

Witney Congregational Church

Issue 17

June &
July 2011

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



4 Welch Way Witney Oxon OX28 6JF
Tel: 01993 709992

www.witneycongregational.org.uk
Minister: witneycongregational@tiscali.co.uk
Office: witneycongadmin@tiscali.co.uk

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	1.30 pm	Tuesday	For under 5's parents and carers
Saturday Praise	11.00 am	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
Friday	6.00pm	www. - 1 st & 3 rd Friday of the month
	7.00 pm	Y4J - 1 st & 3 rd 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)

St ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP

☎ 01993 709429

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 09.00 am - 5.00 pm



Nearly halfway through the year already. Over the past months the days have been getting longer, and the past few weeks have seen some glorious weather. I suspect this has been more pleasurable for the majority of people. However, the longer days inevitably mean that we tend to try and fit more into what is already a hectic schedule; and because it is still light into the later hours, there is a tendency to forget what time it is.

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol + stice* come from two Latin words meaning 'sun' and 'to stand still'. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky, resulting in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates on 21st June - so let's all make the most of this!

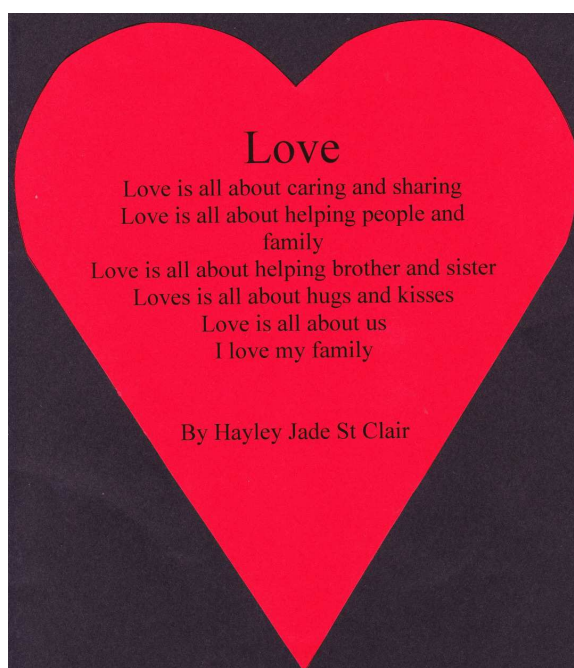
So, turning now to the contents, here is just a glimpse of some of the articles that have been submitted; Pip Cartwright continues the series on the history of WCC; Val Obriain writes about The Gift; A Canadian friend of Jill McBride reflects on lessons of life; and there is an article on Fair-trade 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@uwclub.net
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 next edition is due on 30th July
Your Editor



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20. All in the month of July

Pastor's Papers

Viviane had wired the handle to the flush valve on the toilet. The wire didn't hold and came undone.

Unfortunately I didn't know where the bolt and nut were. It was a hectic week and so I put off sorting the problem until after she returned from France. I set the lid from the toilet tank in behind the sink and showed the children how to flush manually.

Not long afterwards, I came into the toilet and found Jeremy perched on the seat peering into the tank. I asked him what he was doing. Without hesitation he informed me, "I want to see how it works."

Apart from noticing that I had a budding engineer in the house, his comment set me to thinking. "I want to see how it works" is one of the main pursuits of human beings. How do things grow? What makes waves on the sea? What causes tides? How does the human body work? What makes the sun shine and the stars glisten in the night sky? How does an engine work? The questions are endless.

Currently, questions are being asked about how we solve the problems of terrorism? Will the assassination of Osama bin Laden bring justice and peace? Will taking out Gaddafi give Libyans freedom? Different people give different answers about 'how it works'. There isn't even a consensus amongst Christians on these matters.

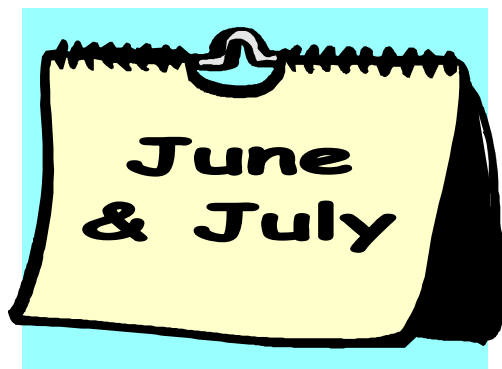
What I do know is this: the Gospel is radical and turns the wisdom of human beings upside down into a reckless folly. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Corinthians 3:19). Does meeting violence with violence bring about

justice? Does meeting darkness with darkness bring about light? Paul is clear that followers of Christ have relationships marked by love. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

The Gospel poses huge challenges for Christians. What do we do when a terrorist is threatening to decimate democracy? How do we respond when a dictator is attacking his own people? How do we seek justice for those populations that have been plundered, slaughtered and raped? There are no easy answers. Yet the bald reality is that if violence 'worked' then surely we should have peace by now!

What if we invested the vast sums of money presently used for defence and for the arms industry in finding answers to the question, "How do we make peace?" What if we grappled with the nuts and bolts of how to foster our common humanity? What if we spent our intellectual energies and practical resources on helping people to listen to one another and to find healing for enmities?

