

The Newsletter of Ibstock Methodist Church with Heather

June / July 08



Ministers Letter

Greetings Friends,

Hopefully you can still remember those teenage years when everything in life seemed to be so black and white and it was easy to be certain about what you were certain of! This unfailing certainty seemed to be in sharp contrast with parents and teachers, who in comparison to our certainty seemed to be vague and woolly about so many important issues. Fran has a joke which runs something along the lines 'when I was 18 I couldn't believe how stupid my parents were. When I was 21 I couldn't believe how much they had learnt in just 3 years!'

I was listening to one of the 'Godslots' on the radio recently and a Sikh speaker was talking about the dangers of certainty. I didn't catch the beginning of what he was saying, being absorbed in some task for the Kingdom, no doubt but by the time I'd tuned in to what he was on about he was speaking about the dangers of certainty in the realm of religious faith when it turns into fanaticism, intolerance and all too often violence. Events in the recent past, let alone in the history of religion tell us that this is tragically true. Tragic for both victims of such fanatics and the fanatics themselves. What a shame that such commitment and energy cannot be channeled in better ways.

My own experience is that as I get older I am more certain of God's love and less certain about much else. It seems to fit in nicely with Jesus' summary of the commandments that we should love God with all that we are, which enables Him to love us more, and love each other to the same degree. Someone has handily condensed these words even further, 'Love God and do as you like!' Well worth thinking about.

So is this an argument against certainty? Is it a case of 'anything goes?' I think not. We can hardly read the gospels without forming the impression that Jesus was motivated, driven even, by His sense of certainty concerning God and His will. He would not let His first followers begin to continue the work which He had begun until He was satisfied that they were certain about and secure in the truth about who and what He was. St. Paul majors on the certainties of the faith he shares with those who put their trust in Jesus. 'For I am certain of this...' Romans 8.38. 'For I know whom I have believed and am convinced that he is able.....' 2.Tim. 12. to cite just a couple of examples.

At what point then does certainty cease to be a help and become a hindrance to people of faith? It's really quite easy to define. It happens when the words and actions of the 'true believer' are at odds with the basic principals of the faith to which he or she professes to hold.

I have to say that I don't see any evidence of this in our church! There is an equal danger of course that we do not act and speak in ways which demonstrate what we believe about Jesus in terms of standing and speaking for what we believe to be right, and challenging what we know to be wrong. Hopefully at the end of our 'Know & Grow' thinking together we will be better able to see and implement how God wishes to equip us and use us for this task.

Every blessing, *Tony*

EDITOR'S LETTER

As you will know, we have had our first meeting with Bob Weir, our know&grow friend. Eight people came from all sections of our church community to give Bob the information so that he could write the church description. I think you'll agree, he did a good job. All those who come to church regularly or are members will have had a questionnaire and the description sheets. Hopefully as we go to print, Bob will be receiving them and doing his analysis bit on those returned. It's heartening to see how many people want to be involved in this and are full of enthusiasm to find a way of telling others of the abundant love of our Lord. The scripture says,

'Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.'

But how can they call to him for help if they have not believed?

And how can they believe if they have not heard the message?

And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed?

And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers are not sent out?

How wonderful is the coming of messengers who bring Good News.'

Romans ch 10 v 12-15

Thinking about the questions on the questionnaire has prompted me to think about my own conversion and how God brought that about. There were two people I worked with, and one in particular who brought me to that decision time, but way before then God had been working on me. It's good to remember that whatever the response you get from people, when you tell them about your faith or the love of Jesus for them, that God has known these people from the time when they were still in their mother's womb and is trying to find a way to make them listen to him. (the psalmist says 'You created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb' psalm 139), The way **you** as a Christian, live **your** life and speak **your** faith, what **you** do and how **you** do it is one of His ways to help them listen, so do your job well and to the best of your ability. If you fear rejection then remember that Jesus has been rejected much more.

Bob is, we hope, going to come up with some ideas to enable us to do a better job; and ways to give ourselves opportunities to serve others and talk about our faith; in short – to use Mrs. Inesons phrase (one of our local preachers) – ways to love others into Gods family.

It took some determination and a lot of love, for my two friends to persevere with me, and believe me, I rejected their message many times, but I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am to them. As the song puts it

'O happy day

When Jesus washed my sins away'

When I first became a believer I knew nothing other than that God was for real and that He was for me and not against me; that He is good and that He is worthy, and for some inexplicable reason He wanted me to be part of His family. It was such a revelation. Charles Wesley's hymn was written straight after his conversion and is true for everybody who puts their trust in Jesus.

