

# The Ambo

May 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 the pen of my grandfather, written in September 1898:*

Every now and then a man's mind is stretched by a new idea or sensation, and never shrinks back to its former dimensions.

**The Editor says:** "I apologise for the errors in last month's issue. After proof-reading I reprinted *The Ambo* pages but did not check sufficiently and some pages were not printed as written. Parts were omitted on p20, which is irrelevant now as the Fayre has taken place; and also p.39: the silly jokes should have read: How do baby hens dance? Chick to chick!

Why does the chicken go to the theatre? For hentertainment!

The 'I want to help but ...' on p14/15 also were not as fully explained as the writer intended, the editor's knife was a bit too sharp! Please talk to Jean or Helen for more about Women's Fellowship and Wives' Group."

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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# MINISTER'S LETTER

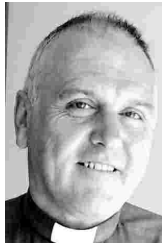
Rev. David W. Watson,  
36 North Road,  
Midsomer Norton,  
Somerset. BA3 2QQ.  
01761 412137

Dear Friends,

We have just finished our Holy Week and Easter Services and I know that we have had a really wonderful and blessed time. Our attendances were very good. In spite of the bad weather on Good Friday morning our united March of Witness had the best turnout that I have seen. I believe it to be right that we should show a united Christian Witness to the town on this very important day in the Christian calendar.

Easter Sunday morning saw us meeting together for an All-Age Easter celebration including communion, it was wonderful to see the church full with people from the age of 2 months to 80+. As I said on Easter Sunday the children were a credit to us all as they took their rightful place with the Church Family. Children and young people are not the 'church of tomorrow', they are the 'church of today' we must not forget this fact.

I want to say a personal so much over the Easter period lovely with all the flowers and services, those who took part in and readers, to all who helped YOU, your talents and your



word of thanks to those who did to make the church look so the centre pieces at the various the services, musicians, singers in any way, a very big THANK help are greatly appreciated.

We are now in the period few weeks we will be thinking after Easter and during the next of Our Lord's resurrection appearances and how these appearances prepared the disciples to carry out the work of Jesus after He ascended into heaven, and the disciples have received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. On Ascension Day, which is, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, we will be holding an Ascension Day Communion service at 7.30pm this will mark the beginning of the disciples' earthly ministry and also the beginning of Our Lord's heavenly ministry. Please do your best to be present at this service. A meeting of the church Pastoral committee will follow this communion service.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May marks the start of Christian Aid Week, we shall be holding a United service in our church at 6pm. Christian Aid needs our support more than ever as we see the pictures of the people who are suffering through famine in many parts of the world. Famine is often brought about through warfare and conflict as well as shortage of rainfall. Please support, in whatever way you can, by delivering and collecting envelopes, by giving, by coming to the Christian Aid Mini - Market and of course by your prayers.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June is Pentecost the day when we remember the disciples receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christ's other self. Although they couldn't

see Jesus by eyesight, their insight told them that He was still with them, giving them the strength to do His work in the world. Our morning worship will celebrate the coming of the Spirit and then in the afternoon, at Somervale School, the churches of the area will unite for Whitfunday. I hope that this event will be supported in the same way as it was last year. This is a very good way of witnessing to the Lord through working together with our sisters and brothers from other churches. Look out for the Posters, which give further details.

May God Bless you all.  
Your friend and minister,



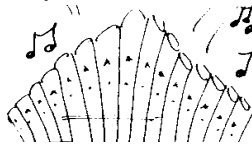
## FEAR NOT ...

### ..... FOR I BRING YOU TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

Many of you may have been alarmed to read in the papers recently that the European Union is so concerned about the dangers to organists, congregations and organ-builders from the lead in Church organ pipes; that after 1<sup>st</sup> July it will be illegal to build any more organs containing both lead and electric parts. [See European Directives 2002 95/EC and 2002 96/EC] You may even be questioning whether it is safe to come to church. Rest assured. This danger has been completely removed from our Church (and is virtually non-existent in every other church).

As you know, using foresight and concern for our health (!!) the Resources Committee took action 2 years ago and replaced the pipe organ with a new, state of the art modern technology, all singing,

all dancing, 3 manual, digital Makin Organ. Despite all the sounds this fine instrument can produce, it does not contain one single pipe. Furthermore, most of the pipes have been removed from the old organ, including all the lead pipes. The only ones left are the decorative ones at



the front, and these are made of Aluminium, so there is no danger there.

So next time the organ thunders, sit back and enjoy it in the sure knowledge you will not be struck down with lead poisoning.

----- The thought has just crossed my mind – I wonder how long before the EU bans hymns containing the word ‘lead’ for fear of encouraging people to continue to use it. ‘Lead kindly light’ and especially ‘Lead us, Heavenly father, lead us’ must be in grave danger.

*Les.*

God is always there for us.  
Are we always there for Him?

## IN THE GARDEN

### IN THE GARDEN

I would have liked this to have been in the Ambo for Easter, but as e-mails have lives of their own, so it is a few weeks late. [Ed: *I was asked to confirm receipt which I forgot as it didn't arrive, so it wasn't received in time!*]

Several months ago I had a tune and verse or chorus going round and round in my head. I had no idea why but the words were very comforting. Dave had never heard these words before and it's over 40 years since I have. I then remembered the first line and we put it on the Internet. The result was this:

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.

*Refrain:*

And He walks with me and He talks  
with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry  
there,  
None other has ever known.

There are two more verses. This was written in 1912 by C. Austin Miles.

What a wonderful picture of Easter this paints. Mary Magdalene, tearful



with grief, suddenly seeing someone whom she thinks is the gardener. One word from Him, "Mary", and she realises Jesus is alive. Wonderful.

*Chris.*

## A TRIP to IOLANTHE

A trip to Iolanthe was greeted with  
delight  
With many thanks to Trevor for such a  
joyful night

But returning to the motor car, we  
found to our dismay  
That Trevor's key had buckled and in  
Bath were forced to stay

Now thanks to mobile telephones, Les,  
from his armchair raced  
To flush the spare ignition key out of  
its hiding place.

The hours passed quite quickly as  
tales of other trips

Of lost keys and even people, came  
forth from Trevor's lips

Next morning I'd some jobs to do, so  
before I left for town,  
I reached for my umbrella as the rain  
was pouring down.

Alas no brolly to be seen, it wasn't  
there at all,  
And on the phone Liz said to me, "It's  
hanging in my hall"

So the moral of this story is, that it  
would suit you well  
To take out some insurance when  
travelling with a Bell.

