

# The Ambo

June (2) 2006



MIDSOMER NORTON  
METHODIST CHURCH

# Welcome to **The Ambo**

The word used for  
a pulpit in early  
Christian Churches



If this is your first time with our Newsletter, you are warmly invited to attend any of the meetings or events described.

If you would like a regular 'labelled' copy of The Ambo please leave your name and address details with the Receptionist or a Steward.

From my grandfather's writings in 1895:

It is possible to tell your enemy you forgive him  
in such a way as to make him wish you had not.

You may have noticed this month's issue is 'June (2)' and asked why.

Last month I inadvertently put June instead of May, and it wasn't spotted until many had received their copies (with many telling me!). So, if you are one who notices these things and keeps back copies, you will need to know which month is which, hence June (2)!

Your editor, Martin B. Dymond ([martinbdymond@hotmail.com](mailto:martinbdymond@hotmail.com)) is a member of ACE (Association for Church Editors - [www.ac-editors.co.uk](http://www.ac-editors.co.uk)), and is a founder member of S.C.E.N.E.S (Supporting Church Editors in N. E. Somerset). As a Church we subscribe to Methodist E-News and Parish Pump, but look to our readers to submit items of interest.

The views of articles in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Midsomer Norton Methodist Church or the Editor.

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## CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY

On the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel it was appropriate we spend a weekend in the mansion he built for a country retreat – Brunel Manor at Watcombe, near Torquay. Sixty seven of us gathered there for the 37<sup>th</sup> Church Weekend Away on March 31<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006. (A small group have been to every one and quite a number have missed only one or two) The first one was held in 1969 and since then we have been to Minehead, Boscombe, Exmouth and Weston-super-Mare. However, Brunel Manor is the favourite retreat for its comfort, good food and excellent facilities.

Poor weather had been forecast, but we were fortunate to have two very pleasant days, with plenty of sunshine and no rain. The weekend was relaxed, with an opportunity to chat together, whilst taking part in craft activities, circus skills, cross stitch, card-making, PowerPoint photography and the formation of Easter Gardens. Some chose to join a discussion group and to do some creative writing; (see David & Dianne's contribution at the end). There were also music and drama groups in preparation for the Sunday afternoon service.

Saturday afternoon visits included Bovey Tracey - The House of Marbles and Cardew Teapottery, Ten Pin Bowling and Trago Mills children's play park. The evening entertainment was provided by Ozzy, the magician, who excelled himself by keeping the

interest of all ages from 3 to 83. Jasmine's face was a picture when it appeared that Marjorie's £20 note had been burned. We were all relived when it was produced later in the proceedings from the centre of a Kiwi fruit, even though it was in a rather screwed up and soggy condition.

Keep fit, swimming and football were all on offer at the centre, for those wishing to work off the big meals.

The inspiration for the weekend was *The Parable of the Talents*, and all contributions were brought together for a fantastic Patchwork of Praise in a final, moving act of worship.

Some comments from a member of one family who went for the first time: "It was just what we needed as a family – an opportunity to relax together and to get to know others better as we joined in conversations around the meal table. We really enjoyed a swim in the pool and my husband loved the football. Even though he is usually quite reserved, he has already booked his place for next year".

The 2007 Weekend is booked for 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March and a warm invitation is given to all members and friends to come along. (More details from Julie, David W., Dianne, Cyril and me.

*Marjorie.*

### **Brunel Prayer (2006)**

'No, Lord, I can't do that!  
You know I'm busy all the week;  
I've come for a rest, a break –

Besides, I'm not very good at things;  
There are people far better than me!  
I might say the wrong thing,  
or make a fool of myself.  
Then people might laugh  
or misunderstand.....'

'No, Lord, we can't do that!  
You know we haven't enough people.  
You know most of us have other  
jobs to do.  
You know we've got homes and  
families to look after.  
You know people have to be properly  
trained these days.....'

God says:-  
'I need people who are prepared  
to make mistakes,  
to take risks,  
to be part of a team.  
I need people who will listen to me

and care for their neighbours.  
I need communities prepared to move  
out of their comfort zones and  
explore new and uncertain path-  
ways, remembering I am al-  
ways

there, just ahead, showing them  
the next step.  
I need communities prepared to act as  
extended families to all who  
want to belong, prepared to  
support and encourage one  
another, discovering and  
developing one another's  
strengths and gifts?'

*'Can it be me, Lord?'*  
*'Can it be our church community  
you're challenging, Lord?'*  
*'I am ready, Lord!'*  
*'Yes, Lord, we are ready!'*

**Sad News**

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last week.

Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Cokey" died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin.

They put his left leg in. And then the trouble really started.

*Thanks to Jill for this 'rib-tickler'.*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The money collected during the Christian Aid Week would be enough to purchase 250 sheep in Bolivia; or train about 800 young people as a counsellor in Ethiopia. Such young people advise other young people how to avoid catching Aids. Ethiopia is a country ravaged by Aids and has about 5,000,000 orphans. The country spends more on looking after abandoned and orphaned children than it does on education and health!. In Bolivia, if a family is given a sheep, they can breed a flock, so providing food and an income to live a better life.

To date the total for the week i.e. the Mini-Market on 13<sup>th</sup>, the street collection on 20<sup>th</sup>, house-to-house, and United Service Sunday collection, amounts to **£4,900**, which compares favourably to last year's £5,187, (which included a sponsored walk figure of £316)

I would like to thank all committee members for their hard work, not just this year but also many previous years; some have served and collected for over 20 years. Also all who distribute and collect envelopes, those who provide items for the stalls and those who become stallholders, the loyal street

collectors, the 'money counters' and all who support the week.

There are many people in our own country who are poor, but here we do have a benefits system and charities. From our TV screens we know the really poor (43% live off a dollar a day) do not have these advantages. The needy in the Third World need our help. They usually have nowhere else to turn for help, we cannot abandon them to their fate. The Christian Aid logo says 'We believe in life before death'.

Unfortunately we still have about 1000 houses where we are unable to collect due to insufficient number of collectors. If we can reach this 1000, more poor people could learn how to provide for their families and give their children education. Please prayerfully consider collecting or distributing envelopes next year. You could be paired with an experienced collector if you would like some moral support. But don't wait 'til next year to make a decision give me a call on 416427, today!

*Trevor.*

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

**They do say ...** The more choice you have, the more dissatisfied you become.

**The Bible says ...** Give to the poor and you will never be in need. If you close your eyes to the poor, many people will curse you. *Proverbs 28:27.*

# GIFT AID REPORT

<b>Gift Aid for the Tax Years</b>	<b>2005/6</b>	<b>2004/5</b>	<b>2003/4</b>
No. of Active Long Term Declarations	98	106	102
Net Increase (Decrease) during year	(8)	4	(3)
<b><i>Est. No. included in 'LTD'</i></b>	125	135	135
Amount Gift Aided	<b>£32,982</b>	<b>£34,293</b>	<b>£33,511</b>
Amount per declaration	£336	£323	£328
Amount per individual	£264	£254	248
<b>Total Gift Aided</b> inc one off appeals Using pink envelopes	<b>£38,944</b>	<b>£42,516</b>	<b>£39,862</b>
Total Tax recovered	<b>£10,780</b>	<b>£11,717</b>	<b>£11,009</b>

Thank you to all contributors who are able to 'Gift Aid' their church financial giving.

Taxpayers – please ensure you do **not** put loose cash in the collection plate! Full details of how to help the church reclaim tax efficiently, including the supply of envelopes and bankers order forms for taxpayers and non taxpayers alike, are available from the New Gift Aid Secretary, Ann who will be pleased to advise contributors.

D A S.

*Our grateful thanks go to David for his time and effort over the years in dealing with Gift Aiding, and the task of trying to persuade ALL Taxpayers to participate. The figures above show how the Church benefits from such action. Can we improve on these figures as we welcome Ann as the new Gift Aid Secretary? Ed.*

**They do say ...** Why people get into masochism beats me.

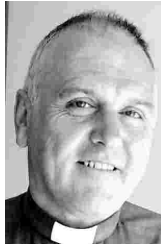
**The Bible says ...** A man who hides his hatred is a liar. Anyone who spreads gossip is a fool. *Proverbs 10:18.*

# MINISTER'S LETTER

Rev. David W. Watson,  
36 North Road,  
Midsomer Norton,  
Somerset. BA3 2QQ.  
01761 412137

Dear Friends,

I am starting this letter on 24<sup>th</sup> May, which all good Methodists will know is Wesley Day. This is of course the day on which we remember the Conversion of John Wesley in 1738. John Wesley was the son of a clergyman, Samuel Wesley the Rector of Epworth. John himself became a clergyman and volunteered to go as a missionary to America, he expected to be able to convert the Red Indians to Christianity. When he arrived in New England he found life pretty much the same as in England; for New England was the home of many ex-patriots who had built their towns and villages after the English style. Wesley was disappointed that he could not preach to the Indians and eventually he came back to this country. On his travels he had met members of the Moravian Church and he began to realise that these Christians had something, which he had not got, that is, real faith. Wesley met with their leader, a man called Peter Bohler, and asked him how he could find such faith. Bohler told him to 'preach faith till you got faith, and when you have got faith, then you can preach faith'. Wesley had a huge struggle in his heart and mind as he tried to find this faith for himself.



On 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738 it actually hit him, for at a society in Aldersgate Street in London, at about 8.45pm, he says he 'felt his heart strangely warmed' it was then that he realised that Christ had died for him. Thus began Wesley's great preaching mission across the length and breadth of these islands as he proclaimed that his Saviour Jesus was the Saviour of all people. The Methodist movement was born and began to grow.