'And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood,
Died he for me, who caused His pain, for me, who Him to death pursued.
Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God should die for me.'

The away day at Melbourne was attended by Sarah, Jennifer and myself (Ro). It was a very interesting day and definitely had a buzz about it. We've come back brimming with ideas, the main runner at the moment being 'Messy Church'. Intrigued? Then come along and find out more – more info on page 6.

You may have noticed the pew cushion runners. These have been given to us by Ashby church who have taken some of their pews out and are having a shift about. So, many thanks to them.

Throughout the newsletter are some dictionary definitions by Adrian Plas of Christian life. They are from his book 'Bacon Sandwiches & Salvation'. An A-Z of Christian Life. When I can bear to part with it, it will be on the bookshelves at chapel to borrow. Here's one.

Babylon: 1. A city situated on the R. Euphrates to which the Israelites were exiled. 2. What a lot of preachers do.

Church Library -



When you come to one of the coffee mornings don't forget to have a look at the library books, both for children and for adults. Just write your name in the borrowers book and bring the book back when you've read it.



I would like to mention 'Books & Bibles at Measham again. Jean has a good range of bibles, cards, CD's and also Fair Trade produce, and some children's toys. She will order anything Christian for you if she doesn't have it in stock. It's a good place to pop into. On the corner by the fish shop.

- Pulpit:**
- 1) Raised, enclosed platform from which a preacher delivers a sermon.
 - 2) Useful suggestion as to what might be done with quite a large proportion of what we loosely call Christian literature.

Prayers: Please visit, pray for, or telephone, one or more of our older members and friends. Those you may think of are Bob Tebbett, Jean Avery and Iliffe Webster. Iliffe now has a wheel chair and is hoping to get out a bit when the weather comes nice. Both he and Eileen appreciate all the phone calls and visits.



Please continue to pray for Hilary Radford, Barbara and Walter's daughter. She is very brave through all her treatment, and it appears to be having some good effect thank the Lord.

Eileen Webster will give you addresses and telephone numbers if you would like to contact or visit any of our older members. Mrs. Poxon is always very pleased to have visitors now that it is so difficult for her to get out.

We were very saddened by the death of Margaret Farnsworth. She had a fall and after a brief stay in hospital, she passed away suddenly. She was a regular at our evening services, a shy and tender-hearted lady. We send our love and condolences to all her family and friends.

When the gates of pearl are opened,
May we there This friend behold,
Drink with her from loving fountains,
Walk with her the streets of gold.



KIDS4CHRIST Sunday Mornings 10.30 – 11.30

It seems a long time ago since the anniversary service. Didn't the children do well. We had a wonderful worship service. Ruth had us all busy with quizzes and questions showing just how perfectly God has made all creation and us in the midst of it; and how well he follows the events in all our lives. At every turn He is waiting to reveal himself to those whose hearts are willing. Our play about Zacchaeus was enthusiastically acted out by our very young Sunday school children, and told of the complete turn around in Zachaeus' life after Jesus came into it. The song words were well remembered by the children although there were a few nerves on the day. Thank-you to all the parents who helped them practice, the choir for giving up their time and Marian who once again came and played for us, and to all those who did the teas..

If you would like your child or grandchild to come and join us you would be very welcome to come upstairs to help them settle in at first.

We have a rather unusual family service coming up and again we have asked Ruth Watson to be our preacher. It is called 'Messy Church' It is happening on June 22nd at 3.00p.m. and will be followed by a light tea. So bring all your friends along and get stuck in. More info on Page 6

In the past, during the summer holidays we have taken a break from Sunday School but now that we have more families coming regularly we will work something out. Any extra help would be welcome. On July 5th which will be our last 'planned' session we will all meet at Sence Valley in the bottom car park for an outdoor praise and walk. Meet at 10.30a.m. This will be very informal. Bring your friends along. We have no service at chapel on that morning.



We have two events planned for the holidays: first a picnic at Hall Farm on Thurs Aug 7th 2p.m-4p.m. And secondly an outing to the zoo on Thursday August 14th – meet at chapel for 11.00a.m. (collect your tokens from the Kelloggs packets). Details will be sent out in a letter soon.

s p r o g s



We are a very welcoming group meeting on Wednesday afternoons for an hour and a half 1.30 – 3.00p.m. during term time. Dads, nannies, aunties and mums are all welcome so long as you bring a sprog with you, aged between 0 and 4ish. The cost is £1 which includes tea and biscuits and cake if you're lucky!

We are holding a 'Nearly New children's clothes and toys sale on **June 14th 10.00-12.00 noon**. Believe me there are some lovely clothes for sale. The proceeds will be shared between the chapel and the Sprogs and any clothes not sold will go to the children's society charity shop and single parent families.

