

Triangle



Summer 2007

Dear Friends,

This is my last letter for Triangle (sob, sob, boo hoo, etc...). I've had various thoughts over the last year of what I might say. But now I sit down to write I'm unsure of what to put. I could give a list of "thank yous", but I'm sure I will be saying those during the various events and 'last' meetings in the coming weeks. I could reflect on the ups and downs of ministry in Wolverhampton over the last ten years, but there simply isn't the space. Anyway many of the ups are indescribable and the downs are not the things you want to hear about here. Maybe I should tell you about the ways in which I have grown and developed personally over the years, but then again, many of you are in a better position than I to tell *me* such things. There is so much that could be said.....

I will always be grateful for your love, support and prayers during the period when I fell ill with mental health issues (stress & anxiety, depression), call it what you will. It is still something I struggle with from time to time, but because of your care, each year is an improvement on the last. Thank you. While I was off work someone sent me these words from Philippians 4:8:- 'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things'. The card now sits by my bedside. If Jesus calls us to love one another then these words give us the answer to the question 'How?' It is too easy to criticise both ourselves and those around us. By negative thinking we can tear apart the body of Christ that is the church. As we look at the work we are involved in then let us find ways of encouraging one another in the good that is being done. I am extremely proud of much of the work of Springdale, Wombourne and Gospel Ash Methodist Churches. But mostly I am thankful to have worked with such committed and faithful people. In Jesus name continue to build one another up in love and by the Holy Spirit's presence celebrate who you are.

On a personal note I want to say thank you for the way you have cared for my family. Jo and Ele feel very much at home, whether they are at Wombourne, Gospel Ash or their place of Worship, Springdale. They have been loved and upheld, supported and prayed for. Without them I am nothing and because of your love they have had the strength to put up with me and encourage me along the way.

I'll finish with what I said when I left 'Questors', the youth group at Beckminster. If you remember nothing else about my time here, then remember that I told you this: God loves you! Through Jesus he shows the depth of his love, and nothing can separate you from his love.

God bless, now and always,

Phil.

Wombourne Vestry News

Since the last Triangle Wombourne has held its AGM resulting in several changes in the vestry. I would like to thank all retiring officers, especially our senior steward Charles - thank you for all your hard work. Welcome to all new officers and thank you to all who continue. As in most churches mostly the titles change and the dedicated members of the congregation continue to love and help each other, and I thank God that by working together his Church continues.

All the groups held at the chapel are going well. Wives, Craft and Chat, Bible Study, Enriching Personal Prayer, Oily Wheelbarrows, Choir, Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship (though for some reason they have half their meeting at the pub!). The Kids Club and Prayers and Bears meet once a month and are a strong and vibrant part of the church.

However... Wombourne are very aware that we have recently updated our kitchen; it is now fitted out in stainless steel and is a wonderfully equipped commercial type kitchen. We wish to use this for the whole community so if you know of a project that needs a home please let the vestry know.

The church's mission project is Eldoret Children's Home Aid Link. As Friends of Kenya's children we have helped to fill a goods container and also sent colourful woolen jumpers and money (thank you Craft and Chat Group). It is good to remember how wide Gods family is.

Many of the recent services inspire us to think not only of our spiritual life but the earthly life of others. The Christian Aid service especially, which was interactive this year, and made us question our true commitment to helping poorer countries. It's so easy to be just that little more aware of the country of origin and the impact us ordinary shoppers can have on the policies of governments. I only wish there was a concise list of the worst offenders as many bad purchases are made in blissful ignorance.

As we get nearer to the time Phil will be moving I know we all feel a little apprehensive. We have grown together and its human nature to be wary of change. I have been thinking of what he has taught us and feel the main one for Wombourne is the ability to work together. Roland Bamford preached at Wombourne that if he left the world richer in love, he had done his job. Phil has shown us how to love each other, even when opinions differ, and I know this will stay with us and travel to his new job. God Bless.

Janet Fenney

Gospel Ash Vestry News

Time flies! It does not seem many days since we prepared the last report for "Triangle" and here we go again. We do not stand still, we move forward, but so much of our Church life is so routine that it could pass without mention. It is not like the "Marking of Time" when hours can pass by unnoticed. It is better likened to the taking of a meal, preparation, anticipation, participation and then assimilation. We don't always remember what the food was, but do know that we have eaten. At Gospel Ash this past Quarter we have had some very good times of fellowship and worship and some that will be remembered for a long time.

The visit of the Short Heath singers after a break of two years was very welcome. They were in very good form and found the new layout in the Church Rostrum area most helpful. The quality of presentation and performance was really thrilling to experience.

