

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2011
THE MESSENGER



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the magazine of

WHITSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH

MIDDLE WALL

Minister's Letter

August – September 2011

Dear Friends,

**'If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast'**

Psalm 139 vs 9-10

As a family we are so delighted that Annabelle has returned safely from her ten-week spell in Jamaica. Whilst it is known to be a very beautiful island, reports on Jamaica frequently highlight its precarious economy and its Yardie, drug-related violence. However, as I know from growing up in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, things are rarely as bad as presented in the Press. Fortunately, this was also the case in Jamaica as far as Annabelle's experiences were concerned. She had a fantastic time in every respect and she has been enthusing us with reports of its glorious beaches, lush countryside and wonderful mountains. The Jamaican people proved very warm, hospitable and friendly. She met lots of Christians and had the opportunity of worshipping at her host family's lively church. Although she didn't witness any hurricanes herself, she trusts that her work on the hurricane preparedness project might in some measure prove helpful. She did experience torrential rains and saw something of the landslide damage that often results from such tropical rainstorms. These experiences and her research will provide her with very relevant material for her final year dissertation.

All of this makes us really appreciative of God's goodness towards Annabelle during her time away from us 'on the far side of the sea'. Many of you have watched young ones grow up and launch out on their own. Since her trip to New Zealand and Japan a couple of years ago, I've been learning to trust Annabelle into God's hands. Dads often find this especially difficult with daughters! We need special grace to cope with the letting go and wisdom in relating to adult children in a truly positive and helpful manner.

In Psalm 139, David rejoices in the Lord's omnipresence, watchfulness and providence. The psalmist's comings and goings are an open book to God and, wherever he finds himself, he discovers that

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hope you enjoy it!

Contd.

God is already there. Even if he could fly or sail away beyond the horizon, he acknowledges that there is no escaping God's Spirit. He is literally hemmed in by divine love. For David this is overwhelming, for it testifies to God's majestic power as well as to God's amazing interest in him. At no point, however, does he interpret this as God intruding, imposing or interfering in his life. In fact the psalm reflects the dignity of choice that God has assigned to us as human beings. God knows us through and through but does not force Himself upon us. He allows us to encounter His love and care, but waits for us to seek and fully involve Him in our lives. He longs for a deep relationship with us – one based on transparency and love. David delights in God's nearness and protection. He welcomes God's searching gaze and guiding hand. He knows that this loving divine interest guarantees that God will deal with any offensive things in his life in a merciful way and will lead him in 'the way everlasting'.

Over the summer period we are thinking in some morning services about our Christian pilgrimage. I trust these reflections might inspire us on our own pilgrimage to trust God and to open up our lives to Him.

Your friend and pastor,



Rev Paul Wilson



Thank You...

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers and the support given to us both in so many ways, including over the past few months when moving home and coping with a broken arm have been particularly trying!

With love,

Carole & Peter Holgate

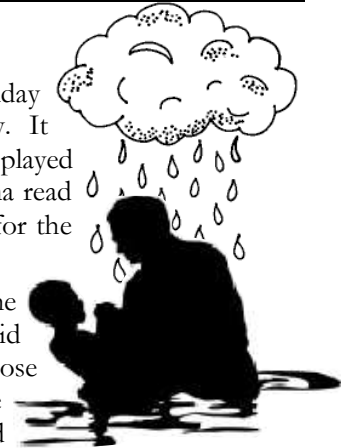
The Day It Rained

Our great nephew, Connor, was baptised on Sunday 5th June. Let me jog your memory about that day. It was the Sunday Malcolm led our services, Daniel played his sax as our pianists were all away, and Christina read the Call to Worship – thank you to each of you for the part you played in our services that day.

It was also The Day It Rained! And where was the baptism to take place? On the beach! Not only did it rain – we onlookers were nearly as wet as those being baptised – but the wind was so strong there were three people baptising each candidate and they had to time it right between each enormous wave!

Why am I telling you this? Well, really as an encouragement story because there were ten people being baptised and one of the others was Elaine (Davis), who with her sister, Carolyn, came through our youth group some 25 years ago. Some seeds are sown and take a long time to come to fruition so to all of you who work with our young people in any capacity, thank you and keep sowing!

Tricia Price



Thank You...

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers over the past year. It has been a very long twelve months with the passing of Tony and then having open heart surgery last August. I am pleased to let you know that I have been given the all-clear so I am able to get back to a normal life.

My daughters, Carol and Kay, and son-in-law, Stan, have been looking after me since the operation and I don't know what I would have done without them – I am so lucky to have them. Carol and Stan have gone back to London for a rest and Kay has moved in with me.