When Peter saw that Jesus' future was taking shape in the form of death on a cross he told Jesus off for talking nonsense. Jesus' response was equally vehement: "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33). Jesus chooses to become Victim. When he rose from the dead he showed the futility of violence. God's power is greater than the most profound evil and he will triumph - not through retaliation - but through love.



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

Jun

4th 11.00am Saturday Praise
 5th am Morning Worship
 pm Joint Service at Congregational Church Communion
 12th am Morning Worship followed by Word Café
 pm Joint Service at High St Methodist
 19th am Morning Worship & Communion
 6.30pm Witney Inter-Church Singers - Snakes & Ladders at High St Methodist
 26th am Morning Worship
 3.00pm Draycot Mission (Moreton-in-Marsh)
 pm Joint Service at High St Methodist

July

2nd 11.00am Saturday Praise
 3rd am Morning Worship followed by Word Café
 pm Joint Service at Congregational Church Communion
 10th am Morning Worship
 pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church
 17th am Morning Worship Communion
 pm Joint Service at Congregational Church
 24th am Morning Worship followed by Word Café
 pm Joint Service at High St Methodist Church
 31st am Karen Brusch
 pm Madley Park Residential Home

Aug

6th 11.00am Saturday Praise
 7th am Rev Judi Holloway
 pm Joint Service at Congregational Church Communion Rev Judi Holloway

The following events are given for your particular attention:

June

7th Deacons meeting 7.30pm
 9th Fellowship Group 2.30pm 7 Riverside Gardens
 10th www. & Y4J 6.00pm & 7.00pm
 11th Prayer Chain meeting 9.15am
 12th Word Café 12.00 noon
 18th SWMA Executive at Cheltenham
 Open Doors Big Tea Party & cream teas 3.00 - 5.00pm
 24th www. & Y4J 6.00pm & 7.00pm
 30th Kennington Choir - Mikado 7.30pm

July

1 st	www. & Y4J Talent Show	Time tbc	
3 rd	Word Café	12.00 noon	
5 th	Deacons meeting	7.30pm	
9 th	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am	
14 th	Fellowship Group	2.30pm	9 Pensclose
15 th	www. & Y4J BBQ	Time tbc	
19 th	Church meeting	7.30pm	
24 th	Word Café	12.00 noon	

ROTAS

WELCOMING TEAM

June	05	Pat & Ben Smith
	12	Nanna Blackman & Irene St Clair
	19	Beryl & Pip Cartwright
	26	Jill & Robert McBride
July	03	Sharon Watson & Theo Howells
	10	Val Obriain & Iris Lindsay
	17	Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
	24	Beryl & Pip Cartwright
Aug	31	Pat & Ben Smith
	07	Nanna Blackman & Joan Currie



COMMUNION

June	05 pm	Jacqui Powlesland	
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay
	19 am	Nanna Blackman & Chris Esapa	
		Jacqui Powlesland & Elaine Gudem	
		Preparation	Pat Smith
July	03 pm	Judi Holloway	
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay
	17 am	Sharon Watson & Judi Holloway	
		Nanna Blackman & Chris Esapa	
		Preparation	Susan Wass
Aug	07 pm	Sharon Watson	
		Preparation	Iris Lindsay



FLOWERS

June	05	Rita Hayes
	12	Alison Hazell
	19	Jacqui Powlesland
	26	Joan Currie



July 03 Beryl Cartwright
 10 Judi Holloway
 17 Jill McBride
 24 Val Obriain
 31 Rita Hayes
Aug 07 Alison Hazell



COFFEE

June 05 Linda McCormac & Sue Birdseye
 12 Word Café
 19 Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee
 26 Marjorie Lee, Iris Lindsay & Judith Bungey
July 03 Word Café
 10 Susan Wass & Irene St Clair
 17 Jill & Robert McBride
 24 Word Café
 31 Linda McCormac & Sue Birdseye
Aug 07 Peter Gamston & Gwen Mee



REST & CHAT

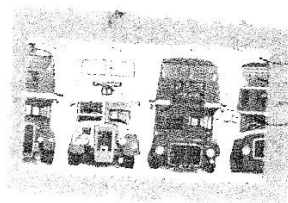
June 09 Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie
 16 Jill & Robert McBride
 23 Jean Stanley, Marina Bowerman & Irene St Clair
 30 Marjorie Lee
July 07 Pat Smith
 14 Iris Lindsay & Joan Currie
 21 Jill & Robert McBride
 28 Jean Stanley, Marina Bowerman & Irene St Clair
Aug 04 Marjorie Lee



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 - Thanks

Save the stamps

Help us raise vital funds for the Mission by sending us your used stamps! Demand is outstripping supply for many items. Please send to Phil and Eileen Jarman, The Leprosy Mission c/o 26 Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, PO8 0JL
 t. 023 9259 8115 e. philj@tlmew.org.uk



Please support The Leprosy Mission.



News around the world

The following information has been taken from CWM Website dated 3rd June, so is up to date at the editing of this month's magazine

New Zealand: Quake appeal hits \$300,000

Church leaders in New Zealand have put out a message of thanks to donators across the globe that have stumped up more than NZ\$300,000 to provide relief for quake victims in Christchurch.

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) has reported that the huge sum has been divided up to provide immediate relief to congregations across the prebytery, and to address long-term projects that have arisen as a result of the disaster. PCANZ moderator Peter Cheyne said: "Once again I would like to convey profound thanks from all those in Christchurch who have benefited from the wonderful generosity of individuals, congregations and presbyteries around New Zealand and overseas that contributed so generously to the appeal.

