

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2012
THE MESSENGER



the magazine of
WHITSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDDLE WALL

Minister's Letter

February – March 2012

In this issue...

Article	Page
A Blessing	18
Answers to Puzzle	23
Beryl's Back!.....	24
Cartoon.....	21
Children of Faith Missions.....	8
Christianity In Space.....	6
Christmas Post.....	2
Come Closer	11
Contact Information	ibc
Diary Dates	12
Dust If You Must.....	22
Giving To Mission	10
Happy Birthdays.....	23
Holiday (<i>Booking</i>) Time.....	19
Hugging Is Good For You	20
In the world there is anguish	18
It All Began With An iPhone.....	15
IT Training	17
Just For Fun	14
Messenger Deadline	13
Minister's Letter	1
Mission Matters.....	8
New Year Opportunity	3
Pass The Plate.....	20
Post-Christmas Thought On Prayer.....	22
Quiz Evening	2
Target Puzzle.....	14
Thank You.....	3
The Final Inspection	16
The Sweet Song of the Second Fiddle.....	4
There's a Coincidence!.....	23
Think & Drink	2
Valentine's Day.....	7

hope you enjoy it!

Dear Friends,

*'The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms'*
Deuteronomy 33: 27a



For me, one of the most beautiful images in the Old Testament is the picture conveyed in Deuteronomy chapter 1 verse 31 of God carrying His people *'as a father carries his son'*. Perhaps some of us can actually recall climbing up into our father's arms or onto his shoulders and enjoying the sense of security and delight that very special position provided?

I can vividly remember carrying my own children and the varying emotions – of joy, relief and peace – that seemed to well up in them on different occasions. They just wanted to know that I was there for them, that I had time for them, that I loved them. More specifically, they may have been seeking reassurance, a break from trudging along under their own steam or an opportunity to make a plea for some treat. Nevertheless, whatever the reason, it thrilled me as their Dad that they wanted to be in my arms, even if they could be a little insistent or restless at times! However, there were also some very memorable and precious times when they simply fell asleep as I held them. Sadly, as they grew older, the day came when I could no longer cradle or carry them.

Our motto for 2012, set out above, is another reference from Deuteronomy which further develops this thought of God holding us in His arms. Again it communicates both the tenderness and the strength of this unique Father. We are invited to regard God as the One we can always turn to for protection and consolation. The fact that He is eternal is emphasized and this sets Him apart from other fathers. It speaks of the limitless resources at His disposal and hints at the infinite joys He has in store for us.

Contd.

His arms will never grow tired nor will they ever prove incapable of supporting us. His loving protection and provision will never end. He delights in caring for us in this way and He wants us to enjoy the peace that resting in His arms affords.

I trust that this assurance will prove tremendously encouraging as we proceed through the coming year.

Your friend and pastor,



Rev Paul Wilson



Middle Wall Christmas Post

The Middle Wall Christmas Post Box received 1247 cards this Christmas and raised more than £300 for the BMS and Home Mission fund.

Thank you to all who made use of this system and gave so generously, and to all those who helped to deliver the cards – and special thanks to Pam and Andy for sorting, collating and deciphering the addresses!

Think and Drink Evening



Please make a note in your diary – **Think and Drink Quiz Evening** to be held on **Saturday 18th February** at **7:30pm** in the Church Hall. Tables of 6 or 8 – but if you're on your own come along and join another team. Suggested donation: £4 per head.

This is one of many fund-raising events that Daniel Myhill is embarking on, including climbing Mount Kilimanjaro!

All to raise funds for Child Reach International.

Everyone welcome!



A New Year Opportunity

Every now and then I hear a message that really makes me sit up and pay attention! I was at my previous church, Muswell Hill Baptist Church, for their Anniversary Sunday in 2011 and the guest speaker was a north London evangelist called Phil Kingham. I felt the message was absolutely the right one (I would go so far as to use the description *prophetic*) for the church that day, for me personally as a visiting Muswell Hillbilly that day, and is also relevant to Whitstable Baptist Church and other churches with ears to hear – especially so at the start of a new year.

I encourage you to listen, via your PC over the Internet. Go to www.mhbc.org.uk then to *Our Programme/Sermons/2011 Sermons /Sep-Oct*, scroll down to *September 11th Anniversary Service* then click *Phil Kingham* to hear the sermon.

(Please note: Phil used a couple of video clips – the sound did not work in the first and was indistinct in the second, which was about a remarkable Australian called Nick Vujicic. You can see some videos and other information about Nick if you Google (*other search engines are available!*) his name and try a few links including videos on YouTube.)

If you are not on the internet and/or find computer use difficult but would like to hear this sermon – once again, it is **highly** recommended – let me know and I will try and obtain it on CD or even on cassette tape.