I would especially like to thank Paul for his visits and Jim for bringing me the tapes of the services each week. The girls have tried to teach me how to listen to the services from the internet but I fear that it may be one new trick too many for this old dog!

With all my love,

Barbara Milsted

CAMEO 3-Day Summer Holiday-at-Home

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 2/3/4 August 2011

How do you fancy a holiday break with no packing or travel?

Join us at our superb new local venue, Whitstable Castle, where, for a donation of £3 per day, you can relax and enjoy a virtual holiday with friends.

Tuesday ~ Imagine flying to Africa: sample the colour, the food, and maybe even go on Safari! We can't guarantee the heat, but we'll do our best to make it lots of fun!

Wednesday ~ In no time at all you'll be in Wales. Tour a stately home (the Castle!), engage with the culture, language and national dress, and maybe even climb Snowdon the easy way!

Thursday ~ Cruise the Mediterranean! Experience life on the ocean wave, and imagine visiting one of the truly historic cities of biblical times.

You can choose to come one, two, or all three days – it's really up to you.

A light lunch will be provided on Tuesday; Wednesday will be a picnic (bring your own); and Thursday's lunch is a buffet (provided). On any day you are welcome to dine in the Castle Orangery but this will be at your own extra cost.

Each day starts at the Castle at 11:30am and ends by 2:30pm.

The new Castle is fully disability compliant and accessible by lift.

In keeping with our normal ways, nothing will be too strenuous!

So why not book up? You'll be able to have a different holiday experience each day whilst staying in one place! There's room for more people so you might like to book a friend in too for a great relaxing time together – it'll be good fun!

Booking is essential – please contact Mr Alan Mitchell at 3 Gloucester Road, Whitstable, CT5 2DS, 01227 261154.

The small print: Each day's holiday details may change without notice. The holiday will take place even in bad weather. All activity is optional, but please come prepared to join in. The organisers hope you have a jolly good time!

CAMEO is a partnership run jointly by
Whitstable Baptist Church and
Harbour Street Christian Fellowship



The Cross in My Pocket

by Mrs Verna Mae Thomas

*I carry a cross in my pocket
a simple reminder to me
of the fact that I am a Christian
no matter where I may be.*

*This little cross is not magic
nor is it a good luck charm.
it isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm.*

*It's not for identification
for all the world to see.
it's simply an understanding
between my Saviour and me.
When I put my hand in my pocket
to bring out a coin or a key
the cross is there to remind me
of the price He paid for me.*

*It reminds me, too, to be thankful
for my blessings day by day
and to strive to serve Him better
in all that I do and say.*

*It's also a daily reminder
of the peace and comfort I share
with all who know my Master
and give themselves to His care.*

*So, I carry a cross in my pocket
reminding no-one but me
that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
if only I'll let Him be.*



Church Membership – Going Down!

The recently published volume “UK Church Statistics 2005-2015” gives some up-to-date information about the church in this country. In 2005 there were 5.8 million church members in the UK, some 12.3% of the adult population. By 2010 this had dropped to 5.5 million or 11.2% of the adult population. If present trends continue, this will most likely be 5.2 million in 2015 or 10.3% of the adult population.

So, while the English church membership drops a projected 2% in the ten years 2005 to 2015, Welsh membership drops 23%, Scottish membership 32% and N. Ireland membership drops 24%, all massively greater than the predicted decline in England. Why the difference?

One possible answer is that, in England, the largest two denominations – the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church – are declining much more slowly now than they used to. This is partly because of the numbers of Fresh Expressions being started in the Church of England, and the influx of over half a million Roman Catholic Polish immigrants into the UK in the last few years.

In addition, there are some growing denominations in England, which compensate for the serious decline in Methodist and United Reformed Church numbers. As well as rapid growth in the black Pentecostal churches, the New (or House) Churches are growing, as is the Orthodox Church. Collectively these three denominational groups are predicted to grow by a third between 2005 and 2015 against the overall decline of 11% for the others, making the overall decline 2%, as noted above.

So what does this mean? The growing denominations in England are starting new churches which are not just a replication of the old, but an adventure into re-expression and relevance in this new century. The average congregation may be getting smaller, but more units, or church plants, are being started. It is this which is making the key difference.

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Clock This!

Almost a quarter of children aged 10 to 12 cannot read an analogue clock face – they tell the time from their mobile phones. This change in culture has led to a huge fall in the number of people buying children’s watches on the online auction site ebay.co.uk – sales have slumped by 37.5% within the past year alone!

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Remember Me?

Alfred Nobel was born in 1833 in Stockholm, Sweden, and trained as a chemist. He was a proficient linguist, speaking six languages, and a prolific inventor. He held more than 350 different patents and went on to invent dynamite (*first demonstrated in a quarry near Redhill, Surrey*) as well as to build a multi-million fortune for himself. He owned the Bofors company which originally produced steel and iron but which he developed to become one of the world’s biggest manufacturers of cannon and other armaments.