*Sheila.*

# LOOKING BACK

St. Georges' Day Fayre held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April



Friday evening saw frantic activity as people brought their goods, and the stall holders sorted it out and arranged their tables and allocated spaces. Saturday dawned dry so some stalls went outside with some staying in the hall.

From 9am to 12 noon a steady flow of folk passed through; hands kept going into pockets, wallets and



purses as they saw and bought items and tasted the fine refreshments, with lunches from noon onwards.



At the end of the day £2,325 had been received . So, thank you to all



More of the stalls as we waited for the doors to open and the rush to start.



## POWER of the CHURCH GOING GREEN

**A 13th Century village church is aiming to install solar panels as part of an environmentally friendly fund-raising scheme.**

Parish officials hope the panels will produce more than enough power to light St Mary's in Lidgate, Suffolk.

They plan to sell the excess electricity back to the National Grid.

St Mary's is thought to be one of the first churches in the country to try to generate power and extra money in such a fashion.

Church Warden Michael McEvoy said the scheme, which will cost £12,000, will not spoil the church's architecture.

*BBC News 26/03/06.*

## ODE to THE ORGANIST

Who comes to the church in rain or snow?

The Organist.

Who plays too fast, or plays too slow?

The Organist.

Who pushes stops in, or pulls them out,  
plays softly when we want to shout,  
and yet we cannot do without?

The Organist.

Who waits with patience for the hymns?

The Organist.

Anticipates the Preacher's whims?

The Organist.

Who is available to play  
for weddings, funerals and Christmas Day  
and often goes without his pay?

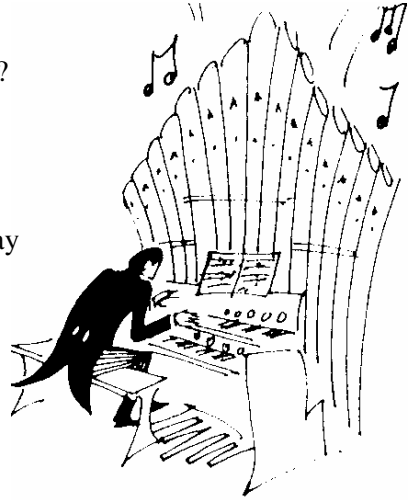
The Organist.

Before you either grouse or blame

The Organist

Decide if you could do the same  
as The Organist.

Amazing grace to him is given  
and after he has nobly striven  
there is a special place in heaven  
for The Organist.



*From Mere Church as recorded in  
Wiltshire and Bath Organist Association's  
April Newsletter.*

## TELEPHONE MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a telephone call from the Church, such as folk who are not well, have been hospitalized, or cannot get to church for any reason,

please let the Receptionists have their address and phone number.

We will be pleased to keep in touch and let them know the Church is thinking of them. Thank you.

*Una.*

**The Bible says ...** Put into practice what you learnt and received from me, both from my words and actions. *Philippians 4:9.*

# MISSION

## Church Project - Mildmay:

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April proved to be another 'landmark' date for our fund-raising efforts for our current Church Project.

Thanks to Fred's foresight and initiative we were able to welcome back the very accomplished Avon & Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir, who, for about two hours (including a mid-evening refreshment break), entertained an audience of over two hundred folk.

For a choir whose members are spread all over the Force's area, their cohesive and tone perfect performance was a credit to them and every bit as good as when they last paid us a visit some ten years ago! Practices must present logistical problems with their differing work rosters and geographical spread.

Under the expert guidance of their Musical Director, Alison Howell, and note perfect accompanist, the audience was 'wowed' by a wide and entertaining repertoire which contained many of the favourites and well-loved male voice choir pieces. All this supported by an extremely able soprano soloist, whose range and delivery held the audience in awed silence, followed by loud and spontaneous applause.

Thank you to Fred & Peggy for all your hard work with the invitation and arrangements, both prior to and on the evening. Thank you also to all who helped in other ways, such as



chair moving, on the door, preparation and provision of refreshments, and Rev. David Watson for his welcome and thanks. The choir was particularly appreciative of the meal at the end of the concert.

The evening resulted with a profit of £700, so making a big contribution to this month's figure added to the total.

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An excellent 8 months of fund-raising as seen on 'the money box'. Yes, still 4 months to go, but we need to be putting thoughts on paper for our **next** project, to start 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Many will have a favourite cause which you would want us all to support, so as usual, nominees in this and June's *The Ambo* and then voting

forms in July. As always, open to anyone to nominate a cause with a concise description of the work and why we should pick that charity. If you use a computer please either e-mail or pass on a disc to Martin; if written put on the message-board for him.

Voting slips will be in the July issue and results published in August, so you'll have 3 weeks to decide!

**Please do use your vote.** The more voting, the more meaningful and democratic the result. (Some have said in the past "If I had voted I wouldn't have voted for that cause"!)). So, use your vote, don't leave it to someone else. Additionally, please give prayerful thought to the next Project's possibilities. Thanks again to all for making this year's effort so successful.

*John.*

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## **NOMINATION:**

***BIBLES for CHILDREN*** is 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.*

— — —

## **MAKE OR BREAK FOR MILD MAY**

**M**ildmay Mission Hospital, the London Christian hospital for HIV and Aids sufferers may have to cut staff and overseas relief programmes because of a £250,000 shortfall in funds. Donation fatigue following last year's Tsunami and the need for NHS Primary Care Trusts to balance their books are being blamed for the crisis. Already the pioneering hospital has had to close one ward and a quarter of its beds. The church has also had to cancel a project in Zimbabwe that supports the families of children with Aids. Steve Small, Mildmay's director, said, "The next 12 months will either make or break us". The hospital is appealing to donors and urgently looking for new funding to continue the hospital's specialised rehabilitation work.

*Sources: C of E Newspaper (24/3);  
Baptist Times (23/3)*



## Who are you looking for?

Mary Magdalene, blinded by tears of grief and frustration at not finding the body of Jesus in the tomb, thinks she sees the gardener. She pleads with him to tell her where she can find the body. The response is her name "Mary", being spoken in a voice she immediately knows is Jesus. He is alive!

Seeking, can we find Jesus in 2006?

In the Gospel of John, we read that 'God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, that anyone who believes in him should not die, but have everlasting life'. Jesus came to rescue us, no matter what sort of mess we might have got into.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, the weight of the evil he was carrying was so overwhelming that it made even him FEEL the absence of God. Didn't his dear Father care? "Why have you forsaken me", he shouted. That was how Jesus felt, but God WAS in the thick of all that dreadful suffering.