Interestingly, have you ever noticed that the Bible account of Bartimaeus receiving his sight is ALL about ears and hearing?

Malcolm Hardie

Thank You

We would like to thank our family and friends at Whitstable Baptist Church for the prayers, cards and messages of love that were sent when Martin's dad died, last December. We have been truly upheld by prayer during this difficult time and we thank you all for the love that you have shown us.

Sarah and Martin Robinson

The Sweet Song of the Second Fiddle

For thousands of years, the relationship had been perfect. As far back as anyone could remember, the moon had faithfully reflected the sun's rays into the dark night. It was the greatest duo in the universe. Other stars and planets marvelled at the reliability of the team. Generation after generation of earthlings were captivated by the reflection. The moon became the symbol of romance, high hopes, and even nursery rhymes.

"Shine on, harvest moon," the people would sing. And he did. Well, in a way he did. You see, the moon didn't actually shine. He reflected. He took the light given to him by the sun and redirected it toward the earth. A simple task of receiving illumination and sharing it. You would think such a combo would last forever. It almost did. But one day, a nearby star planted a thought in the moon's core.

"It must be tough being a moon," the star suggested.

"What do you mean? I love it! I've got an important job to do. When it gets dark, people look to me for help. And I look to the sun. He gives me what I need and I give the people what they need. People depend on me to light up their world. And I depend on the sun."

"So, you and the sun must be pretty tight."

"Tight? Why, we are like Huntley and Brinkley, Hope and Crosby, Benny and Day..."

"Or maybe Peter Brough and Archie Andrews?"

"Who?"

"You know, the man and the dummy."

"Well, I don't know about the dummy part."

"That's exactly what I mean. You are the dummy. You don't have any light of your own. You depend on the sun. You're the sidekick. You don't have any name for yourself."

"Name for yourself?"

"Yeah, you've been playing second fiddle for too long. You need to step out on your own."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean stop reflecting and start generating. Do your own thing. Be your own boss. Get people to see you for who you really are."

"Who am I?"

"Well, you are, uh, well, uh, well, that's what you need to find out. You need to find out who you are."

The moon paused and thought for a moment. What the star said made sense. Though he had never considered it, the moon was suddenly aware of all the inequities of the relationship. Why should he have to work the night shift all the time? And why should he be the one the astronauts stepped on first? And why should he always be accused of making waves? And why don't the dogs and wolves howl at the sun for a change? And why should it be such an outrage to "moon" while "sunning" is an accepted practice?

"You are right!" asserted the moon. "It's high time we had a solar-lunar equality up here."

"Now you're talking," prodded the star. *"Go discover the real moon!"*

Such was the beginning of the breakup. Rather than turning his attention toward the sun, the moon began turning his attention toward himself.

He set out on the course of self-enhancement. After all, his complexion was a disgrace, so full of craters and all. His wardrobe was sadly limited to three sizes; full-length, half-cast, and quarter-clad. And his colouring was an anaemic yellow.

So, girded with determination, he set out to reach for the moon. He ordered glacier packs for his complexion. He changed his appearance to include new shapes such as triangular and square. And for colouring he opted for a punk-rock orange. "No one is going to call me cheese-face anymore." The new moon was slimmed down and shaped up. His surface was as smooth as a baby's bottom.

Everything was fine for a while. Initially, his new look left him basking in his own moonlight. Passing meteors would pause and visit. Distant stars would call and compliment. Fellow moons would invite him over to their orbits to watch "As the World Turns." He had friends. He had fame. He didn't need the sun – until the trends changed.

Suddenly, "punk" was out and "prep" was in. The compliments stopped and the giggles began as the moon was slow to realize that he was out of style. Just as he finally caught on and had his orange changed to pinstripe, the style went to "country." It was the painful poking of the rhinestones into his surface that caused him to finally ask himself, "What's this all for anyway? You're on the cover of the magazine one day and forgotten the next. Living off the praise of others is an erratic diet."

For the first time since he'd begun his campaign to find himself, the moon thought of the sun. He remembered the good ol' millenniums when praise was not a concern. What people thought of him was immaterial since he wasn't in the business of getting people to look at himself. Any praise that came his way was quickly passed on to the boss. The sun's plan was beginning to dawn on the moon. "He may have been doing me a favour."

He looked down upon the earth. The earthlings had been getting quite a show. They never knew what to expect: first punk, then preppie, now country. Bookmakers were taking bets as to whether the next style would be chic or macho. Rather than be the light of their world he was the butt of their jokes. Even the cow refused to jump over him.

But it was the cold that bothered him the most. Absence from the sunlight left him with a persistent chill. No warmth. No glow. His full-length overcoat didn't help. It couldn't help; the shiver was from the inside, an icy shiver from deep within his core that left him feeling cold and alone. Which is exactly what he was.