Our visit to Codsall for the Skittles Evening was great. Just seven in our team but we came out with flying colours – the star of the event being Olive Edwards and her bowling. It was a gorgeous evening that included us sharing in Communion together. This was followed by refreshment provided and served by the men.

We are happy that the Cow Fund mentioned in the last issue was a great success. Just fifteen people raised £195-00 in the six weeks of Lent. Christian Aid will use this in the service of Rural Communities in need in the Third World. Thanks to all who gave and helped.

Eleven of us shared the United Service at Holy Cross on Good Friday when our Superintendent Minister, Rev. Cecil King, was the preacher. It was good to meet with our Bobbington friends once again.

During the Quarter we have entertained the District Lay Workers conference, the District Pilgrims on their way to Mow Cop to celebrate the birth of Primitive Methodists two hundred years ago.

I have sat in the pew for some years now and can say that these past few weeks have provided some of the best and richest worship and preaching I have ever known. One high was the baptism of baby Joseph, son of Mathew and Anna, and the grandson of Colin and Margaret Woodhood. The church was full and we felt the Spirit of God moving among us.

Looking ahead we look to the Church Anniversary on July 8th with Phil leading us. There will be refreshments to follow. This service brings to an

end the ministry of Phil and Jo with us. We are deeply thankful to them and pray them well for their ministry at Poplar.

Coffee Mornings continue each first Thursday of a month. We hope to see you.

Bill Stubbs

Springdale Vestry News

As I report from the vestry for the first time I realise what a busy year we have had so far. The Lent House Groups that ran for 5 weeks were very successful with more people joining the discussion groups this year, a good ecumenical mix and also a new group for the 18 – 30's age. The theme "Build a Better World" (learning from William Wilberforce) gave us a lot to think about in our discussions. I would recommend going to one for the friendship and fellowship you receive. Thank you, Bernard, for co-ordinating them.

Our Easter journey in church was using the story of the Exodus with symbols added week by week linked to Moses, making us all realise what a long, challenging journey Moses had. He kept his faith through all the hardships, as we must do in our daily lives.

A group from church visited The Reflective Garden on the edge of Cannock Chase in March. It's a wonderful, peaceful, tranquil place to visit. Everyone felt refreshed and relaxed afterwards. Thank you Val and Denis for organising the event.

Our Junior Church presented "Moses" at the end of April for their Anniversary. What a delight! The enthusiasm of the children acting and singing, and a sprinkle of humour that raised a lot of laughs. Well done to them and the teachers for their hard work. Loved the puppets, too!

The Emmaus Group met for 4 weeks led by Phil discussing "The Witnesses" - there was lively conversation which was also thought provoking and we enjoyed sharing our faith together. We shall miss Phil so it was good to share time together.

As summer progresses let us take time to think and pray for Phil and his family, for the new challenges they face together. As Phil leaves we will welcome our new minister Robert, and his family, to our church. We pray to our Lord for his grace and guidance to lead us forward together.

Jackie Neilson

Springdale Pastoral News

Congratulations to Phil and Judy Staley on the birth of another granddaughter, Alice May, on 21 March, weighing in at 7lb 13oz, to Heather and Matt Childs, a sister for Hannah Rose. Also, congratulations to Denis and Val Campion on the birth of another great-grandson, Conor, born on 29 March to Eloise and Paul, a brother for Leo.

On April 22 we welcomed the families and friends of Jack Donaldson and Kathryn Hughes, and on May 27 the family and friends of Peter Harvey as they were baptised into the church family at Springdale. We pray God will bless these little ones.

Several friends have either been in hospital or are attending hospital with on-going appointments or treatment. We think of our housebound friends also at this time. We remember you all and pray the Lord will be with you.

Phil and Debbie Ward, Emma, Samantha and James are in our thoughts and prayers following the tragic death of Phil's Dad in April - may they, along with Phil's wider family, be given strength.

To all who are sitting exams at this time of the year - all the best - it will soon be over - then you can relax and enjoy yourselves!

Many of our church family have had a special "Big O" birthday or celebration - we hope you enjoyed your special day.

We particularly remember Phil, Jo and Ele as they prepare for "pastures new", and also Robert and Theresa Ely as they prepare to move up to Wolverhampton.

"May God's blessing surround you each day
As you trust him and walk in his way,
May his presence within guard and keep you from sin,
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love."

Gwyneth M Wade, Pastoral Secretary

Polite note from the Editor!

Please remember copyright laws!

I have had a number of photocopied articles given for publication this time. Unfortunately they would appear to be under copyright and are therefore not suitable for publication!