For you and me this means that God does care even if we feel Godforsaken. However fed up with ourselves we feel, however low we may have sunk, here is HOPE. You and I can call on Jesus for help. This is because he loves and cares for us so much. The strange thing is, that seeking God in 2006, as we begin to draw near, we discover God has actually been seeking for us.

Brian Wren puts it like this:

LORD God, in Christ you call our name,  
And then receive us as your own,  
Not through some merit, right or claim,  
But by your gracious love alone;  
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat,  
And find YOU kneeling at OUR feet.  
(H & P 500).

*Marian.*



## THE ULTIMATE VISION?

‘..... was cruelly beheaded by those who could not understand that it is quite possible for rational men to differ on important points of belief or doctrine. The world in which he lived had yet to develop those qualities of tolerance of difference of opinion which we take for granted, but which we remind ourselves is of rather recent creation and is by no means assured of universal support.

There are amongst us still those who would deny to others the right to hold a different understanding of the fundamental issues of our time.

Thus, if we look about us, we see dogma in conflict with rival dogma; we see people of one culture or belief still at odds with their human neighbours who are of a different culture or belief; and we see many who are prepared to act upon this difference to the extent of denying the humanity of those with whom they differ. They are prepared to kill them, and innocent

others in the process, in order to strike at those whom they perceive to be their enemies, even if these so-called enemies are, like them, simple human beings, with families that love them, and with hopes and fears about their own individual futures.’

‘Here,....., let us remind ourselves of the possibility of combating, in whatever small way we can, those divisions that come between man and man, between woman and woman, so that we may recognise in each other that vulnerable humanity that informs our lives and makes life so precious; so that each may find happiness in his or her life, and in the lives of others. For what else is there for us to hope for? What else, I ask you, what else?’

*Extract from a speech in a novel - ‘The 2.5 Pillars of Wisdom (The Von Igelfeld Trilogy) by Alexander McCall Smith – Abacus Books ISBN No 0 349 11850 7.*

## TIME

**The CLOCK is always TICKING**  
and waits for no man!

To understand the value of 1 year, ask a student who has to repeat a year at school.

To understand the value of a month, ask a mother who gives birth to a premature baby.

To understand the value of a week, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To understand the value of an hour,

ask the lover waiting to meet his date.  
To understand the value of a minute, ask the traveller who just missed his train.

To understand the value of a second, ask the person who almost had an accident.

To understand the value of a millisecond, ask the athlete who won a silver medal at the Olympics.

Value each moment.

*Sent in by Chris.*

## LETTERS



*How I enjoyed Jill Flowers' Messiah' in April's Amba.*

*This reminded me of the time I conducted a Choral Society when Catherine & I were resident in Norwich. We did such oratorios as Elijah and Messiah, and each Christmas we were booked to sing at a large Anglican Church in Norfolk. As the time approached, one of our Choral members would say, "Well, Mr. R, I suppose once again we have to sing about the Crook, Ed Straight!"*

*Douglas.*

*I would like to sincerely thank all of you, my treasured friends, for the loveliest thoughts you've expressed to me in your cards and letters. Thank you for being such special friends. My love to you all.*

*Margaret.*

## WATCH WHAT YOU EAT!

There is a supposedly true story about a woman who was tired after her supermarket shopping so popped into the coffee shop. Purchasing a coffee and Kit-Kat bar, she was lucky to find an empty table, and gratefully sat down.

As she took a sip of coffee a man asked if he could share her table as the place was fairly full. She agreed, put down her cup and reached for the Kit-Kat and broke off a bar. To her amazement the man also took a piece. Rather confused and embarrassed she said nothing and drank her coffee taking a second piece of the

chocolate bar. The man took the final piece; then drank his coffee and went back to the counter, where he bought another coffee and a chocolate muffin. He then went and sat at another table.

The lady was a bit indignant at this -the cheek of it; eating her chocolate and then moving away - so she gathered her bags and left. To get to the door she needed to pass the man's table and on impulse grabbed his muffin, took a bite, and put it back, then dashed out to her car.

She put down her shopping to get her car keys out of her pocket and, to her horror, out came her Kit-Kat.

**They do say ...** All my life I've wanted to be a great wit. One of my closest friends keeps telling me I'm halfway there already.

# PUZZLE PAGE

**1** What word across makes nine words down?

A	S	A	S	A	T	L	A	K
K	P	E	P	E	E	T	Y	Y

**2** Each answer is of four letters, running clockwise from the number,  
The letters in the top rows across will spell a sentence.

1		2			4			6						
				3		5			7			8	9	
		11			13					16				18
10			12				14	15					17	

- 1) Crooked 2) Transgressions 3) Story 4) Slim 5) Ebb 6) Burden 7) Desire  
8) Speck 9) Against 10) Abode 11) Optics 12) Unsweet 13) Dreadful 14) Re-  
mainder 15) Sheet of glass 16) Plunder 17) Tribe 18) Despatch.

**3.** Well known phrases (but hidden).

E.g. WONDERSSSSSSSSSSSSSS..... = Wonders never cease.

1) HOKEEPINITINUSE

2) MAWEEKAY

3.



Answers on Page 35.

**They do say ...** I'm not afraid of hard work; it's doing it that bothers me.

**The Bible says ...** We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens. *Romans 15:1.*

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

**This month we look at the work of Pastoral Visitors.**

At the moment we have 26 Pastoral Carers which includes one person who keeps contact with friends who have moved away.

John Wesley introduced the 'Class System' where groups of Methodists met privately to share their religious experiences and to help others live better Christian lives. Class Leaders ensured members behaved, acted as church-going Christians and attended church regularly.

The scheme has changed a great deal over the years, but it is still an important and integral part of the Methodist Church.

Here, in Midsomer Norton, we try to ensure all Church members, and where possible all adherents, are covered by a Pastoral Carer. This we believe is essential to maintain the 'family' feel of our church, enabling contact to be sustained.

Each Pastoral Carer has 5-10 people on their list – many of whom are seen each Sunday at Church or maybe at some meeting during the week; such as Guild, Women's Fellowship, Wives' Group, Stop-Off etc. So the job of keeping contact is probably not as onerous as at first it may appear.

The Pastoral Carers meet with the Minister twice a year, usually May and October. The meetings last about 1½ hrs, when we look through our lists together, bringing out points of interest – Mrs. .... 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mr. ....recovery is progressing etc. However, I do emphasise that nothing of any private nature is ever discussed. Confidentiality is particularly important to us. A meeting may include a speaker or a case study for discussion.

