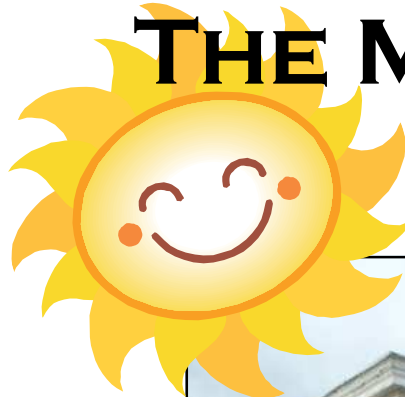


JUNE – JULY 2011

THE MESSENGER



the magazine of

WHITSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MIDDLE WALL

Minister's Letter

June – July 2011

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hope you enjoy it!

Dear Folks,

I am sure that most of you know that the last few months have been difficult for us as a family in the light of Anne's ill-health and serious diagnosis. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and prayers.



We were overwhelmed by the kind words, cards and offers of practical help, especially during Anne's initial treatment. Having said that, we are so aware that there are many others in the congregation who are wrestling with various difficulties. It is great to know that day by day we are bearing one another's burdens. It has been humbling, yet tremendously reassuring, to be on the receiving end of this mutual care.

I hope it will be an encouragement to you to know that Anne is making a good recovery and is back into many of her normal activities. We know that the future is in God's hands and we continue to look to Him for daily strength and healing power.

More Than Conquerors

“ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ”
Romans 8:28

It is heartening that we have begun a new series on 'God's Comfort', both in our Home Groups and in our Sunday morning services. This was planned some time back, but it has now taken on a particular significance for us.

We started out by looking at the sufferings of Job, which make our suffering pale into insignificance and we trust that we can follow his example of holding on to God no matter what. Also, our last study in 2 Corinthians chapter 1 emphasized how the comfort we receive from God can flow out into comfort

Contd.

for others. What a wonderful reality that, by God's mercy, nothing we face is ever in vain. He does indeed work out everything for our good as Romans chapter 8 verse 28 states. I trust that you will experience this whatever life throws at you.

Your friend and pastor,



Rev Paul Wilson



P.S. Thank you for your prayers for Annabelle who is now safely settled in Jamaica for 6 weeks. Please continue to pray for her as she works on a community hurricane awareness project and as she adapts to a very different culture and life style. I'm sure she will have much to tell us when she returns and I will have lots of material for my next letter. Watch this space!

Thank You...

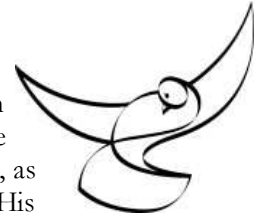
Thank you to everyone for the thoughts, prayers, cards, visits and flowers while I was poorly. Also for your concern for mum (Jean) who is on the mend.

Mum is just about to celebrate her 75th birthday so do please join us after the morning service on Sunday 5th June for cake!

Cheree Moyes

Why Baptism?

Mark 1:9 reads, 'At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the River Jordan.' So the answer to "Why?" could be that, as Jesus was baptized in water, we should follow His example and do the same. That may be true, but this is only half the story. Baptism is not just a ritual to go through, it is so very much more than that.



In Matthew chapter 28, Jesus says, 'Go and make disciples... baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' So baptism is obeying a command given by Jesus.

In Acts 2:38, Peter tells us to 'Repent and be baptized' so baptism comes as a sign of repentance. True repentance comes with the assurance and liberation of forgiveness. As a life is opened to the love of Jesus, baptism becomes a moment of personal commitment to a faith in Him, a witness to His love. Water represents washing away of past sins, rising to a new life. 'An outward sign of an inward experience'.



Why Baptism? Because He first loved us – and gave Himself for us.

(from the magazine of Hainault Baptist Church)

Take A Letter

More than a quarter of all 7 to 14-year olds have not written a single letter in the past year. One in ten has never written a letter in their entire life. Yet about half of them in this age group regularly send emails or leave messages on a social networking site.

World Vision, who commissioned the recent poll, found that child education experts are concerned at these findings. It seems that many children are leaving primary school unable to even set out a letter. As one expert says: "If children do not write or receive letters, they miss out on key developmental benefits." A hand-written letter is more personal than an electronic message any day.

© Parish Pump

Route 66 – Spring Harvest 2011 *(A Personal Account)*

We set off for Spring Harvest on Saturday 9th April – ‘we’ being Tony, Beryl, Tricia and myself.

The sun shone and the sky was blue, a beautiful spring day. Everywhere was so green and fresh with plenty of lambs to see on the way, a perfect day for travelling. We stopped at Clacket Lane for coffee and at Leigh Delamere for lunch.



They say you learn something every day and that Saturday was no exception – when a certain person in the car is an expert in aviation, identifying anything with wings and an engine in the sky when it was still barely visible to the human eye!!

Our excitement rose a bit more as we drove further west and noticed once again the rich redness of the soil in this area (a lasting memory of my first visit to Spring Harvest).

