

Triangle



Autumn 2007

Message from the Manse

Let me start with a positive statement: I believe in the itinerant ministry. That's the system, started by John Wesley, which means that Methodist ministers such as I travel around the country during our ministry. Of course it has its drawbacks. It means a lot of difficult decisions and much hard work for many people. It can be very unsettling for the minister's family, especially if there are children, and if his wife (or her husband!) is in employment. Everyone has to get to know new people and new ways of doing things. Why not just leave ministers where they are until there is some really, really good reason for a move?

We sang a wonderful hymn at the Welcome Service on August 31st. It began "God who sets us on a journey..." and it contained a line which will stay in my memory for a very long while. "When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain, You disturb complacent comfort, *pull the tent pegs up again;*" (my italics). I went home, hugely encouraged by the welcome you had given us, thinking about our God who "pulls up the tent pegs" when we are in danger of complacency.

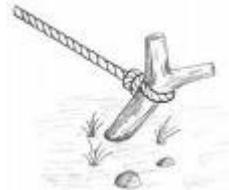
Teresa and I love camping. We love the open air existence, the freedom, and the closeness to the natural world. At the end of every camping holiday comes the moment when the tent pegs have to be pulled up. It is always a sad moment, yet it has to come, for there are always other things and other experiences ahead for us all.

It is the same in the life we live as Christians. We were very happy in Exeter, yet the time had come for something different. God was leading us to a new phase in our lives: and here we are! God always has something new for all of us to do. It may not actually involve going anywhere, yet we may be called to "pull up the tent pegs" in some other way to make a new start for the kingdom. Let us all be ready to work together in the power of God's Holy Spirit to serve Jesus Christ wherever we are.

With Christian greetings,

Robert

(Rev. Robert Ely)



Springdale Vestry News

After our summer break (I hear you say “what summer?!”) it’s time to report from the Vestry as we return refreshed from the break after well earned holidays.

In June, even though the summer weather was unsettled we had a successful Summer Fair, then Springdale Art Group held their “Summer Exhibition” and everyone was impressed by the quality of the work produced in just one year.

The church was very busy in July before Phil left. On 7th July we held our Café Church organised by Phil and Lesley. It was an informal get together talking about our faith, and issues around the world, especially linking up to slavery in the world today. About 30 people attended mainly from our church but there were some new faces too. Something to consider again in the future.

On 14 July Phil’s Farewell Evening was a full house. Helen and Julian’s “This is Your Life” was appreciated by everyone, evoking memories, laughter, some tears, and a few surprises, too. Many gifts were presented to Phil, and a cheque was presented from church; a donation was also given to Battersea Dogs Home for the Summers Family to choose a pet when they’ve settled into their new home. Yours truly was relieved that we had enough food for everyone (I kept thinking of loaves and fishes!) - with the help of a splendid team of volunteers all went well. A big thank you to them.

We congratulate Val Champion for being accepted as a lay preacher in the Circuit. Her Inauguration Service on Tuesday 17 July was conducted by Rev Cecil King and Phil. Val is an inspiration, showing us that age is just a number and that our Lord needs us to help continue his work whether we are 7 or 70.

Our new communion table arrived in mid July. Phil was delighted, using it on 22 July for our last communion with him. We thank Phil for seven fulfilling and fruitful years (with the support of Jo and Ele) moving our church forward in this new century to serve the Lord and our community.

In August the Holiday Club was a huge success. Well done Lesley, Liz and all the helpers. The children and parents thought it was great “again”. On 19 August we had a “Celebration of Childhood” service with the congregation choosing some wonderful hymns and readings, coordinated by Lesley.

At the end of August Liz Green (our secretary and lay worker) retired. She had served Springdale for 15 years with great commitment, efficiency, cheerfulness and humour. Her “font” of knowledge is amazing - us lesser mortals will be glad she’s still around if we need help! Thanks Liz.

Penny Baldwin has replaced Liz in the office and Adele Cotterill is our new lay worker. We wish them well in their new appointments.

As I write this newsletter our new minister, Rev Robert Ely, is settling into the Manse with his wife Teresa (no doubt they’re still trying to sort out those last few boxes!!!) We welcome them and their daughters Katherine, Alison and Caroline into Springdale’s church family. Robert’s Welcome Service was held on Friday 31 August and he conducted his first service on Sunday 2 September. We look forward to his ministry as we start a new chapter at Springdale, going forward together to continue God’s work together. One thing is sure - we’re not standing still, we’re evolving all the time. Busy times ahead!

Jackie Neilson

Gospel Ash Vestry News

“One more step along the way we go” sounded a good quote with which to begin this report but when I checked I found it was a misquote. With apologies to Sidney Carter I will stick to my line. It is true that at Gospel Ash (as with others) we are “Walking in a Way”. Every step we take is a step forward in faith that we are moving on in doing God’s will. We believe He has given us work to do and this we will do to the best of our ability.

First a sincere greeting and warm welcome to Rev Robert Ely our new minister and his wife Teresa. God bless you, may you be happy and fulfilled during your ministry among us.

Our first real opportunity of meeting will be at the Harvest festival on September 16 when we have the 3pm service followed by light refreshment and time for fellowship. Do come and join with us.

We are happy to report the completion of the work to the church door and porch way. This is now sporting a newly tiled floor and wall covering, all freshly decorated. The work enhances entry into the Sanctuary and expresses the warm welcome and friendship you may expect to find. It is worthy of note just how satisfactory the workmanship of tradesmen has been and to thank them.

and Church Groups. In fact we are needing to keep a strict eye on the bookings. As you know, we are a small group and always need a helping hand from outside, so we are grateful to the local people who are joining in the activities and giving a helping hand when needed. During this quarter we have been blessed with help from Margaret Higgs who played the keyboard on three Sundays whilst Dorothy was away on holiday. Thank you Margaret.

One highlight was the baptism of Matthew, son of Andrew and Jennie Bailey and grandson of Ian and Gill, Peter and Margaret, conducted by Rev Phil on July 22. Also at Phil's last service our friend Blanche Fox was confirmed and received into membership of the Methodist Church.