Of course, the more Pastoral Carers we have the easier the job becomes. So, if the above has explained and allayed any concerns you may have had about joining the team – wonderful. Please speak to me or Rev. David Watson – or just come along to our next meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

*Una.*

The rector was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs. Godson in our prayers who has recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."



## WHO GOD USES

"God, grant me the Serenity to accept the people I cannot change, the Courage to change the one I can, and the Wisdom to know it's me."

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk;  
Abraham was too old;  
Isaac was a daydreamer;  
Jacob was a liar;  
Leah was ugly;  
Joseph was abused;  
Moses had a stuttering problem;  
Gideon was afraid;  
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer;  
Rahab was a prostitute;  
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young;  
David had an affair and was a murderer;  
Elijah was suicidal;  
Isaiah preached naked;  
Jonah ran from God;  
Naomi was a widow;  
Job went bankrupt;  
John the Baptist ate bugs;  
Peter denied Christ;  
The Disciples fell asleep while praying;  
Martha worried about everything;  
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once;  
Zaccheus was too small;  
Paul was too religious;  
Timothy had an ulcer...  
AND Lazarus was dead!

No more excuses now. God can use you to your full potential.  
Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger!

*From a posting on (the now closed)*  
[groupyouthworkers@yahoo.com](mailto:groupyouthworkers@yahoo.com)

## CH-SW

### CHILDREN'S HOSPICE - SW

The official number of children suffering from life limiting illness now stands at 1000. For some families Charlton Farm will not be able to open its doors soon enough, but with our continued support we can try to ensure that they open on schedule, in early spring next year, so that for other families there will be time for a difference to be made to the short but precious lives of their children. So thank you all for your continued support.

*(See Concert Advert page 22)*



**The Bible says ...** So it is with the tongue: small though it is, it can boast about great things.

*James 3:5.*

#### **They do say ...**

The difficulty with parenting is that by the time you know it all, you're not needed any more.

## THREE STEPS TO .....

### Leaving home/office on time



**Avoid distractions:** Be aware of your distractions, even writing them down, but don't follow them. If surfing the web, or reading e-mails causes you to waste time, make a conscious effort not to launch your browser, and close your inbox.

**Don't try to multi-task:** Multi-tasking is not doing more than one thing at a time; it's switching back and forth between tasks and actually reduces productivity.

**Should I, shouldn't I:** You've gathered information, researched alternatives, and now you can't decide. Indecision is one of the worst time-bandits around. For insignificant decisions, flip a coin. You'll learn to be quick and definite when the end result doesn't matter that much'

## SQUIRRELS

There were four country churches in a small Texas town: The Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church. Each church was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and



drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Catholic group got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation.

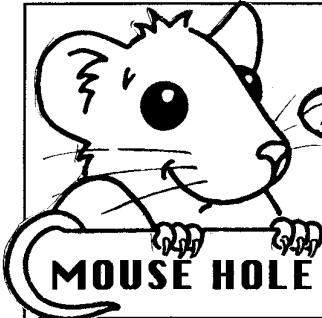
So, they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

But, the Methodist Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

*Thanks to Mike.*

**The Bible says ...** Sing a new song to the Lord; praise him in the assembly of his faithful people. *Psalms 149:1.*

# FOR the YOUNG in HEART

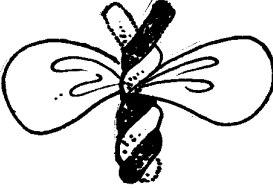


**MOUSE HOLE**

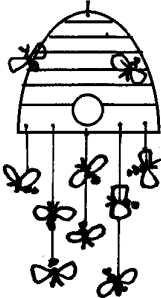
## Buzzy Bees



- Twist together 1 yellow pipe cleaner and 1 black pipe cleaner



- Slot in the wings made from a rectangle of cellophane, plastic or tissue that has been rounded off at the ends.
- Twist the pipe cleaners a further 3 to 4 times then trim.
- Make a large card beehive and hang lots of bees from it!



Kind words are like honey, sweet to the taste and good for the health

Proverbs 16:24



Have you heard the sayings:

'Busy as a bee'

'As sweet as honey'

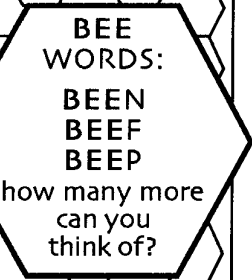
'A hive of activity'

'The bee's knees'



The name **DEBORAH** means **BEE**

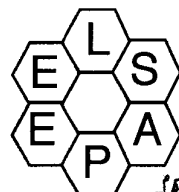
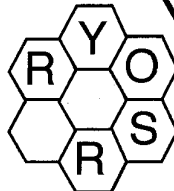
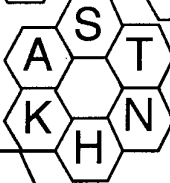
Read Deborah's story in *Judges 4 & 5*



**BEE WORDS:**

**BEEN  
BEEF  
BEEP**

how many more can you think of?



Here are 3 kind words... rearrange the letters in each honeycomb to find out what they are.





**We...do not cease to pray for you. Colossians 1:9**

This month we summarise the last eleven months of our prayers for Midsomer Norton. We hope you have found the prayer suggestions a useful guide and that it has helped you become more aware of what is occurring in our community. Please have a look at the display of coloured links on the screen at the back of the Church, these show all the streets, schools, surgeries, churches and many of the businesses in our town that have been prayed for over the past year.

## **Week 1. (Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. – Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> May)**

Since June 2005 we have prayed for 197 streets/roads in our town, this number is increasing with many new developments adding to the growth of our town. Pray for your own street/road, your own home, your family, your neighbours, pray especially for anyone in your street who is in any kind of need at this time. **Father, may your kingdom come and your will be done in the places and lives of those we have thought of.**

## **Week 2. (Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> May – Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> May)**

Pray for the 9 schools in our town. Norton Hill & Somervale Secondary Schools, Fosse Way Special School, St. Benedicts R.C., Longvernal, St. John's C.of E., Welton, Westfield & Midsomer Norton Primary Schools. Pray for the Head Teachers, teaching & support staff and for the thousands of local children who attend these schools. Pray for a local school that you may be linked with, maybe your child or grandchild attend that school. Pray for their teacher and their school friends. Remember any playgroups and nursery schools.

