

APRIL – MAY 2011
THE MESSENGER



WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED
WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED

the magazine of

WHITSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MIDDLE WALL

Secretary's Letter

April – May 2011

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hope you enjoy it!

Dear Friends,

I have been allowed to 'stand-in' in Paul's slot in the magazine, and have been reflecting on some of the 'happenings' here at Middle Wall Baptist Church over recent weeks.

Certainly our minds have been focused not only on the needs of the church family here but on the needs of the Church in Whitstable, the worldwide Church, and 'the family of mankind.'

We began in January with the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. It was a pleasure to meet throughout the week in different churches, with various ministers leading prayers and giving reflections on the set themes. What struck me was how much we have in common with our brothers and sisters in other churches, and particularly how blessed we are by the real fellowship that our pastors and ministers share in Whitstable.

The *Churches Together in Whitstable* have proposed that this coming year we consider becoming part of the *Street Pastors Scheme*, and our church members have given support to this. Many of you will have heard of the difference Street Pastors have made in cities and towns across the country. Police forces report on the fall in crime rates when Street Pastors are used. It is a requirement of taking part that at least six churches in a locality support the Scheme, with trained volunteers, financial support, and dedicated prayer. We spoke recently to a friend involved in the Scheme in Exeter, and he spoke movingly of the fact that to non-Christians, Street Pastors were a clear symbol of the 'church of Exeter.' Let's pray that the 'Church of Whitstable' might be a light to our local community. (see *Matt.5:14-16*)



I expect most of you would recognize the 'Fairtrade' symbol when you see it on products. Our January church business meeting included a lively debate on the pros and cons of becoming a Fairtrade church. We agreed to begin the process, which includes serving Fairtrade coffee and tea at our functions and also encouraging the church family to support Fairtrade products in their personal shopping. The Fairtrade organisation aims to give producers in the Third World a fair price for their labour, and to ensure that their communities benefit from this income. I encourage you to think about the poor people at the

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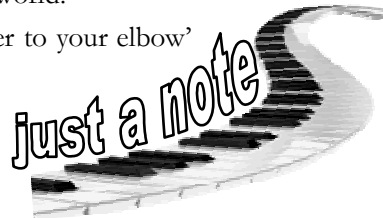
start of the supply chain of goods that end up in our shops, and the conditions they live in and work under. Sometimes a simple request for Fairtrade goods can make a difference to what your supermarket stocks.

In February, we participated in 'The Week of Prayer Against Global Poverty' in a small measure. As different members of the church family led our thoughts and prayers, I was struck by the huge needs of our world, and also by the immense variety of ways in which God uses His people to answer our prayers for a better world. Keep praying! As we pray we join with local churches right around the world as they minister to their neighbours in ways that Jesus would have blessed.

'God so loved the world that He gave His only son...' (John 3:16) What are we prepared to give to show God's love to the world?

May God grant you vision, wisdom, and 'power to your elbow' as you seek to serve Him.

Jean Rothery
Church Secretary



Thank You...

Dear Friends

I would just like to thank you all so much for your loving concern and prayers for my brother Richard and his wife, Jill. It is with great happiness that I am able to tell you that Richard, though still having weekly check-ups at K&C, is now back at work full time and also Jill. 2010 was a year of many highs and lows but we praise the Lord. He was constant and ever present in all our circumstances.

So thank you once again, my dear friends. Blessings to you all.

PS: We are now in our new home at Seasalter, thanks to the Lord's wonderful provision (Did we really bring so much stuff with us?!) We want to thank you so much for your kind gifts, cards, flowers and yummy food, which was so welcome – and now we have a garden, plants and gardening gloves! This is our loving Middle Wall.

Please come and visit us at 23 Norview Road, Seasalter (on a hill!)

Carole & Peter

April 6th 2008

GIFT AID

April 5th 2011

What is the significance of the above dates?

On the first date, in 2008, the basic rate of tax which you have to pay (if you earn or receive enough money) was reduced by the Government of the day from 22% to 20%. This meant that, if you were a "gift aider", your donations would give a lesser amount of tax which our Church could reclaim from HM Revenue & Customs.

BUT, the Government decided that for 3 years, they would continue to give back to us 25p per £1 donated and also continue to give the 3p in the £1 which we had previously received.