But in 1888, an extraordinary event was to shape Nobel’s legacy. One morning he woke up to read about his own death in the Press. A leading French newspaper had mistakenly published an obituary for him with the title “The Merchant of Death is Dead”. (*It was actually Alfred’s brother, Ludvig, that had died.*)

So horrified was Alfred by this depiction of his life’s work, that he set about creating a new will which, when published after his own death eight years later, changed the world’s view of his life.

In it, he left the vast majority of his fortune to establish a set of annual awards to honour men and women who make an outstanding contribution to benefit humanity – in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and, of course, most famous of all – the Nobel Peace Prize!

You are very unlikely to have the opportunity to read your own obituary, but, just like Alfred Nobel, you write the story you will be remembered by every day of your life. Day by day, year by year, you are writing your legacy line by line. What will you be remembered for?

(adapted from Steve Chalk’s recent “Thought for the Day” on BBC Radio2)

Just a thought!

Eternal life does not begin with death, it begins with faith.

Sam Shoemaker (1893-1963)

MISSION

FAIRTRADE

Guarantees a **better deal** for Third World Producers

What is Fairtrade

FAIRTRADE IS...

a simple way each of us can make a difference through our everyday choices. It's about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade aims to enable the poorest farmers and workers to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

THE FAIRTRADE MARK MEANS THAT...

- ◆ A minimum price is paid to Fairtrade producers covering their costs of production.
- ◆ The producers receive an additional Fairtrade premium, an extra amount of money to invest in their communities on economic, social or environmental projects.
- ◆ Workers on farms also get rights under Fairtrade like decent wages and they are allowed to join unions.
- ◆ Producers in Fairtrade co-operatives always get a democratic say in decisions – women included.

Incidentally, in case you hadn't realised, the Fairtrade Mark (*see opposite*) is the silhouette of a man waving over a green field under a blue sky!

THE FAIRTRADE PREMIUM...

On top of the agreed Fairtrade minimum price, producers also receive the Fairtrade premium. How it's spent is voted on democratically by farmers or workers. This is development as decided by the people who will benefit from it. After all, they're the ones best placed to make it work the hardest. Roads have been laid, nurseries equipped and helpful new tools have been put to work all thanks to the Fairtrade premium.

The Fairtrade premium allows farmers and workers the breathing space to invest in new ways of doing things, to combat an unpredictable climate for example. At Cocafe they have invested in ovens fired by the coffee bean shells, making a

MATTERS

saving on their fuel bills. For the Cocafe coffee co-operative Fairtrade was the difference between staying on their land or moving to find jobs in the city.

“Without Fairtrade we would probably have gone out of business during the coffee crisis.”

Gerardo Camacho, Cocafe, Costa Rica.

As part of the Fairtrade standards, women farmers and workers have a voice in decision-making in their communities. Like all Fairtrade co-operatives, Bintu's group discusses together what the Fairtrade premium is invested in. One of the projects they've picked to invest in is adult literacy. So, after a day in the fields tending the Fairtrade cotton that goes into sheets, socks, jeans, school uniform and underwear, the women of Bintu's co-operative are back at school learning how to read and write. Now that's something that never goes out of fashion.

“Fairtrade has bought lots of changes to women's lives... we have a voice and we are listened to... it is changing the status of women generally in the community.”

Bintu Dambile, cotton farmer, Mali.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- ◆ Whenever you see the little mark with the big story, choose Fairtrade! Shops, cafes, cinemas, railway stations – you'll be surprised where you can find it
- ◆ And if you can't see it, just ask nicely. It's amazing what a simple “Fairtrade please!” can do.
- ◆ Be chatty. Tell friends and family about the difference Fairtrade makes.
- ◆ Fairtrade coffee's only the start. There are thousands of things to buy that are Fairtrade – cotton clothes, gorgeous bouquets, and juicy fruit all year round.
- ◆ Look for the Mark all year round.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Sign up for news, giveaways and latest actions at fairtrade.org.uk – join us on [facebook.co.uk/fairtrade](https://www.facebook.com/co.uk/fairtrade), or follow us on twitter@[fairtradeuk](https://twitter.com/fairtradeuk).

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

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T: 020 7405 5942



Reading the Bible

Some advice on books to help read the Bible for all its worth

The best book to read to help you read the Bible is the Bible itself. It is its own interpreter. So, for example, the New Testament apostles, as taught by Jesus himself, were always going to the Old Testament (the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms – Luke 24:44-47) in order that they might know Jesus more fully, and grow in love, faith and hope.