We arrived on site and moved into our accommodation, which was decidedly luxurious compared to my previous experiences of Spring Harvest visits – we even had a bath in the bathroom! It was at this point that I realised I was spending the week with ‘rather posh people’!!!

As usual with Spring Harvest, the programme had plenty to offer but experience has taught us to pace ourselves lest we burn out by day 3! We were kind to ourselves by taking the afternoons off and it was on one such afternoon that in true Middle Wall Baptist style we indulged in the proverbial cream tea at the Chapel House Tea Room in Dunster village – delicious!

My days began with ‘The Big Start’ – 30 minutes of high energy all-age worship in the Big Top with worship leader Vicky Beeching – great way to wake up and I just loved to watch the children’s faces as they engaged in worship songs with actions and were entertained by the Lacey Theatre Company. Then it was on to bible reading sessions followed by the ‘Zones’ (which apply the teaching). There was an Afternoon Programme (this was where we rested, walked and ate cream tea). Next, it’s on to the Evening Celebrations and then, if you have any energy left, there was an After Hours late evening programme with music, drama and comedy, featuring great acts by the Lacey Theatre Company, Paul Field and Dan Wheeler, Abby Guinness and BeBe Vox (to name but a few) PHEW!!!

Butlins excelled themselves with the variety of food on offer – delicious!

There was a very funny case of mistaken identity in the food hall one evening when Tony (tongue in cheek) accused a woman of pushing in (at the custard pot), thinking it was one of their friends from Chadwell Heath, and when the woman turned round – it wasn’t!!!! Hilarious!

As many of you will know, Tony was quite poorly for most of our stay but in true Tony fashion remained stoic throughout and paced himself accordingly – my theory is that God’s plan was to ensure that he had a relaxing time this year and didn’t exert himself unduly (just wish He had made it a bit less uncomfortable for Tony). Although it was obvious how terrible he was feeling at times, we still had a lot of fun and fellowship together.

The journey home was equally as comfortable and entertaining – we passed Beryl’s son Richard in his Shell lorry on the M4 – I was amazed that we were in the same place at the same time. God really does work in mysterious ways.

I feel blessed to have spent such a lovely week with three very special people.

Thank you to Tony and Beryl for driving and to Tricia for being a ‘well good’ room-mate (*sorry, you had to be there to hear Gerard Kelly, but Tricia will understand!*)

Alison Oliver



If you have been inspired by Alison’s experiences, why not join us at Spring Harvest next year – see below for details or speak to Alison, Tricia, Beryl or Tony – *booking lines open on 15th June!*



www.springharvest.org/events/spring-harvest/



Pause For Thought

BBC Radio 2 – 26th April 2011

“Just last month, I visited Robben Island, the barren outcrop off the shore of Cape Town, where Nelson Mandela and others were imprisoned during South Africa’s apartheid era. It was here that together they planned a different – non-racist, non-violent – future for their country and people.



One of their great inspirations was Mahatma Gandhi, who Mandela described as a “moral genius”, adding that “his message of peace still holds the key to human survival in the 21st Century.”

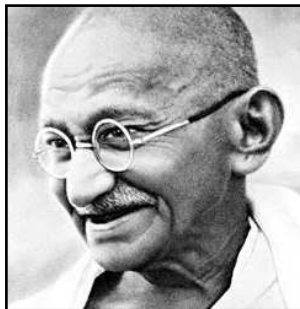
I’m half Indian – Gandhi has also been a real hero to me. The young 23 year old first arrived in South Africa back in 1893. But, within a week, he’d already collided head-on with racism and was thrown out of a ‘whites-only’ train compartment. Though his immediate response was to flee the country, instead

he stayed for 21 years to pioneer a strategy of non-violent resistance against the injustice around him.

Inspired by Jesus’ life and the Easter story we’ve just celebrated – particularly Jesus’ dying cry from the cross, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”, Gandhi called his strategy soul force. “In this cause I too am prepared to die” he said, “But my friends, there is no cause for which I am prepared to kill. Whatever they do to us we will attack no-one. Kill no-one... They will imprison us, they will fine us and they will seize our possessions. But... we will not strike a blow... and through our pain we will make them see their injustice... it will hurt, as all fighting hurts. But we cannot lose... they may torture my body, break my bones, even kill me. Then they will have my dead body, not my obedience...”

Gandhi claimed that Jesus’ radical words “*Love your enemies*” amount to the most admired and least practised piece of teaching in history. I think he was probably right. And I think that Nelson Mandela was right as well – love wins! Far from leaving us weak, this message, I believe, holds the key to human survival in the 21st Century.”

Steve Chalke MBE



This is the day the Lord has made



There’s a built-in danger in goal setting. What is it? It is believing that we’ll only be happy when we reach those goals. We tell ourselves, ‘When I graduate, get married, have children, own my own home’, and so on, so we keep postponing life.

