

# Witney Congregational Church

Issue 10

April &  
May 2010

## R CROSS A D S

*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*



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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
Noah's Ark Service	2.00 pm	Tuesday	For under 5's parents and carers
Saturday Praise	11.00am	1 <sup>st</sup> 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
Friday	7.00pm	Y4J - 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

## 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)

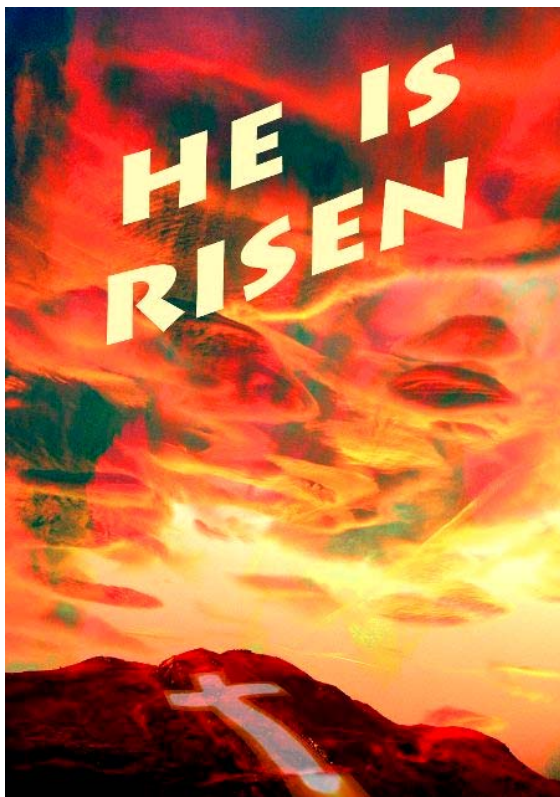
4 Welch Way (Entrance - High Street) ☎ 01993 200682 (Office)  
☎ 01993 777870 (Office - Methodist)

## St ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday ☎ 01993 709429  
09.00 am - 5.00 pm



We are now approaching the greatest of all Christian feasts in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ. So let us not forget the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice made for us all on the cross



So, turning now to the contents, here is just a glimpse of some of the articles that have been submitted; Rev Jason Boyd gives an insight into his PhD research; Jean Howell takes us back to c1925 with a coach trip; There is the continuation of the series on exploration of the books of the OT, and there is a Traidcraft article to name but a few.

As always, 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:

- CD\Memory Stick
- E-mail:
  - terrypowlesland@hotmail.com
  - jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net
- Just plainly written on paper, which can be typed up.

**ESSENTIAL NOTE:** All contributions should be submitted ***NO LATER THAN the WEDNESDAY*** of the week in which the magazine will be published.

The magazine for the remainder of the year is due out on 6 Jun; 1 Aug; 3 Oct & 28 Nov

Your Editor



See page 22

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**Daily Prayer Time:**  
Mon-Fri 9.30 am

**Services**  
10.30 am & 6.00pm and will normally be led by Rev  
Jason Boyd unless advised below

**Apr**

4<sup>th</sup> 6.00am Dawn Service The Paddock St Mary's church Cogges  
8.00am Easter Sunday Communion  
am All-Age Worship Communion  
pm No evening service  
11<sup>th</sup> am Judi Holloway  
pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church  
18<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship Communion  
pm Joint Service at Congregational Church  
25<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church

**May**

1<sup>st</sup> 11.00am Saturday Praise  
2<sup>nd</sup> am Morning Worship Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)  
pm Joint Service at Congregational Church Communion  
9<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church  
16<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship Communion  
pm CTiW Service at St Mary's Church Cogges  
23<sup>rd</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church  
30<sup>th</sup> am Morning Worship  
pm Madley Park Residential Home

**June**

5<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Saturday Praise

The following events are given for your particular attention:

**Apr**

8<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Meeting 2.30pm at 7 Riverside Gardens  
10<sup>th</sup> Prayer Meeting 09.15am  
13<sup>th</sup> Deacon's Meeting 7.30pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> Y4J 7.00pm  
24<sup>th</sup> CTiW Prayer Breakfast

## May

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Lunch
4 <sup>th</sup>	Deacon's Meeting 7.30pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	KICK Off (New Group) 6.00pm Y4J 7.00pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Meeting 09.15am CF National Assembly at Leicester
9-15 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Aid Week
13 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship meeting at 6 Swinbrook Court
15 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Day
19 <sup>th</sup>	CTiW AGM at Congregational Church
21 <sup>st</sup>	KICK Off 6.00pm Y4J 7.00pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	CTiW Prayer Breakfast

## June

1 <sup>st</sup>	Deacon's Meeting 7.30pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Induction Service of Barbara Bridges at Moreton-in-Marsh



Apr	04	Amy Morrow
	14	Derrick Woodley
	26	Sonya Boyd Simon Brusch Joyce Kearsey Serene St Clair
	27	Sharon Watson
	29	Ruth Godfrey
May	16	Jean Stanley
	21	Terry Powlesland
	24	Pip Cartwright
	30	Pat Smith Robert McBride
June	03	Grant Stanley

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**SANDOWN PARK, ESHER**

TUES 11 MAY	10.00am - 5.00pm
WED 12 MAY	10.00am - 5.00pm
THUR 13 MAY	10.00am - 7.00pm
FRI 14 MAY	10.00am - 4.30pm

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## Minister's Letter

Winding down so that I could get some sleep took a while. The Church Meeting made it difficult to turn over that night. It's part of the Congregational Way to seek the mind of Christ in the Church Meeting. Sometimes Church Meetings seem to be less about Christ and more about a clash of personalities and agendas. But the reason I couldn't get to sleep that night was not because it had been a difficult meeting, but because it had been so exciting! There was a real buzz as we talked and shared ideas. There was a palpable sense that the Holy Spirit was at work. It wasn't just my impression either. One person remarked that it was the best Church Meeting they had been to for a long while. For those who weren't able to attend the meeting on the 16 March, we wanted to let you know what happened.

When I was called to be the minister of this church it was with the understanding that I would be undertaking PhD research. With all those who regularly attend worship (members and non-members) I am going to explore what happens when a sermon is preached as part of our worship. My hunch is that preachers and congregations have clear ideas about what a sermon is and does. Books written for preachers present theological underpinnings and tips for how to construct and deliver the sermon. Statements are made about how people hear and respond to sermons. On what basis are these assertions made? Who asks the congregation what they experience and think about the sermon or the preachers what they experience and think? My aim is to ask these questions

and explore where practice matches thinking and identify the gaps.

