

EDITORIAL

"Christ has risen - He has risen indeed." Easter Sunday is the day when we celebrate the tremendous fact that Christ has risen. Clearly showing that he has both paid the penalty for our sins and set us totally free from the slavery of sin.

This year we are remembering the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade that the actions of Wilberforce and others did so much to end. So how was the ex-slave captain John Newton able to cope with the guilt he must have felt over his own part as captain of a slave ship? He found the amazing forgiveness we celebrate when we say "Christ has risen." This he expressed in the tremendous words of the hymn *Amazing Grace* when he wrote, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."

Christ's resurrection is a simple fact celebrated world-wide. Many attempts to deny this by objective research have ended up supporting it. Yet people are prepared to believe recent claims that a separate tomb for Jesus has been found. Jesus has risen making that claim nonsense. Or the claim that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and they had children. It does not fit the facts recorded in the Bible. People seem to want to believe anything but the simple fact that Christ has risen.

Let's clearly declare that Christ has risen and is alive for evermore.

Simon Lloyd

RESURRECTION

They stood there in amazement.
The stone was rolled away!
The tomb itself was empty,
Where once my Lord did lay.

He's gone away to heaven now,
To make a place for me,
That when my time on earth is spent,
My soul will be set free.

Jacquelyn Horne

Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com>

KIDZ KLUB DAY OUT



As a Kidz Klub team we have thought for a while that it would be good to spend time with the children outside the setting of a Friday night or the weekly visiting. We know that relationships are built on time spent with the children and so we planned a day out for the over 8's who come to Kidz Klub.

We went to Jesmond Dene and split into teams for a photo treasure hunt. The children enjoyed the competition and it gave the group leaders time to

chat with and get to know the children in their group better.

Following the hunt we went up to Holy Trinity Church's hall where we had lunch and the children then used the bits and pieces they had collected in Jesmond Dene to create collages inspired by the morning. The results were spectacular... please do look at them; they are on display in the Hall.

We returned home with the same number of children we had taken and they were all still in one piece!! As a first trip it was a great success and we hope to plan further trips later in the year for both the under and over 8's.

We have also booked a weekend away 7th-9th March 2008 - please come and speak to us if you would like to join us for an exciting trip to The Lake District ☺. We will not only need help with the children but also people who would be willing to be our chefs for the weekend.

Caroline Daly

VENERABLE ARE THE VULNERABLE

- Or "What is Heather Morton doing up there in that office now?"

Updating CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) forms, mostly. Thank you to everyone for their tolerance, cooperation and good humour.

Previously, we requested CRB disclosures for volunteers working with children. Now we are seeking additional clearance for volunteers to work with "vulnerable adults".

The law defines as "vulnerable" adults with longstanding illnesses or disabilities and anyone eligible for any form of adult social care services. We now have a statutory duty to safeguard

our "vulnerable adults" from exclusion, exploitation and abuse.

Abuse is something which does happen to adults and those whom society regards as vulnerable are often disproportionately victimised. However, both theologically and spiritually, I struggle with the legal construction of the "vulnerable adult". It implies that some of us are invulnerable, or that some of us are less vulnerable than others.

Before Christ, we are all vulnerable. Each of us has our own individual imperfections, limitations and brokenness, and that is what makes us alive and human. As Paul in 2 Corinthians 12 discovered, it is through our vulnerabilities that God most effectively demonstrates his grace.

I also work for a housing association. There, all the project staff are undergoing training in POVA (protection of vulnerable adults). One of the staff, who admits to battling with spelling, asked me to proof-read her assignment.

I read what she had written. It was a case study explaining the protection of one particularly "venerable" adult, a woman known as particularly violent. "Venerable" meaning esteemed, exceptional, respected, the Venerable Bede. As we laughed and corrected "venerable" to "vulnerable", I pondered Matthew 5. Vulnerability is venerable to God. And in the same way that we are all vulnerable, so also are we all venerable.

Thinking in such a way makes the processing of CRB forms a much more privileged service to God and our community...