A university professor tells of being invited to speak at a military base and meeting a soldier named Ralph at the airport. After they introduced themselves they headed towards baggage claim. As they walked down the concourse Ralph kept disappearing, once to help an older woman whose suitcase had fallen open, once to lift up two toddlers so they could see Santa Claus, and again to give directions to someone who was lost. Each time he came back with a big smile on his face. ‘Where did you learn to live like that?’ the professor asked. ‘Oh,’ Ralph said, ‘during the war, I guess.’

Then he told the professor about his last tour of duty, how it was his job to detect mines, and how he watched his friends blown up before his eyes, one after another. ‘I learned to live between steps,’ he said. ‘I never knew whether the next step would be my last so I learned to get everything I could out of the moment between when I picked up my foot and put it down again. Every step I took was a whole new world, and I guess I’ve been living that way ever since.’ Ralph had it right! To get the most out of living we must live by the Scripture: “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it’.

“The Word for Today” © UCB Media.co.uk

As Father’s Day Approaches (19th June) ...

“Fathers help you cope with stress” Fathers play a unique role in the mental health of their children later in life. Those who have had good relationships with their fathers tend to be less emotional when coping with stressful incidents. The study, carried out in California, concluded: *“Perhaps having attentive and caring parents equips children with the experiences and skills necessary to more successfully navigate their relationships with other people.”*

Another study, carried out in Britain, found that children with middle-class parents who are very busy with their careers can lose out on the traditional social interaction of family life and family meals. These children have greater difficulty in expressing themselves verbally.

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MISSION

Street Pastors

Caring, Listening, Helping

“Making a positive difference in the lives of young people”

‘Street Pastors’ is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and help. It was pioneered in London in 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now over 100 teams around the United Kingdom.

Each project is set up by the Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from local churches and community groups, including the Police, and Council.

“Street Pastors is about Christians rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in practically responding to the problems of crime and safety. They are like beacons on our streets and I want to see them shining brightly in every constituency”

David Burrowes MP

A Street Pastor is a Church leader/minister or member with a particular concern for young people and who is willing to engage people where they are - be it on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties etc.

As Street Pastors get to know people in the community they will find out their needs and what can be done to help. The presence of Street Pastors will earn credibility in the community, so that people know that the Church is there for them in a practical way. The role is not about preaching heaven and hell, but one of listening, caring and helping - working in an unconditional way.

To be a Street Pastor you need to be over 18 and able to commit to our training programme. Each Street Pastor team consists of at least three groups of four, each of which will work a minimum of one night a month, usually from 10pm to around 4am.

The Street Pastor Training Programme

Our training programme is designed to fully equip new Street Pastors to respond to the needs of all the people that they engage with on the streets. Training is normally 12 days spread over 5 months. We have training programmes running locally in all areas where there is a Street Pastor project and will give you a full awareness of today’s social problems including drugs and youth provision.

MATTERS

Supporting in Prayer

We believe, as followers of Jesus, that God has called us to the work of being Street Pastors - listening, caring and helping - following the example of Jesus himself, who could be said to be the original ‘Street Pastor’. Prayer for the work of all our teams and volunteers is vital. Among other things our prayers are for:

- a share of the compassion of God for people
- continued strength and motivation for this work
- spiritual resources of grace and love
- the safety and protection of all Street Pastors
- financial provision for the work
- God's guidance for the development of the work

“STREET PASTORS are the greatest thing since sliced bread!” declares Stu Clarke, Co-ordinator of Plymouth Street Pastors. “Down here in Plymouth, we’re grateful to the leaders at Ascension Trust for sharing the vision with us.”

Stu describes the excitement that enthused the meeting of some sixty Church leaders who met to discuss plans to initiate Street Pastors in Plymouth.

“When we launched,” said Stu. “Fifty people came forward for training and, after our commissioning service, forty-four of us went out on the streets that first night.

It has been fantastic so far! In our first three patrols we spoke to five hundred people and collected 250 bottles – ridding the streets of potential weapons.

We’ve since helped people with all sorts of problems, for example, one night, we found a man who was distraught because he had been thrown out of his matrimonial home. We were able to direct him to the Salvation Army Hostel. Another time a young girl asked us if we could wait with her until her cab arrived because she felt frightened. We provided that level of reassurance that she needed.

The support has been overwhelming from the police and other partners; from shop keepers and door staff at night clubs and from the party-goers themselves.

Our aim as Street Pastors is to create a presence on the streets from the churches, to make it known that the Church has left the building!

It is simply amazing to see how the Lord is working to accomplish these aims through our work.”

For more information, contact –

T: 01702 464628

E: prayer2@streetpastors.org.uk

W: www.streetpastors.co.uk



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

>the adventure begins here



Objective: *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.*

BB National News

Those of you who enjoyed the Royal Wedding may have noticed there was a crowd of boys from our fellow BB companies who were privileged to gain access to the youth enclosure on Horse Guards Parade. Once The Mall was prepared for the oncoming crowds, the Boys' Brigade (with the BB Anchor flag held high) marched in celebration right up to the gates of Buckingham Palace, along with other selected youth groups.