One night as he looked down upon the people walking in the dark, he was struck by the futility of it all. He thought of the sun. *"He gave me everything I needed. I served a purpose. I was warm. I was content. I was... I was what I was made to be."*

Suddenly, he felt the old familiar warmth. He turned and there was the sun. The sun had never moved. *"I'm glad you're back,"* the sun said. *"Let's get back to work."* "You bet!" agreed the moon.

The coat came off. The roundness returned, and a light was seen in the dark sky. A light even fuller was seen in the dark sky. A light even brighter.

And to this day, whenever the sun shines and the moon reflects and the darkness is illuminated, the moon doesn't complain or get jealous. He does what he was intended to do all along.

The moon beams.

© Max Lucado

Christianity In Space

Did you know that Christianity has played a significant role in the exploration of space by human beings?

On Christmas Eve, 1968, Apollo 8 was in orbit around the Moon and Commander Frank Borman turned his camera toward Earth, broadcasting the pictures back to a waiting planet whilst the crew took turns to read from the book of Genesis.

The following year, on the Apollo 11 mission, Buzz Aldrin decided he wanted to take communion on the Moon. He arranged to take a small cup, a small vial of wine and a piece of bread in his personal preference kit.

After arriving on the moon's surface, Aldrin carefully poured the wine into the chalice and before taking communion read from John 15:5 – 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.'

During the Apollo flights, John Stout, formerly a NASA scientist before serving as chaplain to the astronauts, initiated a worldwide network, known as the Apollo Prayer League, which at one time had a membership of 40,000 people of all faiths.

After Apollo 11, Stout made attempts on both Apollo 12 and Apollo 13 to have Bibles delivered to the moon's surface. But with Apollo 12 the Bibles were inadvertently left on the command module and did not go to the surface of the moon and Apollo 13, of course, did not make it to the moon and had to turn back.

Ed Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the moon, said of the mission to bring back the ill-fated Apollo 13, "after all was said and done, I'm convinced it was the power of thousands of praying minds that pulled that spacecraft back into Earth orbit."

The Bibles on that mission were distributed to well-known people in America at the time and became known as the 'Apollo 13 Bibles'.

Undeterred in his mission, Stout eventually enlisted Ed Mitchell of the Apollo 14 crew to take Bibles to the moon. Mitchell was said to be a unique character. In time he came to believe that the mind could indeed shape the world around us which, it could be argued, is the very core of the concept of prayer. On 5th February 1971 – 41 years ago, thanks to Stout and Mitchell, 100 microfilm Bibles eventually made it to the surface of the moon, one was left there, and the remainder were brought back to Earth.

From an article in the Blean Church Magazine by Mike Swain

Valentine's Day



Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th. It is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other: sending Valentine cards, or chocolates, or donating to charity. It is very common to present flowers on Valentine's Day which is named after two men, both Christian martyrs, among the numerous early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

The day is most closely associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines." Modern Valentine symbols include the heart-shaped outline and the figure of the winged Cupid. An American, Miss Esther Howland, is given credit for sending the first valentine card in the 19th Century. Since then, handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced greeting cards. The US Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making it the second largest card-sending occasion of the year behind Christmas. The Association estimates that women purchase approximately 85% of all valentines. Post Office business booms around February 14th in the town of Loveland, Colorado! The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange Valentine cards at school.

In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favourite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To 'wear your heart on your sleeve' now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

Whether you celebrate Valentine's Day or not, remember Who loves you most.

Spiritual gifts are meant to be used, not admired.

MISSION

This is who
Mike Cadge is
working for!

Children of Faith Missions

Improving Children's Lives

Children of Faith Orphanage was started in 2002 to help poor and neglected children in and around Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. Today, almost 100 children are sheltered at this home and are provided with the basic needs. Some of these kids are off the streets, some referred by relatives and others by single helpless mothers. Each child comes from a different background and energy level, but with a common need – food, shelter and education.

At **Children of Faith Missions**, we are on a mission to help improve the lives of very special children throughout the world and we need your help! Help comes in a variety of ways – volunteering (*like our Mike Cadge*), sponsoring a child, making a one-time donation, or a purpose-specific donation.

Our Mission: To serve Christ by addressing the physical, educational, spiritual and social needs of the poor and underprivileged children, providing charitable assistance to them, their families, and their communities, empowering them to become leaders in their communities and disciples of spiritual growth, who serve Christ and live for the good of the world.

We are following in the footsteps of Anand and Rosie Thandu who, responding to a calling to serve Christ by caring for orphaned and neglected children in 2002, decided to leave their successful jobs in America to return home to India and begin building an orphanage on nothing but faith.

At COFM, people like the Thandus inspire us to do more for orphaned and neglected children everywhere, but there are just too many children in need. Therefore, it is our policy and our mission to work with organizations that specialize in caring for these very special children, and to give these organizations our financial support, our prayers, and our collective management experience and vast resources so that they can benefit from added support, structure, and organization.