April 5th 2011 is the final date upon which we are able to collect this extra 3p per £1. From April 6th onwards, the Church will only get 25p per £1 tax refund for each £1 a "gift aider" donates. Based on the previous twelve months, this will mean a drop of £739.31 in our income.

If you would like to become a "gift aider" and help reduce this loss of income you only need to be a taxpayer – either from salary, pension, dividends or bank interest (not ISA income, as it is not taxed). If you are a taxpayer and would like to "join", or simply want more information, please speak either to me or to Janet Payne.

For your information, in the previous twelve months we have claimed £6,505.94 back from the taxman at no cost whatsoever to the Church. Could you help us collect more this year?



Andy Devine

The Good Life

A well-worn five pound note and a similarly distressed twenty-pound note arrived at the Bank of England to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-pound note reminisced about its travels all over the country, "I've had a pretty good life. I've been to Las Vegas and Monte Carlo, the finest restaurants in Paris, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the five-pound note, "You've really had an exciting life!" "So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?" The five pound note replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, and the Anglican Church." The twenty-pound note interrupts, "What's a church?"

Palm Sunday

Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



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Maundy Thursday

Time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together – for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening before the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.



© Parish Pump

Good Friday

The Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9:00 in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.



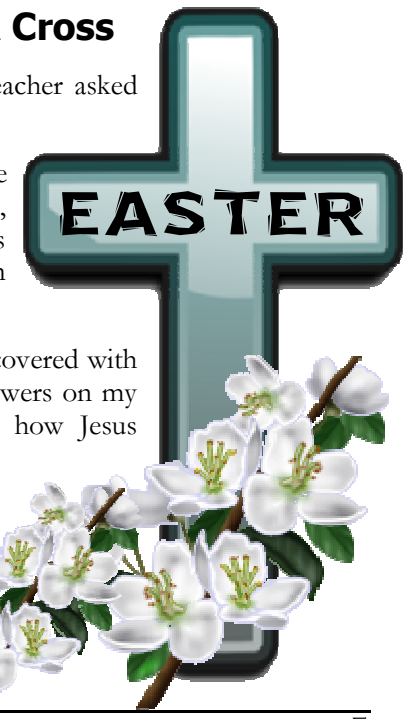
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The Little Boy Who Drew A Cross

As Easter approached, a Sunday School teacher asked her young class to draw a cross.

Most children quickly drew a stick-like object that closely resembled the letter "T", but one child got out all the pastel crayons and became quite intent while working on his drawing.

When he finished, his picture was a cross, covered with beautiful flowers. He explained, "I put flowers on my cross to make it beautiful because that's how Jesus made it so I could go to Heaven."



© Parish Pump

Easter Sunday

The most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!



The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: April 3rd or 7th, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

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Easter Egg News

Real Easter Egg on its way to become a UK top seller

A church-backed campaign has succeeded in convincing retailers to stock the 'Real Easter Egg', the UK's first and only Fairtrade charity egg to mention Jesus on the box.

Morrisons, Waitrose, Co-op and Booths are to stock a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg and sell it in their biggest stores. A number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals are also stocking the Real Easter Egg. And hundreds of Traidcraft supporters have ordered thousands of eggs on behalf of their communities. (*Apparently not in our little corner of the world but the eggs are available to order via their website – www.realeasteregg.co.uk*)



The retail price of the Real Easter Egg is £3.99. It is made from high quality Fairtrade chocolate. Two charities benefit from the sale of the egg: Traidcraft Exchange receives 30 pence from every egg sold and Baby Lifeline will receive 10% from Real Easter Egg net profits.

Despite selling over 80 million Easter eggs a year, supermarkets initially turned down the Real Easter Egg, unsure if there was a place for a charity/faith egg in their Easter range. The Rt Revd, Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester, said; "It is great news that for the first time people will have the chance of buying an Easter egg that explains the significance of the festival on the box. Through the charitable donation and its Fairtrade chocolate, the egg brings to light the Easter themes of hope and new life. I believe there will be widespread support for the product from the faith community with many others likely to be interested."

Virtual Real Easter Egg hunter: With demand expected to outstrip supply Google Maps is providing the 'Virtual Real Easter Egg hunter' which allows people to hunt for an independent shop or church in their area where they can buy the Real Easter Egg.