Anchor Boys

Our small group of lively Anchor Boys have been learning all about the concept of the universe. They can now tell you all about the Earth, its moon, the other planets, stars, galaxies and other astronomical facts about our amazing universe. There have also been discussions regarding temptation and the importance of believing in the Lord, a topic which raised some interesting but positive questions from all members of the section.

Junior Section

Unfortunately, due to a lack of boys, the 7 - 11 aged section is not currently running.

Company Section

The older boys have completed their First Aid course and the boys (as well as the officers) thoroughly enjoyed learning about how the body functions as well as common First Aid practices including burns, choking and what to do upon discovering an unconscious body(!) The spring programme was extremely varied and we would like to thank everybody who supported us, whether practically or through prayer, during this time.

Senior Section

In addition to the Company Section activities, the Seniors have also been preparing for a challenging walk which will see individuals walk from our church to a designated point in Wingham, crossing through five different terrains.



This year's 'Firm Foundations' (a Spring Harvest type event, run jointly by the Boys' and Girls' Brigades) is taking place this weekend (27-30 May). The theme, this year, is 'Tune in to the Message', and is taken from 2 Timothy 3:16. Two

officers and one boy are attending from our company and an account of what they experience will appear in the next edition of The Messenger.

This year's camp for Seniors will take place in July and will offer the boys an opportunity to stay with our sister companies within the Battalion at Belchamps Scout Centre near Hockley, in Essex. There is an assortment of activities lined up

for the boys including orienteering, bungee running, pole jousting, and many games involving a 6-foot high ball. As usual there will be lots of other activities which will see the boys getting very wet and muddy throughout the weekend!

Summer Programme

Once again, as the evenings become much lighter and warmer, we give Capt. Jim Parker a break from his bugle, and the cane used in our drill sessions by Lt. Peter Holgate (*for direction, not punishment!*) is secured in the cupboard until the start of a new Brigade session in September. The boys can dress in more informal attire ready for the physical items which see them running around the town like lost lemmings, hiking across the countryside in search for lost gold, and maybe even a paddle in the crystal clear lagoon waters of Whitstable! With even more challenges and games awaiting them, this should prove to be another good summer at the BB.

Recruitment

As ever, our company is always looking out for new recruits. If you know of any boys who are able to attend our Brigade sessions on a Wednesday, please speak to one of the officers, or contact us using the details found at the back of The Messenger.

Mathew 'Dan' Pay

Warrant Officer

A Big Thank You

Just to say a huge "thanks" to everyone for their kind words and encouragement on the Girls' Brigade 80th Celebration and my officer's award (10 years!). I find it very humbling to be a part of such a huge international organisation, and thank God for His continuing guidance and encouragement over the past years.



I feel very passionate about the way GB is forging ahead, and I know with God's help and encouragement we as a Company can reach out to spread the Good News to girls in our care.

If you were there on the 8th May you would have heard that GB is undergoing a modernisation, both in the badges and the weekly resources. It comes under three main new headings: "n:vestigate" for Explorers, "n:gage" for Juniors and "n:spire" for the older girls. These resource packs cost £50.00 each (something that would be impossible to pay for out of our Company's funds) so I plan to hold several fund raising activities during the coming months – more details will follow.

If you would like to support our Girls' Brigade Company in obtaining these new resources then please speak to either Steph, Pam, Alison Tracey, or me.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Jan Keen

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

May

29	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		17:30	Spring Harvest “Nuggets” – <i>including a Cream Tea!</i>
30	Monday		Spring Bank Holiday

June

1	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
2	Thursday	12:00	CAMEO* – <i>Lunch & Activities</i>
5	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
6	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
9	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Meeting
11	Saturday	14:00	Tea for “Abundant Life” @ <i>Elaine Leggett's home</i>
12	Sunday	10:30	CTiW Joint Service @ <i>Westmeads Recreation Ground</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
15	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
17	Friday	19:00	Listening Course – <i>part 2</i>
18	Saturday	19:00	Whitstable Festival of Male Voice Praise
19	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Father's Day, Church Anniversary & Gift Day</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
20	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
25	Saturday	14:00	Wedding of Hannah & Tom
26	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
29	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

3	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
4	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
7	Thursday	12:00	CAMEO* – <i>Lunch & Activities</i>
8	Friday	18:00	Westwatch Youth Weekend begins
9	Saturday	09:30	Ladies' Prayer Breakfast @ <i>Carole Holgate's home</i>
10	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
13	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
14	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Meeting
16	Saturday	tba	Social Event to “Wildwood”, Herne Bay
17	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – <i>Communion</i>
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
		19:30	Messenger Deadline – <i>see below</i>
18	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well”
24	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
27	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting
28	Thursday	19:30	Church Members' Meeting
31	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson

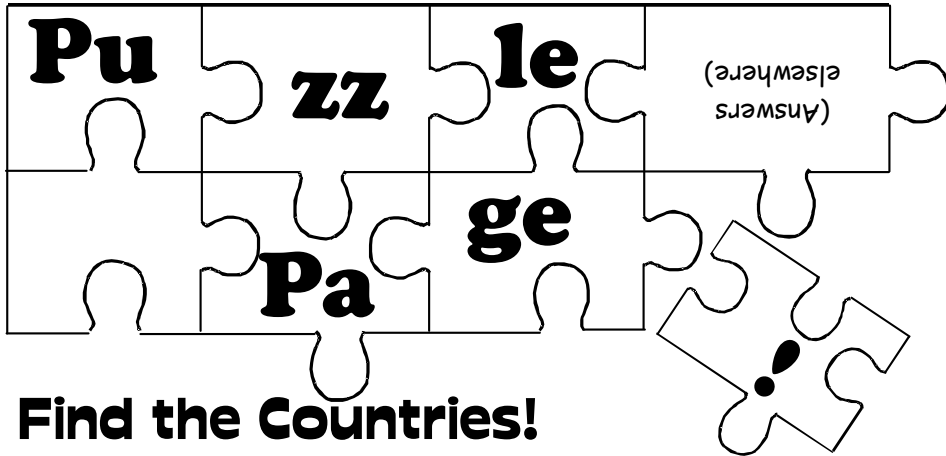
**Come And Meet Each Other*

Items for the next issue of *The Messenger* must be handed, posted, or preferably emailed, to either of us by **Sunday 17th July**

Thank you. Beryl & Tony Harris

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!**



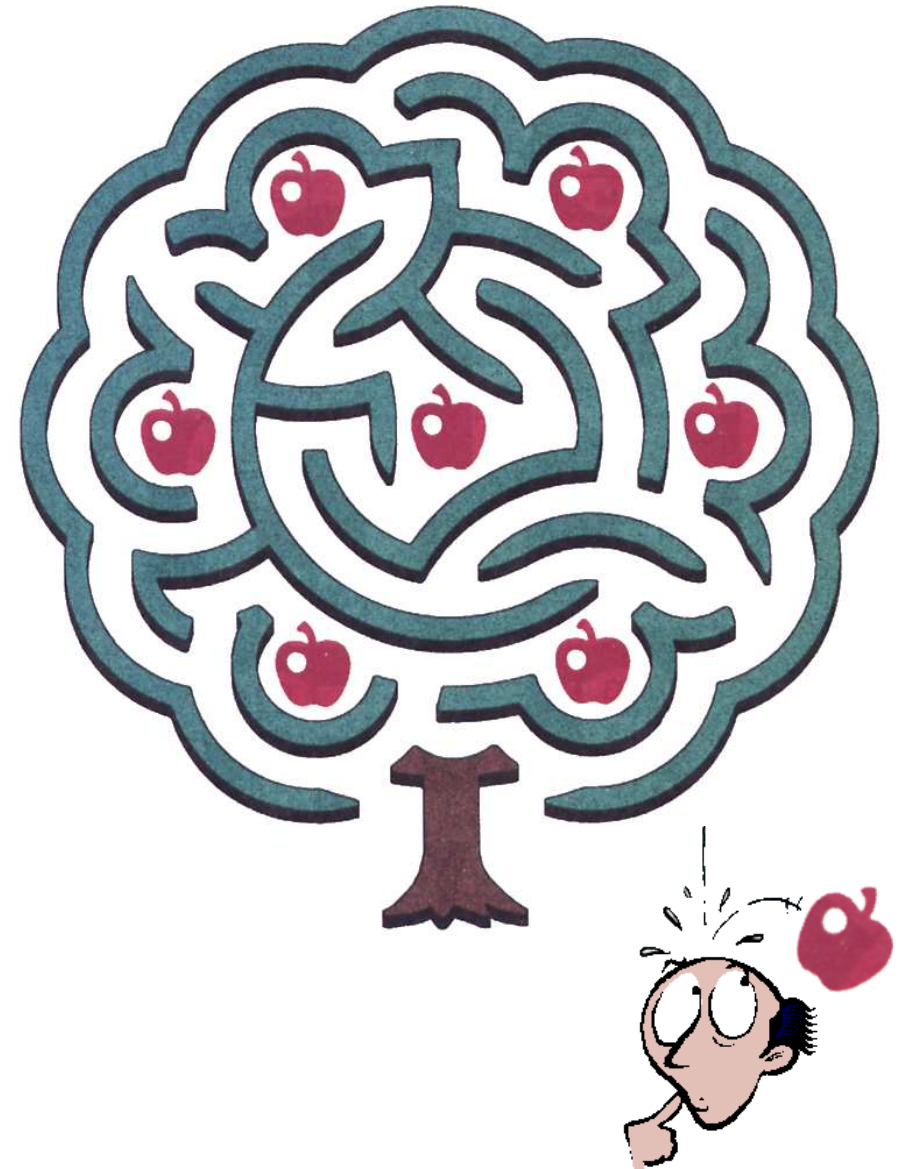
Find the Countries!

If you're going abroad for your holidays, this quiz should be easy!