"We have received over \$300,000. Wonderful! A significant portion of this money has been distributed to congregations in the Christchurch Presbytery to support them and their ministers and their ongoing engagement with their communities, as well as helping meet immediate costs associated with dealing with the damage caused by the earthquakes."

He added: "The remainder of the

donated money will be used for medium to longer term challenges supporting redevelopment and rebuilding of the Church's presence and mission in Christchurch."

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand launched the special appeal for donations to help Christchurch's church communities recover immediately following the earthquake earlier this year.

The 6.5 magnitude earthquake that hit Christchurch on 22 February destroyed six church buildings across the country's second largest city and damaged most others in the region. As church communities struggled to cope with the enormity of what had happened - ministers were under huge pressure to work together to come up with solutions to the physical and emotional issues that arose.

The Special Offering - which is a separate appeal from international rescue and relief aid - was set up to enable congregations across New Zealand to provide funds to support their counterparts in the quake-hit communities.

Wales: PCW churches urged to open doors at Pentecost

Churches in Wales are being encouraged to 'spend time to buy time' by inviting people in to pray this Pentecost.

The Presbyterian Church of Wales is urging congregations to open their doors and invite people into the church for a special day of prayer and meditation on Saturday 11 June.

They have also provided a set of prayer and service resources for churches to use for a special family

worship on Sunday 12 June as part of the religious season.

PCW Life and Witness Officer Meirion Morris said that this year's theme was about taking a step back to consider how God wants us to spend our time. "As a minister I was constantly trying to save time, constantly trying to find more time to do the work the Lord had called me to do," he said.

"As an individual, I am constantly wrestling to find enough hours in the day. The experience of Christians over the centuries is that spending time with God constantly is a way of buying time, or redeeming time.

Practically, we will use our time more efficiently, prioritise better, know His will in a clearer way, thus saving the waste which is associated with following our own way rather than doing His will."

The celebration of Pentecost marks the beginning of an effort to promote the Church's life of prayer. Mr Morris added: "In all these things, we are eager to be faithful in this work of seeking God, and are prepared to be amazed at the results of this work."

From June, a monthly prayer calendar will be published on the PCW website.

Church of Scotland calls for end to Afghan war

Leading representatives of the Church of Scotland have called for an end to the war in Afghanistan, and for UK troops to be called home as soon as possible.

Convenor of the Presbyterian denomination's Church and Society Council, Ian Galloway, said: "In 2002 the Church said the war in Afghanistan could only be justified if it met the

criteria of legitimacy, liable to succeed, proportional in its implementation and limited in its effect on non combatants."

The appeal was made at the Kirk's General Assembly, its national decision-making body, which ended at the weekend, Ekklesia reported. He continued: "Our view is that this war fails on all four counts and should end now. These are political not military failures however, and so we recognise that there is a real need for those soldiers in Afghanistan to be supported and cared for including by the valuable work of chaplains."

The Kirk's leaders reviewed four questions set out by a report to the General Assembly in 2002 as being benchmarks for a 'just war'. The report was written by an ecumenical group under the banner of Action of Churches Together Scotland.

'Just war' theory seeks to limit conflict and violence. Other Christians argue that the message of the Gospel points towards active nonviolence rather than an accommodation to war.

Church pledge to promote peace ends convocation

The global Church must speak out as one voice to promote peace. That was the resounding message put out by participants at the World Council of Churches peace conference as it drew to a close in Jamaica.

International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) delegates pledged their unity in driving a worldwide peace through the Church and its communities whatever their approach and cultural differences may be.

Crafted by a seven-member

message committee chaired by Bishop Ivan Abrahams of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and open to comment from the 1,000 IEPC participants, the message of peace took account of each church's contexts and histories, and a unified aspiration that war should become illegal and peace be central in all religious traditions.

More than 60 delegates remarked on it, and their input was taken into account as the text was finalised. Moderating the comments was Metropolitan Professor Dr Gennadios of Ssima of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, vice-moderator of the WCC Central Committee. He said: "This final text belongs to you, and to us, and to all of us, and this will be spread out around the world."

The participants acknowledged that each church and religion brings with it a different starting point on the journey towards a just peace. Some begin from a standpoint of personal conversion and morality. Others stress the need to focus on mutual support and correction within the body of Christ, while still others encourage churches' commitment to broad social movements and the public witness of the church. The message text acknowledges that "each approach has merit ... they are not mutually exclusive. In fact they belong inseparably together. Even in our diversity we can speak with one voice." The convocation also acknowledged that the Church has often obstructed the path toward just peace, stating: "We realise that Christians have often been complicit in systems of violence, injustice, militarism, racism, casteism, intolerance and discrimination. We ask God to forgive our sins, and to transform us as agents of righteousness

and advocates of a just peace."

The message also addresses the four themes of the convocation: peace in the community, peace with the earth, peace in the marketplace, and peace among the peoples.

The IEPC participants responded to a reading of their final message with a standing ovation. Moderator of the World Council of Churches (WCC) central committee Rev Dr Walter Altmann said the IEPC message only captures part of a truly historic event. "You take with you much more than a text; you take with you a profound ecumenical experience," he said. "The complexity of the issues we have addressed will certainly require further work, reflection and action."