Visit www.realeasteregg.co.uk.

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Mission

United Christian Broadcasters

"Promoting the Good News of Jesus Christ"

United Christian Broadcasters Ltd (UCB) is a Christian charity and one of the UK's leading Christian media ministries. We aim to broadcast quality Christian radio programming, 'something clean in the air', on digital satellite, cable and the web, to provide practical, insightful Christian Television, encourage people through The Word For Today* and The Word 4U 2Day and offer prayer support through our Prayerline. We were formed to promote the good news of the Kingdom of God. We strive for excellence and integrity in communicating the reality of life in Jesus Christ in all that we do. We prayerfully and faithfully serve God, and will testify to people's lives being changed for good.

In The Beginning...

Our first office was a borrowed bedroom in a Christian's flat with a second-hand filing cabinet and a typewriter. We borrowed a desk and chair and our receptionist came to work on a borrowed bicycle.

Our second office was much larger, housed in an old warehouse in Stoke-on-Trent. One of our first jobs was to chase the roosting pigeons out before patching up the windows and roof. Then we could begin to renovate and decorate the rooms.

Exceptionally humble beginnings for a ministry with a national vision. However, as Jesus said in Matthew 17:20, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

These times were very hard for us, with everyone on staff working as volunteers because we could not afford to pay any wages, but the unity and passion in prayer to carry forward the vision for Christian radio was the primary motivating force.

God was gracious to us as we faithfully served the vision and He met our needs through miraculous provision of materials and the un-ending generosity of our small band of supporters.

Year after year our faith grew stronger, our ministry grew larger and our supporters increased in number as we sought God's direction in prayer. In 1994 UCB was able to acquire from another Christian Trust the semi-dilapidated Hanchurch Christian Centre situated on the edge of Stoke-on-Trent and the rebuilding and renovation work started all over again. However, this time we ended up with a purpose built facility to house our broadcasting studios and offices for the secure

Matters

expansion of our vision. Work was completed in 1999 and UCB now has a facility that is fully utilised and dedicated to the extension of God's Kingdom throughout the UK and Ireland.

UCB Expansion ...

During this time, UCB has grown from being a Christian radio station with a Bible devotional to a leading Christian media ministry. UCB is now able to spread the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ via print, radio and television media. More than this UCB is able, like never before, to help people respond to God's call on their lives via Prayerline and provide materials they need to grow in faith to worship God and glorify His name.

Without a doubt UCB has come a long way these past years and has expanded so much that in 2004 UCB purchased an additional building to house the operations side of UCB. This building was an old call centre in the heart of Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, that had been empty for four years. As you can imagine, it needed a great deal of work. So once again we were renovating and decorating and, just in time for Christmas, we all made the move over.

Moving to the Burslem site marked a new era for UCB. This was the first time UCB had owned two buildings. The move also brought UCB into the heart of the city allowing us the opportunity to reach out into the local community with the love of God.

Although the move to Burslem had some sadness as Hanchurch is in a beautiful country setting, the move has presented UCB with many new opportunities, including the expansion of Prayerline and UCB2GO. It also provided a great deal more space for the storing and packing of *The Word For Today*.

But what happened to the Hanchurch site? Hanchurch Christian Centre is now the Broadcast Centre which houses the Radio studios and the TV department. From here UCB transmits our five radio stations: UCB UK, UCB Inspirational, UCB Gospel, UCB Bible & The Word.

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* Pick up your copy of *The Word For Today* in the church foyer, or see Tricia.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

>the adventure begins here



Object: *The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Discipline, Self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness.*

This is your "deputy scribe" reporting on events involving our BB Company, and I'll begin with our youngest group, who are ...

Anchor Boys (5 to 8 year olds): A 'lively' group who, although small in numbers, more than make up for it in excitement and enthusiasm. Our weekly sessions include simple marching, a Bible story (which is keenly listened to, and remembered!), games and work towards their badges, which has recently delved into the culinary arts (*Thank you Beryl for the pancake lessons*).

Company & Senior Section (11 – 18): Our numbers are steady at around 7-8 boys each week. In our Bible Class we are currently looking at the subject of 'growing in faith', led by our Chaplain, Paul, and ably assisted by Rev Russell Fisk, Captain of the 1st Aylesham BB Company, who has been giving us a hand for the last few weeks.