Reading widely

Books that will help you read the Bible widely – that is, all sixty-six books.

‘Sometimes we are told that the Bible is a library made up of many kinds of writing: poems and hymns, sermons and letters, visions and dreams, genealogical lists and historical chronicles, moral teaching and admonition and proverbs. And, of course, story. But that is not the way it is. It is all embedded in story... It takes the whole Bible to read any part of the Bible’ (Eugene Peterson, “Eat This Book”).

Try one of the many schemes for reading the whole Bible in a year (or two). Robert Murray McChyne’s is the most famous (available from the Pocket Testament League or from UCCF). And so that you don’t miss the wood for the trees, try reading alongside it one of the many recent books that seek to give an overview of the Bible. Ed Clowney shows us our need for this: ‘There are great stories in the Bible... but it is possible to know Bible stories, yet miss the Bible story... The Bible has a story line. It traces an unfolding drama. The story follows the history of Israel, but it does not begin there, nor does it contain what you would expect in a national history... If we forget the story line... we cut the heart out of the Bible.’

Sunday School stories are then told as tamer versions of the Sunday comics, where Samson substitutes for Superman. David becomes a Hebrew version of Jack the Giant Killer. No, David is not a brave little boy who isn’t afraid of the big bad giant. He is the Lord’s anointed... God chose David as a king after His own heart in order to prepare the way for David’s great Son, our Deliverer and Champion. Of books like this, Vaughan Roberts’ “God’s Big Picture” is among the best.

If you want to help not only yourself, but also all your friends at church, why not buy “Christ-Centred Preaching”, by Bryan Chapell, for your pastor, so that whatever part of the Bible you are in on a Sunday you are being pointed to Jesus, your need of His grace, and your part and joy in His coming kingdom.

Reading deeply

Books that will help you read the Bible deeply.

Go to your local Christian bookshop and choose a commentary on one book of the Bible, so that as you read it you can see how others have understood and applied the passage. “The Bible Speaks Today” series may be the best place to start, or ask your minister what he would recommend.

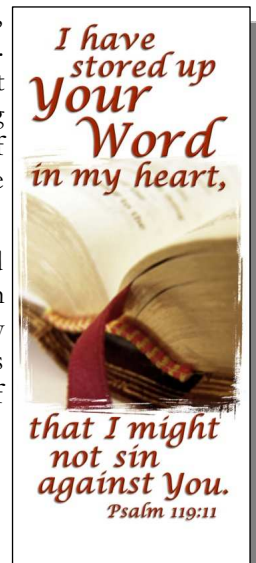
Choose a verse or passage to meditate on for the day (or for the week if you are a busy person), so that you hear God’s word for you personally, so that you feed on it and delight in it, and understand why the Psalmist got so excited in Psalm 119.

In “Eat This Book”, Eugene Peterson explains the importance of this: ‘When we merely hear words we take them in as information and it acts upon our wills like a puppeteer on a puppet. But words that are tasted, chewed, savoured, swallowed and digested become interior to our lives and are lived out in practices of prayer, acts of obedience, ways of love.’ He likens this activity to that of his small pet dog with a very large bone: ‘Anyone who has owned a dog knows the routine: he would prance and gambol playfully before us with his prize, wagging his tail, proud of his find, courting our approval. And of course, we approved: we lavished praise, telling him what a good dog he was. But after a while, sated with our applause, he would drag the bone off twenty yards or so to a more private place, usually the shade of a large moss-covered boulder, and go to work on the bone. The social aspects of the bone were behind him; now the pleasure became solitary. He gnawed the bone, turned it over and around, licked it, worried it. Sometimes we could hear a low rumble or growl, what in a cat would be a purr. He was obviously enjoying himself and in no hurry. After a leisurely couple of hours he would bury it and return the next day to take it up again. An average bone lasted about a week.’

Eugene Peterson goes on to say that the word translated elsewhere as ‘meditate’ is used by Isaiah (Isaiah 31:4) of a lion growling over its prey. The way the lion growled over its prey, and the dog worried its bone, is the way we are to meditate on the Book of the Law day and night.

Alan Black

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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

August

2	Wednesday	11:30	CAMEO* at the Castle – see page 4 for more information
3	Thursday	11:30	CAMEO* at the Castle " "
4	Friday	11:30	CAMEO* at the Castle " "
7	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson – Communion
10	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – Everyone Welcome!
13	Saturday	tba	Walking Club Outing
14	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
21	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – Communion
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
24	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – Everyone Welcome!
28	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson



MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

4	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – Communion
		16:30	“Songs of Praise” service at URC
7	Wednesday	10:00	Prayer Meeting – Everyone Welcome!
8	Thursday	10:00	Deacons' Meeting
		12:00	CAMEO* – Lunch & Activities
11	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		13:00	SEBA Kent Cluster Meeting – Dover Baptist Church
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
12	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well” – All Ladies Welcome
18	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson – Communion
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
		19:30	Messenger Deadline – see below
21	Wednesday	10:00 - 20:00	Day of Prayer
22	Thursday	19:30	Church Members' Meeting
24	Saturday	tba	Walking Club Outing
25	Sunday	10:45	Rev Paul Wilson
		18:30	Rev Paul Wilson
26	Monday	10:00	“Women at the Well” – All Ladies Welcome

**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 18th September**

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

News Flash!