This year, Wesley Day is followed by Ascension Day, which marks the end of Christ's earthly ministry and the beginning of the church's ministry. Christ's earthly presence was withdrawn from His disciples but they knew that Christ was with them in a new and exciting way, guiding them and supporting them as they proclaimed the gospel. The Risen and Ascended Christ was their enabler for they felt His presence in their lives. It was Christ's presence that Wesley discovered in 1738; this gave him the strength and power to do great things for God and Christ.

The power of the Risen and Ascended Christ is available for us today if only we will let Him work in our lives and in the life of the church. If we were to do this then great things would happen within the church for we could change the community in which we live and work. It is my hope and prayer

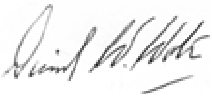
that we can do great things for God here in Midsomer Norton.

The disciples had to wait for another ten days after Ascension day for the power of the Risen and Ascended Christ to come to them at Pentecost. We can have that power here and now; the only condition is that we must open our hearts to Him for Him to work through us.

During the month of June the Methodist Conference will meet in Edinburgh. There are many important issues to discuss and vote on, not least being the issue as to whether or not the Residential Training of ministers continues at Wesley College, Bristol. Please remember the Conference in your prayers and ask that God may guide the representatives in all the decisions that they make for His church.

I know that some people have already taken their holidays and others have still to take their holidays, it is my hope and prayer that all of us do have a happy and relaxing holiday whenever we take them.

May God Bless you all.



Look for a mention of our minister  
in the Methodist E-News!

## A READER'S LETTER

*I was very happy to be reminded of that lovely old song,  
He walks with me and He talks with me.... It brought back  
some lovely memories. I wonder why we don't hear it nowadays.*

*I note that Douglas also had memories of that Crook Ed  
Straight. I wonder if he also has heard of Gladly, My Cross-Eyed  
Bear. I expect a lot of people have!!*

*Thanks for the Memories.*

*Norah.*

**The Bible says ...** If the world hates you, just remember that it has hated me first. *John 15:18.*

MIDSOMER NORTON METHODIST CHURCH

# NETWORK WEEKEND

with IRENE SAYER

**Saturday 10th June 2006**

**10am—4.30 pm. Cost :£5**



Theme: HEARTS and HANDS and VOICES  
Bible Study / Workshops / Worship / Fellowship  
Traidcraft Stall / June Lunn's 'Susannah Cards'  
Please bring a Packed Lunch - Drinks provided.



10.00 Arrival and Coffee // 10.45 Welcome and Opening Devotions  
11.00 Bible Study / Talk by Irene Sayer // 11.45 Workshops \*  
12.45 Lunch (Bring own) // 1.45 District News  
2.00 Workshops + Worship Preparation // 3.15 Afternoon Worship  
4.30 Tea and Departures.

\* Card Making / Book Marks / Chinese Brush Painting / Music /  
Singing / Creative Writing /Dramatic Reading Etc.

## Sunday 11th June

Morning Worship 10.30 am - Led by Irene Sayer.

Circuit Service 6 pm with Irene Sayer.

We are especially honoured to welcome Irene Sayer to our Network Anniversary this year. She was Connexional President during 2003 and 2004. During this time she spoke at the Bristol District Summer Festival, held at Midsomer Norton in 2003, where many will have heard and met her.

She and her husband live in Diss, Norfolk, where they became Foster Parents in 1970. After fostering twins for a year, they were asked to foster Claire, a 3-month-old baby with Downs Syndrome. When Claire was 4½ years old they were asked to take

Lisa for a few days. That was 29 years ago, and they have now adopted both Claire and Lisa.

When her daughters were old and able enough to look after themselves, she made her first trip abroad to Africa. It was as a result of that visit that she started working to great effect for Fair Trade and development. Since then, she has been to Kenya 9 times, South Africa, Ghana, Bangladesh, and while president to Chile and Cuba. Last year she went back to Chile, where her current favourite project is Cultivarte. This is the name of a

group of students with a love for, and a desire to help, the young people of Coronel in Central Chile. Coronel is an ex-mining town with a population of 95,000—40% under 21. There is very little provision for children and young people in this run down area. Cultivorte is run by students from nearby Concepcion University.

Since Irene became a Christian in 1964, she has wanted to serve Jesus. This she has done in many ways—as a prison visitor; teaching in a special needs school; running a Traidcraft

Shop; as well as preaching and sharing her talents, gifts and enthusiasm with others.

Remember ‘Network’ is the umbrella organisation for all women attending anything on our Church premises. We also welcome males, who might wish to join us. Please do come to any, or all, of the events taking place on 10th/11th June. Do not miss the opportunity to meet and hear Irene. She is one of today’s ‘Jesus Women’.

*Jean.*

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### **How Can We Stop Trafficking?**

The Annual Meeting was held in April at Yate Methodist Church, when nearly 100 women from the South West met together. The President of Network, Alison Judd, welcomed everybody and led a short service before introducing the speaker, Sarah Williams, from Anti-Human Slavery International. She spoke about the amount of human trafficking which has become a major problem in this country.

Women and children are brought here illegally, after being promised a better standard of living, with the hope they will be able to send money home for their families; only to find they are being exploited with no chance of escaping from people who are quite

happy to use them as cheap labour.

This is a very sad state of affairs of which we should be aware.

Sarah suggested we should all write a letter to our local MP asking what is being done to stop this cruel practice, and what sentence they would get if caught.

After a time for questions we enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch and then split into four groups: writing an article for the Press; a letter for the Methodist Recorder; designing a Poster; and the workings of Website. We were then served with a well-earned cup of tea before our journey home.

It was a very interesting and enjoyable day, as are all the Network days. Why not go to one and try it out? And don’t forget to write to your MP!

*Flora & Jean.*

## MISSION

Just three months to go to the end of our fund-raising for the 2005/6 Church Project – Mildmay. BUT, still time perhaps to arrange a supporting initiative.

However, there is another event already in place – the community Mardi Gras on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Traditionally, apart from the International Band Competition, in our Church, we provide refreshments in the Hall and outside if weather permits. Profits from this goes to the Project.

Again we ask for volunteers to man the kitchen, in shifts from of 1 or 2 hours from 12 noon to about 5 pm. If you can help please let a Service Team member know so a rota can be made. Experience shows 3 are needed for the earlier times but 4 later.

If you cannot help in that way maybe you could provide small cakes, scones (which went quickly last year) or sandwiches; all assistance is most welcome.

Finally, you will see we are now looking at our next Church Project and this month all your nominations are listed for you to peruse. In the July issue there will be a voting form. Please use you vote – it is your choice for the charity supported for the next 12 months. Results in August!

Thank you for all past, present and future support to our chosen Church Project.

*John.*



## NOMINATIONS

for Church Project

(Sep '06 to Aug '07)

### ***THE MAMA UPENDO CHILDREN'S TRUST:***

Sarah Henderson is a local lady (Frome) who originally came from Kitui in Kenya, and started the orphanage in 2003. It has now grown so much she is no longer able to fund it alone. The Mama Upendo (meaning Mother Love) Children's Trust aims to raise funds to feed, shelter and educate orphans from the Kitui district in Kenya, mainly orphaned due to Aids.

Trust members visited the orphanage recently, some for the first time, and were reduced to tears by the warmth and affection of the children,

despite their lack of amenities, no running water/proper sewage facilities/ electricity, absolutely no possessions. Some were playing football on rough stony ground (there are no tarmac roads and no grass) and only one little boy had a toy, a car he had made of pieces of corrugated iron, a bottle top and wire he found lying around. He shared the little car with other children.

At the moment, the most urgent need is to pay fees and school uniform for five children to attend secondary school or they are not allowed to go. Education is paramount if the orphans are to have a future.

Any assistance your church would be able to give would be so appreciated. Thank you, on behalf of the Trust, for considering us. We have a webpage - [www.mamatrust.org](http://www.mamatrust.org)

Linda Stalley.

*Submitted through Sarah.*

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### ***NO PANIC:***

A voluntary charity which helps people who suffer from Panic, Phobias, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders and all the anxiety problems.

It provides a confidential help-line every day from 10am to 10 pm.; a night-time crisis line and telephone recovery groups.

It costs £500 to train one help-liner and has 60,000-70,000 calls each year. It was Winner of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2004.

A wonderful support for many.

*Chris.*

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### ***HOPE UK:***

A well established organization in London, headed by George Rushton. It is based on the principles of the old 'Band of Hope', but very much up to date with fighting the scourge of drug and alcohol abuse.

We have received 'Drug News', their regular newsheet, for some time; copies are in the carousal in the Link.

Hope UK runs a programme aimed at educating, particularly youth workers and parents, about ways of guiding young folk away from the dangers of drugs (including tobacco) and alcohol. So far they have trained 150 on residential weekends at St. Albans, Manchester or Birmingham.

Pleased to send out speakers, they want to expand their work but funds fall short! Although a national organization, 2005 ended with just £6,000 in the bank.

Support from us could make a real difference for Hope UK, the effects of whose work could impact on more local communities. Sadly we see the effects of drugs and alcohol abuse in Midsomer Norton too.

*John.*

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### ***SEND a COW***

A charity created by West Country farmers for poor farmers in Africa, with UK headquarters at Newton St. Loe, near Bath. Its purpose is to lift poor farmers out of poverty.

If you have visited the Noah's Ark Farm\* at Wraxall you may have noticed a list on a wall headed "Send a Cow Training over the Course of a

Year". The list includes such subjects as Farm Planning, Shed Construction, Feeding, Health, Record Keeping, Hygiene, Reproduction, Calf Rearing, Animal Husbandry, Hay & Silage, Zero Grazing, and Organic Farming. To me this list emphasises the value that SaC places on training. No live-stock, seeds or trees are given out until training has been successfully completed. Follow up assistance including veterinary services are always on hand.