My sermon will be the focus of attention using an approach known as Action Research. At the Church Meeting on 16 March, we explored what Action Research is and how this might help us explore our experience and understanding of preaching. I brought my research questions and a proposed design to the Church Meeting. My intent is that nine preaching events in three cycles will demonstrate improved practice/understanding. We will tell the story of what we are thinking and feeling through keeping journals, video diaries, having group discussions, and conducting one to one interviews. Participants will help me refine my own questions and bring their questions to the project. They will bring their ideas for planning the research and the design will be changed and enhanced. My aim is to enable preachers and congregations to engage in effective dialogue that will enable more effective experiences of preaching, raising confidence in the Bible as a book to be lived and shared.

Our dialogue that night led to a game plan. We decided that we will organise people into small groups of no more than ten. Over May and June these groups will meet together to explore Action Research and preaching. In this way all participants will get to ask their questions and help to shape the project.

I was thrilled that everyone at the meeting registered an interest in taking part even though a couple of folk weren't too sure. I would love for everyone in the congregation to participate. However, it is important to emphasise that no one will be pressured

into participating. Those who do get involved will always have the choice to opt out.

I hope that you will all consider taking part. The aim is to make the experience of preaching the Bible in worship a more meaningful experience for all involved. You can become involved in various ways to differing levels of intensity. I hope you will come along to the planning meetings and find out more.

Importantly, the Bible Society awarded me a scholarship of £6000 to undertake this work. I've also received substantial support from the Congregational Federation. This is an enormous vote of confidence in what we are attempting to do. It is my dream that the process we engage in will not only change us for the better but will show the way for other congregations and preachers to improve their experience of preaching the Bible. Join with me in exploration and the prayer that God will do wonderful things as his Word is proclaimed!

Yours in the Lord...  
Jason C. Boyd



## Preaching and Action Research

Doing

Theology

Together

### What is Jesus saying?

- “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘he has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds” Matthew 11:18-19.

### What is James getting at?

- “But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing” (James 1:22-25).

### What happens when a sermon is preached as part of worship?

- What does the preacher believe about preaching?
- What does s/he think she is doing?
- What does the preacher actually do?
- Does what they ‘do’ say something about what they believe?
- What does s/he believe, do, and feel?

### What happens when a sermon is preached as part of worship?

- What do the people hearing sermons believe a sermon is?
- What do people listening to sermons think about what is happening when a sermon is preached?
- What is actually happening for those who listen to sermons?
- What do listeners believe, do, and feel?

## Crossovers and Gaps

- Do our beliefs, practices, and feelings match up?
- Is it possible that what we do isn't the same as what we believe?
- How do our feelings/emotional responses relate to what we do and believe?
- Are there ways I can become a better listener/preacher
- Are there ways you can become better communicators/listeners?
- How can we make the sermon life changing?

## How will we do it?

- My questions and your questions: our questions.
- My plan and your plan: our plan.

## What is Action Research?

- It's a lifestyle of being together with others in asking questions...of noticing what is happening inside ourselves...of listening to others...of planning change together...
- It is learning by doing.
- It is the 3 C's:  
collaboration...co-learning...change.
- It is recognising power in relationships and finding ways of sharing power.

## How will we do it? (My plan...)

- Nine sermon experiences
- Three cycles of three
- Each cycle is a six week period
- Six weeks between each cycle
- This will be from September 2010 to May 2011.

## What is Action Research?

- It is about freedom, truth, value, and beauty.
- Everyone has wisdom and knowledge to contribute. Teachers are students and students are also teachers.
- It is about relationships.
- It is about finding out what works.
- It is finding out what doesn't work and planning how to make it better.

## How will we do it? (My plan...)

- Everyone who is a regular attendee of the church will be eligible to take part.
- A commitment to respect, confidentiality, and freedom to stop being involved at any time.
- Together we will find safe ways for everyone to take part. The well-being of each person is paramount.

## Why Action Research to explore preaching experience?

- Theology: what you do is what you believe.
- Action Research: learning by doing.
- Preaching: the word doing something.
- Preaching is an experience: a life is lived and a word is spoken to lived lives who hear a word and this word is from God.
- Action Research is a way to understand what we do and think about preaching.

## How will we do it? (My plan...)

- Keeping a journal
- Participating in a small group
- Keeping a video diary
- One to one interviews



## News around the world

The following information has been taken from CWM Website dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, so is up to date at the editing of this month's magazine

### **Haiti: long-term focus for CWM**

CWM Moderator Rev Dr Prince Dibeela has outlined fresh hopes for CWM to play an active role in helping rebuild earthquake-struck Haiti.

Haiti faces a long road to recovery and reconstruction, and Dr Dibeela has welcomed proposals that will see CWM partnering with member church the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) to provide both spiritual and practical aid for the Haitian people in the long-term.

Plans are already in the pipeline for the Moderator to visit Haiti as part of a special visit to the Caribbean region in April this year. Dr Dibeela said: "We are exploring at this stage the possibility of a visit to Haiti. This would be to see and get a feel for what has happened there."

He added: "We don't know what the role of CWM could be in the journey to rebuilding Haiti. However, if there is a window of opportunity for us to be co-participants in that process we would welcome it with joy."

CWM donated funds to Haiti immediately after the disaster struck in January. A global appeal for member churches to respond was also put out. But there is strong feeling among CWM leaders that the organisation's involvement should not end there.

Dr Dibeela said: "We are convinced that Haiti is special, not just because of the

recent devastation, but also because of what it represents in the struggle against empire and neo-colonialism.

"At this stage we are exploring and very much wanting to express our critical solidarity in tangible ways. We have already sent out a global appeal to our members to respond in love, and this is beginning to bear fruits. But it is already clear - we are all in for the long haul in Haiti."

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### **Taking God to the streets**

Patrolling Oxford's busiest nightspots to help late-night revellers isn't how most of us choose to spend a Saturday night. But for URC member Ruth Wilson, it's the best way to reach out.

As the latest member of Street Pastors - a church-run scheme aiming to bring comfort and safety to people out on the town -

Ruth will join fellow volunteers on Oxford's streets to offer practical help and a sympathetic ear to those that find themselves in distress.

From helping flag down taxis to giving out flip-flops to girls that have taken off their high-heels - the scheme is often about small gestures that can make all the difference. "If Jesus was around today, that's the sort of thing he'd be doing," Ruth says.

As a single parent and joint secretary of St Columba's United Reformed Church in Oxford, Ruth signed up following a meeting about the project with her minister Rev Carla Grosch-Miller.