If you have an event to put on the church calendar, please see Jean Rothery or Margaret Frame in the first instance. They are able to pass any requests for the use of the church halls on to the diaconate, as well as updating the website calendar. Help us to keep everyone in the picture as to what is going on!

Just for fun!



Can you find 30 books of the Bible in this passage?

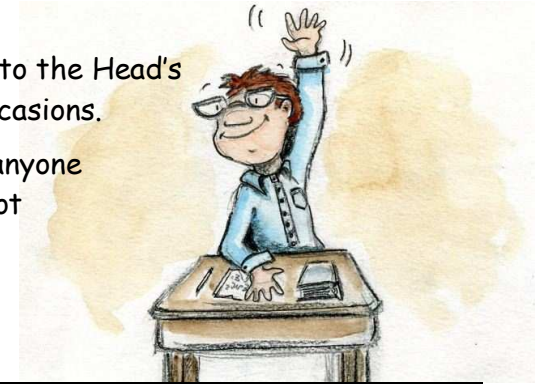
This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam; especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alph Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, 'the books are right there in plain view hidden from sight.' Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Teacher's Pet!

James trudges off to school each morning with his books but he rarely does homework, and he doesn't achieve high marks in tests either. There are 36 children in his class and 35 are good students. Why does James never get into trouble?

Clues:

- 1) James is always polite.
- 2) James has been called into the Head's office on a number of occasions.
- 3) James is not related to anyone at the school and he is not a special student.



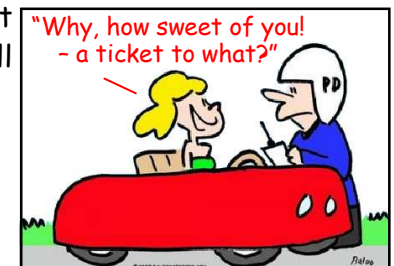
Just the ticket!

A policeman stopped a lady motorist and asked to see her licence. He said, "Lady, it says here that you should be wearing glasses."

The woman replied, "Well, I have contacts."

The policeman replied, "I don't care who you know, you're still getting a ticket!"

(Submitted by Paul Wilson)



Book Review

"PRAYER" by Philip Yancey
Reviewed (partially) by Malcolm Hardie



How can you review a book when you are only halfway through? Well... I saw it on top of a row of books when visiting a friend's house and I started reading it by dipping into it in various places, in no particular order, to see what it was like and then the offer to borrow was too good to resist. So, now back to the beginning to do it properly.

Yancey is blunt; he tackles the subject head on but in his usual thoughtful and open style. The Appendices include Sources Cited and the list covers most of twenty pages. He must be one of the best-read Christian writers around today, bringing in quotations from other writers around the globe: Christian, those of 'other faiths' and those of none with their observations on this subject. And as an interesting adjunct, he shares in separate blocks throughout the book, the testimonies, examples, experiences and thoughts of friends, previous reader contacts and others who had either written to him on the subject or who were responding to his research questionnaires. This gives the book an added dimension. It turns it into something of a time-machine on experiential prayer. You can journey out with others, back in their time past and then back to Yancey with his attempt to comprehend and unravel the vastness of the subject.

This is a book to savour – not to rush. I found myself picking it up, reading sometimes just a paragraph, perhaps a page or two, even a sentence and then putting it down to think or reflect – or to pray. Rushing will not get you anywhere fast as it is 319 pages long inside a large format paperback.

This book's accessibility is of a high order. If the subject is difficult as Yancey says, he does his best to help the reader and he divides it into five sections: Keeping Company with God, Unravelling the Mysteries, The Language of Prayer, Prayer Dilemmas and The Practice of Prayer.

He poses interesting questions from his typical, writer-inquisitive, point of view:

'It occurred to me one day that though I often worry about whether or not I sense the presence of God, I give little thought to whether God senses the presence of me.'

A quarter through and he had got me angry. I was almost in agreement with him that prayer didn't work because it could not possibly work and there was no good reason why it should work. I didn't like that! But the writer includes regularly, as a continual counter, the nagging examples from the life of Jesus. He often returns to what Jesus said about prayer. And most of all, what Jesus DID about prayer. If He did it, irrespective of the pressures present on Him at any given moment, then it must work both for Jesus and for us.