Wombourne Pastoral News

As this will be my last report with Phil at the helm I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all at Wombourne to say a sincere thank you to him for all that he has done for us during the last seven years. On a personal note, thanks especially for his involvement and support with 'Kids Club' and with 'Prayers n Bears'. I know that he will be sorely missed by all the toddlers and children, as well as the rest of us 'oldies'. We would also like to express our appreciation to Eleanor for her valuable help with 'Kids Club. Also to Jo, for supporting both Phil and Eleanor. We will also miss hearing Jo's wonderful singing voice.

Whilst thinking of 'Kids Club' I must say what a joy it was to see Jack Smith enjoying himself with us at our last meeting. We pray for his continued improvement and also ask God to keep his brother Ben safe as he serves in Iraq.

May Phil, Jo and Eleanor be blessed abundantly by God in their new home in London; help them to know that our thoughts will still be with them as they begin a different spiritual journey in life. We pray too for Robert and Theresa Ely as they move here to minister to us in September.

Now to news of all our members who have been in hospital for various operations or treatment since I last wrote; to Carrie, Eve, Stan, Val, Beryl, Margaret, and Ron, and this week Jack Cartwright. May they all receive God's blessings and strength. At this time, we pray especially for Les and Olivia both having treatment now; is close to them and for Tom awaiting operations and their families.

To all our house bound members and friends, may God bless them each day. We think of Roland, and give thanks for his ministry to us here in Wombourne, and continue to pray for him and Glenys; also to Sylvia Curry and family on losing Peter.

On the 1st April it was wonderful to see such a full church for the baptism of Rose Wallett. We pray for Rose and all her Family.

Finally, congratulations to all who have had a birthday recently, especially to Jack Cynthia Cathy and Ann who celebrated 'Big 'O's.

"Commit everything you do to the Lord,
Trust him, and he will help you." **PSALM 37: 5**

God bless

Carol Walker, Pastoral Secretary

"Reflections at Little Hayes" on March 24th

On Saturday 24 March, 2007, seventeen members of Springdale visited The Reflective Gardens near Castle Ring, Cannock Chase. It's a very tranquil place just to wander around but it has areas where you can just sit to relax, think or pray. We were lucky with the weather - bright, sunny, although a cool breeze. There were lots of lovely birds, trees and flowers. The garden has a set route you can follow, or, if you wish, you can just stroll around. I found peace and tranquillity by the pond and although we all wandered around a smile or a nod was sufficient to communicate - no talking was needed. I felt refreshed and relaxed during and after our visit.

There are quiet rooms within the house to pray or think if you wish, but I enjoyed Gods creation. Each season would be a delight to visit to see the changing colours on the trees and plant - some were medicinal, some biblical and others common to ordinary gardens.

Jackie Neilson

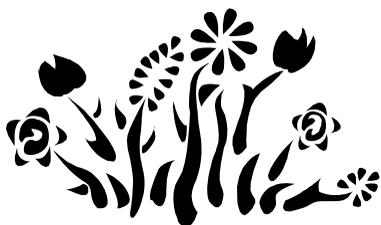
Random Thoughts on A Quiet Garden

A chilly, early Spring day - so glad I took a hat and gloves.

A warm welcome by our host - her house was warm too, also tranquil and restful, her words thought - provoking. She also gave us the most delicious home-made beetroot and chilli soup!

A time to be with friends, but also a time of silence and prayer. We all tried to give each other space in the themed gardens as we followed the route in our leaflets and later found a quiet spot to pray, meditate, listen to the birds, look at the new life bursting forth all around or read.

I found that God really does speak to you when you make the time to be still and listen - and in a very powerful way. I realise that you don't need to go to a quiet garden to experience this, but I do have difficulty being still and silent and this really helped me.



Lesley Cook

Spring Harvest Revisited

Paul and I again spent a short week at this mega Christian gathering which has been running annually for thirty or more years (there are now two venues at Butlins, Minehead and Skegness). I'm sure many of you will know about it, but I feel driven to share my up-to-date impressions.

First of all I would say that it is a fairly middle of the road Christian event with speakers and participants from mostly mainstream churches. Whether you favour the evangelical or the liberal wing I'm convinced you will find views and attitudes that tally with your own.

Moreover, I have observed that things don't remain static; over the years, while the Gospel of course is the same, thinking and priorities have moved and developed as leaders have gathered fresh insights. After experiencing this I believe that, in spite of the recently aired divisions, it is now possible for believers to see their perceived mountains as molehills compared to the centrality of the Good News of God's love for mankind.

I would like to urge church leaders and others to encourage their flocks to consider attending a session in the future. I should add that places are hard to come by unless you book early in summer for the following year! However, if you see a full car park outside a pub you know that the food is good! Most of us, I feel would benefit from being jogged out of our rut, inspired and revitalised – all of which is likely to happen at Spring Harvest!