"When I came out, I said, 'I've got to do this'. It's the ideal opportunity to get involved in the community," she says.



## Reaching out

The national scheme, which was set up by the Ascension Trust seven years ago, now has over a hundred teams around the UK, and has won the support of the police and local councils.

Launched by the city's Churches Together network this month, the street pastors project in Oxford will patrol the streets offering help to people that might need it as they make their way home throughout the night.

Street Pastors have to be over 18, a church member and able to commit to the full training programme. Street Pastors are there to listen

Each Street Pastor team consists of at least three groups of four, each of which will work a minimum of one night a month, usually from 10pm to around 4am.

Ruth was attracted by the prospect of being able to help people in potentially vulnerable situations in the safety of a three or four-strong team, she explains. "If Jesus was around today, that's the sort of thing he'd be doing," she adds. "I've been in a situation where I've needed help, and it comes in the most unexpected forms."

As part of the scheme Ruth will start 50 hours of training in April, before joining a team of street pastors once a month on a Friday night in June. And in turn, the church will help Ruth out by ensuring her nine-year-old daughter is looked after by Revd Carla Grosch-Miller. The church has also contributed a one-off donation towards the costs of the project, and pledged to conduct a special collection once a year.

Conservative MP for Enfield, David Burrowes, is backing the scheme: "Street Pastors is about Christians rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in practically responding to the problems of crime and

safety," he said. "They are like beacons on our streets and I want to see them shining brightly in every constituency."

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## Testimony: I led groups that desecrated churches

Perhaps the most telling witness of a Christian who survived the violence in Kandhamal, India, is that of Niladri Kanhar, who tormented Christians for a quarter of a century before he embraced the Christian faith. He tells his story.

I am 43 years old. I became a member of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) at the age of 12 since I dropped out from school. Later as local VHP leader in Phiringia block of Kandhamal, I took part in several assaults on Christians and their properties. I led groups that desecrated churches and forcibly reconverted dozens of Christians.

Since then my world has turned upside down. I became anathema to my family members and have tasted the fury of my saffron friends.

## Divine visions

In 2005 my wife Usharani had several divine visions. She ordered me to give up drinking, and banned fish and meat from the house as everyone in the family (with five children) was sick.

When one got well, another would fall sick. In desperation, we visited several swamis and temples, and carried out the sacrifices they recommended. In the process, we sold off the gold ornaments, 18 goats and exhausted Rs 20,000 the in-laws gave seeing our plight.

I was so distressed and short of cash that I could not carry out regular farming in my 2.5-acre fertile farmland. I leased it out and survived on the advance.

Meanwhile the pujas, visits to temples and sacrifices went on and the situation got worse.

On 3 October 2005, my third daughter Meena had to be hospitalised as she was seriously ill. I remained in the hospital while Usharani stayed at home. When I came back home three days later, she told me about the visit of a Christian pastor, Pavitra Mohomo Kata, who had visited our house two days earlier.

"If you believe in God, your daughter will be saved," the pastor told my wife. "I know this is a RSS village. But, the Lord has sent me to pray for you."

I was furious, and the next day when the pastor came and greeted me I was indignant and angry. But, he was cool and told me: "There is too much sorrow in your life. If you pray, everything will be alright."

Hearing these words, I cooled down. I had no other way. There was only darkness and despair around me as I was struggling to feed the family at the time. So when he started praying, I just listened. After the two-hour long prayer, I felt little relaxed and the pastor left saying he will return next day. He came and the prayers became routine.

Unbelievably, there was much change in the family. Meena's condition improved suddenly and she started eating for the first time in days. Other children too started playing and going to school. I could not believe the sudden change that came in our house. At last there was an air of hope and joy in our house. And news of the pastor's visits soon spread around the village.

### **Threat**

On 23 February 2006, my 16-year old son Bantu went missing.

"You have become Christian and you will never get back your son," the villagers told me. "Where is your Lord now when your son is missing?" others teased me.

But I was confident and prayed. With the help of lawyers, I filed a complaint with police, gave a memorandum to government officials and even moved the high court to trace my missing son. The effort was not futile. A month later Bantu was traced to Pondicherry in south India. When he was brought back on 31 March, the plot unfolded. My saffron colleagues had kidnapped him to teach me a lesson.

Meanwhile, the sudden healing that came about in my family after the visits of the pastor was noticed by the villagers. Lohari Kanhar, mother of a teenage girl suffering from severe bleeding, came to my house accompanied by the panchayat ward member to meet pastor Pavitra.

The pastor prayed and told the mother: "God will save your daughter." Accepting the plea of the mother, pastor Pavitra went with them and prayed for the girl in her house. Immediately after the prayer, the girl who had been in a coma for 11 days, opened her eyes and called her mother "ma".

With yet another family coming under the sway of the pastor, the villagers beat pastor Pavitra mercilessly. On 6 May, among other injuries, his neck was broken.

As they had already declared a social boycott against me and the pastor, no one came forward to take him to hospital. Finally, it was the police that took him to hospital.

After attacking the pastor, the group marched to the police station and filed several cases against me on the same day. They even staged a dharna (sit-in) at the police station demanding my instant arrest on conversion charge.

On hearing that they were planning to attack me as well, I fled the village and managed to reach the hospital two days later to meet Pastor Pavitra.

On 18 May - the day he was discharged, the pastor was silent after the morning prayers with me. When I asked him why he was quiet, he replied: "You will have to suffer worse than me for your faith." When I heard that, I was heart broken.

### **Beatings**

The forecast came true soon. On the evening of 27 July I was caught. They tied my hands at the back, beat me and led me to a village meeting held under fireballs.

Everybody was against me and nobody was willing to support me. After beating me ruthlessly, they left me. The police came later and took me to the station at around 12 am. I pleaded with them to take me to a doctor but they said that no doctor was available. I limped back home at 3am.

The attack came after Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati (whose murder was followed by the vicious anti-Christian violence since August 2008) scolded the VHP leaders asking them whether they were 'sleeping' when I betrayed Hinduism and Swami Lakshmanananda had reason to be angry - he had had lost a trusted bully when I became a Christian. I used to take pride in attacking Christian houses in Subarnagiri and Kotagarh. Besides organising his rallies and other programmes in the area, I was one of the key leaders to lead attacks on Christians.

Though several cases had been filed against me by the Christians, the police hardly acted against me for these crimes. But the moment I became a Christian, I became a villain. They arrested me and pastor Pavitra in August on the basis of

the conversion inducement charge that had been already filed against us. We spent a week in jail before we were released on bail.