My anger abated relatively quickly – over the space of several days and another 50 or so pages. Then comes Chapter 13 and this seems pivotal: getting practical with Prayer Grammar. It opens with an interesting observation about learning to talk from babyhood but then starts to steer the reader into practical help for *doing* prayer. As I write, that's as far as I have got.

On the strength of 175 out of 319 pages, Yancey deserves to be one of the most-read Christian writers today. I have a photographer friend who every now and then urges me to get some accessory or gadget. "It will change your life", he claims. So what are my views on Philip Yancey's *Prayer* thus far? Get this book. Read this book. Pray more. Pray more deeply.

Now, dare I write, 'It will change your life'? Er, ... yes. Probably, it will!

"Prayer" by Philip Yancey is published (2006) by Hodder & Stoughton and has a cover price of £9.99



*Said the Robin to the Sparrow,
"I should really like to know
why these anxious human beings
rush about and worry so."*

*Said the Sparrow to the Robin
"Friend, I think that it must be,
that they have no Heavenly Father
such as cares for you and me."*



(Submitted by Lucy Gambrell)

A Cameo Day

It was Thursday 7th July – a Cameo Day: I woke up to a rather grey sky, British summer weather. It could be wet or warm, dry and sunny; it was all four! Some of us met for the half-hour “Oasis” at Harbour Street and then moved on to Middle Wall, where we had a picnic style lunch provided by Doreen and her assistants. Thank you to these ladies, it was most enjoyable.

Our coach was waiting so it was “all aboard”, first to Lenham, a very pretty village: historic buildings surround an Olde Worlde market square. The building that we first visited was the tithe barn, built in the 14th century. Its purpose was to collect tithes from local folk to supply the monk’s refectory in Canterbury. The barn struck me as being enormously high and impressive with its oak beams and extensive floor space. It is now used for functions and not generally open to the public, so we were privileged!

On to our next treat – a visit to St. Mary’s Church, just off the market square. Among the many features was the large oak door at the west end and the finely carved Tudor pulpit half way down the church. So much to see and know – the church impressed us all, I think, and we had the help of a local guide who explained everything so well. A church has been on the site for 1200 years and St. Mary’s is well worth another visit.

All aboard once more for the last part of the afternoon to be spent at Beech Court Gardens, at Challock. On arrival we were greeted by a turkey trio in full plumage and voice! Around us ran chickens and a tubby, black-horned, goat. The gardens proved to be a delight with the sun shining through the many varieties of Acer trees. Goldfish flashed back and forth in the lovely large pond. A delicious cream tea was served in the tearoom, which had pictures of former days when hops were picked by hand. Then many of us visited the plant stall to enhance our own garden patches at home.

Cameras had clicked and flashed throughout the visit and memories stored of a lovely afternoon; a real CAMEO. Our thanks to Paul and Alan for their hard work in arranging the programme. CAMEO will next go abroad at Whitstable Castle at the beginning of August.

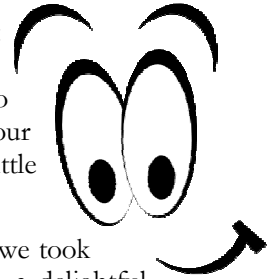


St. Mary's Church, Lenham

Janet Farley

A Second View of A Cameo Day

The day started off overcast with drizzly rain but while we were sitting down to our freshly made sandwiches and fruit juice drinks, the skies began to clear and the rain stopped. We trooped out to our coach and all managed to climb aboard – with a little help from our driver!



It was a lovely journey out, with not much traffic as we took the country lanes. Our first stop was at Lenham – a delightful village with a very old Parish Church. Our coach stopped outside the church, so we didn’t have to walk very far over the cobblestones. We first of all called in at the large tithe barn – believed to be the only one in Kent. It is over 600 years old and is used for local functions as well as marriages.

Then we walked through the churchyard and on through the very old, thick, studded door into the church and, very carefully, down two steps into the Nave. We were met by a very cheerful and friendly gentleman, who told us about the history of the church. In its day it had been burnt down (deliberately) in 1297, and two stained glass windows were blown out during the last war. The church pews all had thin(!) cushions covered in tapestries – stitched by the local women and depicting various groups, eg Guides, British Legion, and WI. These were started in 1984 and are still being made today.

Our next port of call was to Beech Court Gardens, near Ashford. By this time the sun was shining and we all enjoyed walking around the gardens surrounding a beautiful 14th century farmhouse, and seeing hydrangeas in many colours, and the various breeds of Bantam hens, especially the white one in her frilly pantaloons, wandering around us.