In many parts of Africa agricultural skills handed down from generation to generation have been lost through war, genocide and the Aids pandemic. SaC is helping to resurrect these lost skills. From the impoverished Gamo Gofa Highlands of Ethiopia one couple, after receiving their training, applied manure from local cows to their crops. They reported spectacular results with yields three times greater than they had known before.

A high priority is Aids orphans and handicapped people who are the poorest and most vulnerable. The charity works mainly through church and village groups. A suitable group is selected and all are trained but only one will receive a cow. However, all will pitch in with support, knowing that in due course, through the passing on of the first female calf all will eventually benefit.

SaC now has programmes in seven countries. The charity is expanding steadily and they are very adept at finding new and innovative means of funding that expansion. They were

pioneers in this country of the 'alternative gifts' system through their Christmas Gifts Catalogue and their generic catalogue for special occasions throughout the year. Excellent educational material is available to schools and their network of ambassadors covers much of the UK.

Please support Send a Cow for the 2006/7 church project but above all pray for its trustees and staff as they seek to fulfil Christ's command to 'love one another'.

*Brian..*

\*Noah's Ark Farm is run by Anthony Bush, founder member of Send a Cow.

Send a Cow was also submitted by Una.

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## **MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP**

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian organisation whose mission is to fly light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive emergency help, of many kinds, fast. Since 1946, MAF's planes have been speeding the spread of the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed in places of deepest human need. Isolated places where flying is not a luxury, but a life-line.

Every three minutes a MAF plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world. These flights enable crucial work to be carried out by many development and aid agencies, missions, local churches and other national groups. Medical care, adequate food,

clean water and Christian hope are reaching countless thousands of men, women and children through their work.

As MAF's planes are always available in remote locations they are often first on the scene after a disaster, assisting major aid agencies to fly essential supplies to places cut off from other forms of transport. This was very much the case after the Tsunami.

For more information please see the editions of MAF NEWS in the rack in the Link.

*Joan.*

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***THE WEST OF ENGLAND  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
THERAPY CENTRE***

***'Self Help Is Our Way Of Action'***

For anyone the sudden disclosure that something called Multiple Sclerosis has appeared in their lives – either because they themselves have been diagnosed or someone close to them has – will be a major shock generating the need for information, advice and reassurance .

The M S Therapy Centre at Nailsea offers assistance to people with M S throughout the West of England and their families. The Centre provides a wide range of drug free symptom management therapies including oxygen therapy, physiotherapy, dietary advice, counselling and much more.

The Centre is self supporting through fundraising and the voluntary contributions that those who use the service make towards the cost of the

therapies. It is not part of The Health Service and does not receive any funding from it or any other Government Department.

The Centre costs £160,000 a year to run and is currently struggling to raise this amount.

Joan has attended the Centre weekly for the past 8 years and it is thanks to their help and support that she and many others have been able to cope with the various challenges of this disease.

*Peter.*

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***BRISTOL METHODIST  
CENTRE***

The Centre is run by the Methodist Church particularly for those who are homeless and excluded from society. We at Midsomer Norton already support the Centre at Christmas and Harvest-time, but it is an ongoing service to the needy in the Bristol area, opening five days a week; so , obviously, funds are needed all the year round.

The Centre offers:  
Coffee and tea; hot lunches; laundry and shower facilities, a clothing store; personal and spiritual support; help with housing benefits and mental health; a visiting nurse; arts, crafts literacy and computers.

Prayers are held 3 times a week and a Healing Service takes place on Sunday afternoons.

Bristol Methodist Centre's slogan is *'Making a difference to life on the streets'* and this really does sum up the work. The shop is manned by volunteers, and they and the rest of the team

are truly dedicated to helping the homeless and needy to cope with the present and have hope for the future.

I feel it would be a worthy cause to support a local Methodist charity offering physical and spiritual comfort to the folk of Bristol.

Bristol Methodist Centre was also submitted by Lorraine Evans.

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### ***JULIAN HOUSE***

Most of us live in comfortable houses or flats and take them very much for granted. But there are hundreds, even in our local communities, who do not have the pleasure and comfort that we take for granted.

So in Bath, the charity Julian House has been working for some years with people without a settled home. They have a range of facilities which include the night shelter (for those in immediate need of protection), a hostel giving people a more structured setting and, equally important, schemes for helping people to find and keep their own homes. Indeed they have moved back along the chain to help people who are in danger of becoming homeless.

Our society locally and nationally is both mobile and also highly competitive. Some individuals are just not able to cope with these requirements and so drop off the ladder (so to speak) and find they cannot support their own home, however humble. People with mental health problems are particularly vulnerable, and we

know that mental health is the poor relation of the NHS.

Julian House last year had 400 men and women using the night shelter and 1500 visited the associated day shelter; and this year opened a refuge for women and children threatened in their own homes with domestic violence.

A lot of the work of Julian House does get grant funding, but that takes time and energy to find and obtain. In particular 'free money' like a contribution from ourselves enables them to spend energy directly on something they want to do themselves without the difficult and sometimes frustrating process of applying for money.

As a going concern it is well-managed and effectively run and supports people from our community as well as from Bath and the district. It rescues people in dire straits off the streets and gives them the opportunity to start again when many felt lost and hopeless.

So here's hoping this very worthwhile local charity will get your support this year.

*Douglas & Mavis.*

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### ***DOROTHY HOUSE***

I nominate Dorothy House, with the memories of many of our friends and church members in mind who have benefited from this Charity. The latest friend being Margaret Bond, and it is also with her blessing that I write the following facts. It is a local Charity and I think we ought to come home for a little while with our Giving.

We all know someone who has had or been involved in the caring of the terminally ill.

Dorothy House Hospice Care is a local charity, based in Winsley, providing care to more than 800 families affected by a life threatening illness. Most of the patients do not need to be admitted to the hospice, so the majority of their services are carried out in the community. Dorothy House Nurse Specialists (previously called Macmillan Nurses) are experienced registered nurses with specialist training and knowledge of palliative care. They work closely with patients and families who have complex needs, to help them adjust to changes in lifestyle caused by a life threatening illness, offering support and advice on a broad range of symptoms.

Dorothy House Day Care is also available to people suffering from progressive life-threatening disease, who are referred to the unit by various health care professionals, including district nurses, GPs, local hospitals and Dorothy House Nurse Specialists. Day care continues to provide care for 44 patients over four days every week. They also have a Monday support group which is now well established and very successful. The range of creative activities has also been expanded, to include drama and horticultural therapy.

Carers are not forgotten either. Complementary therapies are also provided and include reiki and Indian head massage for these special people.

Positive comments by patients

include 'I never expected to make such good friends through my illness, and in spite of everything, I can still have quality of life.

The volunteer workers number about 800 and include those working at Winsley, fund raisers and workers in Dorothy House shops, and they are currently working towards achieving the Investors in Volunteers Award 2006.

More information about Dorothy House is available for inspection in Reception.

*Janet.*

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***ACTION on DISABILITY  
and DEVELOPMENT***

(ADD) is a rights based international charity working with and on behalf of disabled people in some of the poorest countries of the world. It has a vision of a world in which all disabled people are able to participate as fully as they choose at every level of society.

ADD was established in 1985 in recognition of the fact that in the poorest countries of the world disabled people are amongst the poorest of the poor, marginalized by prejudice and discrimination. ADD is the only British-based international agency supporting human rights work exclusively with groups of disabled people in Africa and Asia to change this.

The charity's UK base is in Frome and it currently has programmes in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and West Africa. ADD's primary role is to

support rights-based organizations through offering information, organizational skills and funding. It aims to work alongside and with disabled groups, organizations and networks as they grow to become effective advocates, campaigning for their social, economic and cultural rights. This is done in two ways:

- by supporting the development of a self-sustaining, effective, democratic and representative disability rights movement made up of membership organizations of disabled people, actively promoting the rights of all disabled adults and children for full inclusion in society;

- and by influencing policy makers and development organizations to include the rights and needs of disabled people in all their work.

Website: <http://www.add.org.uk>

*Mike.*

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Finally, repeated from last month, so all nominations can be read together:

***BIBLES for CHILDREN:***

A National Children’s Charity, based locally in Timsbury, where it was founded in 1997.

Since that time over 120,000 children in over 500 Primary Schools in the U K have been presented with a personal Bible.

The work is continuing to expand and voluntary Associates are now being appointed to develop the work in many areas and funds are now urgently needed for this development. Schools have reported tremendous

benefits as a result and some schools use the Bibles for the teaching of reading in their Literacy Hour. The number of schools helped is only limited by the amount of financial support received.

The main aim of the charity is that every child in every Primary School in the country should have the opportunity of having their own Bible. Support for *Bibles for Children* helps the children of today to become the citizens of tomorrow.

Please support this LOCAL CHARITY founded by Ted Hudson.

*Cyril.*

Don’t fret about the weather,  
My mother always said,  
For there are those oppressed by pain  
Who are confined to bed  
With no hope for the future  
Prisoners of ill-health;  
To whom all kinds of weather  
Would bring the greatest wealth.  
To face a wild north-easter,  
To trample through the snow,  
To feel the sting of hailstones,  
Would set their cheeks aglow.  
You’d never hear from their lips  
Such things as we would say;  
Like “fed up with this weather”  
Or “it’s cold again today”.

*From Chris’s Autographs*

## I WANT TO HELP BUT .....

We continue the series, to find out about **Friday Pop-In:**

Friday Pop-In was started in 1985 to meet a need for somewhere to have a 'natter' and a coffee with friends and the public.