Cathy Anderson.

Worried!

I'm probably a worrier,
For I worry all the time,
If I could only shake the habit,
Things would really be just fine.

I worry about everything,
Whether important, or not.
Then I worry because I'm worried,
For it's my greatest fault.

It's all a vicious circle,
And one day I will break out.
But then I think I'd be worried
If I had nothing to worry about!



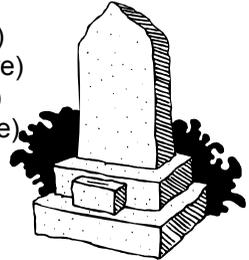
Thankful Villages

Millions of families in the UK lost loved ones during World War 1. One particular lady in Gloucestershire lost 5 sons. You could say that all communities were affected. However, there were a few that were not. These villages were known as “Thankful Villages”, as used by Arthur Mee, British writer and journalist, in his “King’s England”, which was a guide to the counties of England in the 1930’s.

A Thankful Village was said to be one which lost no men in the Great War, i.e. those who left to serve king and country came home again. For instance, in Yorkshire’s East Riding Mee wrote, “Thirty men from Catwick went to the Great War and thirty came back (though I left an arm behind!)”. Arkholme in Lancashire saw 59 sons go and all returned. It is said that such villages had no war memorial although some had monuments (usually in church) in gratitude for their safe return.

Among 16 000 villages Mee estimated that there were 32 Thankful Villages although he could only identify 24. More recently, research (which is ongoing) by Norman Thorpe and Tom Morgan has identified 41 parishes through England and Wales from which soldiers returned. Those known local to the Midlands include

Bradbourne north of Ashbourne (Derbyshire)
Middleton-on-the-Hill north of Leominster (Herefordshire)
Brierley south of Ross-on-Wye (Gloucestershire)
Coln Rogers north of Cirencester (Gloucestershire)
Little Sodbury east of Chipping Sodbury (Gloucestershire)
Saxby east of Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire)
East Carlton west of Corby (Northamptonshire)
Woodend west of Towcaster (Northamptonshire)
Cromwell north of Southwell (Nottinghamshire)
Maplebeck north of Southwell (Nottinghamshire)
Wigsley south of Newark (Nottinghamshire)
Wysall south of Nottingham (Nottinghamshire)
Teigh north of Oakham (Rutland)
Harley south west of Telford (Shropshire)



I remember an item on “Heart of the Country” on ITV about Thankful Villages a few years ago, but I managed to find this information on the internet. A full list covering England (and Wales - one entry I found) can be seen on www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/England-History/ThankfulVillages.htm and also Wikipedia.org/wiki/ThankfulVillages.

Books of the Bible

In **GENESIS** the world was made
by God's almighty hand;
In **EXODUS** the Hebrews marched
to gain the Promised Land;
LEVITICUS contains the Law -
holy, just and good;
NUMBERS records the tribes enrolled,
all sons of Abraham's blood.

Moses, In **DEUTERONOMY**, extols
God's mighty deeds;
Brave **JOSHUA** into Canaan's
land the host of Israel leads;
In **JUDGES** their rebellion oft provokes
the Lord to smite;
But **RUTH** records the faith of one
well pleasing in his sight.

The First and Second **SAMUEL** of
Jesse's son we read;
Ten tribes in First and Second
KINGS revolted from his seed;
The First and Second **CHRONICLES**
see Judah captive made;
But **EZRA** leads a remnant back
by princely Cyrus's aid.

The city walls of Zion **NEHEMIAH**
builds again,
While **ESTHER** saves her people
from the plots of wicked men;
In **JOB** we read how faith will live
beneath affliction's rod,
Whilst David's **PSALMS** are precious
songs to every child of God.

The **PROVERBS** like a goodly
string of choicest paths appear;;
ECCLESIASTES teaches men
how vain are all things here;
The mystic **SONG OF SOLOMON**

extols sweet Sharon's rose,
Whilst Christ the Saviour and the
King the rapt **ISAIAH** shows.

The warning **JEREMIAH** apostate
Israel scorns,
His plaintive **LAMENTATIONS**
their awful downfall mourns;
EZEKIEL tells in wondrous words
of dazzling mysteries,
Whilst Kings and empires yet to
come **DANIEL** in vision sees.

Of justice and of mercy **HOSEA**
loves to tell,
JOEL recalls the blessed days
when God with man shall dwell;
Among Tekoa's herdsmen **AMOS**
received his call,
And **OBADIAH** prophesies of
Edom's final fall.