One last comment: the stormy weather of July did cause us some trials. At one point a fair area of the car park was flooded and the man who locked the gate was ankle deep in water! Rumour has it that he was heard to be singing, "O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till the night be gone" (a true quote) - the rest is legend!

Rev David Belcher, vicar of Bobbington - on September 30 we shall join with the Holy Cross congregation for their morning worship to say a farewell and thank you to David. He is a priest who will be greatly missed in the church and the two villages of Bobbington and Gospel Ash. At Holy Cross he has seen his flock through the hazard of closed doors and extensive and expensive repair and refurbishment with tenacity and great grace. During that time, whilst using our church at Gospel Ash, we were privileged to share the richness of his preaching and pastoral ministry. Glad then and now to have him as a friend and fellow servant of God. We say thank you to David with prayerful good wishes that you will enjoy food health and the rest that you so much deserve.

Bill Stubbs

Wombourne Pastoral News

Despite the inconsistent weather I trust that those who have been away on holiday have returned refreshed and rested.

We welcome the Reverend Robert Ely and his wife Theresa, as they will soon be ministering to us, and pray that they will soon feel 'at home' with us here in Wombourne.

Congratulations to Naomi Beaumont on gaining her Doctorate at York, and our good wishes go with her for the future. May she know God near her, guiding her every step of the way. Benjamin George was born in July to Naomi's sister Rhiannon and Ian; and we extend our prayers to them all; also to Denis and Diana, now grandparents, and to Cintra on her two new great-grandchildren. May all be richly blessed.

On a sadder note, we send our thoughts and prayers to Olivia, Margaret and Joe's granddaughter, as she continues her treatment, that it will be beneficial.

In the past three months, many of our members and friends have been in hospital, and some are still having ongoing treatment. We pray for all of them; for Joe Brandrick and Donald Bailey who have had heart surgery; and for Linda, Jack, Tom, Jean and Raymond.

It was good, too, to have Keith Berry back leading our worship, and we pray for his continued improvement.

More recently, we think of Vera Cole, home again this week after a short stay in the nursing home in Trysull after a mini stroke. Also we pray for Cintra on the passing of her dear sister.

To all of our housebound friends may you know God's presence with you each day and know that you are not forgotten. We wish to thank you for all you have done in the past here at Common Road Methodist Church.

To June Dickens, Paul Anderson, Val Philpott and Alice Crockett, we congratulate you on achieving your 'big 0' birthdays, and ask God to bless you all.

Congratulations, too, to Maxine and Joe Baldwin on their recent silver wedding anniversary. At the end of August, we congratulated Ivy and Jack Cartwright on their amazing Platinum wedding anniversary (70 yrs) and we ask that they may know God's love surrounding them every day.

Well done to Carol White on obtaining her M.A in Fine Art at Wolverhampton University. We pray for all our youngsters who have recently received exam results; and for our children who will soon be starting school or class. May God help them settle well.

Finally, we welcome Brenda Shuttleworth into our church family, and thank her for giving of her time as a vestry steward.

Forgive me if I have forgotten to mention anyone. However, God knows all our needs, and in Him we must put our trust.

“Trust in the Lord Always, for the Lord God is the eternal rock.” *Isaiah 26 v 4.*

Bless you all.

Carol Walker *Pastoral Secretary*

Springdale Pastoral News

Where has the summer gone? Already we have seen some Christmas displays in the shops!! It has certainly not been the best of summers, but when we think of parts of our country and indeed the wider world, and all the suffering they have endured, we do have a lot to be thankful for. If you have managed to get away for a holiday I do hope you feel refreshed for the change.

We have said “au revoir” to Phil, Jo and Ele and now we look forward to saying “Welcome” to Robert and Teresa and pray you will soon feel settled in your new home and church family.

We remember many of our fellowship who have not been well. It is good to see Tom Varty back with us looking so much better since his operation. We remember Margaret and Geoff Race - we do miss you, Margaret, but it is good that Geoff manages to be with us most Sundays.

There are also several who are not in the best of health, some receiving ongoing hospital treatment; also friends through age and infirmity are not able to join us in fellowship - we remember you all and pray that our loving God will be with you and give you strength to cope each day.

We also remember Richard and Liz Green, Katharine, Stuart and Lucy on the recent death of Richard’s mother. We give thanks for her life.

On June 24 we welcomed the family of Leo and Conor Fellows (parents Elouise and Paul) - great-grandma Val (Campion) baptised Leo and Phil Summers baptised Conor.

Congratulations to Steve and Lisa Humpherson on the birth of Harriet Ann born on 27 June weighing in at 6lb 14oz; also to James and Rachael Peterson on the birth of Reuben Robert on 29 June weighing in at 5lb 11 oz - Reuben was in such a hurry to meet his new church family that he arrived a month early! We pray the Lord will bless these little ones and their families.

Congratulations to all our young people who have sat exams this year - some will be moving to university - in particular we think of Sarah Partridge going to De Montford University, Leicester, to study speech and language therapy. Congratulations also to Helen Cook who has graduated from Bangor University with a 2.1 BSc in geography. Helen is still looking for a permanent job but will shortly be going to Iona for 2 months. (Don't forget your woollies and waterproofs, Helen!)

Some of our Junior Church will also be moving up to big school - we hope you will settle well and may God bless and guide you.

We send our best wishes to all who have had a birthday celebration, especially if it was a "special" one; also, best wishes to Marg and Rick Cooper who will soon be celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary - quite an achievement!

So, as we look to the future, we pray God will lead and direct our path.

Gwyneth M Wade *Pastoral Secretary*

God Can

When you feel unlovable, unworthy and unclean, when you think that no-one can heal you. Remember friend, God can.

When you think that you are unforgivable for your guilt and your shame. Remember friend, God can.

When you think that all is hidden and no-one can see within. Remember friend, God can.

When you have reached the bottom and you think that no-one can hear. Remember my dear friend, God can.

And when you think that no-one can love the real person deep inside of you. Remember my dear friend, God does.

Author unknown

Extract from the diary of Bernard Davis,

written at Holland House, April 2007

Thoughts that came to me while I walked and reflected in the garden.

Thank God for the beauty of Spring! A multitude of spring flowers - I don't know all their names - bluebells, wild anemones, daffodils just about finished and flag irises about to open.

