



Westgate News October - November 2006

EDITORIAL

"Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." These words of Winston Churchill about those pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain are very well known. However if we adapted them slightly and say "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few" they would apply to our church and a whole lot of organizations.

It is a sad fact that a few people do an awful lot to keep our fellowship running. This includes our Leadership team. The recent election of both Ron Wilson and Christian Lombe brings the number to 9. It was hoped more would be appointed to take the number up to 12.

Paul says "All things work together for good to those who love God." So what good things are going to come out of this? The leadership has the responsibility to see everything gets done. So it means a revision of approach to far more delegation. We need to encourage each other to take on more responsibilities. Not always easy when mistakes get made.

So let's pray for our leaders to have both the courage and wisdom to delegate and help us develop our own gifts more.

Simon Lloyd

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for service are available in many areas of church life, and volunteers are in fact urgently needed in the following areas:

- **Crèche** help during Sunday morning services
- **Youth Klub** on Friday evenings
- Hands on help with children in **Parent & Toddlers** on Friday mornings
- **Foyer duty** (during) & locking up (after) services This is currently done by Deacons, but we would like to involve others in this as well now in the light of

the reduction in the size of the Leadership team.

- **Luncheon Club** need more visitors (over 60's) and helpers to serve or to cook.
- **Readers** at Sunday services
- People to give the **prayer of thanksgiving** at communion services.
- The **P.A. Team** are looking for 2 extra operators
- **Language classes** have more wanting to come than they can cope with. Would you like to help those learning to speak English

If you are willing to offer your time and commitment to do any of these things even if only occasionally, please speak to the leaders of the groups or to me as soon as possible.

Angela Wilson

CHRISTIAN BELIEF

I recently got the New Lion Handbook - Christian Belief out of my local library. Edited by the very well known and respected theologian Alister McGrath this gives good detailed explanations of Christian theology. The articles are interspersed with a whole variety of short explanatory items.

This is not a cheap book at £20 but is a very good helpful resource. Published this year the ISBN number is 0 7459 51444. It would make an excellent Christmas present.

Simon Lloyd

TRINITY

Understanding the doctrine of the trinity can be difficult and confusing. How can God be both three and one? When I worship God who am I worshipping?

Did you know that very often when we meet we all state our belief in the Trinity? Have a look at the last verse of the second letter to the Corinthians.

A CHALLENGING PRAYER

Heavenly Father we come before you today to ask for your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that:

- We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism.
- We have exploited the poor and called it the Lottery.
- We have rewarded laziness and called it Welfare.
- We have killed our unborn and called it Choice.
- We have shot abortionists and called it Justifiable.
- We have neglected to discipline our children and called it Building Self-esteem.
- We have abused power and called it Politics.
- We have coveted our neighbour's possessions and called it Ambition.
- We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it Freedom of Speech.
- We have neglected the time-honoured values of our forefathers and called it Enlightenment.

Search us O God and know our hearts today, cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the centre of your will and to openly ask these things in the name of your Son, the living Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

This prayer was spoken in August 2003 and the heading is OPENING PRAYER - KANSAS SENATE. It caused quite a stir with a number of senators leaving during it.
Simon Lloyd

RICHARD HILLARY'S PROGRESS

Our editor has asked me to pen a few words of update on our secondment to Jarrow, and it is with pleasure I do so.

As some of you will know, Eileen and I have spent the last year at Grange Road in Jarrow. It has been a busy and rewarding time being involved in the work and mission of that fellowship, despite logistical difficulties. Taking the morning service almost every week and preaching at two a month has been a steep learning curve and has had a valuable honing effect. The other two days per week are somewhat easier being based on relationship building and meeting the natives. Although sadly there is still much undone.

While the Jarrow church leadership are already poised over their collective diaries for the new season of preaching dates and church events, Eileen and I are looking at the "what next" phase of God's plan for our ministry. Much of what lies ahead is unknown, but God has promised to guide our path, so we would ask for prayers for guidance and direction. We leave the rest to Jehovah Jira, the Lord who provides.

We would like to thank you faithful pray-ers* who have remembered us before the Lord and who have, by those prayers helped and strengthened us in His service.

Richard Hillary

**Richard actually spelled this prey-ers - what does he think we are up to? Even if there is plenty of him to have a go at..*

THE CHURCH

Church, what wonderful sight to see:
The cross gleaming
What wonderful sight to see.

Inside, singing hymns;
Hearing God's word
Gives warmth to me.

Happy souls
Having tea, biscuits in the Hall.
God's house is a wonderful place after all.

Steve McVay

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Before the Summer Holidays the Fenham House Group and the Sydney Grove Group held a joint meeting to discuss the possibility of amalgamating.

Both groups had, in theory, reasonable numbers; but, due to shift work and other constraints, the actual numbers attending was small in both cases.

We decided to go ahead and join forces and we have had our first meetings in September.