JONAH enshrines a wondrous
type of Christ our risen Lord,
MICAH pronounces Judah lost -
lost, but again restored;
NAHUM declares on Ninevah just
judgement shall be poured,
A view of Chaldea's coming down
HABBAKUK's visions give,
Whilst **ZEPHANIAH** warns the
Jews to turn, repent, and live.

HAGGAI wrote to those who saw
the temple built again,
And **ZECHARIAH** prophesies of
Christ's triumphant reign;
MALACHI was the last who
touched the high prophetic chord -
His final notes sublimely show the
coming of the Lord.

NCH Sunday 8 July 2007

Who is my neighbour? Luke 10: 25 - 37

'If I hadn't had help from NCH, I'd have probably had the kids taken off me and ended up with nothing. That's the way it was going. I don't want my kids brought up the same way I was, in a children's home.'

A parent at one of our intensive family support projects

'The families involved are really struggling. By working with each family member and giving them the confidence and skills they need to work through their problems, families can turn their lives around and anti social behaviour can be stopped. This benefits the children, the family and the whole community.'

An NCH intensive family support project worker

'NCH works with families to look at the underlying causes of this behaviour, so we can get to the bottom of why it is happening. Working with NCH we can help prevent problems and break the cycle of anti-social behaviour. NCH gets neighbours involved and people feel like they are part of the solution. The whole community benefits.'

Anti-social behaviour Unit Co-ordinator working in partnership with NCH's intensive family support programme

NCH pioneered intensive family support for families at risk of eviction and now runs 14 projects, working with families in their own homes or in special accommodation. Research published last year shows that the NCH approach can turn around anti-social behaviour in eight out of 10 cases, keeping families together and saving hundreds of thousands of pounds.

More information about our work in this area can be found in our worship resources for NCH Sunday available from Supporter Care on 08457 626579 or at www.nch.org.uk/methodist



Books of the New Testament Word Search

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

Acts

Colossians

Corinthians

Ephesians

Galatians

Hebrews

James

John

Jude

Luke

Mark

Matthew

Peter

Philemon

Philippians

Revelation

Romans

Thessalonians

Timothy

Titus

Answers on page 23!

Faith Quiz

When we were at the Heart of Worship Conference in Llandudno I attended a multi-faith workshop. Below is a series of writings from different faiths, only one of which is Christian. The exercise was to decide which one was Christian. Can you see which? You might even be able to name the others! Answers on page 23!

Denis Campion

- 1 Thy name is above all names, the most majestic and the most sublime. The sound of thy name is the sweetest that human ear can hear. Countless persons call thee simultaneously by thy name and thou dost hear them all and respond to them.
- 2 By what name shall I call you, who are beyond all names? You the Beyond-all, what name shall I give you? What hymn can sing your praises, what work can tell you? No mind can probe your secret, no intelligence comprehend you. ...You are the end of all longings and of all silent aspiration. You are the end of all groanings of your entire creation.
- 3 All tremble at violence, all fear death. Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill. One who, while himself seeking happiness, oppresses with violence other beings who also desire happiness, will not attain happiness hereafter.
- 4 True piety is this: to believe in God, and the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the Prophets, to give one's substance, however cherished, to kinsmen, and orphans, the needy, the traveller, beggars and to ransom the slave...
- 5 As low down thieves might carve one limb from limb with a double-handed saw, yet even then whoever sets his mind at enmity, he, for this reason, is not a doer of my teaching. Herein, monks, you should train yourselves: "Neither will our minds become perverted, nor will we utter an evil speech, but kindly and compassionate will we dwell, with a mind of friendliness, void of hatred..."
- 6 Send down O God, O Gentle, O Compassionate, into my heart faith and tranquillity and stillness, that I may be of those whose "Hearts are stilled by the mention of God".

- 7 I will sing You a song
O, Lord of the Universe.
I will sing You a song.
Where can You be found,
And where can You not be found?
Where I pass - there You are.
Where I remain there, too You are,
You, You and only You.
- 8 There is One god,
He is the Supreme Truth,
He, the Creator, is without fear and without hate.
He, the Omnipresent, pervades the Universe,
He is not born, nor does He die to be born again.
True in the beginning, true throughout the ages,
True even now and forever shall be true.
- 10 Thou art the giver of Life,
The remover of pain and sorrow,
The bestower of happiness.
O Creator of the Universe,
May we receive thy supreme sin-destroying light.
May thou guide our intellect in the right direction.
- 11 O love, O pure deep love, be here, be now.
Be all; worlds dissolve into your stainless endless radiance,
Frail living leaves burn with you brighter than cold stars;
Make me your servant, your breath, your core.