The fresh green leaves as tight winter bulbs unfold. Thank God that my favourite colour is green when there are so many tints and shades!

I cannot pilot an aircraft

I cannot drive a locomotive

I cannot skipper an ocean-going liner or even steer a yacht!

I cannot plough a field with a horse or a tractor

I cannot plaster a wall

I cannot install electricity into a house

I cannot connect pipes and deal with installing showers, baths and lavatories

I cannot build a wall or roof a house

You may very well ask "What use is Bernard?"

Well,

I CAN feed the hungry

I CAN give drink to the thirsty

I CAN clothe the naked

I CAN visit the sick

I CAN bury the dead

I CAN love human beings in the way Jesus asks me to.



He has set me free! By his death I am reconciled to the Father. My sins are forgiven. At Easter I was buried with Christ and now I have risen to a renewed life just as the deciduous trees have. Rejoice in the Lord!

I am here to follow the teaching of Jesus.

Bernard Davis

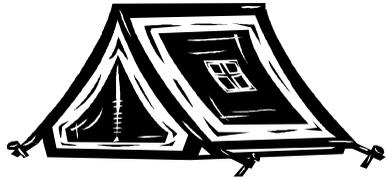
Greenbelt Festival 2007

How to explain a festival as exciting, challenging, enjoyable and this year as HOT as Greenbelt?

The highlights were camping on the hill with a view over everything. Wonderful sunsets with the Malverns in the distance; seeing the lights and hearing the music from the main stage as you sat round a lantern with friends watching the stars.

There is so much to take part in - so many contrasts - from a drumming workshop with the Iona Community, to an interview with Sir John Tavener (what an experience that was); humour from Jimmy Cricket and songs from Billy Bragg; hymn singing and worship with the Franciscans; hot chocolate with cream and designing your own umbrella for peace; from the International Development Secretary to the Bassline Circus; children's activities galore and bands to keep all sorts of young people interested. You can take your pick and there is much, much more that there is never time to do it.

If you want to see more, look at www.greenbelt.org.uk for the photographs which will give you a flavour of the atmosphere.



Liz Green

Greenbelt Reflections

Every year you know Greenbelt is going to be brilliant and it can't be better than last years, but this year was one of the best. The weather was amazing and, as always, the company was great. However, the main highlight for me was being in the scratch choir with Lucy and Andrew. This was a chance to stand on the main stage singing the wonderful music of John Tavener, which included "Funeral Ikos" and "Syvarti", both of which are incredibly moving pieces, in front of the man himself.

The following day Lucy and I went to a talk led by John Tavener all about his faith and writing. Afterwards we plucked up courage to go and speak to him and asked him if he had enjoyed the concert. He said he loved the concert and gave us both his autograph. A treasured memory!

Helen Cook

Greenbelt Festival 07 “Heaven in Ordinary”

What is it about Greenbelt that draws so many people from such different backgrounds year after year?

Come to that, why do we go back each year?

Could it be the sitting on Cheltenham racecourse, sheltered under Cleeve Hill with stunning views of the Malverns?

Perhaps it's the music, something for everyone, including this year Billy Bragg, Chas and Dave, and Sir John Tavener (we sat next to him!!)

Maybe it's the speakers, like Irish poet and philosopher from Conamara John O'Donohue, or the murder mystery writing monk Andrew Nugent - both a bit deep for me.

Or the down to earth scouse humour of Paul Cookson and Steve Hartman as they “Tickle in Public”;

or another Liverpoolian, Ann Morisey with her encouragement for us 3rd and even 4th agers?

There are so many speakers who encourage us to look beyond our churches into the wider world with all the problems of justice and peace, inter-faith, and gender issues, to step outside our own back yard and get involved. People like John Bell who makes us look at the Bible with new eyes and Mark Yaconelli with his dreams about how the church could be - both inspirational speakers who are a joy to hear.

Is it the crowds, all ages, from Reuben, 8 weeks, to grey or even green heads like us? All together enjoying ourselves, sharing in worship - and such a variety of worship - no-one is left out.

Then there's the food, ethnic, international, or just plain pork sandwiches and fish and chips. The impromptu street theatre, the hymn singing pub and this year there was a circus if you were prepared to queue for a couple of hours. If all that seems too much then there's Soul Space high above the grandstand where you can sit in peace, look at the view and just relax in a wonderful peaceful atmosphere.

We don't know what it is, it's indescribable, but, God willing, we'll be back next year.

Val and Denis

Women's World Day of Prayer 2008

Friday 7 March 2008 may sound a long way off, but for the organisers of Women's World Day of Prayer it will soon be here.

Ann Bayley from St Michael's, together with Eunice Craig and Gill Skitt from St Bart's, went to London on a Monday in July to meet members of the National Committee and to hear about the background to the country of Guyana as the Christian Women of Guyana have prepared the service. Having met members of the National Committee there was a period of Bible study and how to organise the day. They were led through the order of service with special emphasis on the music and were able to ask questions.

We in Penn have volunteered to host a preparation day at St Bart's for leaders of Women's World Day of Prayer Services. The preparation day will take place on **Monday 1 October** and all are welcome. Jean Hackett will lead the Bible study and Mary Williams, from the National Committee, will give the background to Guyana.

"God's wisdom provides new understanding" is the theme of the service.

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Harvest Festival

“August brings the sheaves of corn, then the harvest home is borne”.

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word “haerfest” which means “autumn”. It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other crops and foods. The full moon nearest the Autumn Equinox is called the Harvest Moon. In ancient traditions Harvest Festivals are held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon (which is a full moon in September).

Corn dollies made in different traditional designs used to be made from the corn of the last sheaf standing in the middle of the field. It would be taken “in procession” to the farmhouse and the Harvest Supper would be eaten. The corn dolly was hung in the kitchen until the following year when it was replaced with a new one.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated on 1 August (at the beginning of harvest) and was called “Lammas”, meaning “loaf mass”. Farmers made loaves from this fresh wheat. It was given to local churches as communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

The Harvest Festival services was revived in 1843 by Rev Robert Stephen Hawker (1803 - 1875), an eccentric and poet who was vicar of St Morwenna’s Church (named after a Celtic saint) at Morwenstow in Cornwall. The church stands in the isolated northernmost parish, a few hundred yards from the sea. He invited his parishioners to a Harvest Festival service to give thanks to God for providing plenty, in a more fitting way than “wrecking” which was prevalent at this time. On wild, stormy nights the people showed lanterns and lights to draw ships towards land, usually onto rocks so that in the morning they could plunder the wrecks.