### **Social boycott**

Meanwhile, they had declared me a Hindu traitor. Anyone who interacted with me had to pay a fine of Rs 10,000. My elder brother Nirmal - a post master - and younger brother Mukund both pleaded me to return to Hinduism. Otherwise they too would have to join the social boycott. When they realised I would not budge, they stopped talking to me. I would realise the depth of their fear and anger only later.

The villagers adhered to the boycott strictly and two of my younger children had to stop going to the local school. Nobody would talk to us. My daughter Swapna was prevented from entering the school from then and she stopped going to school. My younger daughter Mira was forced to discontinue nursery.

Even feeding my large family became extremely difficult. Often we had to go without meals. However, we pulled on in faith.

During the anti-Christian violence during Christmas 2007, I sensed danger and fled as the bigots were looking for me. When the violence stopped, I came back to the village. In the local market, my former saffron friends engaged me in a 'friendly' conversation.

"India has Hindu cultural heritage and Christianity was not here in the beginning. Why should you accept a foreign religion?" they asked me.

I told them: "I am not a scholar to tell you what is true religion. For me, religion is to love one another and help one another. I

also know for sure that telling lies or beating others is not part of any religion."

They told me that Hinduism was much older to Christianity and went on to debate on Hindu gods and goddesses. With the debate reaching nowhere, they stopped and left reminding me: "We will not allow a single Christian in Kandhamal." I retorted: "Even if you kill me or my children before me, I will remain a Christian until my last breath." Then, they said: "He has gone mad."

Meanwhile, a top Hindu lawyer sent a messenger promising me all facilities if I returned to Hinduism. But my response was "no" and I also reminded him the story of how Jesus himself was tempted by Satan by promising him all goods of the world.

### **Flight**

When the shocking news of the murder of the Swami on 23 August 2008 came in, I fled to the jungle with the family. The bigots came to my house looking for me the next evening. With nothing in the jungle to eat and children wailing of hunger, we had to return home four days later.

Within an hour, a 40-strong mob came armed with wooden planks, iron rods and swords and surrounded my house. Some of them threw stones at me. Since many of them were my friends earlier, they hesitated to attack me. I kept quiet and watched. Then, one rushed forward and hit me on the ear-side with an iron rod, I fell unconscious. Later, my wife told me that they went on beating me with the rods and poured wooden resin into my eye.

Assuming I was dead, she covered my body with a piece of cloth before fleeing again to the jungles.

Late that night, the security forces came to know about the attack and reached the village. Though they

requested the villagers to carry me to the van parked on the road, even my brothers refused.

My wife returned next morning and was surprised to find me alive. She gave me water. But, I could not move and was in agonising pain. Then I remembered what the pastor had told me while in the hospital. Jesus has said that whoever follows him will be persecuted and will be disowned by the family.

With the district hospital full of injured Christians, and my condition very critical, I was shifted to the Medical College Hospital at Berhampur - 150 kms away.

### **God's plan**

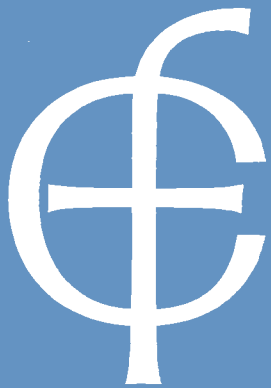
Though I had dozens of cuts and blood clots from beatings with an iron rod, it was miracle that I did not have a single fracture. Maybe, God wanted me to be alive to tell the story of this poor Christian. Otherwise, there cannot be any reason why I should be alive after so much of beatings.

After three months of treatment, I was discharged from hospital. In between, doctors had carried out three surgeries in my left eye that had been damaged due to the resin poured into it.

I have still problem with the left eye but I have no complaints. Jesus was crucified. It is a joy for me to carry an injury for the faith in him.

Jesus taught us to forgive our enemies. I have already forgiven them.





# The Mailing

**Congregational Federation**

Issue 2010/02

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

### March

Christian Ministries Committee 6th  
CF Scotland Training Weekend 12th & 13th  
Finance & Support Services Committee 13th  
Training Board Residential Winchester 18th & 19th  
Council 26th & 27th

### April

CF Youth conference 1st to 5th  
Easter Sunday 4th  
Minsietrs & leaders Conference 6th to 9th  
Training Weekend - levels 4 & 5 9th to 11th  
Wake up call Birmingham 24th

## Special points of interest:

- Countdown to Leicester
- Child Friendly Church
- Window on the World
- Turning Tables - Any Change
- Honour & Respect Appeal
- News round up

## Countdown to Leicester



The Churches of the East Midlands Area of the Congregational Federation are looking forward to welcoming you all to the 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Congregational Federation to be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in Leicester.

The venue is the Samworth Enterprise Academy, which is an impressive large modern educational building, opened about two years ago, and situated on the outskirts of the city. The address is Trenant Road, LE2 6UA. It is close to the outer ring road (A563), and is within easy reach of Junction 21 of the M1 motorway as well as other handy road links. There are extensive parking facilities for cars and coaches on site, and excellent disabled access to the building.

If coming by train then there are taxis or buses available from Leicester Railway Station with excellent links to various parts of the country. For those travelling from afar, the East Midlands Airport is not far with a rail link into Leicester.

Leicester is a bustling multi-cultural city, with many local attractions, both within the city and in the immediate lovely countryside. Information about all

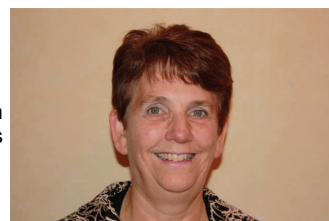
these is available from the Tourist Board website [www.goleicestershire.com](http://www.goleicestershire.com). Hotel and Guest House accommodation can also be accessed from that site.

If you are staying in the area over the weekend, you will be very welcome to join in worship at any of our East Midlands Area churches. You will find details of the times of services in the current Year Book, and you will need a road map. You can also find details of these churches on the Federation's web site.

We are particularly pleased that we in the East Midlands Area are hosting the Assembly this year as Rev Sandra Turner, who will be welcomed as the new

Federation President during the afternoon, grew up in the Leicester area. In her younger days Sandra attended Clarendon Park Church. Later, she and John

were active members at Narborough Church for several years prior to Sandra becoming the pastor at nearby Ullesthorpe C.C. It was during her time at Ullesthorpe that she completed her training and was ordained there, and we missed them both very much when they moved on to the North West Area in 1996. Sandra and John always did things as a "team", and I'm sure this special year will be no different. We send them both our love, and wish them every blessing for what we hope will be a very memorable year in their lives.