Heather Morton

FAITH

- Faith is telling a mountain to move and being shocked only if it doesn't.
- If doubt overtakes you, stop for a faith lift.
- Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there.
- Faith hears the inaudible, sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible
- Faith is not a pill you take but a muscle you use.
- Faith draws the poison from every grief, takes the sting from every loss, and quenches the fire of every pain.
- Faith and conviction become stronger when attacked.
- Faith says, "I will give it before I get it."
- He who prays for rain should always carry an umbrella.
- It is impossible for faith to overdraw its account on the bank of heaven.
- Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
- Faith is to the watching soul what a mainspring is to a watch.
- Both faith and fear sail into the harbour of your mind, but only faith should be allowed to anchor.
- Faith can rewrite your future.
- Sorrow looks back. Worry looks around. Faith looks up.
- Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see.

FAR WEST HOUSEGROUP

Yes feeding an orphan lamb was part of one of our meetings. So where does that fit into the Forty Days of Community? It was simply part of sharing together.

We did not have one host for the Forty Days of Community programme



but we took it in turns to host the meetings. We also shared in leading each evening, which the material lent itself to.

So what projects are we doing as a group? First we are going to go weeding a couple of gardens as our outreach to a sheltered housing group where Joyce lives. Second we are going to share in leading a service at Wallsend as part of our work for the church.

We have said farewell to Richard and Eileen Hillary. This means we don't have a link to Kenton any longer so we have reverted to calling ourselves the Far West Group. That is after discarding the idea of calling ourselves the Wild West Group!

Simon Lloyd

YOUNG CHURCH

Over the last seven weeks, the three young church groups have been following the same 40 Days of Community curriculum that the main body of the church has.

In itself it has been an interesting time to explore together the meaning of being church together. However, this has offered a particularly exciting opportunity for families to discuss what

they have all learnt during the morning over Sunday lunch.

The children and young people have also had daily devotional books that follow the same themes as the adult book, so, in fact, the opportunities for the entire family to study and discuss God's word together extended to the entire week.

We would love to hear of any families that have been particularly blessed by this unique opportunity (perhaps to share in future Westgate news editions?)

The upper group are delighted to have Lynne Ranson back on the team, but we are sad to say goodbye to Duncan and Steve. We really could do with another leader for the upper group - particularly a male leader, since it is now an all female team.

FOR PARENTS - The Alphabet for Caring for your Children

- A** - Always trust them to God's care.
- B** - Bring them to church if you can.
- C** - Challenge them to high goals.
- D** - Delight in their achievements.
- E** - Exalt the Lord in their presence.
- F** - Frown on evil.
- G** - Give them love.
- H** - Hear their problems.
- I** - Ignore not their childish fears.
- J** - Joyfully accept their apologies.
- K** - Keep their confidence.
- L** - Live a good example before them.
- M** - Make them your friends.
- N** - Never ignore their endless questions.
- O** - Open your home to their visits.
- P** - Pray for them by name.
- Q** - Quicken your interest in their spirituality.
- R** - Remember their needs.
- S** - Show them the way of salvation.

T - Teach them to work.

U - Understand they are still young.

V - Verify your statements.

W - Wean them from bad company.

X - Expect them to obey.

Y - Yearn for God's best for them.

Z - Zealously guide them in biblical truth.

SYKES NEWS

Judith has been teaching Sejil, a young girl who has learning disabilities for the past 4 weeks. She used to go to a school that has a section for special needs children, but her parents pulled her out. Her mother is also interested to learn and has taken a number of Judith's ideas on board, which is great.

Of course the hospital work is very much on going. At the beginning of the month they employed a local Naga Civil Engineer. They were all a little uncertain how this would work out but he has proved to be a good learner and honest worker, which has been a real encouragement to us all.

As the hospital nears completion of course you get all the teething problems of things that had been forgotten or just missed out or mis-planned which can get rather frustrating but Tony, Bob, Afong, Rajan, Sam & Tusha plough on.