In order to ensure that our efforts are effective and our resources are put to good use, we work with no more than two organizations at a time, and will provide those organizations with equal, non-competitive support. As an organization becomes self-sufficient and no longer requires our financial support, we will consider other organizations through prayer, research, and on-site interviews.

MATTERS

It is our belief that when these organizations can worry less about financial and management support, they can spend more quality time with the children, helping them grow spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

It is also our belief that a very high quality of education is required in order to break the cycle of poverty. Although any education is better than no education, COFM believes that education of the highest order is what these children need, not only to survive, but to make a difference in the world. And we are committed to making that difference!

We Believe:

- The power of prayer is essential to the welfare of children and those who care for them.
- Each and every child on this planet matters.
- Every child is a child of God.
- Every child is equally as important as any other person.
- Every child deserves to be loved and to give love in return.
- Although no person, organization or institution can replace a loving, caring family, we must support those who wish to try.
- Every child needs a place to live, nourishment, an education, healthcare, and secure, loving relationships.

When a child's family or the community cannot or will not provide for the child's needs, doing so then becomes the responsibility of good people everywhere to try and provide for those needs.

Sponsors: Sponsors are the lifeblood of our organization! We just can't get the job done without your help. From making a donation or pledge to getting involved with various outreach programmes, we are hopeful that our website will give you the information you need to help make a tremendous difference in the lives of the children around the world that we have chosen to support. We'd also like to thank our corporate sponsors that help us get the "heavy lifting" done on some of the larger projects that we face.

Children of Faith Missions

Post Office Box 3453

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Tel: 415-248-9220 Fax: 415-421-6016

Email: info@childrenoffaithmissions.org

Website: www.childrenoffaithmissions.org

CHILDREN OF FAITH
MISSIONS

Giving to Mission

It was agreed at the November Church Members' meeting that a new Schedule of Giving to Mission would be adopted as from 1st January 2012.

We will have one central 'Mission Fund' to which will be assigned 5% of: total weekly offerings; monies received via the 'Mission Appeal' envelopes; any top-ups from General Fund and fund-raising collections for 'Mission'.

The 'Mission Fund' will then be distributed as follows:

- 42% to BMS/HMF (BMSWorld Mission/Home Mission Fund)
- 5% to a Reserve Fund to cover quarterly standing orders to BMS/HMF
- 3% to Bible Society/Leprosy Mission
- 13% to Emergency Fund (*The Emergency Fund holds £,500 in reserve for immediate response to emergency appeals and is topped up at year end from General Funds*)
- 15% to the Outreach fund
- 22% for Wider Mission i.e. donations to various causes e.g. Beach Pastors and visiting speakers on behalf of charitable organisations.

Donations to specified causes will continue to be sent to the named charities.

Mission is a very important part of our work in God's service and, in 2011, more than £2200 was given to mission directly from Church funds. In addition to this, more than £2500 was very generously raised from donations, disaster appeals and charity collections during the year.

We trust that, with God's blessing, we will continue to be led so generously to support this work through 2012.

If you would like further information about Mission, please ask our Minister or me.

Janet Payne
Treasurer

What we see of God's provisions teaches us to trust Him
for what we cannot see of His purposes.

Come Closer...

How close are you to God? Close enough to hear what He is saying to you?

That was the thought in our daily bible reading recently and it got me thinking: have you ever tried to speak to a neighbour across a busy road? You can see their lips moving but the noise of the traffic drowns out the words. Or, perhaps at a party, a friend across a crowded room is saying something important but the music and other voices swamp their words? Or, again, perhaps you remember trying to listen to Radio Luxemburg on the wireless, back in the 60s, but the signal kept fading because it came from so far away?

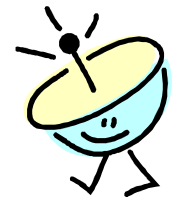
If you make a telephone call from London to somewhere in Europe, the chances are that the call will be carried some of the way by microwave link, rather than cable. Microwaves don't travel very far, or round corners, so they have to be repeated. Drive up the old A2 through Boughton and, at the top of the hill – just behind Dunkirk school, you will see a tall tower covered with little 'dishes'. This is just one of a whole chain of such aerials, repeating the signals from London to the continent.

What's that got to do with getting closer to God? Well, it occurred to me that, in the past, I have needed the help of friends to act like these microwave repeater stations to pass on the message from God that was being swamped by other influences, other pressures and outside interference.

Is it like that between you and God? Are the pressures of this world, the interference of other people, or the 'noise' of other interests drowning out what God is saying to you? Are you too far away, or out of touch?

Or perhaps you know someone who needs a 'repeater' to bring them closer to where God wants them to be?
Go on, be a dish!