Each year we still celebrate Harvest Festival at the end of the harvest (which varies in different parts of Britain) when children bring their produce. We sing hymns like “We plough the fields and scatter” and “Come ye thankful people, come”. The food is then distributed locally to the elderly, and charitable institutions. This year our Harvest Festival at Springdale is on Sunday 30 September.



Jackie Neilson

Springdale has a Website!

After long deliberation and setting up, at Springdale we've finally gone "online" with our church website. This can be found at

<http://www.springdalechurch.org.uk>

Our aim is that the website should represent our church to the wider community and also be useful as a resource for those who use our church.

There are contacts on the website for submission of church notices and your articles for Triangle. Please feel free to use this new service!

Julian Cooper *Webmaster*

E.VENT - 28/9

@ Trinity Methodist Church, Codsall

7:30pm - 10pm

For young people and youth groups in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury district. Please bring your youth leaders with you!

For more information;

Visit www.myspace.com/edotvent

Email – e.vent@hotmail.co.uk Ring – (01952) 292684

Text - 07821794938

Entry £3

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The Royal Welcome

Children's Bit!

Hi!

Welcome to the new children's part of Triangle. I hope you enjoy these four pages, let me know if you do or if you don't!! We've made them so that they pull out just for you! If you would like to contribute to these pages for future issues of Triangle, please see me at Springdale or e-mail me.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Sarah Philpott

As most of you will have just started back at school, here are a couple of school jokes for you:

Q - Does your father still help you with your homework?

A - No, Miss, I can get it all wrong on my own now!



Q - Does anyone know why the Romans built straight roads?

A - Yes, Sir, because they didn't have steering wheels on their chariots!





JMA stands for Junior Mission for All. It is run by the Methodist Church and encourages children and young people to collect money (usually in a collecting box) on a regular basis. These pots are then handed into the JMA rep for each individual church (that's me at Springdale) and the money is then used for mission in the UK and in other parts of the world church. Last year JMA raised £600,000, which is truly amazing when you think that it is children that are saving their pennies!

Many of you reading this will already be JMA collectors, thank you for doing a great job - keep it up! However if you aren't yet a collector & would like to become one then just speak to your JMA rep at your church.

To find out more about JMA go to:

www.methodistchildren.org.uk/childrensindex.htm

"I promise to learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ"

Sarah Philpott, JMA rep for Springdale Church

More jokes!

Q - What does Batman's mum say when she calls him for tea?

A - Dinner, dinner, dinner, dinner, dinner, dinner, dinner, dinner Batman!

Q - What animals make the worst entertainers?

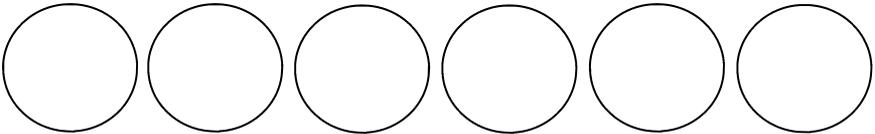
A - Skunks. Their acts always stink!

A small child and his father were looking heaven-ward one bright star-lit night. After quietly and reverently observing the stars for a long time, the small boy, holding hands with his father said, "If the bottom side of heaven is this pretty, then how beautiful the other side must be!"

Sometimes it seems really difficult to say our prayers, but God hasn't told us we always have to sit quietly to talk to him, we can talk to him wherever we are and in whatever we are doing! Just like you would a friend.

If you are crafty or like drawing, why not try this idea to help you pray for others?

- Take a sheet of paper (you can decide on the size) and draw six circles on it.
- Now draw faces in each circle of who you want to pray for.
- You don't have to know all the faces, it could be someone you have seen on the news or heard about at school or church.
- Now, looking at the paper, just tell God who these people are and why you have put them on your paper. God will do the rest.



A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the tea each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first, and then we won't have to wait as long to get our tea."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it because that is your job, and I can just wait for my tea."

The wife replied, "No, you should do it, and besides, it says in the Bible that the man should do the tea."

"I can't believe that!" said the man. "Show me."

So the wife fetched the Bible and opened the New Testament and showed him that at the top of several pages it indeed says... "Hebrews"!

LOL!

Camping in (Wet) France Wordsearch

All the words in the lists below are hidden in the grid in straight lines. They are going either forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally. Draw a line through the word when you have found it and cross it off your list. Can you find them all? The answers can be found in the back of Triangle on page 31 (but we don't think you'll need them!) Thank you James Philpott for your list of words - I think he had a bit of a wet holiday, don't you?!

B A D R O C K P O O L S W E B A R C A T P
 H U E R D O E W E H A F D T O J K A Q V A
 A P M P P T N E T X Y O R A D P W I G T S
 Z H A P E W N T P I M O F Q D F P E N Y S
 J T E F E R R Y N H S T E K R A M Y T L P
 E J D I T R D N B G J B F J K X A S K N O
 D C G S Q V C M V F K A D H L C N E J V R
 C Z H H W A F A D D L L S G M A S P H D T
 R V L R M B O N R S P L A F I V D E G W S
 N A K P E N I J C S O R S L N B F R R Y T
 R Q I F D W I T X Q I T S M A E R C E C I
 G N H N X M U Y Z W U Y D U O P I L H N U
 G E W I N D B R E A K H F D M E C N A R F

Bumper cars
 Camping
 Crab
 Crepes
 Ferry
 Fish
 Football
 France
 Ice cream
 Markets

Mud
 Passports
 Rain
 Rock pools
 Snails
 Tent
 Wet
 Wind
 Wind break



Would you like your wordsearch to be included on these pages? If so, send your puzzle (or just the list of words) to Sarah or Helen and we'll try to use it in future issues.