Peace convocation: Tuvalu crisis takes centre stage

Delegates of the WCC's International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Jamaica have heard how the people of Tuvalu face a future as environmental refugees, Ekklesia reported.

Tuvalu, the world's fourth-smallest country at 26 square kilometres, is shrinking. General secretary of the CWM-member Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu Rev Tafue M Lusama said his country is now facing longer droughts, and that saltwater has intruded into the underground water table.

"Now we depend on rainwater only, and we are facing unpredictable weather patterns."

A once-sustainable existence is now endangered by forces beyond Tuvalu's control, Lusama said. "The people are not able to use their traditional skills in order to survive."

The cause of the rising waters around Tuvalu rests far from this south Pacific paradise, finding its roots in the industrial heartlands of the northern hemisphere.

It is here from which the greatest contribution to climate change is being made and the greatest challenge rests for reversing its negative impact.

Adrian Shaw, a project officer for the Church and Society Team of the Church of Scotland, said churches worldwide must begin to lead the fight against climate change.

"Climate change poses a serious and immediate threat," he said. "Our violence against the earth is also violence against people."

For Mr Lusama, the rising seawaters threatening Tuvalu mean the loss of home, culture, lifestyle and dignity. It no longer takes a war to cause this level of violence.

New Zealand: Belonging before believing

Jesus' disciples were encouraged to 'belong' before they believed.

Shouldn't it be the same for the children who worship in our church, asks Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand Kids Friendly coach, Jill Kayser.

I recently met with a colleague who has just completed her Masters on the spirituality of preschoolers. She found that despite our national early childhood curriculum te Whaariki advocating the nurture of the child's spirit, there was little understanding of what spirituality is or how to nurture it.

I think ignorance of what children's spirituality is exists in many

of our churches too. Often our primary focus in children's programmes is to educate, (how many children's leaders are still guided by "Christian Education Committees"?), rather than to nurture the spirit.

While the early Sunday School goal of educating disadvantaged children was noble, providing religious knowledge is unlikely to encourage a spiritual life. Too often our efforts to evangelise children involve first teaching children certain truths and then allowing them to belong to our community of faith. However, I think Jesus role modelled something different. He called his disciples to belong before they believed. In belonging they grew to believe and then adopt new ways of behaving. How do we encourage belonging in the children who worship in our church?

I was deeply touched by the way the Rev Pauline Stewart did this in a recent service to commission Lucy Davey who recently joined the Kids Friendly team. After explaining to the congregation and the children (seated up front so they could more easily be engaged in the proceedings) what was happening, Pauline invited all the children to lay hands on Lucy and I while one of our elders prayed for us and our work.

She then invited 12 of the children to serve communion with 12 elders. The children were key to this important event and I have no doubt they felt valued and had a sense of belonging.

"When evaluating your work with children ask not what they learned from you, but what you learned from being with them," suggests Dr Nye.



The following article has been submitted by Val Obriain, and is entitled:

The Gift

It is now many months since while listening to Susan Boyle's CD 'The Gift', that pictures of how the backdrop for Christmas 2010 was to look, came into my mind.

I asked Terry, my technical engineer, if he thought it would be possible to build, and without questioning my sanity said it would be possible

With shoe box lids, blue tac and parcel tape a mosaic foundation was built, primarily by Terry, with assistance from Jacqui and myself. This was then covered by gold paper and its red bow, in the shape of a cross, stood ready for Christmas morning - a symbol of God's love for us all



On the wall for months, it marked the time and story between Christmas and Easter of Jesus' birth, his death and his rising again. The Gift from the cradle was the cross of Good Friday, there from his birth.

The cross gives forgiveness, freedom and Hope. What better gifts

could be given so freely on Christmas day?

My thanks to Terry who did all the hard work; to Jacqui for doing the getting and buying; to Jason for letting us build it, but mostly to God who gave me the vision and inspiration, and provided someone to make it come true



The following article, written by a 90-year old friend of Jill McBride in Canada, has been submitted by Jill, and is entitled:

45 lessons life taught me

This is something we should all read at least once a week! Make sure you read it to the end!

- Life isn't fair, but it's still good
- When in doubt, just take the next small step

- Life is too short to waste time hating anyone
- Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will - stay in touch
- Pay off your credit cards every month
- You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree
- Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone
- It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it
- Save for retirement starting with your first pay cheque
- When it comes to chocolate - resistance is futile
- Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present
- It's OK to let your children see you cry
- Don't compare life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about
- If a relationship has to be secret, you shouldn't be in it
- Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks
- Take a deep breath. It calms the mind
- Get rid of everything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful
- Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger
- It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else
- When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer
- Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special
- Over prepare, then go with the flow
- Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear people purple
- The most important sex organ is the brain
- No one is in charge of your happiness but you
- Frame every so-called disaster with these words: In five years will this matter?
- Always choose life
- Forgive everyone everything
- What other people think of you is none of your business
- Time heals almost everything. Give time time
- However good or bad a situation is, it will change
- Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does ...
- Believe in miracles
- God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do
- Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now
- Growing old beats the alternative - dying young
- Your children get only one childhood
- All that truly matters in the end is that you loved
- Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere
- If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back
- Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need
- The best is yet to come ...
- No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up
- Yield
- Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift!