The Wild Goose Worship Group
from the Iona Community
will present a "Big Sing"
at Penn URC
on Saturday 23 June.
Tickets £3

Three Into One

Newsletter Number Two (April 2007)

Thank you for the assurances of prayer for the churches of our three circuits and for our growth into unity; it is great that **THREE INTO ONE: The Prayer Diary** is being used.

One of our priorities as Christians is **public worship** - worship that gives of our best to God and brings people to a closer walk with Jesus. In most churches we worship **several times a week** - on Sundays twice, at mid-week fellowships, in Kids' Clubs, at mid-week services. People worship according to their own language and ways of expressing themselves - and those are varied in our society; so our churches need to offer **varied opportunities and occasions** for worship. Few of our churches alone can offer that variety.

That is why it has been proposed that we plan our worship in **clusters of churches** working together. Within a cluster of churches there are preachers, worship leaders, musicians, junior church workers, fellowship leaders and people who can create Power Point presentations and other visual aids. Together those people can be a **worship team** for the cluster of churches - planning, leading and encouraging the worship in churches. Instead of a Circuit-wide Plan for Sunday worship, each **cluster will plan worship** for its churches, at whatever days and times are best for people locally, following the themes and styles that people feel most at home with.

“Prayer Without Ceasing” last year opened up enthusiasm and new possibilities for public worship in local churches. **“Fresh Expressions”** of worship are springing up - on different days of the week, in silence or very noisy, using dance or using words, with Power Point or with paper. In the united circuit we want a thousand flowers to bloom and people to be free to worship in the way the Spirit leads.

People are anxious about how this will work or that it will *never* work.

Will each cluster be able to use only its Local Preachers?

No. Just as now a local church invites people to lead special services or a circuit uses preachers from other circuits, a cluster team will invite people from outside the cluster to help lead worship.

Will there be another layer of meetings - adding cluster meetings to local church meetings and circuit-wide meetings?

No. The circuit-wide meeting to make the Preaching Plan will be replaced by a cluster worship team to plan worship for the churches of the cluster.

Won't the varied times and styles of worship break up the local church because there will never be an occasion when everyone worships together?

Already in our churches many people attend only one of the different occasions for worship we have - only Sunday morning, only at Kids' Club, only at Fellowship. New styles and times for worship will involve people who at present join in *none* of our worship because none of it is at a time when they can come or in a style they can join in. There can be several worshipping congregations in one local church.

What is the point of coming together as one circuit only to break into five clusters?

We shall be one circuit but worship happens locally (except for circuit services - and we shall have those regularly). Worship is the activity of a group of people in a particular place; it needs to be the offering of those people and relevant to that neighbourhood. In the united circuit we want people to bring their concerns and their gifts, their hopes and their prayer to the worship they give to God. Having clusters to plan worship will help that happen more easily than the Superintendent sending in preachers to each local church.

Newsletter Number Three (May 2007)

Wolverhampton City Centre Pioneer Minister - The Church of England and the Methodist Church have together appointed a Pioneer Minister to work with young adults in the centre of Wolverhampton. He is the Reverend Richard Moy, at present curate at St Jude's Church, Tettenhall Road. His work will begin in June; it is to develop fresh expressions of church and to provide pastoral and spiritual support for 18 to 35 year olds who frequent the City Centre but not the churches.

You are all invited to the welcome service at Darlington Street Church which will mark the beginning of Richard Moy's new ministry at 7pm on Monday 25 June. The preacher will be Rev Andrew Roberts, our District Mission Enabler and one of the leaders of the national Fresh Expressions movement. Whether or not you come to Darlington Street on June 25 please pray for Richard and for the work he will be doing with us and for us. Richard welcomes invitations to preach in Methodist churches and opportunities to tell church people about the mission and how we may

support and be involved in it.

Thank you for your responses to and questions about “THREE INTO ONE - Number Two” on how we shall plan our worship in the united circuit. One of the most common questions is “What about Sundays?” Will Sundays stop being our main day for worship? Will some of our churches have no service on a Sunday? The answer will be decided locally by congregations in clusters. In the past our times for meeting and worship have changed. John Wesley told the Methodists to meet on Thursday evenings. Until fifty years ago most Methodists in towns and cities worshipped on a Sunday evening; now few do. Already the best attended worship in some of our churches is not on a Sunday but in the morning, afternoon or evening of another day of the week. Many of the children and young people who worship do so on a weekday evening or a Saturday morning. Many elderly and infirm people cannot be at Sunday worship because of the less frequent bus service, because that is the day they spend time with their children and grandchildren, or because their carers come later on a Sunday.