Special Day on Prayer and Healing

Trinity Methodist Church,
Histons Hill, Codsall,
Nr Wolverhampton, WV8 2ER

10th November 2007

10.00am - 4.30pm

(Please bring packed lunch)

Cost: £5 per person

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Malcolm White

(From: Methodist Central Hall, London)

Malcolm was ordained in 1965 as a Methodist Minister. After an extensive and fruitful ministry within local church settings and teaching in theological college and secular education, in the early 1990s another phase opened up as God blessed his ministry with certain healing gifts.

In 1998 he resigned as Headmaster to set up and run the prayer and healing ministry at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster where he was Superintendent for a time. He has spoken at Conferences in this country and abroad, written and helped to write a number of books and articles on the area. He is married to Jennifer, who is a Pharmacist, and they have two grown up children.

For bookings and further information contact:

Julie Eccles

Val Campion (Springdale)

Transcript of Sermon preached by Zoughbi Zoughbi Wombourne Methodist Church, 22 July 2007

It is strange that my first name and last name are the same, but you can call me by either.

I am coming from Bethlehem, so it is not surprising that I love hearing Amos. He is only a few miles from my home, just over the hill. When I hear what Amos the prophet says I feel nourished. I am uplifted today by your gathering. I am shivering with hope to see you and bring greetings from your sisters and brothers in the Holy Land, from your sisters and brothers in the extended family of Christ.

Amos, that great prophet, calls for justice. It seems we are still living in that era, where a few prophets tell the people about social justice. He says, "Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land...buying the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals." The same story is happening again, but with different perpetrators and different victims.

I like to quote Amos from a little earlier than today's reading, from Chapter 5. "I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies...But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."

These are beautiful words, especially to us in the Middle East, where we don't have much water. When we talk about "let justice flow down like waters", maybe we need to fix our own irrigation system. But justice is the main theme.

Dear sisters and brothers, your sisters and brothers in the Holy Land are lacking justice. It seems history is repeating itself. Herod is living there. Children are suffering. People are in bad shape.

There is no human security living in fear. We are hostages to fear. No day passes without violence. People are living in ghettos nowadays. Since the occupation of 1967 things have got worse and worse. All towns become ghettos, separated from each other, with a wall separating them, a wall of some 460 miles in length. I am sorry to say that the only thing we learn from history is that we never learn from history. The Berlin Wall fell, now we have a new wall in the Holy Land. Apartheid in South Africa is finished. Now we have another apartheid in the Holy Land. There is hope of peace

in Northern Ireland, but there is renewed violence there.

It is amazing. I can come here and stay overnight here in Wombourne, but I am not allowed to go to Jerusalem, 5 miles from my home. I am not allowed to go to Jerusalem. All the justifications are so-called security reasons. Israel is worshipping a golden cow called security. You know I have been travelling from Heathrow to Swanwick, then to Wombourne, a journey of I don't know how many miles. At home we don't measure a journey by miles, we measure it by checkpoints. There are at least 450 checkpoints on the West Bank. It is not easy to go anywhere. The journey from Bethlehem to Amman, in Jordan, where I took my flight, supposedly 1½ hours, took 16 hours, passing many checkpoints.

Here I am with you, celebrating my freedom. What you take for granted, we are deprived of. Please protect your freedom and rights, don't let them take it from you. We have no spontaneity back home. We can't just say, "Shall we go and have a cup of coffee," or say, "Shall we go and walk for a while." That is not possible for us.

Unemployment is skyrocketing. It stands at 70% on the West Bank, 80% in Gaza. The standard of living has dropped and the cost of living is high. Per capita income is less than \$600 (£300). More than 76% of the population live on less than \$2 a day.

I am going home to a culture of fear. We are all hostages to fear, Israelis and Palestinians both. But because I am Palestinian I can talk more about what is going on in the Palestinian area. It is trauma there! More than 80% are exposed to trauma. I do not talk about post traumatic stress disorder because it is on-going trauma, layer upon layer. For what? For what purpose? For greed and conflict!

This is the situation, but how to get out of it? Here Amos reminds us of justice, of social justice. I am talking about restorative justice, that is about redressing wrongs, not avenging them. This is not punitive justice. And it is not "Just us," which is what I learned when I was a lazy student at an early age. Justice must be for all! We need inclusive justice, for Israelis and for Palestinians. I feel we are here, among people of faith, whose justice is part of their lives. I have more hope with the churches, with you people, who are having different approaches to enhance social justice, not only here, but everywhere. I have seen your involvement with Christian Aid, with other organisations for justice, and with different denominations. This uplifts my spirit. It reminds me of what Martin Luther King said, that any injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere. You are our hope.