One of the first things we had to decide was a name for the group and we thought that it should describe what we were about rather than just tell people where we met.

Out of a fairly short discussion came the idea of "The Scaffolders" which, we thought, spoke of "support & building up" & explained exactly what we want to do for each other when we meet. (Heb.10:24-25.) Up to the end of the year we are using the subject matter of the morning sermon as the basis for our studies & combining this with sharing & praying.

Social occasions will also be in our programme.

Brian Lidgate.

CRY IN THE NIGHT

I lie in bed in the still of the night,
Hear cats howling in alleys of the night,
People screaming, sirens howling
in the city of the night.

I pray to God, "Keep them safe in the
night."

I wake in the morning,
How happy I am to see
People laughing in the morning light.

Steve McVay

YOUNG CHURCH MIDDLE GROUP

Young church is going well, with a steady stream of new names being added to our registers. New children are coming through links with Kidzklub and also from families within the church.

We are continuing to use Scripture Union resources to guide our sessions, and this term will be looking at the theme of being challenged to live differently. We endeavour to teach in a form, which is accessible to children from all backgrounds, and at the same time able to stretch and challenge some of our more biblically knowledgeable young people (which is harder than it might sound, given that some of the children appear to know more than their leaders!). Getting the right balance can be difficult, and may be dependent on the mix of children present.

Community children who have been attending young church regularly are now fully integrated into the groups, with few difficulties managing the groups. However, there is a very welcome stream of community children who have attended less regularly, and find it more difficult to settle into young church groups. This can result in some difficulties keeping children in their groups, and preventing them wandering round the building, looking for familiar and reassuring faces.

Please pray that the children will feel welcome at young church, and settle into groups quickly with minimal disruption.

Natalie Harris

SHEPHERD'S CORNER - FLYING SHEEP

I caused a bit of merriment when I went to outpatients with a black eye and explained it had been caused by a flying sheep.

I was shearing a sheep when the shearer next to me finished hers and let it go. It tried to get past me by jumping through the gap beside me. It didn't aim very well and I got head butted by a flying sheep. The collision bust my glasses and gave me an instant black eye.

I've seen sheep jump through gaps before as a way of escaping. I recently saw the same thing when a lamb had got a bit separated from the others and wanted to go through a 12 foot gate. It panicked a bit as my dog was near and took a flying leap at the netting fence beside the gate, bounced off, got up and ran away from the gate

along the fence. Had it acted quietly there was plenty of space to go through the gate safely.

How often do we act hastily and take a "flying leap" at something when a bit of quiet reflective prayer can save an awful lot of problems?
Simon Lloyd

ADVANCED NOTICE -

Annual Reports for 2006 - absolute deadline date for contributions will be **December 31st** this year.

Church Weekend Away - 2007 - Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd September. At Sneaton Castle, Whitby.

OCTOBER PROGRAMME

Pastoral Care Action and Support Team - Monday 9th October

Youth Action and Support Team - Thursday 12th October

Men's Ministry Night - Monday 16th October

International Group - Special Event
Saturday 14th October Walk around the Castle and Quayside.

PRAY FOR OUR FARMERS

Milk prices have gone up recently so why has there been an average of 5 dairy farmers getting out of milk production a week? The money has all gone to the processors not farmers. Out of 58p/litre they get 17p and it costs them 17p to 20 p per litre to produce it.

An arable farm of 250 acres worth £750,000 producing corn this year has been estimated to have a net output of £1,641. Not a lot when rising oil prices has meant fuel and oil-based fertiliser and spray costs are going up.

Add to all of this a growing amount of paperwork so farmers are almost paranoid about filling in forms. The results? Many farmers are finding themselves unable to cope with devastating results for themselves, their families and livestock.

Will you join us to pray for our farmers in the Sunday evening service on 15th October?

Simon Lloyd

Youth Weekend Away - 20th-23rd October

Monday 23rd October - **Holiday at Home**

Sunday 30th October - **International Tea**

NOVEMBER PROGRAMME

Saturday 4th November - **Westgate Family Night** with Pie and Peas Supper

Thursday 9th November - **Churches**

Together in Fenham Annual General Meeting at Westgate

Wednesday 15th November - **West End Refugee Service (WERS)** Annual General Meeting at Westgate

INTERNATIONAL MEAL INVITATION

You are invited to an **International Meal**, At St.Roberts Church, Bolbec Road, Thursday 26th.October 7pm.
Tickets £3 available from Joan Lidgate

Saturday 18th November- **Ladies Day** at Westgate, 10am-3pm.

Saturday 25th November

- **Leaders Away Day**
- **Prom Praise @ The Sage**

CONTRIBUTIONS

I am very grateful to all those who have written articles at short notice as well as to the team 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 contact me.

Please get articles for the December edition to me by **Thursday 23rd November**. You can contact me direct at church or e-mail me at lloyds@uku.co.uk

Simon Lloyd

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