**Father, may your kingdom come and your will be done in the places and lives of those we have thought of.**

## **Week 3. (Sun.14<sup>th</sup> May – Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> May)**

Pray for our local hospital at Paulton, St. Chad's Surgery & Somerton House Surgery. Pray for the doctors, nurses & administrative staff who serve our town. Remember our local dentists, opticians, care workers and any other healthcare professionals. Pray for Bloomfield Care Centre, Beechcroft Residential Home & Whitehaven Home. Pray for anyone known to you who is unwell, lonely, bereaved or in need of any kind at this time.

**Father, may your kingdom come and your will be done in the places and lives of those we have thought of.**

*Continued next page*

#### **Week 4. (Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> May – Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> May)**

Over the last eleven months we have prayed for hundreds of local businesses. Pray for our High Street shops, pubs, clubs & businesses and for the industrial estates at Westfield, Old Mills & the Midsomer Enterprise Park. Pray for someone who has served you in a particular shop, your hairdresser, staff at your bank or building society maybe, someone who has carried out repairs or work in your home, your window cleaner. Pray for someone you know who is employed in one of our local factories. Remember anyone known to you who is unemployed and seeking work, anyone who has been made redundant or is facing worries relating to retirement and pensions. Pray for the road transport system associated with all local businesses and industry.

**Father, may your kingdom come and your will be done in the places and lives of those we have thought of.**

#### **Week 5. (Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> May - Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun.)**

This week focus your prayers on our local Churches, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter's at Westfield, The Salvation Army, Welton Baptist, the Church of the Holy Ghost R.C., and the Methodist Churches at Midsomer Norton, Westfield & Norton Down. Pray for the ministers and elders in these Churches and for the congregations. Pray that the Churches will be beacons of light in the community and that they will be able to share the love of God in our town.

**Father, may your kingdom come and your will be done in the places and lives of those we have thought of.**

**Your Notes:**



## MARJORIE'S W.R.A.C. REUNION

I, with 10 members of the Bath Branch of the WRAC Association, joined the flow of ladies arriving at Warwick University on 31<sup>st</sup> March, for the 3-day event held every third year. The car park resembled a main railway station with cars, mini-buses, and all types of transport spilling out ladies with trolley-bags, bags of all kinds plus various walking aids.

There were 450 of us, booking in, finding room numbers checking our pre-written instructions. The Art Centre catered for a welcome cup of coffee, tea (herbal if wanted), biscuits and small bars of chocolates.

Dinner was at 8 o'clock in the Ensemble Room, tables found, soup served – then the fire alarm went off. Was this a joke, to remind us of our service days with the raids? No! So all out – down three flights of stairs, some with sticks, some with stiff knees, some got their coats; someone asked the chef if he'd burnt the cottage pie. But we all got to the car park. Then the all-clear to go back to our meal. The cause had been a mal-functioning extractor fan and steam had set the alarm off.

After the meal, entertainment was tunes from the 40's and soon the dance floor was full, first to music of the Glen Miller period then disco style to the early hours.

Breakfast led to a free morning, then Lunch followed by the AGM – the reason for the weekend.

The evening was a Gala Night with some ladies dressed in styles of the 40's with a prize for the best, dinner of soup, lamb and sweet with wines or orange juice. Many late night passes issued it seems; I got to bed in the early hours!

Sunday: Breakfast, church service at 11 o'clock, those who could, going on Church Parade with our banners, following the Military Band who had played the night before. A good turn out which reminded me of our parades when in khaki all those years ago.

I felt proud to march this day with ladies who were over 70 years of age, who helped win the war while still in their teenage years. No-one to whom I spoke would have changed this time in their lives. Stories of where some of the 'girls' served will stay in my memories. Here's to 2009!

**They do say ...** A true friend can see through you and enjoy the view.

**The Bible says ...** Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and break up friendships. *Proverbs 16:28.*

# LOOKING FORWARD

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

at 40 Staddlestones, M N.

Saturday 6th May 10 a.m.

Ploughman's Lunch available 12 noon—2pm.

Jackie Truman with jewellery inc. Venetian glass + Turkish beads

RSVP -see invite on Reception desk.



## NOMINE

Celebrates the Queen's 80th Birthday  
with an evening of Music. Entertainment and Feasting.

Saturday 6th May 7pm

St. John's Church Hall

Tickets £5 to include supper.

Call the Vicarage 412118 for more information and tickets

## MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 8.30 a.m.

[breakfast served from 8 a.m.]

David Drayton (exchange host) speaks on  
'Children of Chernobyl revisited'



## MEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP

meets once a month.

May's date was not arranged at the time of going to press

- check with The Centre.

# CHRISTIAN AID MINI-MARKET

at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church Centre

**Saturday 13th May**

**9.30 a.m.—12 noon**

[Note change of date from 20th]

## AMMERDOWN CONFERENCE and RETREAT CENTRE

near Radstock

is soon to host two inspirational events for lovers of music and art – events that will harness their creative potential to move the heart and unfold your creative imagination.

The Christian Art Retreat Movement's Retreat May 2 – May 7 is a time apart to enjoy and experience music in a way that will assist, encourage and enrich your prayer life under the leadership of Canon Owen Vigeon and Rev Alan Bidnell.

This year's Christian Arts Conference at Ammerdown June 9 – June 11 will explore the theme of original Great Happiness in the work

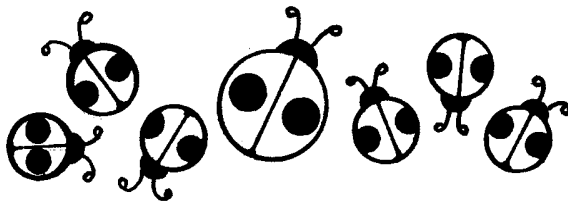
of Cecil Collins, a pioneer in the resurgence of the Spiritual in Art.

*Ammerdown is keen to ensure access to its retreats and study courses by offering a bursary of one third off the stated price for those in receipt of benefits or on low incomes. Please apply to the Director, Mrs Benedicte Scholefield. To book your place call 01761 433709 or email [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org)*

**For further information, please contact the Ammerdown Centre:**

Ammerdown Centre, Ammerdown Park, Radstock, BA3 5SW; 01761 433 172 or [centre@ammerdown.org](mailto:centre@ammerdown.org)

There is much more going on at Ammerdown, with other courses, creative arts together with News items. Go to: [www.ammerdown.org](http://www.ammerdown.org).



*More  
'Looking  
Forward '  
over the page*

**They do say ...** Marriage is like an investment; it pays huge dividends if you're prepared to keep up the interest.

## HAYDN'S CREATOR

by

**The AMADEUS SINGERS**

with Soloists:

Rachel Bevan of Downside School;  
Richard Roundtree & Christopher Sheldrake,  
both of Vicars Choral, from Wells Cathedral.