We should not make worshipping on a Sunday a condition of participating in church life, and our planning of worship, our publicity material, and our Preaching Plan need to reflect the variety of occasions, days and times we offer public worship.

It is odd to the non-churchgoer that most denominations and church buildings have worship at the same time, even when they are in the same neighbourhood (excepting Seventh Day Adventists and Roman Catholic Saturday evening mass). A Christian wanting to worship on a Sunday morning is spoilt for choice; a Christian who for employment, health or family reasons cannot worship on a Sunday morning feels excluded.

If local churches feel called to have public worship on different days and at various times, that is positive outreach. As preachers and worship leaders we put as much prayer, preparation, devotion and creativity into Monday afternoon or Thursday evening worship as we do into Sunday worship; our Preaching Plan should recognise that.

Another question is “When shall we start planning worship in our clusters and publishing a common Preaching Plan for the three circuits?” That will depend on the ministers, local preachers, worship leaders and local church officers and how soon they want to start planning worship together. It could be by the June to August Preaching Plan of next year. One or two clusters will start planning worship together before that.

Three Circuit Events

Monday 25 June

Darlington Street @ 7pm
Welcome of Richard Moy as City Centre
Pioneer Minister

Sunday 9 September

Darlington Street @ 5pm
Charles Wesley Hymn Festival led by Rev Dr
the Lord Leslie Griffiths

Thursday 8 November

Refresher Evening for Local Preachers and
Worship Leaders led by Rev Jeff Reynolds of
the Stafford Circuit

Please send your questions, comments and information for future issues
of THREE INTO ONE to: Rev Cecil King, 14 Westland Avenue, WV3 9NX
(email: Beatrice.King@btinternet.com)



Springdale Art Group
are holding an exhibition in
Springdale Community Hall
on June 23, 10am - 1pm.
Entrance free.
Refreshments available.

Springdale Redevelopment Situation

Hopefully most of you will know the current situation with regards to our redevelopment but for those of you who are not on Church Council or who didn't attend the General Church Meeting please read on.

We have applied to the National Lottery Community Buildings Fund for just under £250,000 to finish off the redevelopment of Springdale including the following:

- New secure Main Entrance as per the original plans
- New Fencing and Main entrance from Warstones Road
- Enlarging and resurfacing the car park, including designated spaces for the disabled, and including landscaping
- New roof on the community centre

We are waiting to see if we have been successful in Stage 1 of the application and, if so, we go through to the next stage. It will be at least September before we hear anything. Watch out in the notices.

We are not sure what implications the Olympics will have on the Community Funds but will have to wait and see.

We are still raising money and, at the time of writing, we have instructed Warstones Timber Services to remove the trees fronting Warstones Road, including the sycamore trees on the corner of Wynchcombe Avenue. This was the subject of much discussion but the Church Council decided, after recommendation by the Development Committee, that removal was the best thing for our future plans.

Thank you for all of your support.

Nicola Jones

I shall pass through this world once,
Any good thing therefore that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show to any
Fellow creature, let me do it now,
Let me not defer it or neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again.

Stephen Grellet (1773-1855)

Second Exchange Visit of Wombourne Choral Society to Semoy, near Orléans

Those of you with good memories may remember a similar report four years ago! Well, some of the choir enjoyed our time so much that we wanted to repeat the experience and meet all our wonderful French friends again.

Our choir sang unaccompanied madrigals and Elizabethan songs by Vaughan Williams. Chorale Chantemoy sang some lovely French songs, and together we sang “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” (Rutter), “Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré) and three opera choruses.

We were thrilled by the two churches chosen for the concerts - they were magnificent, and the French audiences were fantastic, too.

The third occasion we sang was rather different. ON Sunday morning (Pentecost) we took part in the Mass at the local Catholic church, singing three items. It was very moving to hear the familiar words spoken in French and to join in the sung responses. It made me think of our friends back in Wolverhampton and, indeed, Christians all over the world. The things we have in common are so much more important than our differences.

This was made even clearer to me as I spent about three hours in conversation (with much help from a dictionary) with my friend Marie-Noelle, a member of that congregation, that evening. She is a wonderful woman, a young-at-heart pensioner, who does prison visiting, teaches Muslim ladies to read and write, has just had solar panels installed on her roof, and knows all about Fair Trade (Commerce Équitable). Let us give thanks to God for Christians everywhere who are determined to make a difference to our world.



Lesley Cook

Springdale Methodist Church

invites you to join their new
Youth Fellowship.

held every Sunday evening in
the fellowship room.
7.45pm to 9.30pm.