1	Environmentally friendly country	
2	Follow E.M. Forster's passage	
3	Country with a fishy bit	
4	Need food?	
5	Don't cry for this one	
6	A seasonal bird	
7	A fresh gold coin especially made for African trade	
8	A straw hat	
9	You goose, you male?	
10	Moses led them out of here	
11	North eastern friend	
12	Is Ray the 12th letter?	
13	Place of cups, plates and dolls etc.	
14	A mixed reign	
15	Its cedars were used to build Noah's ark	
16	South before agony	
17	Paddington's birthplace	
18	Was once Persia	
19	Nothing in front of this fellow	
20	Advance to here in Monopoly	
21	Home of nuts and Emerson Fittipaldi	
22	A bit cold?	

An Apple Tree Maze!

Enter the maze at one of the two openings at the bottom, find a path that passes through all the apples, then exit through the other opening. Each path may only be used once!



“There’s Bad News and There’s Good News!”

Those were the words that greeted me when I arrived at Polar Helicopter’s base, at Manston Airport, one day in May. “Oh great”, I thought cynically, “my day has gone pear-shaped already and it’s only 10 o’clock!”

Rewind slightly: I had arranged to fly a 2-seat helicopter (*for the nerds, a Robinson R22*) and Beryl had come with me because she was nervous of me flying for the first time since my heart attack, 18 months ago. She didn’t intend to fly with me, she just wanted to be there when I got back and, as she didn’t want to wait on her own, we brought along a couple of good friends (Tricia and Janet) to hold her hands.

Back to the arrival scene: We had just done the greetings and introductions when my instructor did the “bad news/good news” bit. The “bad news” was that the 2-seat helicopter was out of action for maintenance. However, the “good news” was that I had been given a free upgrade to the 4-seat version (*R44*) with two spare seats! Beryl went slightly pale, Janet took a step backwards and Tricia did a remarkable impression of a dog with two tails! My day suddenly went a completely different shape!

So that’s how it was that, one lovely sunny morning, with Janet (and Malcolm) waving “goodbye”, I took to the lovely blue skies at the controls of a lovely little helicopter with a group of lovely ladies (*my instructor, also a lady, did the actual take-off although I did the rest*). It was lovely – really!

We followed the coast to Whitstable, then along the Swale estuary to the Kingsferry bridges (*Beryl said I had been watching too many Red Bull Air Races but I resisted the temptation to fly under the arches!*) We then turned southeast and followed the A2 to Dover (*my instructor said following the roads was “Cheating, not proper navigating” – but that’s the beauty of helicopters and, if you get really lost, you can always land and ask for directions – although men don’t do that!*) We made a slight diversion to fly over our house (*from 1500 feet you can’t see that the grass needs cutting!*) and then turned left round Dover Castle, which looked very impressive in the sunshine although the Channel was completely covered in fog – albeit very pretty from above!

All too soon (*for me*), we were back at Manston where I practised my (*very rusty*) skills at hovering for a few minutes before landing in front of Janet and Malcolm. I thought it was brilliant and I’m sure if you ask Beryl or Tricia they’ll say the same!

Tony Harris



Incidentally, in 1997, a Robinson R44 was piloted by Jennifer Murray for the first helicopter circumnavigation of the world by a woman, covering a distance of 36,000 miles in 97 days – not many people know that!

The Cross

A young man was in the deepest despair: Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer “Lord, I can’t go on,” he said. “I have too heavy a cross to bear.”

The Lord replied, “My son, if you can’t bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish.”

The man was filled with relief and said, “Thank you Lord.” and he did as he was told.

Upon entering the second room, he saw many crosses; some so large the tops were not visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall.

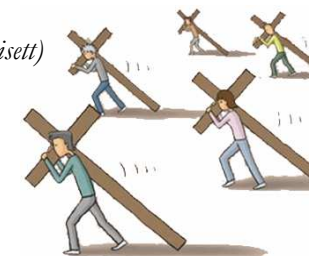
“I’d like that one, Lord” he whispered. The Lord replied, “My son, that is the cross you just brought in.”

When life’s problems seem overwhelming, it may help to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined.

Your Cross

Whatever your cross
 Whatever your pain
 There will always be sunshine
 After the rain
 Perhaps you may stumble
 Perhaps even fall
 But God’s always there
 To help you through it all

(Submitted by Margaret Hunnisett)



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(for your article!)

*Why not tell us about your holiday, that book you read,
film you saw, place you went...?*

“And lo... Dot Com did beget the net”

You might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the true story...

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham: ‘Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?’

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said: ‘How, dear?’

And Dot replied: ‘I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah’s Pony Stable (UPS).

But to prevent neighbouring countries overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot did devise a system only she and the drummers knew called “Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and a language to transmit ideas and pictures – Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

But all this did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham’s drum and siphoned off some of Abraham’s business. But he was arrested – for insider trading.

And the young men did take to Dot Com’s trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS for short .

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought out every drum maker in the land, and indeed did insist on drums that would work only with Brother Gates’ drumsticks.

And Dot did say: ‘Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others.’ And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or Ebay as it was known, and said: ‘We need a name that reflects what we are.’

And Dot replied: ‘Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators’. ‘Yahoo’, said Abraham.