Moses: Great Old testament leader of the Israelites who climbed Mt Nebo in order to glimpse the promised land and then turned to sing a couple of verses of his farewell song: 'I did it Yahweh!'

Finders Seekers: Two people have been coming to this course. We've had some good discussions and have explored who Jesus thought He was and the evidence to prove his point. We have looked at Jesus' actions and words in this context. As we have read through Marks gospel we have seen how the understanding of the disciples shifted and wavered, going through uncertainty and misunderstanding before finally knowing for certain and our own discussions and questions mirror many of theirs.

The series is an 8 week one and follows the 'Christianity Explored' booklets, one of which you will find on the bookshelves. It's very informative and gives a full description and reasons for our faith.

At the moment we run the course on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month 1.30-2.30. and any children brought along can play with the Sprogs toys. Over a cup of tea and biscuit, Sarah and I do our best to answer any questions thrown up by the previous weeks readings and to discuss the questions in the book... If you would be interested in a course like this then take a look at the booklet on the library shelves and contact Sarah Cooper who is running this with Ro. Telephone Numbers on back page.

The Ark



The sponsored walk by the youth club for their outing (we are going to try ice skating again) took place around Sence Valley lake. Only 5 young people did it which was a little disappointing. Nevertheless they showed a lot of determination to walk 5 times around the lake which was roughly 5 miles. It was a rather blisteringly hot day but the youth kids still seemed to have plenty of energy which was more than I had. Well done, and well done to the leaders who took turns to go round with them – Jo managed the most times with them. There are plenty of games and activities to go at, and Jo puts a lot of effort into helping everybody have an enjoyable evening so please encourage all those youngsters between the ages of 9 and 13 to come along to boost our numbers which have at times been quite low.

We will have a break during the summer holidays, but hopefully return full of enthusiasm in September.

7th June - Games Night

21st June - Ice Skating (again)

Youth club is open 7.00 until 8.30, Cost is £1.00 and is for children aged between 9 to 13 year olds.

If anybody would like to go on the helper's rota please see Jo or Ro.

Adam: first example of someone who ruined his life by taking banned substances that had been growing in his garden. It was his bird's idea, and she got nicked as well.

Meetings: See Methodism

Methodism: See Meetings

(Adrian Plas again)

Heather News

We start this month on a sad note. Doreen, who I mentioned in the last letter, had been with us for about 3 months in our fellowship services, when she went into respite care and on the day she was ready to come back to Heather House passed away suddenly. Harry, our only male resident at the moment has said he would like to join us and we have heard on the grapevine that we are to have another gentleman soon.

We have all enjoyed the practices for 'Wildfire' At the time of writing this, we are 2 down and one to go , with only a few hitches so far. I for one found the first performance at Heather really prepared me for Pentecost just two days later. I don't think I have ever been so ready. Rev Richard has made a tape (of us) and threatens to play it during a service if we don't behave! Watch this space! He has some ideas for something at Christmas and Easter but he's keeping them under his hat as yet.

Still to come in the next couple of months is Jenny's open garden on 31st May from 2.00p.m Plants, cakes raffle etc will all help towards the cost of 'The Flower Festival' on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of July.

The theme this year is The Bride. We have wedding dresses for every decade from the 1930's through to the 2000's. Also on show will be little bridesmaids dresses and Mum's hats as well as **of course** the flower arrangements.

On June 11th on Manor Road is a rummage sale and coffee morning from 10.00a.m-12.30 p.m.

I mustn't forget to mention the Heather Scarecrow Festival from Saturday 12th July until Sunday 20th July. This will be the only reminder of these events so please note in your diaries the ones you want to attend.

Shirley

Paul Woolerton's Wildfire Report

Place: St. John's Parish Church Heather. Time 7.30p.m. Date Friday May 9th 2008

Occasion: To watch the initial performance of the Roger Jones musical 'Wildfire' the story of Stephen.

A small group of dedicated local amateur thespians presented the unfolding story of the Christian churches first martyr, which was rightly timed for ongoing remembrance of Pentecost.

It was a lively performance with all the cast giving of their best. The narration and the lyrics brought to life the attitude of the frightened Jewish authorities that counteracted the ordinary peoples enquiries for the truth, and in many ways their belief has resonated down the centuries.

O.K. so there were a few glitches which I suspect were possibly due to first night nerves. When this did occur the individuals smiled at each other and carried on - good for them.

You know it's one thing to realize that you had actually said yes to the request to take part, but then you experience the realization upon what you had **actually** let yourself in for. However by then there's no time to reflect because the clock has beaten you to it.