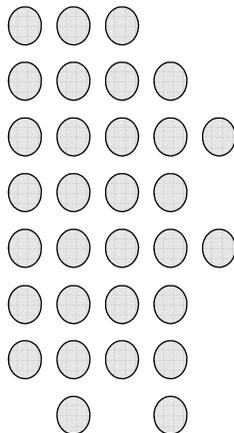
Leaders:

**Rev. Phil Summers,
Helen Cooper &
Sarah Philpott**

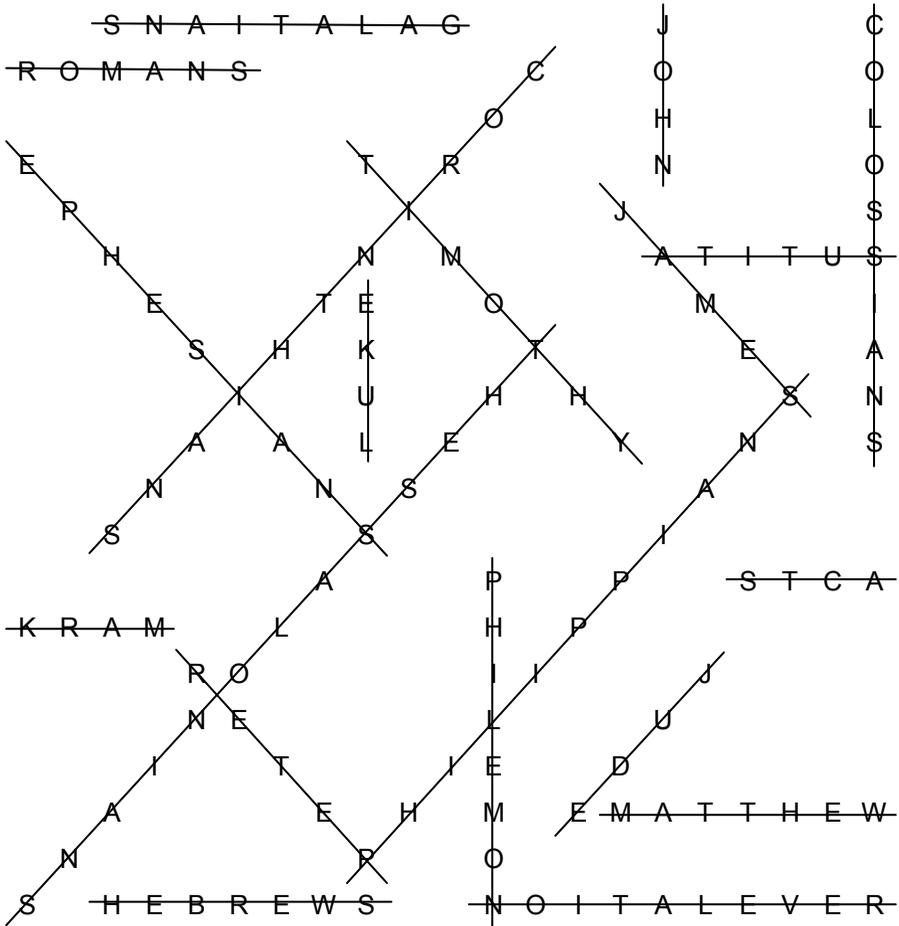
Year 9 & over

**For more details contact
either**

**Helen
or
Sarah**



Word search answers



Faith Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Zoroastrian | 6. Moslem |
| 2. Christian | 7. Jewish |
| 3. Buddhist | 8. Sikh |
| 4. Moslem | 9. Hindu |
| 5. Buddhist | 10. Moslem |

Dates for your Diaries

19 June	Circuit Meeting	Gospel Ash	7.30pm
20 June	Enriching Personal Prayer	Wombourne	7.30pm
21 June	Springdale Church Council	Springdale	7.30pm
23 June	Art Exhibition	Springdale	10am - 1pm
23 June	Wild Goose Big Sing	Penn URC	7.30pm
25 June	Welcome to Richard Moy	Darlington St	7pm
29 June	Wombourne Cranival Barn Dance	Civic Centre	7.30pm
30 June	Engelberg Garden Party	Engelberg	2pm
14 July	Phil's Farewell	Springdale	Evening
15 July	Ecumenical Service to commemorate the Abolition of Slavery	St Peter's	6.30pm
22 July	Circuit Service - Wombourne & Gospel Ash say "Goodbye" to Phil	Wombourne	Following pm service
30 July	Wombourne Cranival		
13 August	Summer Holiday Club begins	Springdale	
19 August	Songs of Praise - A Celebration of Childhood	Springdale	6.30pm
9 Sept	Charles Wesley Hymn Festival	Darlington St	5pm
8 Nov	Refresher Evening for Local Preachers & Worship Leaders		