A few weeks ago the boys took part in the National Top Team Challenge, involving a variety of physical and mental skills, and we now eagerly await the results – our grateful thanks to Tony & Beryl for overseeing the event.

As part of their badgework, our boys have recently studied the etiquette of laying a table, wiring a 13amp plug (don't try this one at home!) and are now embarking on a short course in first aid, which might come in useful. (Ironically, Donell, one of our boys, has recently broken his arm, and so we would all like to wish him a speedy recovery)

In July we are hoping to take some of our boys on a weekend activity camp to Belchamps Scout Centre, Hockley Essex.

My thanks to all those who took part in the recent 'News Sketch' which was presented during the March Parade Service, and in particular to Mathew (script writer) and Tony (PowerPoint expert – his name keeps on cropping up!) – unless we are informed otherwise we may well put on another one some time!

Finally, our grateful thanks for all your continued support for our Company, and we pray that we might see an increase in our numbers and the return of a Junior Section for boys of 8 -11 years.

Jim Parker
Captain

go the EXTRA MILE

Hi, my name is Margaret and I'm a volunteer on the Carrickfergus Prayerline and we as a group just love the work UCB does. I read an article which said that UCB were operating on an overdraft and it really touched my heart, I felt I really had to do something to help raise some money for this wonderful ministry. I decided to organise a coffee morning and cake sale. This was a great success and we have been doing this on a yearly basis ever since. Last year we raised over £3,000 for UCB. We have lots of *Word For Today's*, *Word 4U 2Days* and *Books of Hope* for people to take away and we feel that not only are we helping UCB but we are also reaching out to the people in our town with the love of Jesus.

Have you ever thought of fundraising for UCB like Margaret?

Together we can change lives for good through the power of God's word

For more information about fundraising for UCB and going the extra mile visit ucbmedia.co.uk/extramile



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

April

3	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
4	Monday	19:30	CTiW Lent Talk @ URC
6	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
7	Thursday	12:00	CAMEO* – <i>Lunch & Activities</i>
9	Saturday	09:30	Ladies Prayer Breakfast @ <i>Pam Tyler's home</i>
10	Sunday	10:45	Rev Dr Julie Hopkins
		18:30	Stella & Peter Banks from Harbour Street
11	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
		19:30	CTiW Lent Talk @ <i>Seasalter Christian Centre</i>
14	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Retreat
17	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Palm Sunday</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
18	Monday	10:30	Holy Week Service @ <i>Harbour Street Christian Fellowship</i>
19	Tuesday	10:30	Holy Week Service @ <i>Harbour Street Christian Fellowship</i>
20	Wednesday	10:30	Holy Week Service @ <i>Harbour Street Christian Fellowship</i>
21	Thursday	10:30	Holy Week Service @ <i>Harbour Street Christian Fellowship</i>
		19:00	Maundy Thursday Communion Service @ URC
22	Friday	10:00	CTiW March of Witness from TEC
		19:00	Good Friday Service of Prayer & Meditation @ WBC
23	Saturday	19:00	Holy Week Service @ <i>St John's Methodist Church</i>
24	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Easter Day – Communion</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
25	Monday	14:00	Easter Ramble – <i>Meet at Whitstable Baptist Church</i>
			<i>*Come And Meet Each Other</i>

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

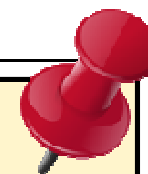
1	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
4	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
5	Thursday	12:00	CAMEO* – <i>Lunch & Activities</i>
8	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Girls' Brigade 80th Anniversary</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
9	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
12	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Meeting
15	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Joint Christian Aid Service</i>
		19:30	Messenger Deadline – <i>see below</i>
18	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
22	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
23	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
26	Thursday	19:30	Church Members' Meeting
29	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	tbc
			<i>*Come And Meet Each Other</i>