June Smith East Midlands Area Secretary.

## Setting the standard - Child Friendly Church

Is your church a good place for children to be?

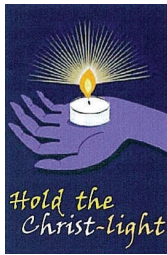
Child Friendly Church is a new award scheme in the Federation, launched this month to recognise excellence in children's ministry. Awards will normally be made at May Assembly. Because it sends a very positive message to local people, backed up by the

assurance of national standards, the award can be an effective aid to mission. Churches wishing to work towards the award begin by getting a Child Friendly pack from Stephen at the Youth and Children's Office [stephen.haward@congregational.org.uk](mailto:stephen.haward@congregational.org.uk) or call 0115 9111460. The pack is free.



## Window on the World - "Hold the Christ-light"

Window on the World is the holiday conference organised by CWM European Region, taking place from 7th-13th August 2010. The conference is an opportunity to meet the world church and learn more about mission.



In 2010 worship will be led by "Siyaya," a group of young people from the JL ZWANE Centre, Guguleto, South Africa. The group have travelled to many countries taking their lively music and worship, including a 2008 visit to Washington DC with Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of Cape Town. Revd Elizabeth Joy, Executive Secretary for Mission Education at CWM will lead evening worship and Revd SHou-Hui Chung a Mission Partner from Taiwan will lead early morning prayers - a truly world church worship team!

Revd Dr Janet Wootton will inspire the conference through the theme "Hold the Christ-Light." Janet is Director of Studies in the Congregational Federation and well known hymn writer, author and theologian.

The theme will focus on the relationship between mission and worship – how worship inspires the church to do mission and mission informs the church at worship.

The conference gives plenty of activities for people of all ages. Each morning there is a lively programme for children and young people. Afternoons include making use of the outdoor activity facilities, time to explore the surrounding area, interest workshops and evenings are filled with entertainment for all ages.

The venue is The Pioneer Centre at Cleobury Mortimer, near Kidderminster. The Centre has excellent outdoor activities for all ages, including abseiling, swimming, climbing and fencing. Accommodation is mostly in en-suite rooms for 2, 3 and 4 people.

For more details contact CWM Europe who have recently moved offices to:

Council for World Mission Europe  
Colin Sanders Innovation Centre  
Mewburn  
Bunbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX16 9PA

Telephone: 01295 817621

## Turning Tables—Any Change?



**An essential conference in 2010 for Congregational Federation Ministers, local leaders, Integrated Course students, and their families**

Speakers to include:  
Geoff Daintree of Christian Aid Poverty Over Campaign  
John Truscott Consultant and Trainer on developing our resources  
Elena Timoftevic of Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania  
CF Team visit to the Dominican Republic  
Janet Wootton for Bible Studies  
Suzanne Nockels for worship for all ages

Organised in conjunction with the Finance & Support Services Committee  
**Taking a fresh look at resources locally and globally and how we might act Godly today**

Major 'in service' training event of the year. Ministers and leaders conference 2010. Booking forms are now available. Book now to avoid disappointment.

## President returns with better understanding

As part of the CF team visit to the Dominican Republic Onè Respé programme Jill Stephens returned home a different person.



*"I returned home to England with a better understanding of the work of Christian Aid and their work in support of partners both at the grassroots level and through the work of advocacy and education. We truly appreciated everything that Geoff and Pippa did, which will help us raise the profile, not only of Onè Respé but also of Christian Aid among our churches.*

*Following the recent devastation of the earthquake in Haiti, it is only too easy to*

*imagine the desperation that will now drive even more Haitians into the Dominican Republic. Those already there face the additional anguish of not knowing anything about the fate of their loved ones and pain of their suffering. Onè Respé, in particular, needs urgent resources if it is to have a significant impact within this unfolding human tragedy."*

The CF has committed itself to raising £30,000 over a three year period for this vital work. Donations can be sent to Nottingham payable to the Congregational Federation marked Onè Respé on reverse.

## News round up

**May Assembly 2010 - The few and 72 -**  
All churches have been sent full details of this year's Assembly in Leicester. For the first time this year it includes a fringe meeting on the Friday evening at Clarendon Park Congregational Church. Ask your Secretary for more information

### Wake up Call sets more dates -

24 April : Birmingham

22 May : London

19 June : Eastern Area

Unique Congregational Federation inspirational gatherings on evangelism for our churches. To encourage, energise and resource growth through the appropriate

sharing of our faith. Evangelism is one of the essential marks of mission for the Church. Sadly it has become neglected and overlooked. As a result many churches have forgotten its importance and are suffering the consequences. These day conferences are aimed at raising its profile and sharing ideas and encouragement

A time of prayer and inspirational worship  
A place of learning new skills  
A place to return from with new ideas  
A place for you

COME ON THIS IS A WAKE UP CALL!



### The Congregational Federation

6 Castle Gate Nottingham NG1 7AS

Tel: 0115 911 1460 Fax (1462)

E-mail: [admin@congregational.org.uk](mailto:admin@congregational.org.uk)

Visit the Website for more copies of this Mailing and much more at  
**[www.congregational.org.uk](http://www.congregational.org.uk)**

The following article is a continuation in a series by Rev Paul Hardingham, and is entitled:

## **What's the Big Idea?**

### **An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Exodus**

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means exit or departure (from the Greek translation), reminding us that the departure of the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book. Although reworked over the years, it is not unreasonable to assume that much goes back to Moses. Depending on the time of the exodus, the book dates from around 1446 (traditional date) or 1290 BC.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (ch 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an obscure and oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (ch 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of this freed people. The book introduces us to the idea of salvation or deliverance, significantly presented not as abstract truth but as story. God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews his covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God himself. In chapter 3 God reveals his name as YHWH or 'I am who I am'. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament and it is expressed as 'the LORD' in our Bibles. To know God's name is to know him as well as his character ie his justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and

holiness. He is also the God who controls history, as he delivers of the people out of Egypt. Neither the affliction of Israel nor the plagues of Egypt were outside of his control and the death of the Passover lamb is fulfilled in the cross of Christ (1 Co 5:7).

A key verse that reminds us of God's promise of help comes when the Israelites face crossing the Red Sea to escape Egypt: 'Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today"' Exodus 14:13. As Eugene Peterson has commented: 'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.'