Accompanist Nicholas Stuart.

Conductor: Alan Molloy.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 p.m.**

**St. John's Church, M N**

Tickets £6 [£5 conc.] from  
01761 232042 or on the door.



## NCH WALK

Once again you are invited to join the NCH

Sponsored Walk on **Saturday 3rd June**,

leaving the Church Centre at **9.30am**.



The walk will be approx. 8 - 9 miles, taking in footpaths,  
fields and woods, and should be very enjoyable.

please try to keep this date free.

We will have a picnic lunch so you will need  
to bring a bite to eat and drink.



If you can't join the walk then  
please consider sponsoring a  
walker, every penny counts for  
this very worthwhile cause.

Sponsor forms will be available  
from Reception,  
Carol or Marilyn.

# WHITFUNDAY

3pm - 6pm

Sunday 4th June

Somervale School Playing Field

Attractions will include:

Craft Tent, Handbell ringing,  
Puppeteers, Judo, Bouncy Castle  
and many, many more.

There will be entertainment by:

The Priston Morris Dancers,  
Coleford "Stardust" Majorettes  
Midsomer Norton & Radstock Silver Band.

The afternoon will conclude with  
Refreshments and an open-air service.

We are hoping that this event will be  
as well attended as last year,  
which turned out to be a great success.

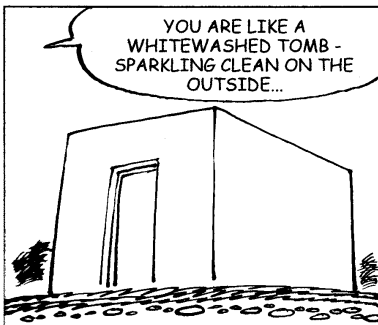
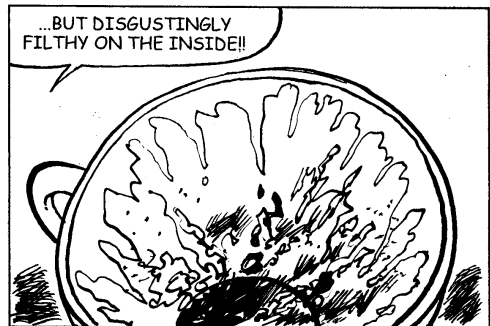
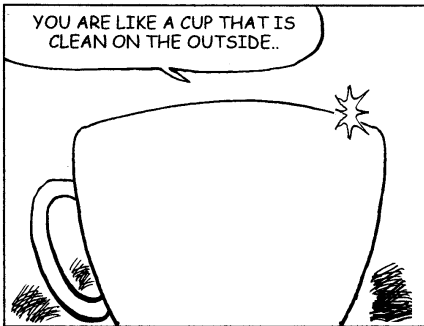
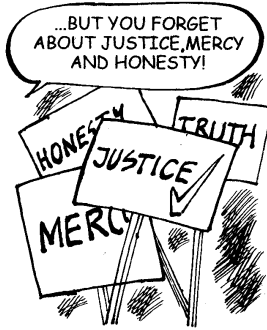
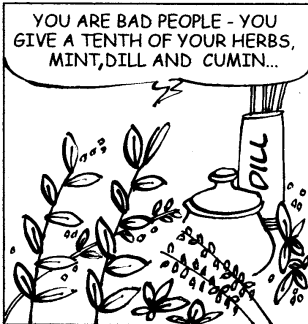
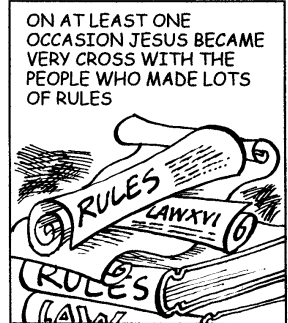
Look out for the Posters!

COME ALONG ON THE DAY WITH A FRIEND

If people see you coming out of Church after  
Sunday services, do they see happy joyful people  
who have been in touch with God?

# PICTURE PARABLE

## Some tough Talking



JESUS DID NOT LIKE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT HARD TO FOLLOW GOD.

See Matthew 23.23-27

## THE BUZZ 43

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

### **WORSHIP - Pick and Mix.**

From Chesterton, Cambridge.

We've adopted a new pattern of Family Friendly worship on a Sunday morning. We serve a free breakfast at 10am, followed by Sunday School - for adults as well as children. Everyone joins a time of worship at 11am. This is followed by a more trad. sermon and prayers. The style is 'Pick and Mix' as no one's expected to be there all through. The number of children has increased dramatically in a short time, and we're also seeing more of their parents on a regular basis.

E-mail contact: <mailto:Mike@Bossingham.com>

Phone contact: Denis Hart 01223 520738

### **LEARNING AND CARING - school visits.**

From Mapperley, Nottingham East.

We've just had visits from 500 children and teachers from local schools in a successful extension of our regular monthly Super Sunday Services. At the end of term, they came to pre-Easter events which included puppet shows, worship songs and games. The infant and junior children were of different faiths, and many had never been inside a church, but they raised the roof with their singing. Those of our congregation who took part were thrilled.

E-mail contact: <mailto:derek.brown84@ntlworld.com>

Phone contact: Alison Harris 0115 911 5617.

### **SERVICE - Bridge training?**

From Shirley, Croydon.

We wanted to increase our contact with children and families, so we've been opening our whole premises one Friday Night each month. We do a leaflet drop, and lay on a mix of activities, including basic and exhibition cookery, craft, board games, snooker, table tennis, discussion ... even beginners' Bridge! Older carers as well as teenagers and others are enjoying it, and now we're looking for more ways to support and nourish them.

E-mail contact: <mailto:Lindsey@blue480.fsnet.co.uk>

Phone contact: Rosemary Jones 020 8656 1915

## **EVANGELISM - Stepping Stones.**

From South Petherton and Crewkerne Circuit, Somerset.

We're a small country circuit. We were aware of the difficulty of inviting people to specific Christian activities. We devised, initially in one of our churches, what might be called a pre-Alpha course. We called it 'Stepping Stones - from coffee morning to Sunday morning.' The idea was to develop the relationships between worshippers and other contacts so that when invitations were given to special services or an Alpha supper, the answer was more likely to be 'Yes'. It worked and it's on CD if anyone wants it.

E-mail contact: <mailto:charles.freebury@tiscali.co.uk>

Phone contact: Charles Freebury 01460 78501.