Tony Harris



When reading God's word, take special care,
To find the rich treasures hidden there;
Give thought to each line, each precept hear,
Then practise it well with godly fear.

Anon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Regular Weekly Events

Monday	09:30	Mums (or Dads) and Toddlers
Tuesday	17:00	Girls' Brigade – Explorers
	18:00	Girls' Brigade – Juniors
	19:00	Girls' Brigade – Seniors & Brigaders
	19:00	Choral Group
	20:00	Worship Group
Wednesday	09:30	Mums (or Dads) and Toddlers
	17:00	Boys' Brigade – Anchor Boys
	18:30	Boys' Brigade – Juniors
	19:30	Boys' Brigade – Company Section

January

29	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Leprosy Sunday</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>'Songs of Praise Requests' service</i>
30	Monday	10:00	'Women at the Well' – <i>All Ladies Welcome</i>

February

2	Thursday	12:00	CAMEO – <i>Lunch & Activities</i>
5	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
8	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>
9	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Meeting – <i>Please pray for your Diaconate</i>
12	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Sunday School Prize Giving</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
13	Monday	10:00	'Women at the Well' – <i>All Ladies Welcome!</i>
14	Tuesday		Valentine's day
18	Saturday	09:30	Ladies Prayer Breakfast – <i>All Ladies Welcome!</i>
		19:30	'Think & Drink' Quiz Evening – <i>Everyone Welcome! (see page 2)</i>
19	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
21	Tuesday		Shrove Tuesday – <i>Don't forget the pancakes!</i>
22	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>
23	Thursday	19:30	Church Members' Meeting
24	Friday	10:00	Prayer Meeting for Mission – <i>at the home of Pam & Andy</i>
26	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
27	Monday	10:00	'Women at the Well' – <i>All Ladies Welcome!</i>

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

1	Thursday	12:00	CAMEO – <i>Lunch & Activities</i>
4	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
7	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>
8	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Meeting – <i>Please pray for your Diaconate</i>
11	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		12:30	Bring & Share Lunch – <i>at Faversham Baptist Church</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
		19:30	Messenger Deadline
12	Monday	10:00	'Women at the Well' – <i>All Ladies Welcome</i>
18	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Mothering Sunday – Communion</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
21	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – <i>Everyone Welcome!</i>
22	Thursday	19:30	Church Members' Meeting & AGM
			<i>All Members Expected!</i>
25	Sunday	02:00	British Summer Time Begins (<i>clocks forward!</i>)
		10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
26	Monday	10:00	'Women at the Well' – <i>All Ladies Welcome</i>

Items for the next issue of *The Messenger* must be handed, posted, or **preferably** emailed, to Beryl or Tony by **Sunday 11th March**

Thank you.
messenger@middlewall.co.uk

Just for fun!

Target Puzzle

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the grid below? Each word must contain the central letter and each letter can only be used once - there is at least one 9-letter word!



Target: 20 Fair, 25 Good, 30 Very Good, 35+ Excellent!

A	L	E
I	T	N
N	E	V

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 11 _____ | 26 _____ |
| 12 _____ | 27 _____ |
| 13 _____ | 28 _____ |
| 14 _____ | 29 _____ |
| 15 _____ | 30 _____ |
| 16 _____ | 31 _____ |
| 17 _____ | 32 _____ |
| 18 _____ | 33 _____ |
| 19 _____ | 34 _____ |
| 20 _____ | 35 _____ |
| 21 _____ | 36 _____ |
| 22 _____ | 37 _____ |
| 23 _____ | 38 _____ |
| 24 _____ | 39 _____ |
| 25 _____ | 40 _____ |

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

(There may be more!)

It all began with an iPhone...

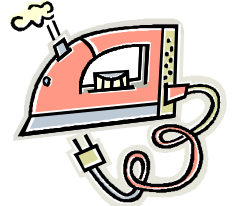
Our son celebrated his 17th birthday in March, and we got him an iPhone. He just loved it. Who wouldn't?



I celebrated my birthday in July, and my wife made me very happy when she bought me an iPad.

Our daughter's birthday was in August so we got her an iPod Touch.

Then, for Christmas, I got my wife an iRon.



It was around then that the fight started...

What my wife failed to recognize is that the iRon can be integrated into the home network with the iWash, iCook and iClean.

However, this inevitably activated the iNag reminder service.

I should be out of the hospital next week!

PS: iHurt!!!

*Remember, growing older is mandatory.
Growing up is optional!*

The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God, which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, you soldier.
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To my Church have you been true?”

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, “No, Lord, I guess I ain’t,
because those of us who carry guns, can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough,
and sometimes I’ve been violent because the world is awfully rough.