The following article has been submitted by Marjorie Lee, and is entitled:

## **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord**

This was the theme for the World Day of Prayer held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at Cogges church. We are all encouraged to praise God whatever ups and downs we experience in life

The women of Cameroon had framed the service, and in the evening the Esapa family came in their colourful clothes, with Margaret Esapa and Naomi Boyd taking part in the readings

The 2011 service is by women of Chile and is likely to be held in High St Methodist church. Our church may be asked to hold the services in 2013



You may well have seen Panorama programme shown on Wednesday 24 March, which reported on the continued problem of child labour in West African cocoa farms. As the programme included Fairtrade producers, the following is Traidcraft's response to the programme

The Panorama programme **Chocolate: the Bitter Truth**, reported on the continued problem of child labour in West African cocoa farms. As the programme included Fairtrade producers, we wanted to give you more information about the issues raised

The programme identified the use of child labour in West African cocoa supply chains. This included Fairtrade-certified producers from the Ivory Coast and Ghana, but it also showed how, when identified by Fairtrade auditors, the issue was dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

Child labour is a serious and urgent issue in West Africa (it is estimated that up to 800,000 children are trafficked each year in the region) and it is inconceivable that Fairtrade cocoa producers could escape being affected by these issues. Enforced child labour is an infringement of the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child.

The Fairtrade system explicitly prohibits child labour and when it is found by Fairtrade auditors, actions are taken to tackle the situation. Fairtrade is also part of the longer-term solution to child labour.

The guaranteed minimum price, extra premium payments for investment in communities, and the democratic organisation of producers, all help to alleviate poverty and address the kind of issues which result in children being forced to work.

That is why so many of our Fairtrade producers proudly tell us how, because of their improved livelihoods, they are now able to send their children to school.

So it was encouraging to see in the programme how Fairtrade producer group Kuapa Kokoo - whom many of you will recognise as being the supplier of cocoa to Divine chocolate - handled the discovery of child labour by a Fairtrade auditor in an effective and appropriate manner.

Running a large co-operative of 45,000 cocoa farmers to such high standards is a credit to the work of the farmers and to Divine chocolate. But we must also recognise that there is much more work for Fairtrade to do to help address the serious issue of child labour across the whole of that region. The practical nature of Fairtrade means that at the very least we can support Fairtrade cocoa producers by encouraging more sales of their products.

Panorama also raised some challenges like 'Do we as consumers pay enough for our chocolate?' As Fairtrade consumers these are familiar concerns to us and it's encouraging to see these questions being posed. This type of debate can help to engender greater support for Fairtrade and the work we are all doing to fight poverty.

## **Chocolate: the Bitter Truth - questions and answers**

*1. What actually happens when child labour is found in a Fairtrade supply chain?*

A. When child labour is found by Fairtrade auditors, producers are suspended from the Fairtrade system, and remedial work is undertaken to address and rectify the situation to work towards allowing producers back into the system. It is also reported to the local government authorities.

*2. How could Traidcraft have continued selling Divine chocolate when its producer Kuapa Kokoo was temporarily suspended from the Fairtrade system?*

A. Under the Fairtrade system, when a producer is suspended, they can continue to sell their products for up to six months, but are restricted from entering into new contracts. We fully support this approach as it enables poor producers to continue earning much needed income while they resolve the issue. As was shown in the Panorama programme, Kuapa Kokoo acted robustly and compassionately once the use of child labour by seven of its 45,000 farmers was identified by a Fairtrade audit, so that its Fairtrade status could be restored.

*3. Why weren't we told about this at the time?*

A. Results of the audits conducted by the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation are confidential. We are made aware when suppliers are suspended but not the reasons for suspension.

*4. How can we be sure this won't happen again?*

A. We can't. No auditing system can give 100% guarantee, but the transparency and accountability which underpin the Fairtrade system mean we can be

confident that when problems are found, they are dealt with appropriately. The programme highlighted another large Fairtrade-certified producer co-operative in Ivory Coast (Kavokiva) where an example of child labour was taking place and had not yet been identified by Fairtrade auditors. We are aware that on the basis of this information the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation is already taking action to work alongside that producer group and make sure those further instances are tackled.

*5. Where does Traidcraft's cocoa come from?*

A. The cocoa used in Traidcraft's own brand chocolate products comes from a variety of sources. We do not source any of it directly but are supplied by other Fair Trade Organisations throughout Europe or other chocolate manufacturers whose supply chains are certified by the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation. Much of the cocoa in our chocolate bars is from Latin America (Bolivia, Peru and the Dominican Republic). The cocoa in Geobar, chocolate spread or used as coating around raisins or nuts comes from West African and Latin American Fairtrade certified producers: mostly the Dominican Republic, Ghana and also the Ivory Coast.

The questions and answers below are from the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation, which is responsible for certifying and auditing Fairtrade producers.

*1. Are children allowed to work at all in the Fairtrade system?*

A. Child labour as defined by the ILO\* is prohibited. This means that children under the age of 15 cannot be hired and

no child can be engaged in work that compromises their health, education and/or development.

However:

- a. At the beginning of certification, child labour might be occurring (e.g. because in the past the operator used children as workers). In this case, the operator has a maximum of 1 year to rectify the situation and take proper care of the children, mainly by providing them access to a schooling system. (This excludes worst forms of child labour, which must never occur);
- b. Prohibition of child labour does not mean that children cannot help their parents to undertake light agricultural work after school and during holidays within certain restrictions such as reasonable work, work time and under parents' guidance.

*2. How do Fairtrade organisations work to reduce and eliminate the worst forms of child labour in global supply chains?*

A. Fairtrade is working to strengthen the position of farmers and workers around the world, and enable them to get a better deal from international trade. Fairtrade has many tools to support work to reduce and eliminate child labour. These include:

- ❖ Fairtrade standards, based on ILO Conventions, to which producers are required to work, that prohibit the worst forms of child labour. Fairtrade also works to support farmers in becoming democratically organized, so that they can build up their own programmes of activity on anything from improving their farming practices to tackling child labour
- ❖ Auditing and certification processes, which check that producer organizations and traders are

compliant with Fairtrade standards, or seek corrective action if they are not, with the aim of continuously improving work to tackle problems that farmers, their families and communities are facing

- ❖ A Fairtrade minimum price guarantee and additional Fairtrade premium, which supplies more resources to farming communities, enabling them to address some of the underlying issues of poverty and provide adequate schooling in their communities.

*\* The ILO is the International Labour Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations, which brings together governments, employers and workers to promote social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights.*

Traidcraft fights poverty through trade, helping people in developing countries to transform their lives. Established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, we are the UK's leading fair trade organisation. We run development programmes in some of the poorest countries in the world, and campaign in the UK and internationally to bring about trade justice.