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## **MORE E- NEWS**

### **CHURCHES CAN LEAD THE WAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Rev. Tom Stuckey, President of Conference, has called for churches to commit to combating climate change. In his Easter Message he stresses the seriousness of the challenges facing the world, and reflects on the responsibility we have as Christians to be 'spiritual gardeners'....

...read the President's Easter Message at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.newsDetail&newsid=123>

One action that churches can take is to invest in electricity-generating technology. The Government is encouraging local churches and other prominent buildings to use 'micro-generation' (solar panels, wind turbines etc) so that they give an example that inspires others to follow suit.

The cost of the technology can be recouped in savings on energy bills over about 15 years. The Department of Trade and Industry's Low carbon buildings programme also provides grants for up to 30% of the cost of buying equipment. <http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/funding/lowcarbonbuildings>

You can also contact The Methodist Property Office for advice.

E-mail: <mailto:secretaries@property.methodist.org.uk> Tel: 0161 236 5194

See also Operation Noah website: <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/noah/>

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### **MAKE THE MOST OF THE WEB TO PUBLICISE YOUR EVENTS**

Methodist church events throughout the year can now be promoted free of charge on Britain's What's On guide <http://www.WhereCanWeGo.com>.

Events of all types across the country are posted on the website by thousands of organisers, including churches who see it as a way of getting their events - and events on church premises - publicised.

Events range from the smallest village show/sale to national prominence. They are searchable by category and are listed in order of distance from the site visitor's postcode. Details on <http://www.WhereCanWeGo.com>

There are other websites where you can often publicise your events for free: try browsing on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/whereilive> for your area's local pages, which often have event listings, or try your local authority website.

## SPEAK OUT FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Passionate about tackling poverty? Committed to the work of MRDF? Keen to share your enthusiasm with others? As an MRDF Volunteer Speaker, you could be involved in leading a service in a local church, speaking at a short "slot" at a mid-week meeting or running a stall at a special event. We especially need speakers who are available at Harvest time.

Whether you are used to speaking in public as a teacher or local preacher, or looking to try something new, full training and resources are provided for all speakers, and expenses paid. If this sounds like an opportunity for you, come to a Volunteer Speaker Training Day:

\* London Sat. 27 May \* Bristol Sat. 3 June \* Manchester Sat. 10 June

To find out more or to book your place, contact <mailto:mrdf@methodistchurch.org.uk> or call 020 7467 5132. <http://www.mrdf.org.uk>

## CHURCH NEWS SERVICE from PARISH PUMP

1st - May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?"

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May

pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished together. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no

more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but in harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

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### **21st - Rogation Sunday**

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. The people wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 Europe was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' began to become a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At

the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation was said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting for the walkers.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

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### **25th - Ascension Day**

- Forty Days with the Risen Christ

May continues the season of Eastertide, and 40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day.

It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the forty days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last

opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

If you want detail of Christ's appearances, turn to Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.

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### **Worship: See and Be Seen!**

What type of corporate worshipper are you?

Do you arrive at church early to get a good seat, worried in case someone else sits there? And when you praise God, listen to the readings and sermon, and pray, do you thank God that you are not like those other people who for example cannot control their children or who talk whilst people are receiving communion?

Or are you the person who comes in hurriedly, head down, and sits at the back or sides, not wanting to catch anyone's eye? - who focuses intently on all that goes on, then leaves right at the end so you do not have to face anyone?

Most Christians are probably somewhere in between in their approach to worship.

Some Christians profess all the good works that they do and how much they contribute to church and charity; in other words saying, 'Look what a good Christian I am!' They focus on the rituals of worship and comment when something is not done 'quite right' and then self-righteously criticise others as they leave. They wear an outward badge of virtue, like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable in Luke chapter 18.

Yet many people come to worship searching for something. They feel unworthy to receive any blessing and long for something to take away their low self-esteem, guilt, sadness or fear. They find comfort in the unity of corporate worship, even without understanding the rituals. These too are the people, like the tax collector in the parable, whom Jesus came to save.

And somehow this experience of one hour a week of being together at the feet of Jesus has to set the pattern for all the other hours we spend. An experience of blessing as well as forgiveness; an experience to share, a way of life to live.

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### **Methodist Church backs call for right to clean water**

The world is facing a growing water crisis, with one billion people currently lacking access to safe, clean and sufficient water. Annually over 1.4 million children - more than the population of Birmingham and Newcastle combined - die of diseases caused by unclean drinking water.

At the same time, economic growth is often dependent on increasing the availability of water to agriculture and industry. And so, as the 4th World Water Forum (WWF) was recently convened in Mexico, the Methodist Church warned that the need for a safe, reliable water supply for everyone is one of the major issues of our time.

An initiative of the World Water Council, the WWF forum brings together a variety of organisations, including water companies, water engineers, academics, NGOs and various United Nations agencies, all seeking

to influence water policy at a global level.

Key issues addressed this year were access to water in rural communities and the privatisation of water in developing countries.

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### **Traidcraft collects top social reporting award**

Christian-based Traidcraft's approach to social reporting has earned top honours in the prestigious 2005 ACCA UK Sustainability Awards.

In a 22-strong field which included some of the biggest names in the City, industry, the public sector and the media, Traidcraft plc collected the award for the best social report - the fourth year in succession its name has appeared on the trophy list.

"After three years in which we have been joint runner-up, joint winner and sole runner-up respectively, it is wonderful to be sole winner of the award at last," said Traidcraft chief executive Paul Chandler.

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### **HIV/AIDS – do you know of any initiatives in your area?**

The URC/Methodist HIV/AIDS Working Group needs your help in identifying projects and groups around the country, not necessarily Christian initiatives, which are supporting people with HIV/AIDS and raising awareness of the issues.

The group would also like to hear from churches with a particular link with an overseas or local project involved in HIV/AIDS work.

The idea is to build a national picture of local initiatives in HIV/AIDS work so that people can find out more

easily what's happening in their local community. E-mail Steve Penrose, London's HIV Community Chaplain: <mailto:hivchap@btopenworld.com> with your local information.

*Ed: I've sent Church Project details.*

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### **How did the Bible come to us?**

Have you ever wondered what were the languages that the Bible was written in? And what was the process by which it took its present form?

Broadly, it was Hebrew for the Old Testament, and Greek for the New Testament. As far as the Old Testament was concerned, 'Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit' (2 Peter 1:21). As for the New Testament, the testimony of Christ's apostles was that theirs were 'words taught by the Spirit' (1 Corinthians 2:13). Here were books, then, inspired by the Spirit of God.