But I never took a penny that wasn’t mine to keep,
though I worked a lot of overtime when the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear
and sometimes God, forgive me, I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place among the people here.
They never wanted me around, except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here,
Lord, it needn’t be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
but if you don’t, I’ll understand.”

There was a silence all around the throne,
where the saints had often trod,
as the soldier waited quietly,
for the judgment of his God.

“Step forward now, you soldier,
you’ve borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets;
you’ve done your time in Hell.”

Author Unknown



If we walk in the Light,
we won't stumble in the darkness

IT Training

For many, particularly older people, computers are a bit of a mystery. The internet, email and websites are words that you may have heard mentioned but don’t understand what they are.

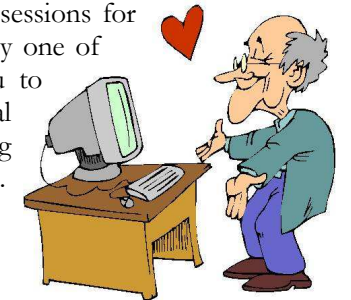
If this sounds like you and you would like to learn how to use a computer, surf the internet, shop on line, research family trees, email family and friends and much more, Age Concern Whitstable can help you get started. In their centre in Vulcan Close they have a new IT suite, with six computers. It has been set up specifically to help beginners and new computer users become more computer literate.

The feedback from those who have been attending the sessions is extremely positive. One of our oldest clients is ninety and has really enjoyed the new challenge; he says he is now confident enough to use the computer on his own. Another client uses a webcam in the IT suite to have regular weekly contact with her family in Australia. This has really helped her become more involved with her family again and now she feels less isolated.

Our computer training is available to anyone who is interested (whatever your age); we offer a free trial session to help get you started. If you enjoy the trial session then you can sign up for six sessions for £25, each session lasts one hour and is run by one of our friendly volunteer trainers who help you to learn at your own pace. To book your trial session or to find out more about our training sessions please contact Roma on 01227 272055.

Age Concern Whitstable
Charity Number 211905

AGE
Concern



Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee,
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see –
The Light of the world is Jesus.

In the World there is Anguish

In the world there is anguish that seems too much to bear.
And lands so used to sorrow know even more despair.
From city streets, the cries of grief rise up to hills above.
In all the sorrow, pain and death, where are you, God of love?

A woman sifts through rubble; a man has lost his home;
A hungry, orphaned toddler sobs, for she is now alone.
Where are you, Lord, when thousands die – the rich, the poorest poor?
Were you the very first to cry for all that is no more?

O God, you love your children; you hear each lifted prayer.
May all who suffer in this world know you are present there.
In moments of compassion shown, in simple acts of grace,
May those in pain find healing balm and know your love's embrace.

Where are you in the anguish? May we realise anew
That anywhere your world cries out, you're there – and suffering, too.
And may we see, in others' pain, the cross we're called to bear:
Send out your Church in Jesus' name to pray, to serve, to share.

Submitted by Jean Moyes

A Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

SPEAK – Praying and campaigning for global justice

Holiday (*booking*) Time

Thinking about a holiday? Then you might be interested in the following recommendation...

Just come.biz

*Have a Holiday
Help a missionary*

Welcome! Our Holiday Cottage is in Dunfanaghy on the beautiful northwest coast of County Donegal, Ireland.

The village is noted for its beaches and beauty spots. Not only does Dunfanaghy have beautiful beaches such as Killahoey, but it has breathtaking scenery - mountains, lakes, rivers and glens!

It is one of the area's most popular holiday destinations.

A perfect place for your holiday.

Just some of the things to do:

Golf Course (within 1 km), Mini Golf, Fishing (Sea, River and Lake), Windsurfing, Canoeing, Hiking, Cycling, Diving, Horse Riding.



Restaurants, Cafés, Pub grub, Craft Shops, Supermarket, Bank, Art Galleries & Workhouse Museum.

Plus much more!

Write: Tara Ruach, Meencarrick, Upper Dunmore, Falcarragh, Donegal, Ireland.

Tel: +353 7491 35444

Mobile: +353 85 123 1274

Email: AlanandRosemary@Visionireland.com

Website: www.justcome.biz

Or speak to **Malcolm Hardie** for further information.

(tell The Messenger all about it when you come home! Ed.)

Pass the Plate

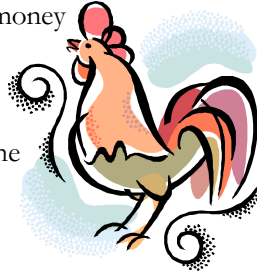
The minister in a little village church had been having trouble with the collection for some time.

One Sunday he announced, "Now, before we pass the collection plate, I would like to request that the person who stole the chickens from Farmer Condill's henhouse, please refrain from giving any money to the Lord.

The Lord doesn't want money from a thief."

The collection plate was passed around and, for the first time in months, everybody gave!