Then we all sat down to eat our sumptuous cream tea with freshly baked scones.

Our day was drawing to a close as we all piled into the coach – some laden with plants from the gift shop – and arrived back at Whitstable, tired and well fed. We all agreed we had thoroughly enjoyed our outing!

June Bennett



The Power of Prayer

A local Baptist church started a campaign of petitions and prayers to block a new wine bar from opening.

Work progressed, however, right up till the week before opening, when a lightning strike hit the wine bar and it burned to the ground.

The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, till the wine bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect means.

The church vehemently denied all responsibility, or any connection to the building's demise, in its reply to the court.

As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork and, at the hearing, he commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but it appears from the paperwork, we have a wine bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't."

(From "HBC Quarterly" – the magazine of Hainault Baptist Church)

What do you spend your money on?

Lipstick is out, lip-gloss is in. Fizzy drinks are out, mineral water is in. Hairdryers are out, hair-straighteners are in. But of course, you already know all that. Now the Retail Prices Index and the Consumer Prices Index reflect the following spending habits in modern Britain:

Ten items added to the 2010 basket: Cereal bars, garlic bread, small bottle mineral water, allergy tablets, Blu-ray disc players, computer games accessories, hair straighteners, lip gloss, liquid soap, powdered baby milk formula.

Ten items dropped: Pitta bread, baby food, canned fizzy drinks, men's casual training shoes, gas call-out charge, eye tests, squash court hire, disposable camera, lipstick, hairdryer.

For an item to make the basket, it has to usually achieve annual sales of more than £400 million. For it to drop out, it must have fallen to below £100million.

© Parish Pump



The Leisure Generation

We're the 'Leisure Generation', once known as OAPs, though we may not live in luxury, we live the life we please. We read the daily papers and listen to the news, then meet our friends for coffee and discuss our different views.

We'll do a spot of gardening, not much I must admit, enough to keep it tidy and to keep us feeling fit. But walking can't be beaten for a healthy outdoor life, so we head off to the countryside, if the weather's looking right.

Some like to play a round of golf, while others like to swim, the only trouble that we have is fitting it all in. With so much recreation it's not easy to recall however did we find the time to have a job at all?

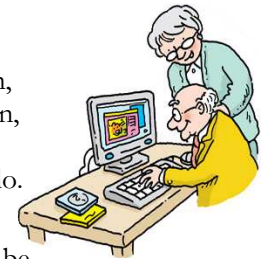
When it comes to the computer, we have a lot to learn, our lack of understanding is the cause of some concern, with digital technology we haven't got a clue, we have to call the youngsters in to teach us what to do.

Some of us have problems with short-term memory, that's why we like to reminisce on how things used to be. We like to natter on the phone, there's such a lot to say, although it's hard remembering what we said yesterday.

Worn out joints can be replaced with brand-new hips and knees, and pills and medication help us live the life we please. Well, life is for the living, that's what it's all about, So we're living for the moment -and we make each moment count!

Pat Paterson, Little Eaton, Derby.

(via Tunbridge Wells URC and June Bennett)



How I Cope With The Ever Increasing Pace Of Life

- * Took a Speed Logic course. Can immediately jump to a conclusion. A very popular course, this one!
- * Took a Speed Memory course. Able to remember everything before it happens. Life's now so dull!
- * Took a Speed Learning course. Now I know it all. Others have confirmed it! You already knew that!

© David Tait

The Gospel in 50 Words...

In a world that is getting more and more busy and complicated, where information on all subjects is thrown at us from all sides, we all have to find ways of filtering it down to what's important.

The Bible itself, for a hefty volume, can be pretty daunting and its message is very often misrepresented. The more you get into it the more you spot patterns and themes and discover that with just a few key ideas you can understand so much.

At its heart, the Bible deals with the reconciliation between man and God – how God intervenes in order for us to have a relationship with Him once more. This theme Christians call the Gospel.

So who better than the texting, twittering, facebook generation to summarise this Gospel in 50 words?