## PRAYER LETTER No 140

### Allelujah Christ is Risen

Millions of Christians throughout the world are rejoicing and singing these words and giving glory to God for the Risen Christ, celebrating the event that happened nearly 2000 years ago and believing that Christ through the Holy Spirit is alive today and working through ordinary people.

**Christ is Risen** but they didn't recognise Him. Mary in her grief didn't recognise Him. She thought He was the Gardener until he spoke and called her name, then she knew it was Jesus and rushed to tell the other disciples the amazing news.

**Christ is Risen** but the two followers of Jesus didn't recognise Him as they walked together with Him along the road to Emmaus. Only when they invited Him in to share supper ( a common courtesy in those days ) and broke bread with them did they realise that Jesus had been their companion. They too rushed back to Jerusalem to share the news.

**Christ is Risen** but Thomas doubted when the disciples told him the good news about Jesus He said that he wouldn't believe until he saw the nail marks in his hands and actually put his own hands in the wounds of Jesus' hands and side then he would believe. A week after this Jesus appeared to the disciples who were in a locked room. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger in my hand and your hand in my side. Stop doubting and believe. Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed." (John 20: 27-29)

How often are we like Mary, the men on the way to Emmaus or Thomas in not recognising Jesus or doubting that he did rise from the tomb? If we are honest with ourselves we do have periods of doubt, disbelief, unbelief as we journey in our faith. We want evidence, facts We have evidence in our scriptures and living evidence today as God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit work in the lives of Christians throughout the world.

Do we see the evidence and recognise it or are our eyes dimmed?

Do we see God's hand at work when someone says's genuinely " That was a miracle? " or do we doubt it or explain it away?

A prayer

Lord God,  
Help us to see your hand at work in our lives and in the lives of others.  
Confirm in us your truth when we falter, doubt or turn away from you.  
Bring us back into your fold.  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Amen

Every Blessing

Beryl

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

The following article, extracted from 'Inside Out', has been submitted by Marjorie Lee, and is entitled:

## **Obituary: Rev Fred Kaan**

Rev Fred Kaan, one of the great hymn writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a minister of the United Reformed Church and former chair of CWM, has died, aged 80

His hymns are found in most Protestant English language hymnbooks, among the best-known being: 'For the healing of the nations' and 'Now let us from this table rise'. He died in the early hours of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009

On a visit to England from the Netherlands, he stayed with a family belonging to a Congregational Church and was so impressed with Congregationalism that, when he decided to offer for Christian ministry in 1952, he chose Western College.

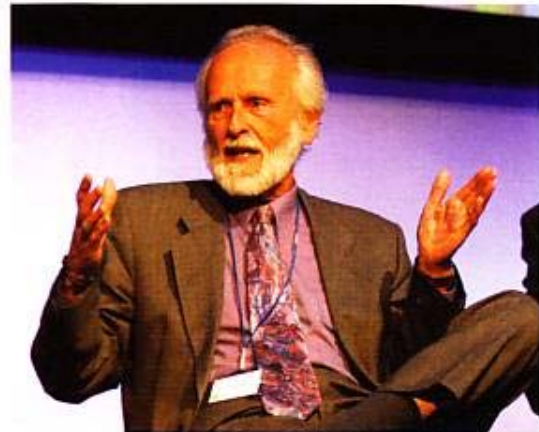
After a first pastorate in Barry, in 1963 he was called to Pilgrim Church, Plymouth. It was there that he began to be known for his hymn writing. With his wide experience, his strong convictions, and a gift for languages, after 5 years he became the minister-secretary of the International Congregational Council, which united in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

During this time he also served as a chairman of CWM. He was instrumental in bringing Christopher Duraisingh, CWM's first non-Western general secretary to CWM in 1987.

He also composed songs that have become important in the life of CWM, including the 'A Hymn on Daring to Dream' for the CWM bicentenary celebrations and 'The church is like a table', which introduced the image of

sharing at a round table that is still part of CWM's thinking today.

With his wife, Elly, Mr Kaan had two sons, Martin and Peter and a daughter, Alison. After Elly's death, he married Anthea, who has cared for him devotedly in retirement and especially in the last few years



A celebration of the life of this great hymn writer will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April at St Andrew's URC, Cheltenham, beginning at approximately 2.00pm. The event will include many of his hymns within the context of worship

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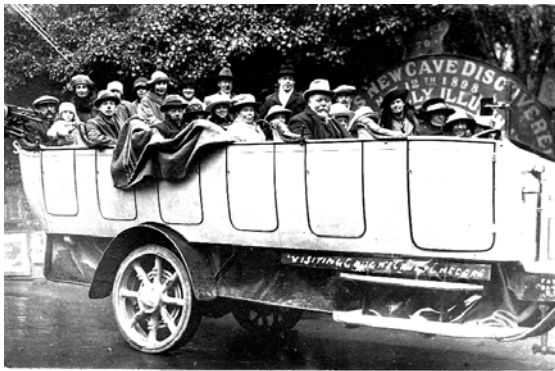
## **MPs in heaven**

At the pearly gates, St Peter greeted a minister and a member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." When the vicar objected, St Peter explained: "Listen, ministers are ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."

The following article has been submitted by Jean Howell, and is entitled:

## Outing to Cheddar Caves

At the request of Jason, I am submitting this photo c 1925 of an outing from Bearfield Congregational Church, Bradford-on-Avon, to Cheddar Caves



Eight people in the charabanc were related to me and include my parents and two grandparents

The hats are a joy to behold and the one worn by my paternal grandmother would even have been fashionable today

Note the solid tyres and each row of seats had its own door. It must have been a fine day as the hood is folded down. But, as it had no sides, if it rained, the passengers on the outside needed their umbrellas.

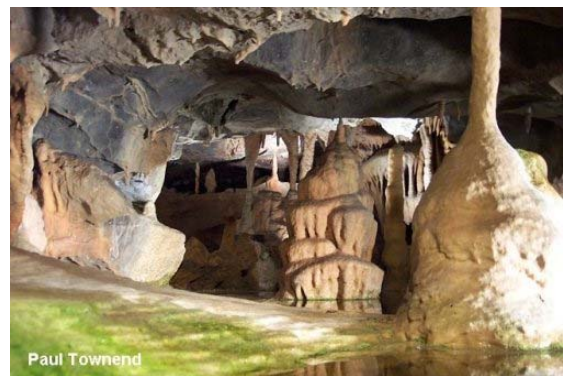
Mr Sudd, the pastor, had a blanket to keep him, his wife and daughter warm. I hope they all had cushions too as a 70-mile round trip would have been quite bumpy!