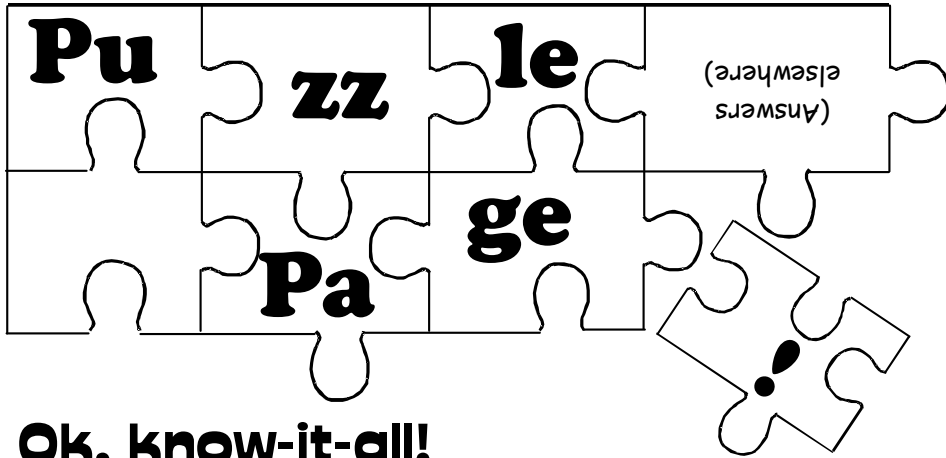
Items for the next issue of *The Messenger* must be handed, posted, or preferably emailed, to either of us by **Sunday 15th May**

Thank you. Beryl & Tony Harris
messenger@middlewall.co.uk

Don't Forget!

When you've finished reading the magazine, you can pull out this page and pin it on your notice board, or inside your kitchen cupboard, or wherever you keep those important notes – so you never miss an **important event!**





Ok, know-it-all!

If you're so clever, which year did these events occur?

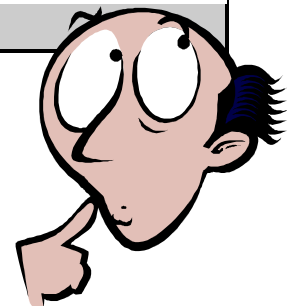
	Event	Date
1	Sinking of the Titanic	
2	Start of the First World War	
3	Great Fire of London	
4	Battle of Hastings	
5	End of Second World War	
6	Assassination of President Lincoln	
7	Queen Victoria becomes Queen	
8	9/11 Terrorist attacks in New York	
9	Death of Princess Diana	
10	Gunpowder Plot	

If you need help, you can choose from the following list: 2001, 1912, 1605, 1997, 1945, 1066, 1666, 1837, 1914, 1865.

Do you know your place?

If you do, you'll have no problem deciphering these Kentish place names!

1	Armada heading for the Arctic	
2	Depressed Monarch	
3	Pig caught in a shower	
4	Someone who flavours the water	
5	Climb this to dig bait	
6	Dish out the deck	
7	Brother weighs 2,2401bs	
8	Sheep's entrance	
9	Remains of a burnt-out car	
10	Flying Pig	
11	Bank Holiday in the Horse House	
12	Sounds like the start of a climb	
13	Cold pig	
14	An opening for Granny Smith	
15	Wide flight of steps	
16	Castle not in Yorkshire	
17	Not down. Not Cathedral	
18	Number of old English Trees	
19	Small boats to the rescue	
20	Up and down like this	



Top Secret Memo**To: All Department Heads****Subject: Proposed cuts to the National Health Service**

The British Medical Association has weighed-in on Prime Minister David Cameron's health care proposals.

The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but the neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Paediatricians said, "Oh, Grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

The Surgeons were fed up with the cuts and decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The ENT specialists didn't swallow it, and just wouldn't hear of it.

The Pharmacologists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists thought it was all water under the bridge.

The Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, but the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end it was decided to leave the matter to the Proctologists in London!

(submitted by Andrew Frame)

The things children say...

"If it is less than 90 degrees
it is a cute angel"

50 Miles West (of England – 315 miles west of Whitstable!)

Wendy's Canadian saga is drawing to a close. She recently sold the house and the furniture. She flies out of Toronto at 9:30 pm on 30th March – just over a year after she and Brian arrived in Canada. Following her sad and sudden loss of Brian, we are looking forward to welcoming her as she will be staying here with us, initially at least. Pray for us all, please.

We have just enjoyed a few days of fellowship with Joyce – a pleasant distraction for us.

We have a cheerful (and chirpy) blackbird who serenades us – sometimes as early as 1.30am! Spring is here!