All the profits have been donated to local needs and charities; latterly the Church Project, with an occasional sum to the Church towards kitchen costs.

Run entirely by volunteers, more are always needed. 'The more the merrier' as they say. With the numbers we have at the moment, duties come around every 7 or 8 weeks.

### **What does the job entail?**

Buying milk, biscuits (reimbursed) beforehand, arriving about 9.30 a.m.

Set out chairs and tables with

cloths, and plates of assorted biscuits. Put out price card and outside board.

From 10 a.m. serve tea, coffee, juice for children.

Washing up – done by machine.

Clear away tables and chairs. This is not always necessary. Check with Reception, and if there is NO Hall booking leave furniture for Sunday use.

Pass monies to Audrey & Cyril for banking.

When making the Rota, Audrey always makes sure there is an able-bodied person on duty (or available) to deal with the moving of tables and chairs.

Would you like to help in any way? If so contact Audrey or me please.

*Cyril.*



## THRIVING on ENCOURAGEMENT

*Ambo* readers who follow sport will be following the fortunes of England's cricketers and footballers as well as the local Methodist cricketers as they play their matches over the summer, giving encouragement where needed and advice when things don't turn out as planned.

We all thrive on encouragement, for it helps to raise spirits when personal confidence has fallen and produces that something extra to overcome a problem situation. 'A problem shared is a problem halved' is an old saying, another is 'two heads are better

than one'.

In St. John's Gospel, it is recorded that Andrew encouraged his brother Simon (later to be St. Peter of Rome 'fame') to come and meet Jesus. Perhaps the Christian church may have taken a different course if this had not happened?

So there may be people you know who need encouragement – sensitive encouragement of course – to realise their potential or to get their lives back on the road. And **you** might be that person to give that encouragement! Remember Andrew!

*David.*



### Thoughts of a Missionary!

At the end of April I had the privilege of preaching in St. Leonard's, Little Downham in the Isle. This was part of the first National Local Preachers Assembly at Market Downham, the successor event to the LPMA Aggregate, which you may remember Bristol District hosted last year.

The Service that week was in the Anglican Church as they are preparing for a LEP (Local Ecumenical Project) in Little Downham. Thus I had it easy, the service being planned and led by the vicar, Rev. Pauline Scott, and music by the music group. So having been told the theme 'mission' and the readings, all (!) I had to do was to turn up with a Sermon.

The principle reading was 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10. So planting my tongue in my cheek I announced the theme for the sermon - "*It might be thought I am a Missionary*". Having (in Pauline fashion) brought the greetings from the Bristol District and ourselves here in M N, I immediately turned the theme on it's head explaining that although I had travelled over 200 miles to bring the Gospel News, having been brought up in Peterborough, I was in fact a Fenland Boy returning home. (I can trace my family back in that area of England to the time of our immigration in the 1600's - but that is another story).

Paul's letters to the Thessalonians warrant more study. Not least because they are undoubtedly the earliest sur-

iving text of Christian writing being written less than 20 years after the Resurrection of Christ. They were written to the very young church in Thessalonica by Paul after he had been forced to leave the town. For the full story read both the epistle and Acts 16-18 and learn about 1<sup>st</sup> Century ASBOs.

Unlike, some of Paul's letters, in this he was not admonishing the church for any failings. He was writing a letter of encouragement, praise for what they had already achieved and further guidance into Christian thinking. The praise was well justified because news of their achievements had spread to other parts of Macedonia and was an inspiration to others.

The other lesson we can learn from this letter is Paul's concern to develop the faith of these new Christians. An aspect of our Church life we perhaps not only neglect, but frequently sadly do much to hamper.

We neglect the development of new people who enter our community often by the way in which we expect them to conform to our established ways of worship and join our groups. We just do not appreciate how alien much of our language, forms of music, even the use of a service book, is to those who have not been brought up 'in the tradition'. We still act as if we were living in the 1950's when everyone went to Sunday School and life revolved around the Parish Church or Chapel.

But, much more damaging, there are people in the Church who only want the place run as they have had it run for the past 'n' years. Newcomers, who might just have a much broader outlook of ideas, can frequently find their talents ignored.

Much of business has learnt that it is far better to devote the efforts of their Human Resources (Personnel) Departments to ways of developing and retaining existing staff rather than incur the costs, direct and indirect, of recruiting new staff. Translating this experience into the Church, does not mean we give up 'recruiting', in our language, 'mission' and 'evangelism', but it does mean we have to look much more closely at the ways in which we encourage and 'develop' existing members.

Not only does this mean that we need to develop training programmes and social activities which help build up both knowledge of Christianity and also the fellowship of the Church. It also means that we have to ensure that all our committees are open to new people taking leadership roles, bring-

ing in their new 'fresh expressions of church' into the community, developing and using their talents. This is a challenge to those who have retained their existing office for many years (too many?), not to just 'retire', but themselves look for new ways in which they can develop the mission of the church.

My final challenge to the Folk at Little Downham, was that as Thessalonica became an example to the whole region of Macedonia, would "*I be hearing of your joy inspired by the Holy Ghost in Midsomer Norton?*" Equally, this applies going from West to East, can changes we make in M N be heard with joy across the flat lands of the Fens?

Or, to quote the Gospel for that Sunday, "Go therefore and make disciples" (Mathew 28 v19).

*E Michael.*

For a glimpse of Little Downham, log onto [www.ltdownham.org.uk](http://www.ltdownham.org.uk) and then follow links to neighbouring places such as Ely.

**They do say ...** A boy has become a man when he walks round a puddle instead of through it.

**The Bible says ...** But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. *Matthew 6:39.*



# SITUATION VACANT

**Organiser/Co-ordinator**  
for St. George's Fayre/May Market Event.

After 25 years Marjorie feels the need for a change and for others to have responsibility for important fund-raiser.  
Please talk to Marjorie if you are interested.

Our very grateful thanks go Marjorie,  
who will be available to give advice if required  
to whoever accepts this new challenge.

## HOW to STAY SAFE in the WORLD TODAY

### For Safety's Sake: Attend Church and Read the Bible

- ◇ Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
- ◇ Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
- ◇ Avoid walking on streets or pavements because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
- ◇ Avoid travelling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transport.
- ◇ Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else, avoid hospitals!
- ◇ You will be pleased to learn only .001% of deaths occur in services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at Church.

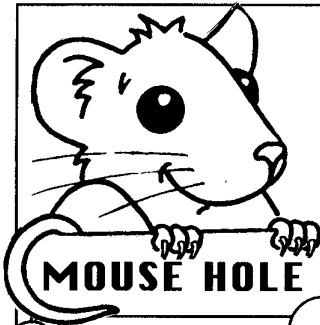
Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So, for safety's sake:

Attend Church and Read your Bible.



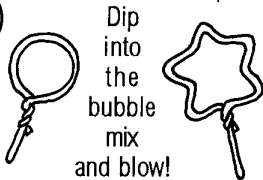
# FOR the YOUNG in HEART



## Blowing Bubbles

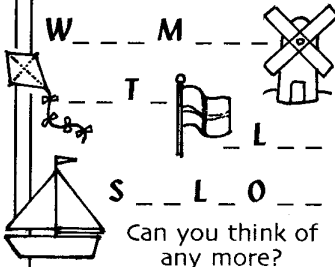
Make your own bubble mix:  
 Add 1 **tablespoon**  
 of **washing-up liquid**  
 and 1 **tablespoon** of  
**glycerin** to  
 1 litre of **water**.

Make a "blower" by bending  
 wire round into a loop.



What happens when you  
 make different shaped loops?

What needs the  
**WIND**  
 to make it work?



"The **wind** blows  
 wherever it wishes; you  
 hear the sound it makes,  
 but you do not know  
 where it comes from  
 or where it is going.

It is like that with  
 anyone who is born  
 of the **Spirit**."

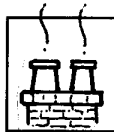
*John 3:8*

The Holy Spirit,  
 like the wind,  
 moves wherever He  
 wishes giving people  
 God's new life.

We can't tell Him  
 what to do or where  
 to go, but we can  
 see where He has  
 been by the changes  
 He has made in  
 someone's life.

At  
**PENTECOST**  
 the  
**HOLY SPIRIT**  
 came like the  
 sound of a  
 violent wind.  
**Read**  
*Acts 2: 1-41*

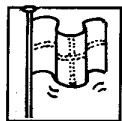
The strength  
 of wind is  
 measured  
 using the  
**Beaufort**  
**Scale**



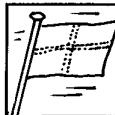
Force 0  
**calm**



Force 1-3  
**light  
 breeze**



Force 4-5  
**moderate  
 wind**



Force 6-7  
**strong  
 wind**



Force 8-9  
**gale**



Force 10-11  
**storm**



Force 12  
**hurricane**

# PRAYER PAGE

This month we begin a new cycle of prayers for our town, starting at map reference **D5**. As usual there is information relating to this area on the display board in Church including a list of the businesses on Westfield Trading Estate. A booklet is available made up of the prayer pages published in the Ambo over the past year. If you would like a copy, either for yourself or to pass on to a friend please ask Pam Drayton.

*Loving God, when we grow weary, undisciplined or unexpectant and cease to pray, help us to see that prayer is not a burden or demand but your precious gift. Remind us of all who pray with us on earth and in heaven and of Jesus Christ our great High Priest, who ever lives to make intercession for us. Then with faith reawakened, hope restored and love renewed, turn us again to share in the ministry of prayer for the salvation of all people, for this is both our calling and your longing. Amen.*

Taken from Pray without Ceasing, Methodist Prayer Handbook 2005/6

## **Week 1. (Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Jun. - Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> Jun.)**

Charlton Lane; Prattens Sports & Social Club; Prattens Bowls Club; The Centurion Hotel; The Centurion Fitness Centre; The Centurion Vocational Centre; Fosseway Golf Club; Woodpecker Pine; Jones Cash & Carry; Ian Hobbs.