The Bible is a LIBRARY of sixty-six books, written over a period of 1,500 years, by a wide diversity of inspired writers.

We owe so much to the faithful translators. The first outstanding translation of the Old Testament was the Samaritan (400BC); this Hebrew version was followed (in 270BC) by a translation into Greek, carried out by some seventy Greek-speaking Jews at Alexandria (hence its name The Septuagint).

It is The Septuagint which, for the most part, gets to be quoted in the New Testament. Prominent among its many manuscripts are two in the British Museum (Codex Alexandrinus and Codex Sinaiticus), and one in the Vati-

can in Rome (Codex Vaticanus). As far as the New Testament is concerned, there are also numerous manuscripts.

A mighty translation of the whole Bible (based on the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament) came into being in the fifth century AD, under the hand of Jerome. Intended as a version that all Europe could read in Latin – the common language – this became known as the Vulgate version. It helped to mould the culture of Europe over the next thousand years.

Many have been the scholars who worked on Bible translation. Among them was Baeda (The Venerable Bede, 673 -735), born in Durham, whose last dying work was the translation of John's Gospel. And even King Alfred the Great was recognised for his work with the Psalms. Through his influence the Bible was to become the basis of English law.

None of this work was without opposition. After the Norman conquest of England, learning received a setback, and the Latin Bible became largely unintelligible. None was braver than John Wycliffe (1329 – 1384), who defied the then corrupt Roman church hierarchy – by producing a new translation of the Vulgate into English, so paving the way for the great Reformation a hundred years later.

The Bible in its modern form owes more to the work of the English reformer and scholar William Tyndale (1494 – 1536) than anyone. Translating afresh from the original languages of Hebrew and Greek, and helped by the invention of the printing press, thousands of newly-translated Bibles were published – in the face of relent-

less persecution – until Tyndale was finally tracked down at Vilvorde, near Brussels, strangled and burnt at the stake. Out of his work came the Authorised Version of 1611 (the King James Version) that shaped the English language for three centuries to come.

So be grateful for your own copy of the Bible. It came to you through the toil of many scholars down more than 24 centuries, and through the blood of many martyrs.

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### **How dangerous are - your bedroom slippers?**

Beware: your bedroom slippers could land you in hospital. So could your chopsticks, corned beef tin, and even Blu-tack, for that matter.

Every year an astonishing number of people have domestic accidents involving household items that you would never normally associate with danger. Slippers alone cause 45,000 domestic accidents a year. Recent statistics also reveal that 110 people ended up in casualty after an incident with their chopsticks. And – more curious still – 293 people were admitted to hospital because of a run-in with some Blu-tack! Corned beef tins caused 3091 accidents, and paint-brushes alone landed 1353 DIY decorators in hospital.

Have you ever had a bizarre domestic accident caused by an otherwise harmless household item? If so, we would like to hear about it. We've already heard of the lady who did not know that the family hamster had escaped, and accidentally vacuumed it up. When she emptied the vacuum cleaner to rescue it, she found it was

very dusty, so decided to put it in the sink to shampoo it. Sadly, the hamster resented being vacuumed up and then half-drowned. It sank its teeth into her thumb, and would not let go.... so she ended up in A & E with a hamster still grimly hanging on.

If you have an even better story to share, contact the editor



A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it was £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. "Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it wouldn't have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder he walked."

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All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

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I'm not a complete idiot.  
Some parts are missing.

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We encouraged our 18-year-old daughter to find a job to help pay for her college education. One day she came home with five applications, and later that evening we read them. Under 'Previous Employment', she listed 'Baby-sitting'.

And under 'Reason for Leaving' she wrote, 'They came home'.

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A man fell asleep in the Sunday morning service, and began to snore.

The preacher stopped and impatiently motioned to the young boy beside the man to wake him up. The boy said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep."

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They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now - you call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers.

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The retiring steward was instructing his youthful successor in his Sunday morning duties. "And remember, my boy," he said, "that we have nothing but good, kind Christians in this church - until you try to put someone else in their pew."

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Worth remembering:

A man felt he was overloaded in the 'trouble shooting department' of his office, until he found this memo on his desk. "Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."



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*...to be honest, I am not sure that all the money spent on a data projector was money well spent!*

## Top Ten Silliest Questions asked on a Cruise Ship.

*Paul Grayson, Cruise Director for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line*

1. Do these steps go up or down?
2. What do you do with the beautiful ice carvings after they melt?
3. Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?
4. Does the crew sleep on the ship?
5. Is this island completely surrounded by water?
6. Does the ship make its own electricity?
7. Is it salt water in the toilets?
8. What elevation are we at?
9. There's a photographer on board who takes photos and displays them the next day... the question was asked: 'If the pictures aren't marked, how will I know which ones are mine?'
10. What time is the Midnight Buffet being served?

## **DEADLINE**

for June's *The Ambo* is Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.  
Don't forget your Church Project nominations

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

Answers to Puzzle Page.  
1. SAXOPHONE  
2. 1. Bent 2. Sins 3. Tale 4. Thin 5. Wane 6. Load 7. Wish 8. Mote  
9. Ant 10. Home 11. Eyes 12. Sour 13. Dire 14. Rest 15. Pane 16. Loot  
17. Cian 18. Send.  
*Be silent and listen to me you distant lands: Isaiah 41:1.*  
3. 1 Keep it in house 2. A week in May 3. Round table.

**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

### MAY

- Thu 4 1430 Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service at P. St. J.  
Wed 10 1930 Church Council.  
Sat 13 0830 Men's Breakfast Fellowship (Breakfast from 8am)  
**Sat 13 0930 - 1200 Christian Aid Mini-Market. [change of date]**  
SUN 14 Start of Christian Aid week  
**Tue 16 1930 Evangelism, Nurture and Learning Committee**  
**Wed 24 Deadline for June's *The Ambo*.**  
**Thu 25 1930 Ascension Day Communion Service.**  
**Thu 25 aft ser. Pastoral Visitors' meeting.**

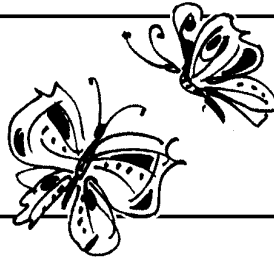
### JUNE

- SUN 4 1500-1800 Whitfunday at Somervale School  
W/end 10 -11 Network Weekend with Irene Sayer.

### JULY

- Tue 11 1930 Resources Committee meets

*May*



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.