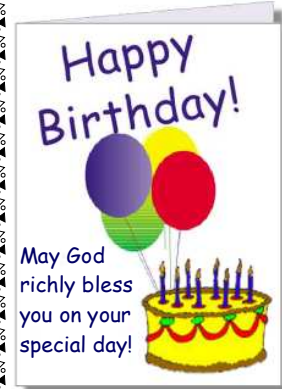
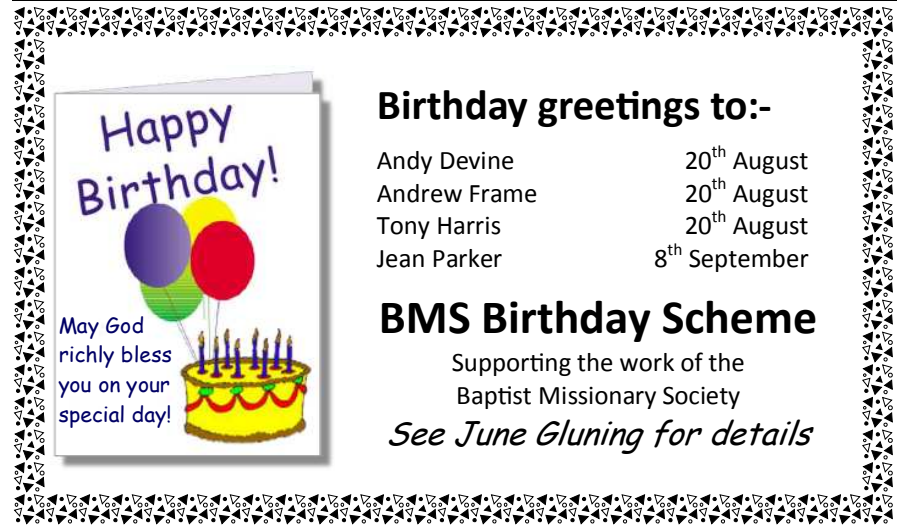
"The Bible in 50 words" is taken from a book called "Summon's Christian Miscellany" by Parminder Summon, published by Lion, 2004.

With thanks to "The Prodigal", the magazine of Barton Evangelical Church, Canterbury.



The Bible in 50 words:

God made, Adam bit,
 Noah arked, Abraham split,
 Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled,
 bush talked, Moses balked,
 Pharaoh plagued, people walked,
 sea divided, tablets guided,
 promise landed,
 Saul freaked, David peeked,
 prophets warned, Jesus born,
 God walked, love talked,
 anger crucified, hope died,
 love rose, spirit flamed,
 word spread, God remained.



Birthday greetings to:-

Andy Devine	20 th August
Andrew Frame	20 th August
Tony Harris	20 th August
Jean Parker	8 th September

BMS Birthday Scheme

Supporting the work of the
 Baptist Missionary Society

See June Gluning for details

Answers (Pages 14/15):

Teacher's Pet: James is the teacher!

Bible Books: This is a most remarkable puzzle it was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping him occupied for hours he enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends one friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat another friend studied it while playing his banjo Elaine Taylor a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves there will be some names that are really easy to spot that's a fact some people however will soon find themselves in a jam especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized truthfully from answers we get we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph during a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle the alpha delta phi lemonade booth set a new record the local paper the chronicle surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen as Daniel Humana humbly puts it the books are right there in plain view hidden from sight those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown one revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal a chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers remember there is no need for a mad exodus there really are 30 books of the bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found God bless

Beryl's Back! (page!)

Reflections of a Glider

No, don't worry, this is not another article on Tony's favourite topic. I just want to share our holiday photos with you. Please don't yawn! Luckily for you, I can't fit them all onto an A5 page but, if you'd like some snapshots, stay with me for a short while:



Bridge with road under; very low bridge with road over; manually operated swing bridge; mechanically-operated swivel bridge; (hang-in there, it does get more interesting); us guests relaxing on deck with a glass of something (see, I told you); ducks and ducklings; swans and cygnets; boats with fascinating names; a heron fishing from the water's edge; strange images of the underside of a dog (!); house martins gathering nest-building mud from a puddle on the towpath; Tony piloting boat; Beryl opening lock; fellow travellers learning the ropes (literally); mile-long tunnel with a light at the end.

These are but a few of our pictorial memories as we cruised the Leeds and Liverpool canal in the only 5-star floating hotel in the country, with its two owners (crew) and four guests (pampered layabouts/whim-dependent additional crew). It was magical, calm – indescribable, actually. We had stepped aside from the busy-ness of life and taken to the idyllic calm waterway arteries of our beautiful countryside, the still waters whose reflections open the mind, and the mouth, in awe of the beauty they create and enhance.

We were further blessed with good company, exquisite food, and sunshine every day. On one occasion, as we relaxed on deck, a butterfly took a moment's rest on Tony's hand, then continued to flutter by. A pair of swans glided past with seven teenage cygnets in tow, all beautifully reflected in the calm waters. Such peace, such beauty – the epitome of God's wonderful creation. As we neared the end of our "cruise" we entered an amazing, mile-long tunnel, damp and drippy with stalactites and silence, except for the gentle sound of our boat's engine, and there, as a source of comfort and reassurance, a light at the other end. Our skipper knew what he was doing, what speed we should travel, how long it would take, our time of arrival into the bright light beyond. We trusted him and he didn't let us down!!

Beryl Harris

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