Of the church ladies, I would have met at least three of the women on the coach, as in the 1980s I used to arrange an annual coach trip for Bampton WI members and friends to visit Bath for sightseeing and shopping, and in the afternoon we went to Bearfield church for tea before returning to Witney.

One year we even went to Horningsham church for coffee before going to Bath.

There is one other person from Witney who remembers those outings and that is Doris Hall, and one year the Bradford people came to Witney on a return visit and our members provided the tea.

A happy memory of churches' cooperation



The following poem, written by Patience Strong, has been submitted by Maureen Miles and is entitled:

## Quiet Corner

Matters best forgotten bury out of sight  
Never bring resentments out into the light  
Don't recount old grudges put them out to die  
Sleeping dogs can't bite you if you let them lie  
Every day God gives you make another start  
Never let a grievance fester in your heart  
Pass by what offends you leave it far behind  
Nothing's worth the wrecking of your peace of mind

The following article has been submitted by Beryl Cartwright, and is entitled:

## **Day of Prayer**

### **Saturday 15th May**

#### **Theme ' Time'**

This day has been set aside for reflective and interactive prayer. The Sanctuary will be open from 10am until 4pm for people to come and go as they wish.

There will be a short Worship Service and Introduction at 10am, and the day will conclude with Communion at 3.30 pm. Please come and spend some time with us during the day.

A simple breakfast will be available between 9-9.45 am, and with tea, coffee and soft drinks available throughout the day.

The Saturday Coffee Morning will be open as usual

\*\*\*\*\*

The following poem, written and submitted by Theo Howells, and the result of a sleepless night, is entitled:

### **The Four Seasons of Man**

Where shall we go on this lovely Spring day?  
Can we go to the farm to watch the lambs play?  
Well, only if you hold my hand all the way

Now where are you going on this hot Summer day?  
I've finished my homework - I'm going out to play

Oh no you're not - at least not till I say

Where can we go love, this crisp Autumn day?

Let's go somewhere hot, somewhere far, far away

Not with children to feed and these taxes to pay

Now where was I going on this cold Winter day?

I just can't remember now - well anyway  
I can go there tomorrow - I'll just rest today

\*\*\*\*\*

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

### **The hungry bear**

A lifelong atheist was walking through the forest, and came across a bear. The bear began chasing him, and soon caught up. As the bear raised its paw to strike the fatal blow, the atheist forgot himself and cried out: "Oh, God!"

Immediately the bear froze; the river stopped running; the wind fell silent; and an unearthly light shone. And out of the light came a voice: "You called?"

Astonished, the atheist stammered: "Dear God, I don't think I can ask you to help me become a Christian now, because I haven't believed in you all these years. But could you make this bear a Christian?"

And the voice said: "Certainly."  
And the light faded, and the river started to run again, and the Christian bear lowered his threatening paw, put his paws together, and said, devoutly: "For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful. Amen."

# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

9-15 May 2010

Christian Aid Week is Britain's longest-running fundraising week and has been a firm fixture in the calendar of many thousands of people each year since 1957, and this year will be held **9-15 May**. It is famous for the distinctive envelope that drops through the letterboxes of millions of homes each May - and for the massive impact that the week has made in the fight to end the scandal of poverty around the world.



Christian Aid is an international development agency with a vision - an end to poverty - and it believes that vision can become a reality. It works through partner organisations in around 50 countries for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality.

# POVERTY LET'S END IT



The following article from National Geographic several years ago, provides a penetrating picture of the Lord's love for us, and has been extracted from Church News Service, and is entitled:

## Under his wings

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

*Psalm 91:4 "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."*

Praise the Lord for his goodness and protection for all those who put their trust in him.

# ROTAS

## WELCOMING TEAM

<b>Apr</b>	04	Pip & Beryl Cartwright
	11	Jill & Robert McBride
	18	Nanna Blackman & Theo Howells
	25	Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
<b>May</b>	02	Pat & Ben Smith
	09	Joan Currie & Iris Lindsay
	16	Jill & Robert McBride
	23	Val Obriain & Theo Howells
	30	Pip & Beryl Cartwright
<b>June</b>	06	Nanna Blackman & Susan Wass



## COMMUNION

<b>Apr</b>	04 am	Nanna Blackman & Pat Smith
		Peter Gamston & Chris Esapa
		Preparation Pat Smith
	18 am	Dave Wesson & Jacqui Powlesland
		Judi Holloway & Elaine Gudem
		Preparation Susan Wass
<b>May</b>	02 pm	Nanna Blackman & Jacqui Powlesland
		Preparation Iris Lindsay
		16 am
		Nanna Blackman & Chris Esapa
		Preparation Beryl Cartwright
<b>June</b>	06 pm	Pat Smith & Nanna Blackman
		Preparation Iris Lindsay



## FLOWERS

<b>Apr</b>	11	Val Obriain
	18	Alison Hazell
	25	Jill Mc Bride
<b>May</b>	02	Jacqui Powlesland
	09	Pat Smith
	16	Joan Currie
	23	Judi Holloway
	30	Beryl Cartwright
<b>June</b>	06	Rita Hayes



## COFFEE

<b>Apr</b>	04	Pat & Ben Smith
	11	Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey
	18	Irene Jephcott & Linda McCormac
	25	Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee



# ROTAS

<b>May</b>	02	Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
	09	Jill & Robert McBride
	16	Pat & Ben Smith
	23	Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey
	30	Sue Birdseye & Linda McCormac
<b>June</b>	06	Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee
	Note:	Reserve Irene St Clair



## REST & CHAT

<b>Apr</b>	08	Jill & Robert McBride
	15	Jean Stanley, Marina Bowerman & Irene St Clair
	22	Marjorie Lee
	29	Pat Smith & Gwen Mee
<b>May</b>	06	Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie
	13	Jill & Robert McBride
	20	Jean Stanley, Marina Bowerman & Irene St Clair
	27	Marjorie Lee
<b>June</b>	03	Pat Smith & Gwen Mee



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

The following article, origin unknown, has been submitted by Rev Jason Boyd, and is entitled:

### A Visitor

One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said: I always park there! You took my place!

The visitor went inside for Sunday school, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated: That's my seat! You took my place!

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday school, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him

and said: That's where I always sit! You took my place!

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing. Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change - Horrible scars became visible on his hands and his sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out: What happened to you? The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye: I took your place.

### Grace - It's all in the spelling...

- G - God
- R - Ran
- A - Alongside
- C - Carrying
- E - Everything