continued overleaf

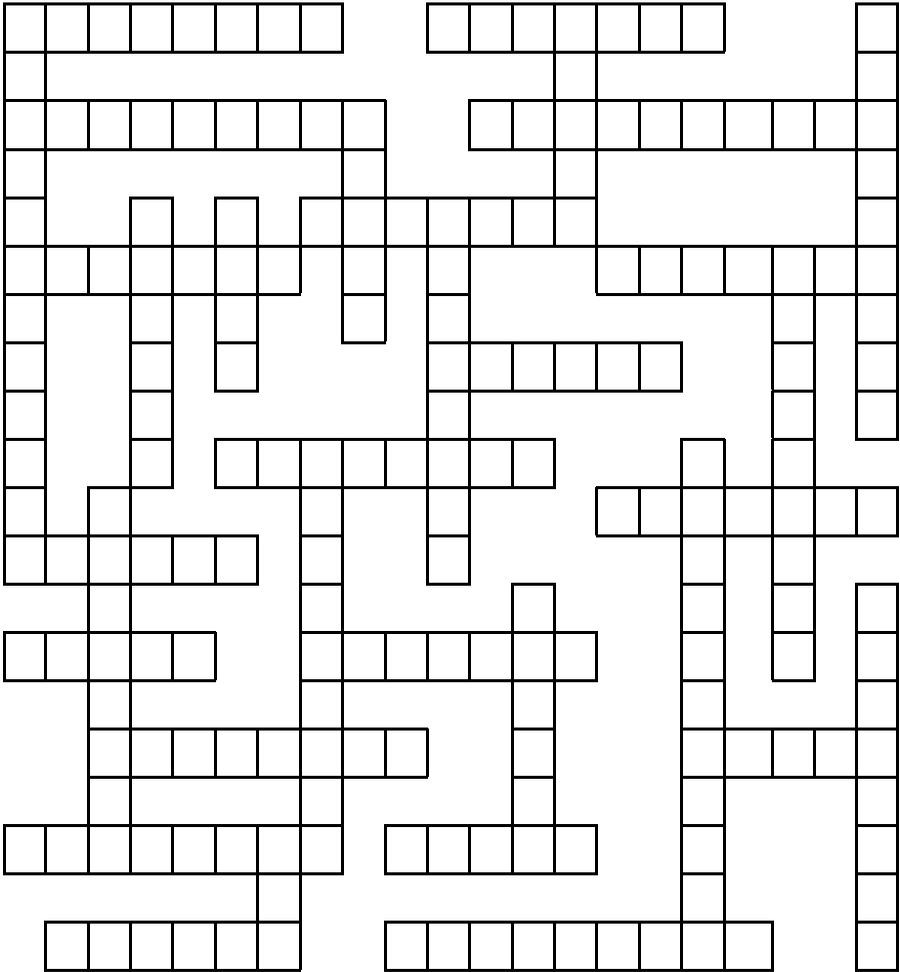
I hope that you will come to the Middle East and see for yourselves, especially when you read about Bethlehem. 2000 years ago we made a big mistake when we said that there was no room at the inn. Now there is plenty of room at the inn. I should like you to come and see the situation. Also it will help your spirituality. This is the land of the biblical narratives. We want to enhance our relationship with the Christian community. There, the Christian community is an endangered species. People are leaving. In 1922, according to the British census, 52% of the population of Jerusalem was Christian. Nowadays, we are 1.8%. We feel as Christians for the last 100 years we have been walking the Via Dolorosa, the stations of the cross. We used to go to Jerusalem, 5 miles away, to celebrate Good Friday by walking the Via Dolorosa. As a result of the political situation I am not allowed to go to Jerusalem. Instead, Jerusalem has come to us. The Via Dolorosa has come to us. Everyday we have our stations of the cross, whether in land confiscations, building settlements, or more prisoners, or more victims. But, I am always reminded that the Via Dolorosa will be ended in the Holy Sepulchre, where Our Lord is resurrected. Yes we believe in the resurrection of our Lord in a theological level, but we also believe it in a political, a social, and in an economic level.

This is where we feel our faith is. It is based on the resurrection, on different relationships. I am here among you and I feel nourished. I feel I recharge my batteries to go back and work. I listen to the bible, to the readings, to the hymn singing, to the words and I feel warm – I feel the warm atmosphere here. This has given me hope. This re-energizes my hope.

I don't believe at anytime in dwelling on guilt, or on victimhood. I believe in collective responsibility. We are all, in a way, being our brothers' brothers and our sisters' sisters, not being our brothers' keepers. The hope I feel is a message I gain from you. When I see people of faith getting together from their weak position in community, what do I say?....you know there is a better way to spend your weekend. This, by itself encourages me, and tells me that hope has two faces: risk and promise. Hope that is not risking is not hope. Hope that is not promising is not hope. While we are taking the risks we are invited to the promise of hope.

Thank you very much.

Zoughbi is a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem, a nonviolent activist, and the founder and Director of Wi'am, the Palestine Centre for Conflict Resolution. His visit was part of a tour arranged by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, which included giving a keynote address at the Roman Catholics' National Justice and Peace Conference at Swanwick, as well as meetings in all parts of Britain. Wi'am is the Palestinian branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.



3 letters
pea

4 letters
kale

5 letters
beans
cress
leeks
plums
swede

6 letters
apples
carrot
grapes
papaya
squash

7 letters
bananas
cabbage
oranges
peppers
rhubarb
spinach

8 letters
beetroot
broccoli
capsicum
cucumber
parsnips
potatoes
tomatoes

9 letters
artichoke
asparagus
aubergine
mushrooms
sweetcorn

10 letters
grapefruit

11 letters
cauliflower

12 letters
blackberries

Harvest Kriss Kross - can you fit the words listed into the grid above?
Answers on p 31

Hope of Africa Children's Choir

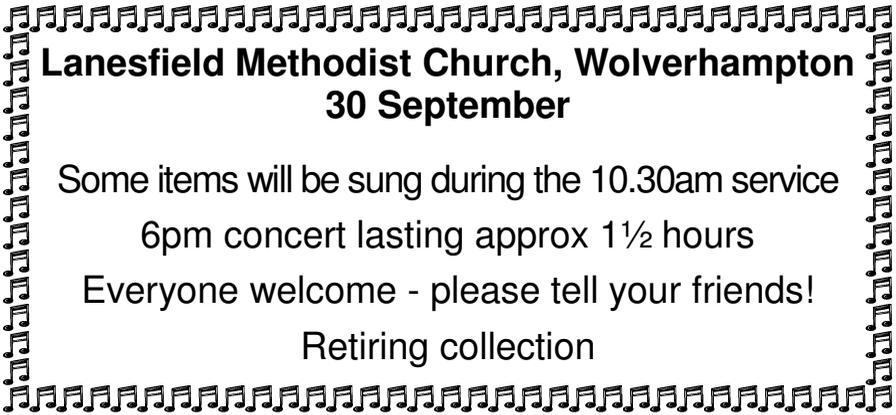
Kamuzinda Children's Village, Uganda, caters for approximately 1500 children who are orphans. There are several hostels called houses, each with a large number of children and a house mother called a momma. There is a primary section and a senior section and a small clinic that deals with patients with malaria, aids and pneumonia.

Our friend's stay there was undoubtedly one of the most moving of many visits to the African continent. He taught Chemistry and Biology to classes of around 90 children ranging from 14 year olds to 21 year olds – all hung on every word and showed great respect. The teachers were eager to learn from such an old stager and within 24 hours of arriving felt totally accepted. Students were eager to talk and when out of the classroom had great pleasure reading and talking to the younger children after school had finished, listening to them singing and playing the drums and watching them dance as the darkness fell.