Abraham’s cousin, Joshua, a Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK), did use Dot’s drums to locate things around the countryside. It became known as God’s Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

And that is how it all began!

(Brian Wells, Whitley Bay – via the Daily Mail) Submitted by Janet Payne



A Letter from Llandudno

We are all (three) recovering from unexpected bad colds. Wendy has been with us for 6 weeks now. She is looking for a job and a flat but we visualise her being with us for a while yet. We greatly value prayer, especially as Wendy has problems to resolve such as UK Widow Pension, which is very slow in materialising.

We have enjoyed some lovely sunny days for several weeks, as well as a bit of welcome rain just lately.

The Welsh General Election has brought in a lot of new faces. The Government (Welsh Assembly) has more powers on decision now so, hopefully, these will be wisely used.

St. David's church is alive and good and growing in Christ as well. We hope to come to Whitstable about 23rd June for a week or two. It will be good to see you all. We are on email and Skype now. We Skype Lucy occasionally.

We also check into Middle Wall on the Web, and enjoy it. I (Paul) am doing a bit on the computer now, having had a few lessons!

2 Corinthians 1 vv 3 and 4 are being a good blessing to us just now. So too is 2 Corinthians 6 v 10 and many passages from God's marvellous written word.

God bless you all at Middle Wall. With our love,
Paul and Margaret.

PS: Thank you for all your prayers.



Are You Nature Deficient?

Do you remember climbing trees, making daisy chains and playing conkers? Chances are that you are over 34. It seems that the younger generation is increasingly deprived of everyday outdoor experiences.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which commissioned the study, believes that children kept indoors too much end up with "Nature Deficiency Disorder."

© Parish Pump

Holiday Fun!

Recipe (1) - Play Dough

Why not make this simple, old-fashioned recipe for play dough for the children or grandchildren? It will keep them occupied for a while during the summer holidays. You may already have the few necessary ingredients in your cupboard:

1 cup of salt
1½ cups of flour
Half a cup of water
2 tablespoons of cooking oil
Colouring (optional)



That's it really! Just mix it all together (with your hands - that's the fun bit), put it in a polythene bag or plastic container and mark it up. Keep it in the fridge and it can be used time and time again and they can make all sorts of things with it. You may want to have an apron of some sort handy and maybe a rolling pin and some cutters. It's entirely up to you. Use some imagination and have fun - I'm sure they will!

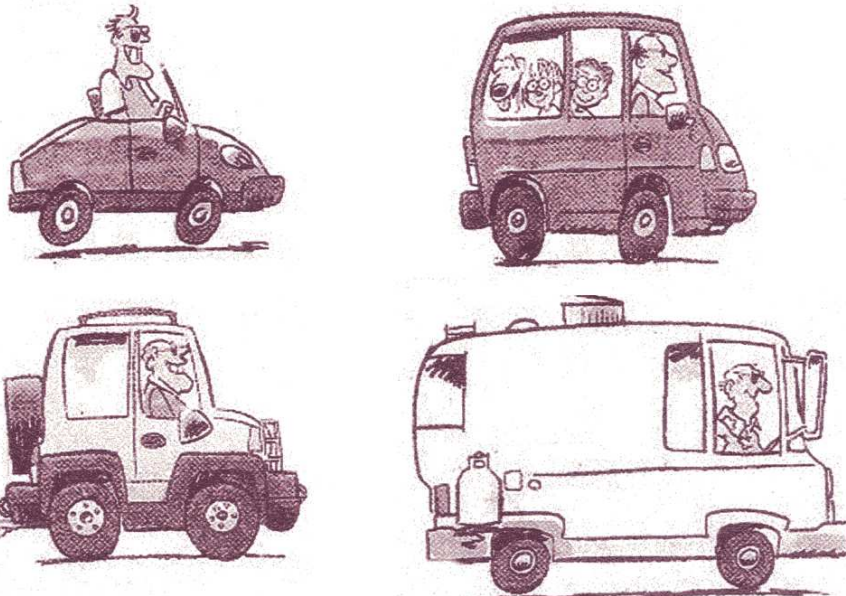
Recipe (2) - Melting Moments

4 ozs Self Raising Flour
2 ozs granulated sugar
2 ozs margarine
1 egg
Some porridge oats, cornflakes or similar
A few cherries

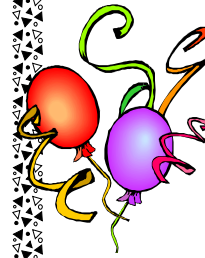


Beat sugar and fat
Mix in the beaten egg and 1 teaspoon of the flour
Fold in remaining flour
Roll into 12 balls
Roll the balls in the oats or crushed cornflakes
Top with half a cherry
Bake for 15 minutes on Gas Mark 4 (180°C/325°F)

The Wheels of Life



(Submitted by Doreen Terrell)