## **Week 2. (Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> Jun. - Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> Jun.)**

St. Benedicts R.C. Primary School - Headteacher: Mr. Tony Nicholas  
10 Teaching Staff, all other Support Staff and approximately 206 pupil.s.

## **Week 3. (Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> Jun. - Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> Jun.)**

Fossefield Road; Fosseway South; Auto-speed Tyre & Exhaust Centre; Fish & Chip Shop; Whitehaven Residential Care Home; Norwest Bowls Club; Hazel Grove; Hazel Terrace; Old Pit Road - Coates Electrographic, **S.W.A.L.L.O.W. Ltd.** (South Wansdyke Learning and Living Our Way), Include to Inform and Kingfisher Blinds; Swallow Close.

## **Week 4. (Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Jun. - Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jul.)**

Westfield Trading Estate - First Avenue; Second Avenue; Third Avenue; Fourth Avenue. See next page for a suitable prayer for all businesses plus a map copied with permission of Standbrook Guides and space for your own notes.



*continued over page*

## Prayer

*We pray for all businesses large and small in our town and surrounding area. Those in large factory premises employing hundreds to those run by one person from an office at home.*

*We pray that they are all run with good business practices and social responsibility, with honesty, integrity and ethically.*

*We pray that employees use their skills efficiently and to the benefit of the company. Give Owners and Directors wisdom, imagination and compassion when confronting problems affecting the business. Grant them shrewdness in managing the business finances.*

*We pray for the road transport system associated with all local businesses and industry, from the smallest van to the largest H.G.V. We pray that drivers exercise caution and care and show courtesy to other road users and pedestrians.*

*We pray that where migrant workers are employed that they are accepted and welcomed into our community and that those seeking employment in our community will find it and be able to use their gifts and skills to the best of their ability. In Jesus' Name Amen.*

## Notes:

### A TASTE of ITALY

The day had dawned clear and bright. It was already hot and promised to be even hotter. The tour bus was waiting outside with its air conditioning running awaiting its payload. As people got on board, they began searching for their coats, as the vehicle was cold.

Moving quietly away into the Tuscan hillside, the road was soon descending past ripening sunflowers, the view partly obscured by heat haze.

Reaching the lakeside plain, the coach sped along the autostrada, with the

courier commenting on the Etruscan finds that were prevalent in the area. In and out of short tunnels, eventually the destination of our journey, Assisi, appeared in view clinging to the side of a low mountain range. Was this really where St. Francis lived those many years ago?

Getting off the bus in the lower square, the late morning heat was intense (last month's was nothing in comparison!). So, while drinking a cappuccino, we reflected on the sight that greeted us – a bustle of tourist

coaches and cars with people milling all around, awaiting instructions, buying souvenirs, cards and religious artefacts, and trying to get out of the sun. 'Time to go' time, with our courier having been joined by a town guide, the coach party began the long, slow procession up towards the abbey, pausing to take in the view over the now hazy valley. Entering the basilica, we trooped obediently from one chapel to another, mingling with other nationalities in the bustle of the place. The murals and other paintings were similar to others we had seen elsewhere and we were not inclined to hang around unnecessarily in the noisy house of God.

Emerging from the rebuilt large upper church (which had suffered an earthquake some years earlier) and having agreed to meet in the town's upper piazza for lunch, we began to climb away from the crowds of tourists, up through side streets and alleyways where children and cats were playing, old men and women just sitting and dogs lying dead to the world. Still keeping in the shade and water bottle in hand, we eased past the bakery, glanced in the windows of expensive fashion shops and the local 'supermercado'. Gazing into darkened rooms where the telly was on. Up above us hung out the neighbourhood's washing, while the occasional car or motor scooter noisily forced us into doorways.

And then coming to a small square with a fountain, a church faced us. The bell was sounding. We were so

hot and in need of a sit-down. Climbing the steps and opening the door, we were confronted with an interior, dark and cavernous. Sitting down and our eyes adjusting to the scene, we began to take in the atmosphere. Looking directly ahead was a magnificent jewelled High Altar, underneath a dome where rays of the sun were penetrating through the small windows. In front of us, a group of women were sitting gossiping. In a side chapel, a young man was kneeling in front of an icon, which was surrounded by burning votive candles. An old man was sweeping an aisle whilst a priest was busily in conversation with a young lady. The church still smelt of incense from an earlier service. Eventually, the women in front, got up, genuflected and crossed themselves, then left the building, still busily talking.

Then silence at last – time for reflection on the morning. A taste of the authentic Italy, combining culture, noise and quiet?

What would St. Francis have thought of his home town in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with international tourists looking in at his family home and at the crucifix where God 'spoke' to him. A far cry from the solitude he valued so much in the open countryside.

A final thought - how did St. Francis cope with the stifling hot days of summer with oppressive nights without the benefit of air conditioning? He must have indeed been a saint!

*David.*



## A DAY in WINDSOR

Friends in the church have been asking what happened on my trip to Windsor after being awarded the **Silver Wolf** in scouting, presented in my own church at the annual St. Georges Day Parade 2006. So here is a résumé of a Day in Windsor on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Everyone who receives an Award is offered the opportunity to take part in the Matins service in St. Georges Chapel, Windsor in the morning and to watch the parade of Queens Scouts in the Quadrangle of the Castle in the afternoon.

Having stayed with friends near Windsor, they dropped us off outside the Castle at 10am to find a queue. So, in typical British fashion we waited patiently under umbrellas as a light rain fell. 1015 came and no movement, and word was the choir was still rehearsing! Suddenly, the queue moved and we passed through Henry VIII gate into the Castle's Lower Ward, where St. George's Chapel stands. We entered via the south door and managed to get a seat in the Nave, soon all 600 were sat.

The service, led by Vice Dean of St. George's, Rev. Canon John White, was a very formal Matins led by the chapel choir with psalms sung and introduced by the Minor Canon. The acoustics were marvellous and the singing resounded through the chapel. We really appreciated the solemnity of it all. St. George's chapel is old but very clean and tidy. It is not very wide inside but appears to have a very

high vaulted ceiling bedecked with flags, banners and pennants of all kinds.

Janet was sitting next to a Scouter from my old county of Kent. We exchanged a few words and I found out we both had taken part in old Rover Scout events in that county many years ago. He came from Whitstable and had driven up that morning.

The service ended and the dignitaries, including the Chief Scout, Peter Duncan and the Military Knights of Windsor resplendent in their Bicorn hats with scarlet uniforms and black tight trousers, filed out. We left by the West door with those lovely curved steps that you have all seen the Knights of the Garter standing on after a Garter ceremony. People were trying to get photographs but there were just too many for a good shot. It was great, however, to walk down those famous steps!

We now had about 1½ hr. to spare before the afternoon parade. We walked around the corner from the front of the castle and had a light lunch in the "Crooked Cafe" next to the Civic Hall.

The afternoon found us queuing again, this time at St. George's gate before passing through the security check into the Quadrangle of the Castle. We had green special enclosure tickets and after being shown to our seats, a bank of tiered seats at the top of the quadrangle opposite the royal entrance, we took our places, and the sun was shining!

Scouts from around the world acted as markers for when the parade arrived. In front of us was an Argentinian girl scout and to her left a Japanese scout. Each enclosure was allocated to the various award holders. To our left were the young boys and girls who had been awarded bravery awards and to our right were holders of the Bar to Silver Acorn awards. Also to our left and right across the top of the quadrangle were the seats for Guest of the Scout Association with the Saluting base in the centre.

Just after 1400 hours we heard the sound of music coming from the direction of St. George's gate and the Band of the Irish Guards approached leading the parade of Queens Scouts into the Quadrangle. The military band formed up to the right and continued to play while the parade marched up sides of the lawn. They were in sections about 30 strong making the parade 240 strong.

The Kingston and Maldon Scout and Guide band augmented by the Corps of Drums of the Halesowen Scout band brought up the rear of the parade and took up position beside the band of the Irish Guards. The Bands continued to play alternatively while the colour party bearing King George V flag, the flag of St. George and the Scout Association Colour came into the quadrangle.

The parade was called to attention and the colour party marched up the lawn to halt just short of the saluting base. The leader called the parade to stand at ease to wait for the arrival of

Lord Peter Baden-Powell, grandson of our Founder, who represented the Queen on this occasion.

The parade was called to the alert and the Lord Baden Powell was escorted to the saluting base where the band played and the salute was given. After this he and the chief Scout reviewed the Queens Scouts. Lord Baden Powell spoke to the front rank and the chief Scout to the rear rank. We were very impressed with this; yes it took a long time but between them they spoke to every Queen Scout present plus those in the Scout and Guide band and the Colour party and on the way back to the saluting base walked and spoke to us and all the people in the seated enclosures before talking to the young people who had gained bravery awards.

While this was happening the bands and parade had formed up and when Lord Baden Powell was ready on the saluting base the parade formed into columns and marched past. For an association that does not have drill on its programme they performed very well having been drilled all morning by the Irish Guards Regimental Sergeant Major.

The parade lead off to St. Georges gate and then into St. Georges Chapel for the Nation Scout service which had been planned by the senior section in Scouting – Network.

When the parade had cleared the quadrangle we were allowed to file out and follow them down thought St. George's gate. There wasn't room for parents and friends in the Chapel but

the service was relayed to us outside and as the weather was fine it was very pleasant to stand and listen. We had been issued with an Order of Service so we could take part in the hymns and prayers which most people did. It sounded lovely to have an impromptu 'open air' service.