All the children own is the tatty clothes they wear and all they have to eat is basic food, yet they are so happy and contented and they succeeded in making our friend feel a very humble man. On the weekends he accompanied the local pastors in taking food and clothes to the outlying, remote villages and again had his eyes opened at the poverty which he witnessed and the conditions people had to endure.

The Children's Village have a wonderful choir called the "Hope of Africa Children's Choir" and they will be coming to UK in September and October so hopefully you will be able to hear them as they are in the Midlands on September 30, October 1, 2 and 3.

They are at:

A decorative border made of musical notes and staff lines surrounds the text.

Lanesfield Methodist Church, Wolverhampton
30 September

Some items will be sung during the 10.30am service

6pm concert lasting approx 1½ hours

Everyone welcome - please tell your friends!

Retiring collection

“Whatever happened to the Penn and Merry Hill Local Area Forum?”

or

“Just what is this LNP that Lesley Cook keeps going on about?”

You may recall that in the past we have received several grants from the Penn and Merry Hill Local Area Forum, which was a group of local folk who met regularly with service providers and were given funds by Wolverhampton Council to give as grants to local organisations. In fact you can thank them for our wheelchair, the loop system in the Hall, the blue chairs and trolleys and the low tables in the Hall.

Unfortunately, the Local Area Forum was disbanded in June 2006 and new arrangements were set up called LANAs. (Local Area and Neighbourhood Arrangements). There are 15 in Wolverhampton, following the local ward boundaries, and ours is called the Penn and Merry Hill Local Neighbourhood Partnership.

Many of the same local folk are still involved, including myself, and we hold LNP Board meetings every two or three months. There are also small informal groups to bring up issues relating to Youth, Traffic, Crime and the Environment. There is no longer any money for grants, but with the support of our Community Development Worker, the board has written an action plan about what we would like to see happen in Penn and Merry Hill. Service providers like Police, Fire, Health Traffic, Youth and Housing have all signed up to this plan and it is up to us to monitor their actions. If you would like to be involved, please contact me on 330614.

We have a small amount of money at our disposal for training, publicity, room hire etc. So in order to let everyone know what we do at the LNP board and also to advertise the many community initiatives happening in the area, we are putting on a:

Community “What’s On” Road Show 29 September, St Joseph’s Church Hall

10.30am - 2pm

Displays, FREE refreshments,
FREE bouncy castle and magic show for the children.

Do come and support this event.

Thank you!

I must say thank you to everyone for your kind words, cards, flowers, and the lovely gifts and generous cheque which you gave me on my retirement. The cake was delicious, too!

As I have tried to say, I could not have done the jobs of secretary nor lay worker without the help first of Alan Francom and Wendy Gould, and latterly of Phil Summers - but there are so many other people as well - too many to name - in the churches of the section and in the circuit who have supported me and remembered me in their prayers. You have all kept your part of the bargain: I hope I have kept mine, and I know you will continue to love and support Penny Baldwin and the new lay worker in the same ways, as they work with Robert Ely in the Springdale church family and community.

People have asked what am I going to do? The answer is nothing immediately. I shall still be around and worshipping at Springdale, but will wait and see what opportunities arise. Something always does.

Liz Green

WOLVERHAMPTON (TRINITY) METHODIST CHURCH CIRCUIT

The Circuit is seeking to appoint a part-time families worker to work with the families of children and young people who are linked with Trinity Methodist Church, Codsall.

To work for 15 hours per week
(spread over not more than five days in any week)

Starting from 1 *December* 2007

Salary: £5,220 per annum and relevant expenses

For the successful applicant,
application will be made for a CRB (enhanced) disclosure

Application form, job description and salary details available from:

Rev Cecil King,

Closing date for applications: **11th October 2007**

God IS Love

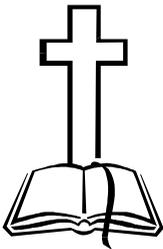
How can I respond to God's love? I must try to love as He loves. I must be prepared to defend the teaching of Jesus against His enemies in the modern world. Religion is **not poison!**

Quote from 1 John 4 vv19 - 21: "We love because God first loved us. If someone says he loves God, but hates his brother, he is a liar. For he cannot love God, whom he has not seen, if he does not love his brother, whom he has seen. The command that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love his brother also."

I find it hard to love militant atheists who try to destroy the faith of believers. They are very clever in the way they martial their arguments but they ignore the core of Christ's teaching about love and condemn all religions by concentrating on what a very small percentage have done e.g. Northern Ireland, suicide bombers in Iraq, terrorists in Israel and Palestine, and so on. God confirm in me my faith; help me to love all humanity, even those who seek to weaken and destroy my faith!

What are the signs of this love in my own life?

God's love was made manifest by my mother's love for me when I was a child. She taught me simple morning and evening prayers before I went to school. God's love was made manifest to me by Christian teachers who built upon foundations laid by my mother.



God has supported me at crisis times in my life. When I had a breakdown at twenty in 1957. When I was the only one at home in 1967 when my mother was dying with cancer. When I had an enterovirus in 1984 and was ill from February to August. In 2006 when my eldest brother died suddenly and I had an accident which left me with a triple fracture to my left shoulder. In 2007 when my brother Frances died.

Jesus never promised us a tranquil life without turbulent times.

"Come to me all you who labour and are heavily burdened and I will refresh you."

May God help us all to grow in faith, hope and love as we build up one another.

Bernard Davis

Holiday Observations - Spot that Bird!

Looking back over the summer with the dismal weather my husband and I count ourselves lucky that we had that wonderful week of dry, sunny and warm weather at the beginning of June. After a good motorway journey to S. Devon (outside Plymouth) we arrived at our self-catering abode for a week. We unpacked, parked the car, made the bed, put the food in the fridge and “chilled out” on the balcony watching the water “ebb and flow”, people watching and spotting birds. A sign we are getting older - bird watching! During the week we didn't see the little egret who normally visits 2 or 3 times daily; neither did we see a kingfisher (well we did but it was in the Natural History section of Plymouth Art Gallery and Museum, the poor little thing, it was stuffed!) They are so small, no wonder they are just a flash of electric blue - their colours are spectacular. Also at the Museum and Art Gallery was a collection of wonderful sea pictures, by various artists. However, there is also a collection of paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, who was born just outside the city.