This week Tusha has brought his wife and 2 children to join us here which is a big change for us all. We are in the process of sorting out a separate kitchen for them but for at least the next week there will be 3 women in the 1 kitchen!!

Thanks everyone for your support,

Tony and Judith Sykes

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

What do you do with surplus triplet lambs? Most ewes can only feed two so one has to be orphaned and bottle fed if it can't be set on to a ewe with a single lamb. Bottle feeding is both time consuming and expensive. So many commercial shepherds don't want to rear orphans.

We do rear "bottlers" though it's a lot of work. Fine if you get a good lamb out of it but what about the time when you have a poor lamb to start with?

This year we had a triplet which started well for the first two days with its mother. Then I found it looking very sick indeed, lying looking very poorly and a bit cold.

It's always difficult to feed a cold lamb, which doesn't want to suck and can easily inhale milk instead of swallowing it. So we use a stomach tube for lambs to get milk direct to the stomach. The first urgent step was to use a tube to give it a feed of rich colostrum and then using large milk can as a hot water bottle, to make a warm bed and left it thinking it probably wouldn't make it. Two hours later it was a different lamb. It had moved away from its bed and was sitting up.

Next problem, it wouldn't suckle at all despite trying all the tricks. The only way has been to tube feed it. Starting at 6 times a day, for a pretty poor looking lamb. It's making progress but we will have to tube feed it and at the end of the day we will finish with a very moderate lamb.

I'm glad Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for us whatever it takes.

Simon Lloyd

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

CHURCH WEEKEND AT SNEATON CASTLE



Westgate Baptist Church people have for many years enjoyed a weekend spending time together for fellowship and fun away from the normal routine of church life. Two years ago we shared a weekend at Sneaton Castle Conference Centre near Whitby and by popular demand have arranged another weekend this September 21st-23rd.

The cost of the weekend is from £78 - £96 per adult (reductions for 3-16's, under 3's free) depending on the type of accommodation you have and all meals are included. Arrangements can be made to spread the costs over the next few months if required.

Lots more information about Sneaton Castle is available on the web-site www.sneatoncastle.co.uk but better still talk to someone who attended the last one (there were about 90 of us there) and ask them to tell you what a good time we had.

We need to know numbers of those intending to come by the end of April, so please sign up as soon as you can and you'll be asked to pay a deposit of £10 per person to confirm your place.

Places are limited, so don't miss the opportunity to be part of this event. See Angela if you have any further questions'.

**Next Leadership Meeting - Monday
16th April at 7pm.**

LADIES DAY - Saturday 21st April.
10am to 3pm. Speakers from 'Know Your Bible' organisation. There will be a small charge to cover expenses and lunch will be provided. All ladies are welcome to share in this day of quiet reflective time and some interactive Bible Study

Next Men's Meeting - Monday 23rd April

Next Church Member's Meeting - Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm

NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY

The Northern Baptist Association Assembly is at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle on **Saturday 28th April** 10am - 3.45pm with special guest speaker, Rev'd Dr John Morgan from Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. All welcome. See Angela if you would be willing to be a WBC delegate.

WESTGATE CHURCH FAMILY FUN DAY - Saturday 7th July - more details soon, but please make sure you keep this day free.

This is our main community event of the year so don't miss the chance to be involved.

It's a great opportunity to put what we've discovered in '40 Days of Community' into practice!

Display after Men's dance workshop last year.



CONTRIBUTIONS

I am very grateful to all those who have written articles as well as those who check each edition, correct errors and then get each edition printed.

I am always on the lookout for articles, photos of events, personal testimonies etc. If you would like to contribute could you please see me.

Please get articles for the June edition to me by **Thursday May 24.**

You can contact me direct at church or e-mail me at lloyds@uku.co.uk

Simon Lloyd

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FINALLY

Did you read the recent newspaper report about some Romanian rustlers who fitted Wellington boots to the cattle that they were stealing, so they couldn't be tracked? They were trying to make sure they wouldn't be followed

Unfortunately for the rustlers they were followed by a pig. This left a clear set of tracks, which were followed for eighteen miles and led direct to the stolen cattle.