Someone once told me that a volunteer is a person 'wot misunderstood the question'. But none of these folks had misunderstood the question and I give them all , all the credit that's due to them.

Finally two points regarding the way to enjoy the performance.

One for the cast - to go for it- which they did. And for the audience? - To relax and take a cushion!

Paul

(Many thanks to Paul for once again being our roving reporter)

Happy Birthday

To Bob Tebbett on June 5th and Shirley on June 15th

and

To Hilda West who was 92 on May 28th

Mondays Start the week Bible Study 7.30-8.30p.m. We will be led at these by our minister when he can make it, and the suggestion is that we try and carry on for the times he isn't so we get some continuity. If we get stuck then he will run through it with us the next time. Please note the new day.

Tuesdays 6.00 - 6.30 praying half hour - (more listening than talking) to get some encouragement and direction for the week ahead.

First Tuesday of the month in the afternoon at the Elms. Rev.Tony is going to do a half hour spot and anybody who can come along and help support him would be very welcome. First one on July 1st.



Dates and Updates

The new window is in after the sponsored walk raised a staggering £800. We are all so grateful for everybody's generosity. Cyril is organizing a plaque to put there in remembrance of Barbara Hicklin.

The cake stall at the Palace raised another £85. Thanks to Dorothy and the team of bakers.

The swing band was well attended. We had a great time and made £55. Thanks to everybody for such a good effort. A lot of work but brilliant entertainment.

The forward planning meeting at the beginning of May has given us a few dates for the diary.

Sat 14th June: Nearly new sale of children's clothes and toys – run by the 'Sprogs' team – the proceeds will go to this group and to the chapel. Come and have a cup of tea and a rummage.

Thurs 26th June: Stroll and Supper. Meet at 6.45 for a 7 o'clock start. Return by 8.30 for a bite to eat and cup of tea. Cyril is in charge so take your satnav! The walk will be an easy 2 miles and only if the weather is good. Otherwise it will be supper and a quiz.

Sun June 22nd: **MESSY CHURCH** Our church is going messy. An invitation for all the family to come and get stuck in to some crafty stuff upstairs in the youth club rooms. Afterwards a short praise session and a bite to eat and cup of tea downstairs. Starts at 3 and we aim to be finished by 5p.m. If you can't manage to get up the stairs, please don't feel left out. Come along at about 3.45 and join in for 15 minutes praise and then have some tea.

Sat July 12th Coffee morning for National Children's Homes. If you have one, then bring your League of Light box back to Jennifer. And if anybody would like one to take home then Jennifer will sort you out.

Looking well ahead, we have finally decided the date for our poetry evening – **Fri Sept 5th** 7.00-8.30p.m. And the Autumn Fayre this year is on **Sat October 11th**.

Ibstock Services

Date	10.30a.m	6.00p.m
1 st June	Mr. Horsman	Mrs. Jo Fisher
8 th June	Rev. Perry HC	-
15 th June	Mr. I. Marriott	Rev. Perry HC
22 nd June	Mrs. J. Rutter	3.00p.m MESSY CHURCH family service with Mrs.Ruth Watson followed by tea.
29 th June	Mr. B. Nicholls	Alternative worship at Marlborough Square
6 th July	10.30 at Sence Valley with Sunday School	Mrs. Ineson
13 th July	Mr. E. Henderson	-
20 th July	Mrs. Jan. Shepherd	Mr. Mugglestone
27 th July	Deacon Barbara Crockett	Alternative worship at Marlborough Square

If you require transport to any of these services then please let the stewards know and something might be arranged..

Heather

Date	2.30 pm
29 th June	Rev. T. Perry HC
27 th July	Mr. B. Nicholls

CONTACT NUMBERS

Minister:	Rev Tony Perry	Tel: 01530 412298
Property and Steward	Mr. Cyril Clarke	
Property	Mr. Bill Finney	
S.Sch; Steward; and Sec.	Mrs. Jennifer Chapman	Tel: 01530 458140
S Sch, Editor, Sprogs, Treasurer	Mrs. Ro Harding	Tel: 01530 260248
Sunday School:	Mrs Kath Hillman	Tel: 01530 260998
Youth Club Contact	Mrs. Joe Fryers	Tel: 01530 263182
Outreach	Mrs. Sarah Cooper	Tel: 01530 458852
Circuit Web Site - www.ashbyandcoalville.com email – webmaster@ashbyandcoalville.com		

And Lastly: phrase employed by preachers, meaning 'don't even think about so much as shifting in your chair, we've got a long way to go yet.'

(Adrian Plas)

