or who ordained him. He never mentions the Roman Church, there are no reference to the Bishop of Rome and there is no indication that any Roman church or bishop sent him to preach in Ireland.

The Confession is written in rather poor Latin and it is clear that Patrick had little or no theological education. However, he loved God with all his heart and he longed to spread the gospel among the pagan Irish. (Continued next month)



PRAYER LETTER No 131

Jesus said,

'A new commandment I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you so you must love one another' John 13 v 34

As I write this there are two weeks of Lent left. If you decided to 'fast' or give up something for Lent have you maintained your fast or broken it and decided to start again?

Journeys are often like that, you start off, go the wrong way or you are diverted before coming back to start again on the right path or road.

Jesus was not diverted from his mission either in the wilderness or arriving in Jerusalem for his journey that he knew would end in his brutal death.

That last week in Jerusalem he prophesied about his death and taught intensely to the crowds and more intimately to his disciples.

Read John chapters 12 to 17 to find out the teaching he packed into those days, never giving up on his listeners' unbelief.

At the Last Supper Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment;

'Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.'

He was quite emphatic about this.

Earlier in John's Gospel, chapter 3 verse 16, Jesus talking to Nicodemus said

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.'

We acknowledge that sacrificial love on Good Friday and whenever we take Holy Communion. The Resurrection of Jesus and belief in him assures us of everlasting life.

Lord God,
Jesus Christ,
Holy Spirit,
Help us to love you.
Help us to love one another.
Help us in our belief as we journey with you day by day.

Amen

May God Bless you all,
Beryl

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

Pause for Prayer

(Submitted by Rev Jason Boyd)

Walking to school through Langel Common has been a pleasurable daily routine. It's hard to resist the urge to herd the children along in an attempt to beat the clock for the first bell ringing.

One day, we had a bit of leeway. So we had a good look at the ducks and swans. We noticed a bird with which we were not familiar. "What kind of bird is it?" the children asked.

Not being a twitcher, I told them I didn't know. "When you get home, get the bird book out and search for it," I suggested. So we had a good look at the feathered creature on the river bank. Black. Orange beak. Big feet. White markings.

By the time we reached home I had forgotten all about the matter. The children dashed into the recreation room. They located the book and began their research. Finally, they pinpointed the match for the bird we had seen. Their voices were filled with excitement. "Dad! Dad! We've found it. We know what it is called!"

"What kind of bird is it, then?" I asked.

"It's a moor hen!" they cried.

Discovery is exhilarating. Asking a question and going in search of the answer is a challenging adventure. "Eureka" is the spontaneous shout of those who've uncovered something new.

Yet how often are we in a hurry, swimming against the strong current of time. We are so busy being busy that we overlook the beauty and heuristic potential of the journey. Our focus is on ticking off the checklist of things to do so that we can say "Done!" So we miss out on the robin perched amongst the branches...

the fowl swimming in the lake...

the cloud formations against a blue sky...

the veined patterns of leaves...

and the vibrant colours of the wayside flowers. Discoveries are made by those who not only dream of the destination but who pay attention to small details...even the things that seem hopelessly irrelevant.

Read John 20:14-18. What kept Mary from recognising Jesus? How did she make the discovery of Jesus' identity?

Prayer: Lord, when I stop - even for a minute - I feel guilty. I should be doing something, shouldn't I? I'm always on the go. I have post-its on the fridge and on the bedside table. My diary is marked in red with lists of things that need to be done urgently. Lord, I'm tired. The only discovery I make each day is that I haven't got enough time. I haven't time to even notice what's happening inside of me. Give me the grace to slow down. Give me the gift of wisdom to take notice of all things...what seems important and also seems insignificant. Help me to see through the veil of tears...of worry...of 'musts' and 'oughts' and 'shoulds'.... If I still can't see you, please call my name so that I may recognise you and discover the joy of your resurrection. Amen.



Apr 04 Amy Morrow
14 Derrick Woodley
26 Sonya Boyd
Simon Brusch
Joyce Kearsey
27 Sharon Watson
29 Ruth Godfrey

The following article has been written, and submitted, by Florence Smith

I listened to the speaker's plea
But told myself 'That's not for me!
I like my life, I please myself
With things to do, and how and where
To give it up and start again (no thank you)

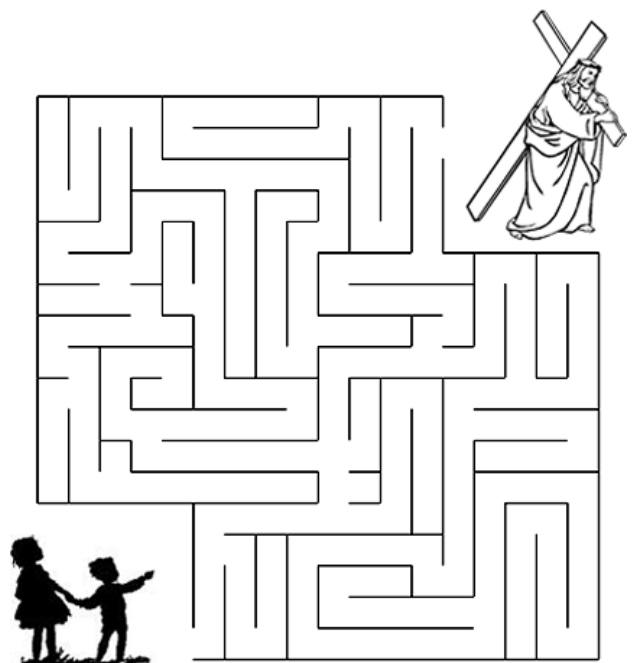
The speaker's words did cast a spell
My thoughts resounding like a bell
But still I struggled with my plight
I'd not give up without a fight (no thank you)

I heard the sermon through the night
My sense prevailed, it proved so right
Did I need this love and devotion?
Of course I did, let's put it in motion (yes please)

When you mix children and religion...
You get some unexpected gems. The following are extracts from religious exam papers...

- ❖ In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
- ❖ Noah's wife was Joan of Ark because Noah built an ark. The animals came on in pears.

- ❖ Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
- ❖ The Seventh Commandment is: Thou shalt not admit adultery.
- ❖ Moses died before he ever reached Canada.
- ❖ Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- ❖ Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do unto others before they do one to you.
- ❖ It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- ❖ The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.



ROTAS

DEACON & STEWARDS

Apr	05	Beryl & Pip Cartwright
	12	Susan Wass & Val Obriain
	19	Pat & Ben Smith
	26	Jill & Robert McBride
May	03	Nanna Blackman & Irene St Clair



COMMUNION

Apr	05 pm	Susan Wass		
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay	
	12	8.00am		
		10.30am	Elaine Gundem & Susan Wass Peter Gamston & Nanna Blackman	
19 am		Judi Holloway & Dave Wesson		
		Pat Smith & Jacqui Powlesland		
		Preparation	Irene St Clair	
May	03 pm	Jacqui Powlesland		
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay	



FLOWERS

Apr	05	Val Obriain
	12	Easter
	19	Rita Hayes
	26	Jill McBride
May	03	Pat Smith



COFFEE

Apr	05	Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey
	12	Sue Birdseye & Linda McCormac
	19	Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee
	26	Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
May	03	Jill & Robert McBride
	Note:	Reserve Irene St Clair



REST & CHAT

Apr	02	Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie
	09	Jill & Robert McBride
	16	Pat Smith & Gwen Mee
	23	Marjorie Lee
30		Jean Stanley
	May	07



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

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
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

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

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



**Congregational Federation
South West Midlands Area**