The speaker at the service was

Father John Seddon who gave an excellent and amusing talk with a message of encouragement for the Queens Scouts, and all young people everywhere.

Janet and I felt very proud and pleased to be present on this occasion and will remember it for ever.

*Jack..*

## A DIFFICULT WALK

Midsomer Norton Methodist Church has played a big part in the lives of my daughter, Sally-Anne, and me. Some of you would be aware of the struggle my daughter has had over the years, dealing with health problems, both physical and mental.

Regular readers of *The Ambo* may remember my article in early 2005, asking for your support and prayers after Sally-Anne had suffered a very severe back injury, resulting in a major operation. Many responded and my family will always be grateful to each one of you.

The update is, albeit she has to make extreme physical effort that causes her to tire quickly, with the support of a splint and sticks, Sally-Anne has regained the power to walk.

Due to her determination and a superb supporting staff via NHS, her latest aim is to support **Cancer Research UK** by participating in the **Race for Life** at the Bath & West Showground on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2006**.

The race, or walk in our case, is

5km for the full distance. Sally is aiming to walk as far as possible to raise money in memory of her grandmother, Mrs. Phyllis Parfitt, who died after suffering from cancer in September 2004; some of you will remember her.

My daughter believes this positive way will show how grateful we all are for the wonderful treatment she has had and continues to receive through the Rehabilitation Services of the NHS. The blessings of genuine friends in the Methodist Church and surrounding area, and the Power of Love and Prayer.

If you are able please come along to the showground to cheer us along. Not sure what time we will finish but we start at 11am. Our numbers, on our tops, are 1651 & 1652.

Sally's Sponsor Forms are on the Reception Desk.

On behalf of Sally-Anne, thank you all and our very best wishes with love.

*Jenny.*

- - - - -

*Please encourage Sally by your generous sponsorship – let's queue up to put our names down, Editor.*

## SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Five days of scenic cycling from Land's End, Cornwall to Nailsea, Bristol, up and down some spectacular hills all for the joy of being on two wheels in all weathers!

This is what a colleague suggested at work and I was instantly hooked. What a great excuse to get on my bike!

The intention is to cycle 60 miles a day on some of the quieter country roads and lanes through Cornwall, Devon and Somerset and stay at Youth Hostels along the way. The term "finely tuned racing pigeons" was mentioned but I think that will take a great deal of imagination!

I already support **Cancer Research UK** and thought that this would be a great opportunity to fund-raise for them. Cancer Research UK has kindly given me a very nice T-shirt and a set of sponsorship forms. If you could sponsor me, however large or small the amount, it would make the worn out legs and saddle-sore derriere so much more worth while!

We start from Land's End on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June and finish at Nailsea on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June calling at Padstow, Bideford and Minehead on the way.

*Rob .*



## YOUR LOCAL CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

Some of you may know that our local Christian bookshop, Family Books, Keynsham, has been under real threat of closure recently. However they have taken a step of faith, and renewed their lease for another three years. In order to help them stay afloat, they are considering a new idea, "Friends of Family Books". People who become 'Friends', commit to paying £5 a month as a subscription and receive in return substantial discounts on purchases and other premium services.

It would be a real shame if this

lovely, friendly, helpful Christian bookshop, on our doorstep, had to close. If you feel you could support them in this way, please contact: David Brassington at Family Books, (Keynsham), 3 Temple Court, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1HA, Tel: 0117 9868747, email

[david@familybooks.co.uk](mailto:david@familybooks.co.uk).

However, you can also support them by buying or ordering any books (secular as well as spiritual) through them, or asking them to run a bookstall at any event you might be organising.

*Jill.*

**They do say ... The only way to have a friend is to be one.**

## **B F G - Big Friendly Group**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 8pm meets at the home of Sarah Davis.  
and

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June meets for a *CYCLE RIDE* 1pm  
at Bradford-on-Avon Station Car Park.

Contact Sarah if you want to know more about BFG.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 8.30 a.m.

[breakfast served from 8 a.m.]

Mick Moore (Trowbridge) speaks  
on his personal discovery of faith in God.

'Then .... And Now'



## **MEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

meets once a month.

June's date was not arranged at the time of going to press  
- check with The Centre.

## **Midsomer Norton's Annual M A R D I G R A S**

including

**International Band Contest**  
in the Church.

**Cafeteria Refreshments** in the Hall  
and outside if weather permits.

All the Fun and Colour of the Activities  
in the High St., right outside the Church.

Come along and enjoy the day.

A Community Event for all!

## SAINTS and SINNERS?

In various ways we have been exploring aspects of how the church, that is the people of God, are both saints and sinners.

Firstly about **Saints!**

A definition of a saint given by a little boy in America, thinking about saints portrayed in stained glass windows, is 'someone whose light shines through'. Taking that definition further, I would venture to say that a saint is someone who allows the light of Christ to shine through them. It's obvious with the 'great saints' – the Mother Teresas of this world – we readily recognise her as a saint.

It's not so obvious with the ordinary saints of God, ordinary people, living ordinary everyday lives. Many of you would probably balk at being called saints, but, believe it or not, we are or we can be the saints of God when we allow the light of Christ to shine through us to others.

Now about **Sinners.**

Saint Paul was right when he wrote '*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*'. And, all, means all, not some, not just those who acknowledge their state, but all. Sadly there are those who react in the fashion – 'how dare we be called sinners?', and who are not willing to countenance such an idea. Strangely these are the ones who tend readily to see sin in others – 'the

speck in other people's eyes', rather than noticing the 'plank in their own eye' (Jesus' words in Saint. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 7). On the other hand, there are those who have such a strong sense of their own sin and unworthiness, that it cripples them and does not allow them to live a Christian life with present joy or hope for the future.

**Summarising**

We can all realise that every sinner can be a saint and every saint a sinner. If we understand ourselves and our salvation properly, we shall come to a point where we acknowledge our sinfulness, but without being hypocritical, and without despair because we recognise hope and salvation through Jesus.

We shall also discover our calling to be saints, recognising and appreciating the fruit of holiness growing in our lives, and in our ordinary way – made extra-ordinary by Jesus, allow his light to shine through us to others. Peace on your pilgrimage towards saint-hood!

*This article was written by Rev Ric Fellows, then our Minister, in the August 1993 Newsletter. Readers may recall a hymn sung in the 1960s from the then new Baptist Hymnbook beginning 'I sing a song of the saints of God' and ending 'For the saints of God began just like me and I want to be one too!'*

**The Bible says ...** If God is for us, who can be against us? *Romans 8:31.*

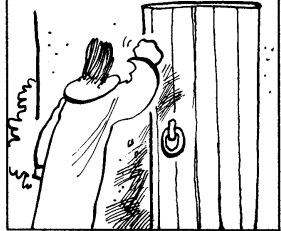
# PICTURE PARABLE

## Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK - NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



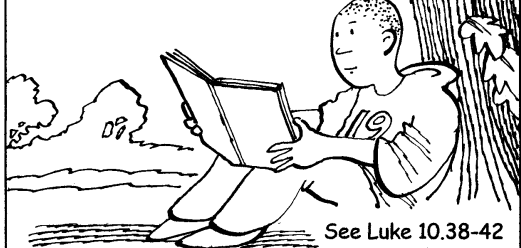
MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42

## THE BUZZ 44

These stories from around Methodism might give you ideas to take up locally.  
Please use the contacts to learn more.

### **WORSHIP - with the Simpsons?**

From Valley, Shildon, Darlington

We recently decided to try a Café-style worship entitled "Soup with the Simpsons". We served, well yes, soup and a roll, while the assembled company watched an episode of the Simpsons. Afterwards, we had discussion groups led by facilitators. We got some useful feedback on how relevant people thought the Church was in the 21st century. The whole thing proved an ideal opportunity for church members to share their faith.

E-mail contact: <mailto:therobinsons@mandy87.freeserve.co.uk>

Phone contact: Rev Andrew Robinson 01388 772898

### **LEARNING AND CARING - on the I-O-M**

From Douglas, Isle of Man

'We' are 17 churches. We've always had some home-based groups (for Disciple etc), but it tended to be the same people. We wanted to establish Home-groups accessible on different days and times, and spent six months planning this. One of our ministers now provides lectionary-based notes for 9 groups, which involve more than 60 people from 9 churches. We've had 'social' meetings too, and successfully invited visitors to those.

E-mail contact: <mailto:david.shirliff@manx.net>

Phone contact: Norma Cowell 01624 676120

### **SERVICE X 2 - growth and book alert!**

1) From Cheadle, Staffs (and lots of other places in Staffs!)...

20 years ago, our then minister David Watson (now in Somerset) encouraged us to develop our community work. We began a lunch club. Now there are 10 clubs all over the Staffordshire moorland area, and Home Link, which runs them, also provides transport to clinics and hospitals, a home bathing service, telephone befriending and a drop-in centre. Over 200 volunteers plus some paid staff maintain it all, serving about 500 people a week. Many volunteers come from Methodist and other churches in the area. Funding isn't easy, but we survive!

E-mail contact: <mailto:Michael@mparrott74.fsnet.co.uk>

Phone contact: Helen Wainwright 01538 750511

2) ... and from Brimrod, Rochdale

We signed up to Oasis Trust's 'Faithworks': researching our area, we wanted to save our local library from closure by the Council. We helped the community to form a Friends of the Library to challenge the decision and come up with alternatives. Sadly, the library did close, but a mobile library now uses the church car park every other Monday, and the local school is able to send pupils to use it. We open up and run a community information centre at the same time, with refreshments for adults and children.

E-mail contact: <mailto:gary.hoare@btinternet.com>

Phone contact: Rod Broome 01706 632610.

THE BUZZ NEEDS 'GOOD NEWS' STORIES FROM YOU!