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

History of Witney Congregational Church: 1979-1984

The Church had a new building (Field House) and a new Minister but we also had a big debt. Having got planning permission for the development of our corner site (between High Street and Welch Way) in March 1979 the Deacons and Trustees met up with Mr Mark Baker of Wilsons to discuss its development and thus reduce our debt. The Halifax Building Society showed great interest in this prime site and it was eventually agreed that they should lease the site (99 year lease) and build offices. The plans were approved by the Council on the proviso that a car park was also provided. Thus building commenced and the Halifax started trading during 1980/1981.

Although the rents (£4,600) would help reduce our debt we couldn't expect to get an acceptable rent increase in the old High Street site until 1985.

With a new young active Minister at our helm the Church began to grow in numbers. We had a good core of young people (20 in the YPF and 15 in Pilots) and a number of young families joined the Church. One new family wrote in the Church Magazine explaining why they found the church attractive. They were "struck by the proportion of young people and their participation in the Church Service and found the liveliness and friendliness of the church compelling to outsiders". They concluded by saying that "a practical,

down to earth Christianity is alive and well in Witney".

Giving increased and George Howell encouraged tax paying members to enhance their giving by making a 'Deed of Covenant'. (Tax in 1981 was 30%). As the church grew, we needed more chairs and as our Church service music was accompanied on a piano it was felt we needed a modern electronic organ. Thus as the Kitchen refurbishment and the modernisation of the heating and electrics had been completed, fundraising for the Chair Fund and the Organ Fund commenced.

Various activities were organised to raise money and yet gave pleasure to all ages within the church. The older members organised plant and cake sales, sale of Christmas Cards through Webb Ivory and Coffee Mornings which in 1980 became known as 'Rest and Chat'. The young people had a car wash, a sponsored hike along the Ridgeway, a table tennis marathon and were active participants in Concerts. Through these years we had a Social Committee which organised barbecues, Beetle Drives, Old Time Musicals, Barn Dances, Garden Parties, Fancy Dress Parties, Valentine's Day Social, 'It's a Knockout' Competition and Harvest Suppers followed by concerts involving all ages. Tony Clark (Social Committee Chairman) completed the London Marathon on three occasions and part of his 'charity' money was donated to our Chair Fund. Concerts given by the Witney Senior Citizens Orchestra and the Wenrisc Singers helped our fundraising.

In February 1980 Paul Turner (son of Philip Turner) became a Deacon and Bob Richardson who served the Church as Deacon and Church Secretary was made a Life Deacon. Starting in

July 1980 the Rev. Bob Henry with Mr Graham Lee organised an annual YPF camp at a site in Wales near Llandoverly. Up to 19 young people used to look forward to this 'fun' week which included Christian teaching led by Bob. Christmas 1980 saw the 'birth' of a small choir organised by Mr P. Cartwright. The Women's Guild continued to meet on a Monday led by Mrs Auty, Mrs K. Collis and in 1982 Miss Witt organised the monthly Ladies Tuesday Fellowship. A much valued Midweek Bible Study was led by the Rev. Henry and Mr Norman Chapman. In July 1982 Mr George Howell resigned as Treasurer and Mr Tony Clark was elected as a replacement. Two months later Mr David Pearson resigned from the Diaconate. He had been a loyal servant of the Church not only as a Deacon but also as Church Treasurer.

Since the 'Henry's' arrival in Witney they lived in the Manse cottage next to the Church or 33A High Street. It was a lovely listed building but suffered from damp and not easily managed. It transpired that the Henry children's bronchial problems were probably as a result of this dampness and something had to be done.

A new Manse was found in Ducklington Lane, close to the Witney Bypass and the Henry's moved in, in August 1983. It was a bungalow with decent sized garden. To offset further loans the 33A High Street property was converted into commercial accommodation. The first floor suite of offices was let to Memotech, a company which manufactured Home Computers in the Station Lane Industrial Estate and the ground floor suite was rented by the Council to house the Citizens Advice Bureau. This was duly opened by our MP

the Rt Hon. Douglas Hurd.

The highlight of the summer was the Church Family Outing to the Severn Valley which included a 25 mile steam train journey from Bewdley to Bridgenorth and a visit to the Iron Gorge Museum.

During November 1983 a Mother and Toddlers Group was formed led by Mrs Ann Henry and Mrs Rosemary Clark. I believe this was the precursor of our Noah's Ark.

The Diaconate in 1984 consisted of Mr Philip Turner (Church Secretary), Mr Tony Clark (Church Treasurer), Mrs Beryl Cartwright, Mr George Howell, Mr Graham Lee, Mr 'Cliff' Puleston, Mr Peter Sellman, Mr Paul Turner and Miss Mary Witt. In February 1984 Mrs Daphne Turner resigned from being a Junior Church Teacher. The Church extended their sincere gratitude and thanks for her commitment and service to so many of our young people.

During three days of April the Church organised a holiday club entitled Easter Extra for 4-12 year olds. Under the leadership of Mrs Beryl Cartwright and Mrs Ann Henry and an army of church helpers (14) it was an overwhelming success. Easter Extra catered for 94 excited children. Each morning started with a communal 'assembly' introducing the biblical theme with songs and a film followed by games in the garden. Then the children split up to be involved in the activity groups of music, drama, cooking and art. Each session concluded with a sharing time in the church.