Birthday greetings to:-

Paul Stark 28th June
 Pam Tyler 3rd July
 June Gluning 22nd July

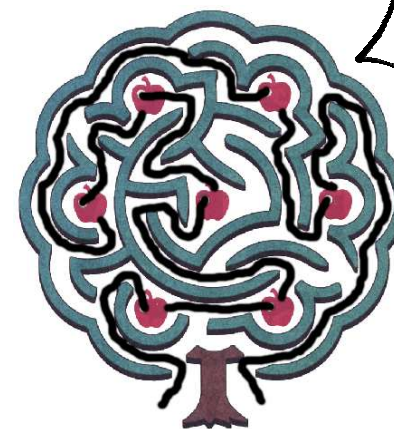
BMS Birthday Scheme

Supporting the work of the Baptist Missionary Society

Answers to Puzzles (Pages 14/15)

Countries: 1 Greenland, 2 India, 3 Finland, 4 Hungary, 5 Argentina, 6 Turkey, 7 New Guinea, 8 Panama, 9 Uganda, 10 Egypt, 11 Nepal, 12 Israel, 13 China, 14 Monaco, 15 Lebanon, 16 Spain, 17 Peru, 18 Iran, 19 Oman, 20 Togo, 21 Brazil, 22 Iceland.

Apple Tree Maze: See below



The dog's been on ebay again!

Beryl's Back! (page 4)

Opportunity Knocks

A few ominous clouds in the sky but otherwise the perfect day for a helicopter flying lesson. Tony was going to take to the skies over Manston again, the first time since his heart operation, and I was nervous. Tricia and Janet kindly came along with the intention of plying me with plenty of nerve-settling cups of tea. At Hangar 10 we were cheerfully greeted by the female instructor who we know quite well and whose handshake was accompanied by the words "I've got bad news and good news. The bad news is that the 2-seater Robinson is out of action. The good news is that we are willing to give you a free upgrade to a 4-seater. The even better news is that 2 extra passengers can fly, free of charge!" I was standing there with my feet firmly planted on the ground, just where I like them to be, but she was looking at me and I could read the expectancy. Why would I refuse such an opportunity?

What better offer could a woman who suffers with panic attacks want than to be swept off her feet by the man she loves, shoved in a space smaller than a broom cupboard, lifted up by a couple of flimsy-looking rotor blades, and then suspended over land and sea for an hour? Conversely, Tricia, who, as many of you will know, is a seasoned sky-traveller, was finding it hard to contain her excitement!

There followed a brief discussion (if three women can have a brief discussion!) and it was decided that I would accompany Tony and his instructor, Tricia would accompany me as chief nerve-steadier, and Janet would go and drink several cups of calming tea.

To cut a rather long story short, it was a fantastic experience but, more importantly than that, I had taken an opportunity that would probably never 'arise' again. What was going through my mind as I struggled to fill it with anything and everything was the fact that, throughout our lives, we all have opportunities and we so often let them pass us by: not just things of pleasure, but the chance to be God's hands, feet, voice and heart. I want my prayer each morning to be "Lord, give me opportunities today, the eyes to recognise them, the will to fulfil them and your love within me to enrich the lives of others. The grace not to criticise but to encourage, not to be weighed down with my own concerns but, by my actions, to lift others to heights of joy and fulfilment". Amen.

Beryl Harris

Bible Study Groups:		
Geoff Rothery	265276	biblestudy@middlewall.co.uk
BMS Birthday Scheme:		
June Gluning	771187	birthdays@middlewall.co.uk
Boys' Brigade:		
Jim Parker (<i>Captain</i>)	275777	bb@middlewall.co.uk
Children's Advocate:		
Pam Tyler	791559	advocate@middlewall.co.uk
Children's Representatives:		
June & Ray Jones	772997	juneray@orpheus.fsnet.co.uk
Choral Group:		
Ray Jones	772997	juneray@orpheus.fsnet.co.uk
Deacons:		
Andrew Frame	794489	andrew.frame6@aol.com
Elaine Leggett	793373	mel.elaine@yahoo.co.uk
Janet Payne (<i>Treasurer</i>)	264186	treasurer@middlewall.co.uk
Jean Rothery (<i>Secretary</i>)	265276	secretary@middlewall.co.uk
Michael Hunnisett	261263	hunnisett2@talktalk.net
Peter Holgate	779173	holgate.peter@sky.com
Rita Coombs	262608	
Tony Harris	780969	asharris@talktalk.net
Girls' Brigade:		
Stephanie Gilder (<i>Captain</i>)	264884	gb@middlewall.co.uk
Messenger:		
Tony & Beryl Harris	780969	messenger@middlewall.co.uk
Minister:		
Rev Paul Wilson	273849	minister@middlewall.co.uk
Minister's PA:		
Margaret Frame	794489	pa@middlewall.co.uk
Secretary:		
Jean Rothery	265276	secretary@middlewall.co.uk
Treasurer:		
Janet Payne	264186	treasurer@middlewall.co.uk
Website:		
Tony Harris	780969	webmaster@middlewall.co.uk
Worship Group:		
Jean Rothery	265276	stiroat@tiscali.co.uk
Young People's Groups:		
Anne Wilson	273849	ypf@middlewall.co.uk

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