Contact Roger Hutchings <mailto:rogerhutchings@methodistchurch.org.uk> if you have a story for The Buzz - just leave your name and phone number.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### ‘Church Review’

Six Methodist resources, from Methodist Publishing, except the last one which is from Rev. Peter Pillinger, 61 Skellingthorpe Rd., Lincoln LN6 7QT.

- ◇ **Pilgrim’s Way:** 3-year Church review process.
- ◇ **Know and Grow:** 3-month Church review.
- ◇ **Shaping the Future:** Process to develop Circuit mission policy.
- ◇ **Presence:** Being a witness in rural & town settings.
- ◇ **Time to Talk to God:** Talking about our faith with each other.
- ◇ **Resurrecting the Classes:** Introduction to cell church.

### ‘District Evangelism Day’

At Sheldon Rd, Chippenham, Methodist, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 10am-4pm.

‘Fresh Expressions of Church’ Cost £5 including lunch. Numbers limited and registration necessary. Form with Reception.

### ‘Praise and Steam with Unity Brass’

Bristol Kingswood Circuit and Avon Valley Railway celebrate 125 years of the Railway Mission, at Bitton Station Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 7pm for 7.15pm.

Cost £5 (Conc. £3.50) inc. train fare, coffee and cake. Profits shared Railway Mission and Kingswood Circuit Family Worker Fund. Prior booking essential, contact 0117 932 3978. If wet take umbrellas and suitable clothing!

### ‘A Day of Healing’ in Wells Cathedral

A teaching and study day on wide aspects of Christian Healing Ministry - addresses, workshops, fellowship and prayer. Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

Cost £15 (conc.£10).

- - - - Details of all above with Reception. - - - -

## MORE E-NEWS

### JOIN THE DEBATE: JOIN THE INTERFACE

The Interface website <http://www.theinterface.org.uk> is now live. The site provides a friendly space for Methodists to discuss hot news topics and their implications for our faith.

Everyone is invited to join the debate on a wide range of issues from Arts and Entertainment to Politics and Science. Current topics include The Da Vinci Code, Assisted Dying and Press Intrusion. Site visitors can simply enter a username and post a comment on any topic.

The site is an initiative of the Methodist Interface Group, who were formed to enable exploration of contemporary issues from a faith-based perspective.

Every week a number of new articles will be posted on the site. Join the debate. If there is a particular topic that you would like to see covered, or if you would like to become a contributor, and start a new topic, then please contact Alice Lambert:  
<mailto:lamberta@methodistchurch.org.uk>

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### GOD'S GREEN EARTH?

Determined to make a difference, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have established the Methodist/URC Environmental Network. This initiative seeks to inspire churches and individuals to take direct action against climate change and make a commitment to caring for the environment.

The Network is supported by a website: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/>

[static/econetwork/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/econetwork/) which provides news, resources and useful links as well as detailing the environmental policies of both churches. A bi-monthly e-newsletter featuring articles on climate change, stories from churches and news of the latest events and resources will also be available. Anyone can subscribe and contribute their own account of action that they are taking in their churches. The website will continue to develop over the coming months.

The priority for the Network is to connect with those who are active on environmental matters, and encourage people to make the care of God's creation a central part of local church life and witness. Subscribe to the Environmental Network at: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/forms/ensubscribe.htm>

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### URBAN MISSION

An ecumenical urban mission initiative backed by the Methodist church is producing results. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission (ECUM) jointly sponsor an Urban Mission post, with an office at the Church Army College in Sheffield. Erica Dunmow was appointed Urban Mission Development Advisor in 2004.

A website has been created to support this work explaining what urban mission is and outlining the aims and progress of the project at <http://www.urbanmission.org.uk>. The initiative is ecumenical, conducted by ECUM and the Methodist Church on behalf of the 23 other bodies that sponsor and endorse the Urban Mission project.

"One of the best kept secrets in many churches" says Erica, "is that mission in urban areas has often been at the cutting edge of ministry, developing new forms of outreach and expressions of church in an often under-recognised way, and quietly being alongside the outcasts with whom Jesus builds his kingdom."

See: <http://www.urbanmission.org.uk>

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## INSPIRED

'Inspired!', an English Heritage campaign launched on 10 May and supported by all the faith groups with listed places of worship in England, reveals the full extent of the threat facing our historic places of worship and sets out proposals to help solve the problem.

It estimates that the cost of repairing all of England's listed places of worship is £925 million over the next five years, or £185 million a year. This exceeds the amount raised by congregations by approximately £118 million a year. Grants available from English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources currently total only £40m and the Government cannot be

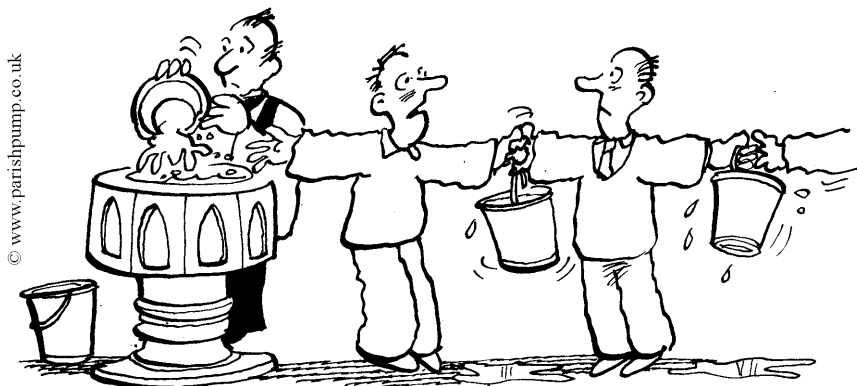
expected to meet the remaining shortfall.

Urgent action is needed, and full details of the proposals, including information on how to help with the campaign, can be found at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired>

"The Methodist Church welcomes and fully supports this important and timely initiative. Our historic churches and chapels are an irreplaceable asset, important not just because of their beauty but because of their vital place at the heart of so many communities. Their value should be recognised by a more equitable distribution of financial resources which would be a huge encouragement to the extensive army of volunteers who bear the brunt of maintaining them."

Alan Pimlott, Property Secretary,  
Methodist Church

NB: All Methodist ministers responsible for listed buildings should have received an Inspire pack including a postcard to sign and post to the Chancellor. Please check and see this has been done, as the more responses the Chancellor receives, the more pressure will be put on the Government to help preserve our listed churches.



© www.parishpump.co.uk

*I have to say - I think he's taking this hosepipe ban a bit too seriously!*

# CHURCH NEWS SERVICE from PARISH PUMP

## **Pentecost: linked up to the power!**

Fifty days on from Easter Sunday the Church celebrates Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and believers who were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem. The event is recorded in Acts 2 and it tells of the Spirit coming with dramatic signs; a sound like a rushing wind, the appearance of flames of fire and the ability given to the apostles to preach the Good News in languages they had not learned.

When Jesus had earlier spoken to his disciples about the coming of the Spirit, he emphasised spiritual power. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8). And that promise was marvellously fulfilled. When the Spirit came on that Pentecost morning, the apostles began to witness boldly. They preached salvation in the name of the risen and ascended Lord Jesus (Acts 2:37-42).

Later it is recorded that the apostles gave testimony to Christ's resurrection 'with great power' (Acts 4:33). All through the book of Acts we see the Christian church preaching and witnessing, suffering and serving with great spiritual power. Even their enemies spoke of them as 'turning the world upside down' (Acts 17:6).

At this Pentecost season we need to recapture the power of the Spirit. Perhaps our lack of power is because something has gone wrong with our spiritual connections. Maybe we are not 'linked up' to the Spirit as those early Christians were. I recall an event of many years ago that illustrates the importance of being 'linked up.' I had returned home from college to the

farm in Northern Ireland where I had grown up. Some months earlier electrical power had come to that part of the country for the first time.

One evening I was talking to a neighbour, whose farm lay next to ours. Across both farms had been installed a line of wooden poles, supporting electric cables. We were standing near one of these poles and it carried a notice warning that some 33,000 volts of electric power were running through the wires. We could hear the current humming in them. An hour later I was in that neighbour's home – and it was lit with oil lamps! He had 33,000 volts of electric power passing over his farm but none in his house. He was not 'linked up' to the supply.

Often in the church we are like that. We have the services, the programmes, the plans, the personnel – but not the power of the Spirit that convicts sinners and brings them to faith in Jesus. There is little danger that we will turn even the parish upside down, much less the world! This Pentecost celebration is a time to get 'linked up' to the Holy Spirit.

Dr Herbert McGonigle

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## **Saint Days - 9th June**

Columba of Iona (c. 521 -97)

Born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and trained as a monk, he founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid 40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, he seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

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## **22nd - Alban**

*Alban should be the patron saint of anyone who impulsively offers to help a stranger in need... and finds their own life turned upside down as a result.*

The story goes that Alban was a Roman citizen quietly living in England in the third century. Then, miles away in Rome, the emperor, Diocletian ordered a persecution of the Christians. Nothing to do with Alban... except that suddenly he found a desperate priest on his doorstep, being hunted down by local soldiers. Alban decided to give the priest shelter, and within days was converted to Christianity himself, and then baptised.

As if this was not brave enough, when the soldiers arrived, Alban decided to take the priest's place. He dressed up in the priest's clothes to enable the priest to escape. Not surprisingly, the soldiers then arrested Alban himself. Now a Christian, Alban refused to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, and so was condemned to death.

But the story doesn't end there, for Alban went to his execution with such holiness and serenity that one of the executioners was converted, and the other executioner's eyes fell out (or so the story goes). Alban was buried nearby, and the shrine built to his memory was soon known for its healing powers. Alban's cult extended all over England, and nine ancient English churches were dedicated to him.