We enjoyed an awayday a couple of weeks' ago with St. David's and St. John's Methodists at the Christian Endeavour Conference Centre at Conwy (Beechwood Court). Very worthwhile – good teaching and fellowship – and also an excellent meal!

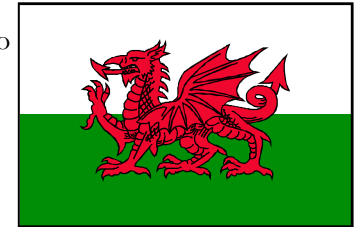
I started taking Ginkgo (for memory) – quite effective. By the way, do you have a longstanding problem? Try kneeling.

Psalms 61 to 63 have been a real blessing to me lately.

God bless you all.

With love from us both,

Paul and Margaret

***The things children say...***

"I asked my mum why we say 'old men' at the end of prayers at school. I don't know any old men, apart from grandpa."

Alternative Vote System

You may have heard that a referendum on changing the UK's voting system is planned for 5th May 2011. Under the proposed **AV** system, voters rank candidates in order of preference and anyone getting more than 50% in the first round is elected.

If that does not happen, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and voters' second choices allocated to the remaining candidates. This process continues until a winner emerges.

If you think that sounds complicated, take a look at the system once used to appoint the Doge (chief magistrate) in Venice –

Introduced in 1268 to minimise the influence of great families over the republic, thirty members of the Great Council, chosen by lot, were reduced by ballot to just nine. These nine chose forty representatives, who were themselves reduced to twelve. These twelve chose twenty-five who were reduced by lot to only nine, and these nine elected forty-five representatives, who were reduced by election to just eleven. It is these eleven who finally chose the forty-one who actually elected the Doge. Quite simple really!

The system was very effective and lasted until 1797 when power passed to Napoleon. Once elected, the Doge lived in a palace of great beauty. His private chapel was the magnificent building now known as the Basilica San Marco, or St Mark's Cathedral.

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The Likes Of Me

It's not the worth I see in me
That fits me for eternity,
It is the blood at Calvary
That Jesus shed so lovingly;
My many words cannot suffice
To substitute Christ's sacrifice.

He alone could pay the price
To free me from sin's deadly vice.
However grandiose my plan,
Though better than some other man's,
My debt was paid e're I began.
He died for me, God's spotless Lamb.

Yet in my sin, he welcomed me
And through his pain and agony
He ransomed me and set me free;
For me - for me! How could this be?
It's not the worth I see in me.
He sees my pride and vanity
But still he calls insistently.



Just as I am, with all you see,
No trace of true humility,
My lack of grace and honesty,
Do you still call the likes of me?

"Remember child, that awful day
When life itself just ebbed away,
When man had truly lost his way,
On Calvary's cross they heard me pray
'Forgive; they know not what they do'.
I prayed that for the likes of you!"

Malcolm Westwood

BUGB Communications Awards 2011

Those of you who have “surfing the net” and visited our church website might be interested to know that the Baptist Union has an annual competition to find the best church website. We have submitted ours, this year, and now you can play your part in helping us to win a prize!

The website nominations will be shortlisted by a panel of expert judges and you will be able to vote online from 4th April. Obviously, what happens next does depend on whether or not our website gets through the “shortlisting” stage!

So your task, if you choose to accept it, is to go to the BU’s website – www.baptist.org.uk/commsawards2011 – between 4th & 21st April, and cast your vote!

“**And the winner is...**” The winning entries will be announced at the Baptist Assembly and will be featured on the BUGB website and also in The Baptist Times.

Of course, if you don’t think our website deserves an award, please let me know how you think it can be improved.

Tony Harris



I say I am a Christian

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not shouting, “I’ve been saved!”
I’m whispering, “I get lost!”
That’s why I chose this way”.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I don’t speak with human pride
I’m confessing that I stumble -
Needing God to be my guide.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not trying to be strong
I’m professing that I’m weak
and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not bragging of success
I’m admitting that I’ve failed
and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I don’t think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not claiming to be perfect,
my flaws are all too visible,
But God believes I’m worth it.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
which is why I seek His name.

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority,
I only know I’m loved.