A visit to Kingsbridge is a delight. There are usually swans along the quay. The day we visited we saw a cob and a pen looking after three cygnets, and loads of various ducks. There are plenty of small shops to browse at providing you climb the steep main street. Here I found a little gem in the Oxfam bookshop, a book of Sir Henry Newbolt poems - there is no date in it but it's very old. His poems relate to events in history, people and the sea, especially Drake's Drum, which is very strange because he was born in Bilston!

On the kingfisher trek, we decided to travel to Lydford Gorge on Dartmoor. It was another lovely day and we arrived mid-morning for the three mile walk along the Gorge. It's quite a trek, and the path could be slippery during wet weather. There was plenty of bird song and rushing water, and lovely lush greenery and ferns but we only spotted a couple of grey wagtails after a two hour walk. The reason why - a party of schoolchildren from France who were quite noisy.

Another day we visited Greenway Gardens by the River Dart near Galmpton. A wonderful woodland walk with glimpses of the river when you least expect it. The rhododendrons and azaleas were almost over but added splashes of colour amongst the trees. I'm sure these gardens would look lovely through the seasons. A lot of the garden was overgrown but is being tidied up. The house, which belonged to the late Agatha Christie, the crime novelist, is being renovated and restructured by the National Trust. What a wonderful location to live, looking out to the river (although the view from the house is obscured by trees at the moment), wandering around a

lovely large, woodland estate, a terrace above the boat-house to while away the evenings, and your own jetty to use if you fancy a journey along the river – a bit of paradise. We saw lots of robins, blackbirds, blue-tits and goldfinches, the usual seagulls, and some shelducks on the river shore.

Another lovely day we walked the coastal path, a two hour circular walk. During this stroll we spotted some naval vessels and sailing boats out at sea. Along the rocky coast we spotted cormorants basking in the sun, crows flying overhead and heard skylarks on the wing. An extra surprise on this walk was a yellowhammer singing merrily on top of a gorse bush, not taking any notice of us and other walkers. A wonderful sight to see.

Another lovely walk we found was on the outskirts of the city of Plymouth. Plym Woods by the river, a canal there too. Very popular with all ages, a notice board by the car park mentioned peregrine falcons nesting on the quarry face and a webcam set up to see the chicks, two of them about a month old. The volunteers also set up telescopes to spot the parents on the Quarry face. It was absolutely amazing seeing them. There were feeding stations for other birds too, i.e. blue-tits, coal tits, robins and goldfinches. We also saw butterflies and dragon-flies, too.

We have so much around us, we only have to look, listen and wait quietly. It's amazing what you can see.

“What is this life, if full of care
We have no time to stand and stare”

W H Davies

Jackie Neilson

Wombourne Methodist Church Bazaar

Saturday 17 November

10am - 12 noon

Wombourne Community Centre

Admission 30p

**Bric-a-Brac, Books, Toys, Homemade Jams & Cakes, Raffle,
Hamper, Refreshments, etc.**

Please come along and support us and have a lovely morning!

District Youth Visit to Rwanda

Through the District Project KOMERA there is going to be a trip to Rwanda in the summer of 2008 for young people in the District aged from 15 to 20. The young people will fly out via Nairobi to Kigali and stay at the Guest House. Whilst in Kigali they will spend a week meeting the orphans group at PHARP, (Peace Building, Healing and Reconciliation Programme). For the second week they will travel by bumpy road to Kibogora which has a retreat centre at Kumbia. During the last week of July missionaries from across the region gather there for a week. Hopefully our young people will run a type of Holiday Club for their young people whilst their parents listen to the speakers. Finally they will return for another week in Kigali before returning back to England.

If there are any young people interested in this trip then they should speak with Brenda Shuttleworth or Helen Cooper who can give more details. There will be a meeting in Telford on 10 October for interested young people and their parents.



Springdale Methodist Church Christmas Fair Saturday 24 November 12 noon - 2pm

**Santa's Grotto,
Tombola,
Craft, White
Refreshments, and lots more besides!**



**Books, Toys,
Cakes, Raffle,
Elephant,**

Come and join the fun!

Dates for your Diaries

16 Sept	Harvest Festival	Gospel Ash	
19 Sept	Welcome for Rev Ben Whitmore	St Bart's	
27 Sept	Prayers and Bears	Springdale	9.45am
28 Sept	District Youth E.vent with Sounds of Salvation	Codsall	7pm
29 Sept	Ecumenical Barn Dance	Springdale	7pm
30 Sept	Harvest Festival and Parade	Springdale	10.30am
30 Sept	Ladies Day	Wombourne	
3 Oct	Quiet Communion	Wombourne	8pm
4 Oct	Coffee Morning and Hymn Sing	Gospel Ash	10am - 12
9 Oct	Prayers and Bears	Wombourne	10am
11 Oct	Quiet Communion	Springdale	10am
13 Oct	Kids Club	Wombourne	10am - 12
13/14 Oct	Church Anniversary Weekend	Springdale	
14 Oct	Harvest Festival	Wombourne	
16 Oct	Church Council	Springdale	7.30pm
21 Oct	One World Week United Service	St Michael's	6.30pm
24 Oct	Church Council	Gospel Ash	7.45pm
7 Nov	Quiet Communion	Wombourne	8pm
8 Nov	Quiet Communion	Springdale	10am
10 Nov	Kids Club	Wombourne	10am - 12
12 Nov	Circuit Meeting	Cranmer	7.30pm
13 Nov	Prayers and Bears	Wombourne	10am
17 Nov	Bazaar	Wombourne	
20 Nov	Penn Ecumenical Council AGM	St Bart's Oak Rm	7.30pm
24 Nov	Christmas Fair	Springdale	12noon - 2pm
2 Dec	United Advent Service	St Bart's	6.30pm
5 Dec	Quiet Communion	Wombourne	8pm
8 Dec	Kids Club	Wombourne	10am - 12

Deadline for the next edition of Triangle is
Sunday 25 November.

Please send in your articles directly, via Springdale website
 (www.springdalechurch.org.uk), or via your stewards, to **Helen
 Cooper** or **Sarah Philpott**.

Email if you can - it makes things so much easier for us! Thanks!