The 1984 July Church Outing ventured to Windsor, to witness the Changing of the Guard followed by a boat trip down the Thames and a picnic by the river. In the afternoon we

visited the Saville Gardens and some decided to watch a Polo match in the Windsor Great Park. It was a happy day and we enjoyed the warm sunny weather together.

The YPF went off with Rev. Bob Henry and Mr Graham Lee to their August camp in Wales. For a few it was their last year as five of the youngsters succeeded in their 'A' levels and went off to College or University in September.

The year ended with concern for our new 'manse' in Ducklington Lane. Structural problems, especially decay of the woodwork of the windows, led the Deacons to consider expensive repairs or the possibility of looking for another more 'modern' Manse.

Fair trade goes from strength to strength

Despite recession and rising food prices, the fair-trade movement continues to attract ever-increasing support in the United Kingdom. Over 6,600 churches are now affiliated to the Fairtrade Foundation and more than 500 schools have joined. There are also over 500 Fairtrade Towns.

UK shoppers are continuing to embrace Fairtrade, showing no downturn in ethical values despite the tough economic times. Sales soared in the past year by 40 per cent, reaching an estimated retail value of £1.17 billion, compared with £836 million in 2009.

Every day in the UK we are now consuming an estimated 9.3 million cups of Fairtrade tea, 6.4 million cups of Fairtrade coffee, 530,000 of certified

drinking chocolate and 3.1 million Fairtrade bananas. New categories are also growing, with over one million cosmetic products using Fairtrade ingredients sold in 2010.

This expansion into new areas has opened up more opportunities for producers. Juliana Sampana, a shea-nut gatherer from the Akoma Co-operative in Ghana (which has recently started selling shea butter into the UK Fairtrade cosmetics market) says: "Many women in our region and elsewhere have worked so hard to put food on their tables for their families through farming and odd jobs but end up with an unfair income, leading to poor diet and diseases such as kwashiorkor and beri-beri. With Fairtrade, women are assured of a fair wage for their hard work."

Fresh commitments from the business world here include the Co-operative's plan to convert all commodities that can be Fairtrade by 2013, starting with bananas. Topshop has launched a new range of cotton denim, while Marks & Spencer have introduced a new cotton range under its Indigo Green label. The majority of Waitrose tea is now Fairtrade.

The Fairtrade Foundation has welcomed the setting up of a Fair Deal Food (FDF) Council of UK food producers to campaign for a price that covers costs of production. It seems that the North of England is leading the way on this concern. Barbara Panvel of FDF says there is a real danger that if action is not taken we shall lose milk production in the UK and have to rely on imported milk in our Fairtrade coffee.



1,000 Fair Trade Towns What's happening

At 2pm on Saturday 4 June 2011 Fair Trade Towns were declared sequentially from East to West across time zones to celebrate 1,000 Fair Trade Towns worldwide.

The following places will declare jointly as part of the 1,000th declarations, can you join them?

- **Witney, England**
- **Whitehorse City, Australia**
- **Kumamoto, Japan**
- **Herne, Germany**
- **Kontich, Belgium**
- **Bilzen, Belgium**
- **Delft, The Netherlands**
- **Madrid, Spain**
- **Rutherglen & Cambuslang, Scotland**
- **Aberaeron, Wales**
- **Greenwich, Connecticut, USA**

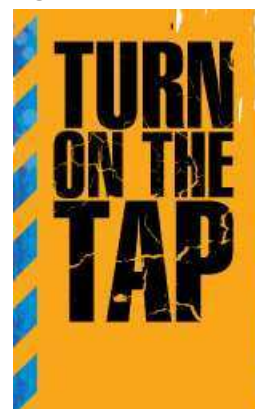
The following has been extracted from Church News Service, and is entitled:

Turn on the Tap celebrates 1 million people receiving clean water worldwide

Turn on the Tap, the campaign for clean water launched by the Christian relief and development charity Samaritan's Purse four years ago, is celebrating the fact that through its on-the-ground operation over one million people have been given access to clean water in the developing world.

Originally launched by Samaritan's Purse UK in March 2007 and now a global

Samaritan's Purse campaign, Turn on the Tap has already inspired thousands of individuals, churches and other groups across the UK to go on walks for water and organise other activities that raise funds to give children and families in the developing world access to clean water and sanitation.



Simon Barrington, Executive Director of Samaritan's Purse, says: "We've been overwhelmed by the response from the public in the UK. To date, more than 25,000 people have gone on walks and done other things for Turn on the Tap, and we're confident this year is going to be our best yet!"

Samaritan's Purse has just re-launched Turn on the Tap in the UK, with the aim of reaching some of the 884 million people - around 1 in 8 of the world's population - who still live without access to clean water and preventing the deaths of some of the 4,000 children who die each day as result of water-borne diseases.

The weekend of June 10 - 12 has been designated as 'Walk for Water Weekend'. The aim is to encourage as many people as possible to walk on one of those dates, showing solidarity with those who walk for water every day and raising funds to ease their plight.

The funds raised by Turn on the Tap are directed towards the water and sanitation projects of Samaritan's Purse

in Liberia, Mozambique, Niger and Uganda. This work includes providing BioSand Water Filters in the family home, repairing broken boreholes, digging new shallow wells, and building community latrine blocks - all of which provide two of life's bare necessities: clean water and toilets.