From the magazine of Margate Baptist Church



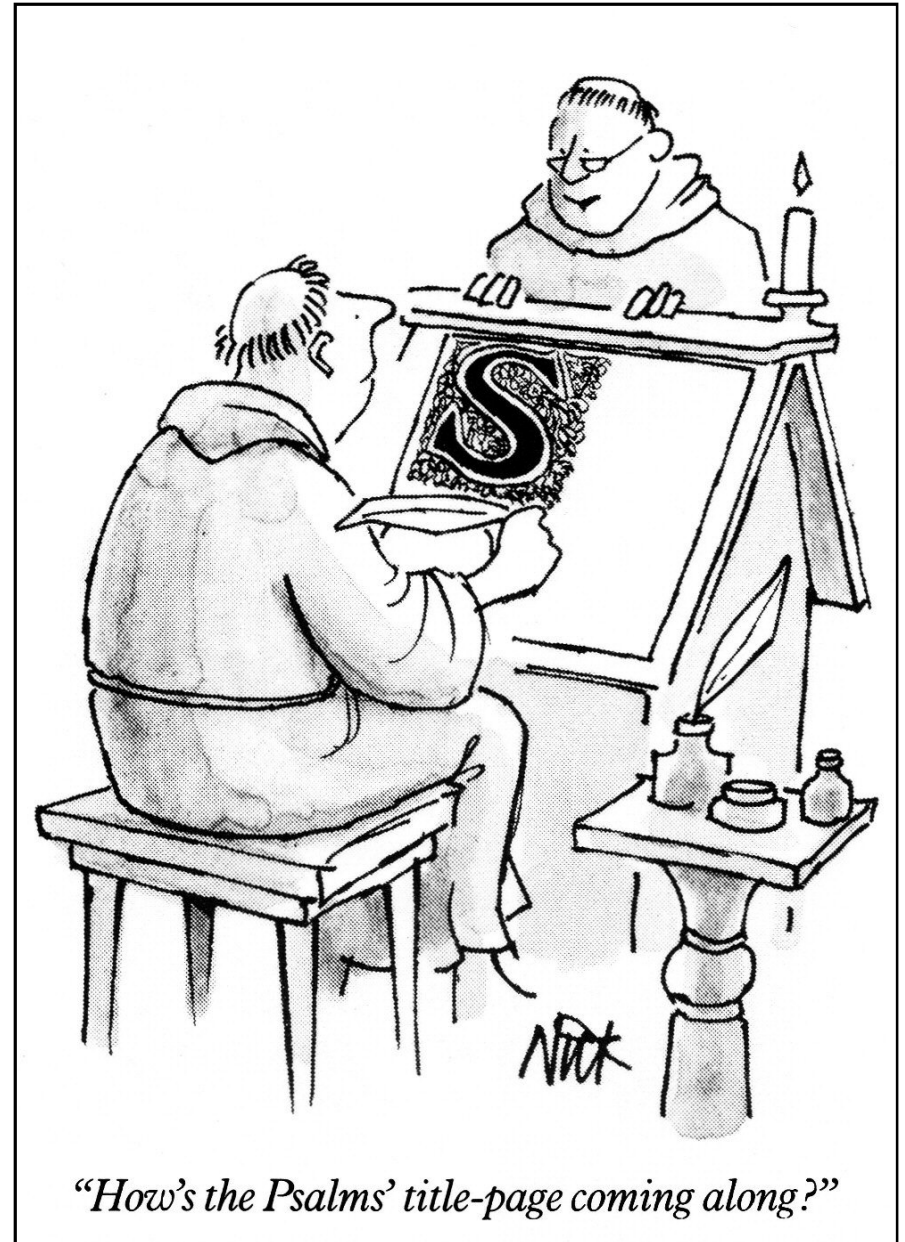
Hugging is Good For You

Hugging dispels loneliness, overcomes fears and builds self-esteem (wow, they want to hug *me!*); slows down ageing – huggers stay younger longer.

Hugging eases tension and fights insomnia; keeps arms and shoulder muscles in good condition; is ecologically sound and does not upset the environment.

Hugging is democratic – anyone is eligible for a hug; affirms physical well-being, saves heat and is therefore energy efficient; makes impossible days possible and happy days happier. What's more, hugs are portable, so take some with you to share today.

Submitted by Kath Rowden



"How's the Psalms' title-page coming along?"

Submitted by Jim Parker

Dust If You Must

by Rose Milligan

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
to paint a picture or write a letter,
bake a cake or plant a seed,
ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
with rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
music to hear and books to read,
friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there.
With sun in your eyes and wind in your hair,
a flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
this day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
old age will come, and it's not kind.
And when you go - and go you must -
you, yourself will make more dust!