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## **24th - John the Baptist 1st century preacher and martyr**

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman.

He was born to Zachariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the fore-

telling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and his Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request.

When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

- - -

### **Church opposes any move to extend Sunday trading hours**

The Church of England has rejected proposals to extend trading hours for large retail outlets on Sundays. In a response to a Department of Trade and Industry consultation, the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Tom Butler, pledges that the Church would "resist any further attempts to erode what still exists in legislation to safeguard the special nature of Sunday".

The document also questions whether major retailers actually want

to extend opening hours, pointing to research revealing little enthusiasm amongst retailers for unrestricted opening hours, and a belief that volumes of trade arising from any additional trading hours may not compensate for the increased cost in doing so.

In the submission's conclusion, the Bishop comments: "The costs to work-life balance, family life and stability, health of employees and the contribution of small retailers to community cohesion outweigh any potential benefits of further deregulation."

*Have you any opinion on Sunday opening? Write to the Editor.*

- - -

### **Archbishop of Canterbury speaks out on climate change**

In a recent interview with BBC Radio 4, The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken of the dangers of complacency over the issue of climate change. "I think in the first instance the moral responsibility lies with absolutely everybody, not only in terms of examining our own lifestyle and asking what concretely can be done, but also in sending a message to governments that this is recognised as a priority by the public," he said.

*Again, have you any thoughts on the subject? Write to the editor.*

- - -

### **Eat more fruit!**

Eating even MORE than the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables a day can help cut the risk of a stroke. Recent research by the University of London has found that people who eat three to five portions cut the risk by 11 per cent compared with those eating fewer than three, and

those who eat more than five servings lower it by 26 per cent.

More than five fruits and vegetables a day: such a simple and non-expensive lifestyle change. But in the UK alone, it could mean 40,000 fewer strokes a year.

- - -

### **Fund for World Mission legacies reach £779,000**

Legacies to the Methodist Fund for World Mission reached £779,000 in the year to 31 August 2005, nearly double that total for the year before. This takes the Fund to its highest total for three years.

Dr. John Newton, Mission Support Worker, said: "People's generosity is amazing. The money from legacies this year is equivalent to the cost of supporting 50 more mission partners for a year, building 780 homes in Pakistan or providing over 38,000 Love Boxes (of medical supplies) to people in South Africa living with HIV/AIDS."

Although the Fund for World Mission receives most of its income from regular giving, legacies form an important part. A guide to leaving a legacy to a Methodist fund, *No More Tears*, is available free from the Mission Education department (020 7468 5502).

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### **Methodists pledge £300,000 in response to Africa food crisis**

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) has committed £300,000 to food security programmes across East, West and Southern Africa, in response to the worsening food crisis in all three regions. The money will be spent on emergency relief, including feeding centres and

medical care, as well as on longer-term initiatives to strengthen families' abilities to feed themselves.

The situation is currently most acute in East Africa, with Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia all affected. Although rains have now arrived in parts of Kenya, the problems brought by the drought are far from over. The heavy rainfall and drop in temperature have killed many cattle, already weakened by the long dry period. The bodies of cattle have then been swept into surface water sources, contaminating drinking water.

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### **The website for mission worldwide**

If you are interested in mission worldwide, [www.worldchristiandatabase.org](http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org) is a must-visit. The website is a statistician's paradise, and an essential tool for anyone looking strategically at world mission. It provides information on world religions, countries and regions, people groups, denominations and much more.

Full access requires a subscription but a lot of valuable information can be found by signing up for the lowest level of access, which is free.

- - -

### **Planted in the love of the Father**

Planted in the love of the Father  
You can grow, dear one,  
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit  
His fruit you'll show,  
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,  
And the thorns threaten,  
And the storms around life's garden  
blow -

Your roots will hold,  
And hold secure,  
Because you're planted in the love of  
the Father,

Daphne Kitching.



Hoping to develop his son's character, his father gave him fifty pence and ten pence as he was leaving for Sunday School. "Now Bill, you put whichever one you want on the offering plate," he said. When the boy returned, his father asked which coin he had given. Bill answered: Well, just before they sent around the plate the preacher said 'The Lord loveth a cheerful giver,' and so as I knew that I could give the ten pence a lot more cheerfully than I could give the fifty pence, I gave it."

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The restaurant where I took my two sons for a meal was crowded with fans watching a sporting event on TV. The harried waitress took our order, but more than half an hour passed with no sign of her return. I was trying to keep my children from becoming restless when suddenly shouts of victory came from the bar. "Hey," commented my 11-year-old, "it sounds as if someone just got his food."

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The minister was praising his church council. "Unlike others I have known where half the council does all the work and the other half are hopeless, in this church it is completely the reverse!"

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The new minister, encouraged by the numbers in church for his first sermon, began: "I have never had the pleasure of preaching to such a

dense crowd before."

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My husband, Ray, was attempting to build a patio for the first time. He bought 100 cement blocks. Laying them out in a pattern, he discovered the chosen area was too small. So he carefully stacked the blocks against the house and cleared more space. The next day Ray put the cement blocks back down, only to find that the ground was too hard to keep the patio level. He ordered a truckload of sand to be delivered the following morning. Again he stacked the 100 blocks back against the house.

Observing all this with great fascination, our next-door neighbour finally asked: "Ray, are you going to put your patio away every night?"

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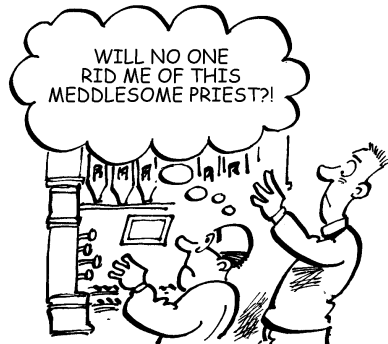
### Quotes

Many parents give their children everything except themselves. *Anon.*

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Before Christ sent the church into the world, he sent the Spirit into the church. The same order must be observed today. *John Stott.*

From the Notices:  
ORGANIST REQUIRED . . . .  
Small but trying priest and congregation



# The FIVE FINGER PRAYER

- ◇ Your thumb is nearest to you so begin by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember.
- ◇ Next comes the pointing finger so pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. They need support and wisdom to point others in the right directions.
- ◇ Then we have the tallest finger so pray for our leaders in Government, business, industry and administration who shape our nation.
- ◇ The fourth is our ring finger and surprisingly, it is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify! It reminds us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or pain.
- ◇ The fifth or little finger, the smallest of them all, is where we place ourselves in relation to God and others. 'The least shall be greatest amongst you'. It reminds us to pray for ourselves after the other four groups and put our needs in proper perspective.



## DEADLINE

for July's *The Ambo* is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

This Newsletter (less personal details) is reproduced on our web site, where photographs are usually reproduced in colour.

Answers to Puzzle Page.  
1. DEBENTURE  
2. 1. Gold 2. Hone 3. Halt 4. Mien 5. Cane 6. Feed 7. Shin 8. Dish  
9. Wash 10. Attach 11. Yoke 12. Cure 13. Plan 14. Cell 15. Tins 16. Core  
17. Boss 18. Tart 19. Sort 20. Dare.  
*Go on then and finish what your ancestors started. Matthew 23:32.*  
3. 1. Turn back 2. I am under the weather 3. The Magic Circle.

**THE CHURCH CENTRE is open Monday - Saturday 0900 - 1230**  
**Tel. 01761 410450 Answerphone on at other times**  
**Web-site at [www.msnmcc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.msnmcc.fsnet.co.uk)**  
**Address: High St., Midsomer Norton, Somerset. BA3 2DR**

## CHURCH DIARY

### JUNE

- SUN 4 1500-1800 Whitfunday at Somervale School  
**Sun 4 2000** B F G meets at Sarah's house.  
W/end 10 -11 Network Weekend with Irene Sayer.  
**Sun 11 1300** B F G Cycle Ride from B-on-A Station Car Park.  
**Sat 17 0830** Men's Breakfast Fellowship (Breakfast from 8am).  
**Mon 19 1900-2100** Coffee Evening at home of Graham & Daphne.  
**Wed 21** Deadline for July's 'The Ambo.

### JULY

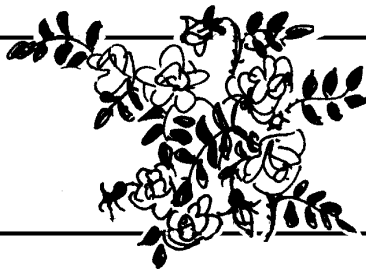
- Sun 2 1030** Church Anniversary with Rev. Peter Pomery  
**Sun 2 1800** Church Anniversary – United Service.  
**Sun 2 2000** B F G meets at Charlene & Stuart's house.  
**Sat 8** Mardi Gras.  
**Sun 9** Visit to Belinda & Paul's house.  
**Tue 11 1930** Resources Committee meets  
**Mon 17 1900-2100** Coffee Evening at Madge & Marian's.

- Sun 23 1300** B F G Picnic & Games, Victoria Park, Bath

### AUGUST

- Thu 10** Circuit Network Summer Outing (half day).  
**Mon 14 1900-2100** Coffee Evening at home of Trevor & Elizabeth.

**June**



**2006**

### Activities & Events

Weekly activities are displayed in the Centre's Reception area, where posters for special events will be on the Noticeboard, Details on a weekly notice sheet are also available there.

### Sunday Worship

Morning Service - 10.30 am : Evening Worship - 6.00 pm  
2nd Sundays - Breakfast Praise 9.30 am (Coffee/Toast from 9.00)  
+ Community Mini-bus picks up less-abled friends for 10.30 service.  
You are invited to join us at any time.