To find out more about the Turn on the Tap campaign and the work of Samaritan's Purse, visit www.turnonthetap.org.uk



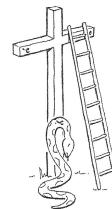
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June	07	Matthew Brusch
	08	James Hayes
	10	Finnguala Obriain
	14	Norline Martin
	16	Hayley St Clair
	19	Jonathan Brusch
	23	June Woodley
	25	Gerald Hayes
		Juliane Schunselar
	26	Viviane Boyd
		Val Obriain
July	28	Maureen Miles
	30	Jacqui Powlesland
	03	Irene Jephcott
	04	Bob Blackman
	06	Tom Hopwood
	09	Sarah Hopwood
	14	Lynne Thomas
	19	Haroldo Woodley
	26	Jennie Garrett
	30	Irene St Clair
	31	Jason Boyd

Witney Inter-Church Singers
present

Snakes and Ladders

A Musical by Roger Jones



The Story of Sin and Forgiveness throughout the Bible

Saturday 18 June at 7.30 pm

Sunday 19 June at 6.30 pm

at High Street Methodist Church, Witney

Tickets: £5.00 from St Andrew's Bookshop
or from choir members

ALL PROFITS TO THE METHODIST OLD SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

GREAT
BIG
TEA
PARTY

YOU ARE INVITED TO
SHARE IN THE SECRET

Date: Saturday 18 June

Time: 3.00 - 5.00pm

Place: Congregational Church

Cream Teas with Strawberries
Cost: £2.50



Open Doors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



DISPOSABLE DISPLACED VULNERABLE DEEP
ISOLATED REJECTED DISADVANTAGED DIS-

SECRET CHILDREN
THE HIDDEN VICTIMS OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

www.opendoorsuk.org/secretchildren

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PRAYER LETTER No 147

The Holy Spirit

We are reminded at Pentecost of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' Disciples. There are other examples in the Bible of the anointing of the Lord's Spirit on certain people chosen to do God's work.

As Christians we believe in the Trinity, God, three in one; God the Father (creator), God the Son, (Jesus the Redeemer) and God the Holy Spirit (our Counselor/advocate/helper) This is the Christian package. To be effective you can't have one without the others.

This long dry spring we have experienced, shows us, that without the vital element of rain growth in crops is stunted or doesn't even start! **The Holy Spirit is like the rain, a vital part of Christian growth and action.**

We can praise and worship God. We can ask forgiveness through Jesus but we need the Holy Spirit to help us do the work that God and Jesus want us to do. So we ask God to fill us with his Holy Spirit asking for wisdom and discernment to do His Will.

A prayer by Elizabeth S. Tapis of The Philippines taken from 'Just One Year'

Gentle God , who in Jesus Christ,
showed us humility and compassion,
we thank You for your gracious love.
Forgive our sin of pride and apathy,
empower us to struggle for justice.
For the sake of the most oppressed
and totally broken in body and spirit.

Compassionate Jesus,
teach us to be true disciples
in our times, in all places today.
Enable us to change attitudes and structures that enslave.
Give us eyes to see and hearts to be.

Divine Wisdom, Holy Spirit,
in your grace, transform the world in us, through us.
Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits.
With serving hands and liberating actions,
we humbly pray for courage and inspiration
to do your will beginning today.

In Jesus' name we hope and pray.

Amen

Every Blessing
Beryl

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

Women drivers beware!

This is a true story. Lauren, an 18-year old college student, was driving from her home in Dorset to visit a friend, when an UNMARKED police car pulled up behind her and put on his flashing blue light. She remembered her parent's advice never to pull over for an unmarked car on the side of the road, but to drive on to the nearest service station. She could not get a signal on her mobile phone so was unable to dial 999, but she remembered that 112 is an emergency number on your mobile that takes you straight to the police if you have no signal

Lauren dialled 112 and told the police dispatcher that there was an unmarked police car with a flashing blue light behind her but that she had no intention of stopping until reaching a service station. The police dispatcher checked and found there was no police car where she was and told her to drive on, keep calm and that he had police backup on the way.

Ten minutes later, four police cars surrounded her car and the unmarked car, which was still behind her. While one policeman went to her side, the others surrounded the bogus police car. When they pulled the driver out and wrestled him to the ground, they found he was a convicted rapist, who was also wanted for other crimes.

Lauren had a lucky escape. If anything like this happens to you, remember that you do not have to pull over for an unmarked car, even if it has a flashing blue light. The police have to respect

your right to keep driving to a 'safe' place. But, you need to acknowledge them by putting on your hazard lights, or call 112 as Lauren did.

Please remember the number 112, which uses a triangulation system to pinpoint exactly where you are phoning from, and pass the number on to your friends, especially female, who might be driving alone. It could save their lives.



The following, extracted from the Bible Society magazine 'Word in Action', has been submitted by Marjorie Lee

Act!

PRAY

Pray for Caleb, Sam and Jamie and other Youth World Assembly participants as they help Bible Societies develop engaging youth programmes for their own countries.