(Submitted by Lisé Thomason)



A Good Wedding Cake

Ingredients:

- 4lb of love
- 1lb butter of youth
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of good looks
- 1lb of sweet temper
- 1lb of blindness of faults
- 1lb of self forgetfulness
- 1lb of wit
- 1lb of good humour
- 1tbsp of sweet argument
- 1 pint of rippling laughter
- 1 wine glass of common sense
- 1oz of modesty



Method:

- Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well-furnished house.
- Beat the butter of youth to a cream and mix well together with the blindness of faults.
- Stir the wit and good humour into the sweet argument then add the rippling laughter, common sense and modesty.
- Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

This "recipe" was recently rediscovered, having previously been submitted by "Lol" (little old lady – aka Mrs Davidson) to a fund-raising recipe book created by "Young Wives" during the time when Rev Brian Gill was our minister (1976-1981). "Lol" had apparently found it in a previous Church Recipe Book printed at the turn of the century – the previous one!

The things children say...

"Helicopters are cleverer than planes,
not only can they fly through the air, they can also Hoover"



Birthday greetings to:-

Heywood Tyler
Christine Pacey

13th April
5th May

BMS Birthday Scheme

Supporting the work of the Baptist Missionary Society

See June Gluning for details

Answers to Puzzles (Pages 14/15)

Date Match: 1:1912, 2:1914, 3:1666, 4:1066, 5:1945, 6:1865, 7:1837, 8:2001, 9:1997, 10:1605.

Know your Place: 1:Northfleet, 2:Kingsdown, 3:Rainham, 4:Seasalter, 5:Wormshill, 6:Deal, 7:Monkton, 8:Ramsgate, 9:Ashford, 10:Wingham, 11:Whitstable, 12:Biggin Hill, 13:Chilham, 14:Appledor, 15:Broadstairs, 16:Leeds, 17:Upchurch, 18:Sevenoaks, 19:Dunkirk, 20:Bobbin.



Beryl's Back! (page 4)

How Clean is Your House?

Each year, after I have made the resolution not to make any New Year resolutions, the Christmas decorations have been put away and the “thank you” letters written, I tell myself I’ve got a few weeks to catch up on various things before tackling the Spring Cleaning in good time, before Spring actually arrives. Strange how suddenly, one morning at about 4.30, around the middle of March each year, I am woken by the loud, tuneful sound of the blackbird and I think, “how lovely, Spring is here. Oh no! Spring is here and I still haven’t started the Spring cleaning”. In case you misunderstand, please note I have not been asleep since Christmas, just doing other things!

Well, this year was different! Just after Christmas I was chatting to Pam and telling her of my brilliant idea that I would start in January, sorting out and cleaning one room a week, so that by Spring it would all have been done at a leisurely, stressless pace so I could then get out into the garden when the weather improved, knowing that the inside of the house was immaculate!

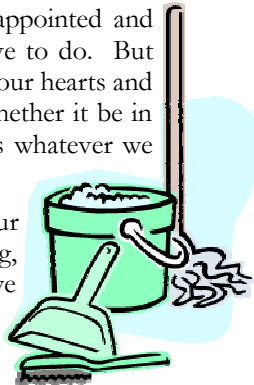
The following Monday morning I got up with the lark, the blackbird wasn’t even awake, but I jumped out of bed (that’s not true actually; I rolled out, having first done the necessary exercises to make it physically possible). The day was planned – I wouldn’t overdo it, I’d make sure I stopped for coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, and drink plenty of water! Well, to cut a long story short, by the end of the day the bathroom was gleaming like it had never gleamed before.

That’s the end of the story really. Meanwhile, Pam had poached my idea and I am sure all her cupboards in every room are orderly, her carpets shampooed and floors, windows and paintwork glistening. Unfortunately, I’ve still only done the bathroom – more pressing things took over and, do you know, at 4.30 the other morning... ..yes, you’ve guessed it!

Life is so busy that “other things” take over and I get disappointed and frustrated when I don’t manage to achieve the things I strive to do. But why should we get concerned? God understands and knows our hearts and His love goes on for ever even when we feel we’ve failed, whether it be in big things or small, material things or spiritual. He loves us whatever we may think of ourselves.

That first Easter Day, God sent His Son to cleanse us of all our sin and to fill us and surround us with His everlasting, sacrificial love. So the “Spring Cleaning” has been done – we just need to do the dusting and polishing on a daily basis!

Beryl Harris



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