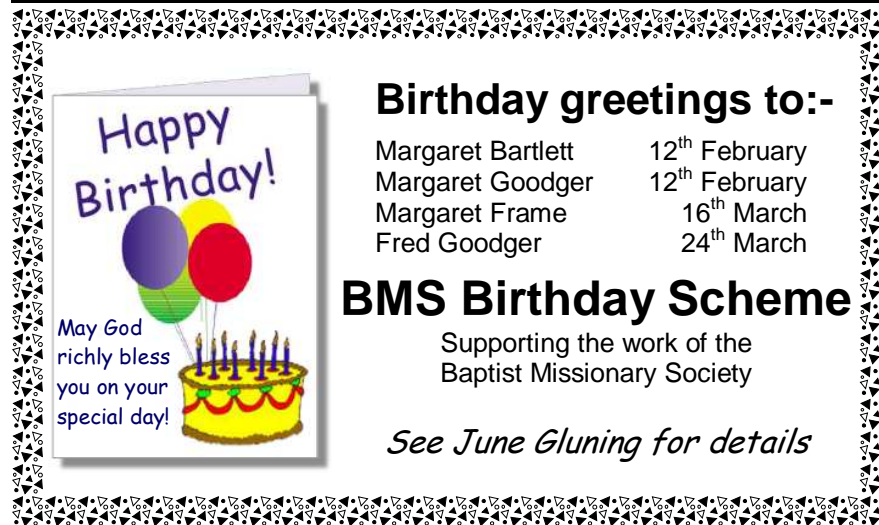
From the Magazine of Margate Baptist Church



A Post-Christmas Thought On Prayer

Children sometimes view God as a celestial version of Santa Claus who sits on a cloud considering requests and funnelling answers like presents down a chimney. A better model might be the president of a large corporation who must occasionally step in to manage a crisis but prefers to delegate tasks to trusted managers and employees. Or, better yet, the metaphor the New Testament relies on: a human body, in which all parts of the body are organically joined and co-operate to carry out the will of the head.

*From 'Prayer' by Philip Yancey, published in UK in 2006 by Hodder & Stoughton
Submitted by Malcolm Hardie*



Birthday greetings to:-

Margaret Bartlett	12 th February
Margaret Goodger	12 th February
Margaret Frame	16 th March
Fred Goodger	24 th March

BMS Birthday Scheme

Supporting the work of the
Baptist Missionary Society

See June Gluing for details

Answers to puzzle (Page 14):

Target Puzzle:

Alit, Ante, Anti, Eaten, Elate, Elative, Elite, Entail, Event, Inlet, Innate, Invent, Late, Lateen, Latin, Leant, Lenient, Lent, Lenten, **Levantine**, Levite, Lineate, Linnet, Lint, Lite, Native, Neat, Neaten, Tail, Tale, Teal, Teen, Tile, Tine, **Valentine**, Valet, Veleta, Venetian, Vent, Vital. *(There may be more!)*

There's a Coincidence!

1981

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool were crowned Soccer Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes
4. The Pope died

2005

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool were crowned Soccer Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes
4. The Pope died

Lesson to be learned: The next time Prince Charles gets married someone should warn the Pope!

Submitted by Norman Kennett, Margate Baptist Church

Beryl's Back! (page 1)**Ode to the Weak**

'Twas on a Monday morning I woke up with the lark
And heard a thrush was singing even though it was still dark.
My aches and pains restricted me as I tried to leave my bed
So I decided to turn over and stay snuggled up instead.

'Twas on a Tuesday morning – I didn't hear the lark
But still the thrush was singing over in the park.
I'm glad he sounds so happy, I told myself, and then
I settled down to listen – until a half past ten!

'Twas on a Wednesday morning, yes, half way through the week,
My joints they were still aching and my knees began to creak.
I hadn't had much exercise except across the hall
In order to defer to the need of nature's call.

'Twas on a Thursday morning (well I didn't wake till noon)
And then a voice was telling me, 'this really is too soon'.
My conscience said, 'get up old girl – the afternoon's ahead',
And yet I had this feeling that I'd rather be in bed.

And then, 'twas on the Sunday, before it had got light,
I had a dream, the weirdest dream, which gave me quite a fright,
For I was old and greyer than I'd ever thought I was
And a little voice was telling me the reason was because...

I'd wasted days through laziness and made no time to pray.
To lethargy and thoughtlessness my will had given way.
I'd totally neglected myself, the world, the Word,
And in the dream the voice spoke out, and this is what I heard:

“What have you done in this past week to help another soul?
What did you do in the year just gone, My Glory to extol?
A New Year has just started and time keeps racing still.
Take every opportunity My purpose to fulfil.
Look to the Lord for guidance and use each precious hour
You do not know what lies ahead – go forth in strength and power.”

Beryl Harris

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If the person or organisation you want is not listed, please contact the Secretary.