RUSH

Bible Society's Rush activities in this country are helping 13s to 25s see the Bible differently and live by it. See the latest at biblesociety.org.uk/rushliveit giveit

The following article has been submitted by Marjorie Lee and is from Amnesty International

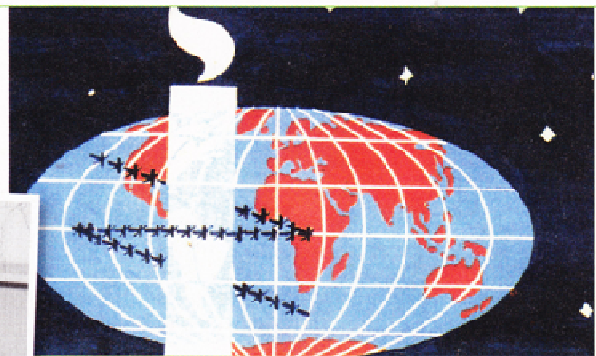
50 YEARS Amnesty International 50 YEARS Amnesty International 50 YEARS Amnesty International 50 YEARS Amnesty International

The candle

Amnesty's founder Peter Benenson asked Diana Redhouse (picture) to design an emblem for Amnesty based on a candle encircled in barbed wire. He had thought of the image when recalling a favourite proverb: 'Better to light a candle than curse the darkness.'

The candle surrounded by barbed wire has come to be associated with everything uniquely powerful about

the work of the Amnesty movement. It symbolises the light of public attention that Amnesty shines on hidden abuses (the barbed wire); the spark for dramatic, positive change; and the beacon of hope and solidarity.



MAY/JUNE 2011 WWW.AMNESTY.ORG.UK AMNESTY MAGAZINE 5

Every day, in more than 150 countries and territories around the world thousands of people take action for human rights.



I have been greatly encouraged by how Amnesty International has also been

developing new approaches to protecting the rights of those living in poverty. Your Demand Dignity campaign is a path-breaking initiative.

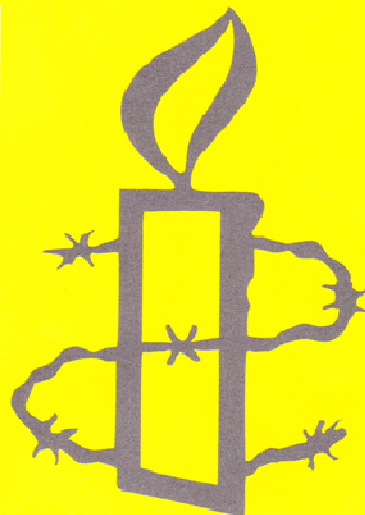
Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

In 1977, **Amnesty International** was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**, for 'having contributed to securing the ground for freedom, for justice, and thereby also for peace in the world'. It was received on behalf of the organisation by Thomas Hammarberg, who became Secretary General in 1980.

REPORTS AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Amnesty International has produced and published an estimated **17,093 reports and public documents on human rights** since its foundation in 1961. This figure does not include Urgent Actions or press releases.



It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness

HUMAN RIGHTS GAINS IN 2010/11

- In **Egypt**, 1,659 people have been released from administrative detention since early February. It is unknown how many people remain in detention.
- Powerful internal security forces responsible for serious human rights abuses in **Tunisia** and **Egypt** have been dissolved and a 19-year old state of emergency in **Algeria** has been repealed.
- In **Egypt**, former government authorities long thought above the law, including former President Mubarak and Minister of Interior El-Adly, are facing charges of corruption and ordering police to shoot at protesters.
- In **Tunisia**, former government authorities are facing charges of corruption and abuses during the uprising.
- The first conviction of a Khmer Rouge official for crimes against humanity and war crimes by the UN backed tribunal in **Cambodia** – a small but significant step. Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, was given a 35-year sentence.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2011: THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International has published an Annual Report every year since 1961. The latest one, analysing the state of human rights in 157 countries around the world, was published on 13 May. To order a copy go to www.amnesty.org.uk/books

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

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

600 years ago on 24th - the Battle of Harlaw, Aberdeenshire, was fought. It was one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on Scottish soil, and was over claims to the Earldom of Ross.

350 years ago on 16th - Bank of Stockholm began issuing Europe's first banknotes.

200 years ago on 18th - William Makepeace Thackeray, British novelist ('Vanity Fair') was born.

175 years ago on 29th - Arc de Triomphe in Paris was inaugurated.

125 years ago on 23rd - Sir Arthur Whitten Brown, British aviator who made the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic, was born.

100 years ago on 24th - Machu Picchu, an ancient Inca site in the Peruvian Andes, first came to worldwide attention.

90 years ago on 11th - Irish War of Independence ended in a truce.

90 years ago on 29th - Adolf Hitler became leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party (The Nazi Party).

75 years ago on 17th - Spanish Civil War began.

70 years ago on 19th - Winston Churchill launched his 'V for Victory' campaign.

65 year ago on 21st - bread and flour rationing began in Britain.

50 years ago on 1st - Diana, Princess of Wales, was born.

40 years ago on 6th - Louis Armstrong, American jazz trumpeter, died.

30 years ago on 29th - Prince of Wales married Lady Diana Spencer at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

25 years ago on 23rd - Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson in Westminster Abbey.

20 year ago on 31st - President George H W Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) in Moscow.

15 years ago on 27th - a bomb exploded at the Olympic Games in Atlanta Georgia, killing two, and injuring more than 100 people.

10 years ago on 2nd - Barry George was convicted of killing British TV presenter Jill Dando. (He was acquitted in August 2008)

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

There is a Miracle called Friendship

that dwells within the heart
and you don't know how it happens
or when it even starts.

But the happiness it brings you
always gives a special lift
and you realize that Friendship
is God's most precious
gift.

