

**JUNE/JULY 2010**

Dear Friends

Recent weeks have been dominated by the run-up to the General Election, and we are still looking with interest at how a coalition Government will work in practice. But before we leave “election fever” totally behind, let us give thought to a far more important choice than that of our local MP or even our Prime Minister. The most important choice that lies before any of us is who we choose to be the leader in charge of our lives. That is going to have an effect not just on the next five years, but on the rest of our lives, and indeed into the life to come. There is only one serious candidate for the post of leader in your life and mine – only one person who is fit to do the job. And that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why is he the only possible serious candidate?

One reason is that **his Kingdom will last forever**. That is the Bible’s consistent message. *“His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall never pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed”* (Dan.7.14) – a verse referring in anticipation to Jesus, and it sums up the whole Bible message about Jesus. The history of the world is littered with one kingdom or empire after another: the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Romans, Charlemagne, Napoleon – more recently, the British Empire. But now they are gone. Kingdoms may rise, kingdoms may fall, but the kingdom of Jesus lasts for ever.

Another reason why Jesus is the only serious candidate as leader is that **he cares for every single member of his kingdom**. Politicians try to meet people, especially before elections, but we wonder sometimes how genuine it is. But with Jesus it is different. He says, *“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden”* (Mt.11.28) Jesus appeals to all people, no matter who they are – including those who feel forgotten and ignored. That is good news. He says, *“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me”* (Jn.10.14). He has a personal, individual relationship with every single one of his people – all are special, and none is forgotten.

We may want to ask: What does Jesus offer? After all, political leaders claim to be offering benefits to those who vote them in.

Jesus promises **forgiveness**. He addresses the deepest need that you and I have. The first words spoken to the paralysed man lowered through the roof were, *“My son, your sins are forgiven”* (Mk.2.5). That is what that man needed to know, and so do we. That is the reason Jesus went to the Cross to die: in order to make forgiveness available.

Jesus promises **new life**. Not only are the sins of the past dealt with, but he gives new life by his Spirit for daily living. Paul says, *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”* (2 Cor.5.17).

Jesus offers us **heaven**. Where will we be beyond this life? Some people think we cannot know or that it’s a matter of guesswork or “hope for the best”. But Jesus gives us the solid promise of heaven, if we trust him. In the words of Psalm 23, *“I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever”* (Ps.23.6).

So Jesus really is the one and only serious candidate for leader in anyone’s life. He is Leader already, so it would be a grave mistake not to have him as our leader. One of the big mysteries of life is why so many people do not choose Jesus as their leader.

Long ago, Joshua spoke to the people of Israel. He said, *“Choose this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (Josh.24.15) There is a choice we must all make, and there is only one right way to choose.

With Christian greetings,  
Yours,  
**Robert Bashford**

## **FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS**

We welcome into the family of the Church:

**BAPTISM:**           4<sup>th</sup> April           Seth James Dean

**WEDDING:**        2<sup>nd</sup> May            Claudia Yates and Christopher  
Anderson

## **APRIL/MAY SERMON CDs**

All CDs of the sermons preached on Sunday mornings and evenings in April and May 2010 are available on request from Elizabeth and Nigel Hadley (Tel: 831067) as usual. If you have requested a CD please collect from the back of Church the following Sunday. CDs £1 each.

## SERMONS IN JUNE AND JULY 2010

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June      8.00am "The death of John the Baptist" (Mt.14.1-12)  
                             10.30am "Spiritual warfare" (Eph.6.10-24)  
                             6.30pm "The peace of Jerusalem" (Ps.122)
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June     8.00am "Jesus feeds the 5000" (Mt.14.13-21)  
                             10.30am "John the Baptist" (Jn.1.29-34)  
                             6.30pm "Uplifted eyes" (Ps.123)
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June     8.00am "Jesus walks on the water" (Mt.14.22-36)  
                             10.30am "A man's job" (FAMILY SERVICE)  
                             6.30pm "I will never leave you" (Ps.124)
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June     8.00am "Traditions and commandments" (Mt.15.1-9)  
                             10.30am "Simon Peter" (Jn.1.35-42)  
                             6.30pm "The mountains of Jerusalem" (Ps.125)
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July        8.00am "What defiles a person" (Mt.15.10-20)  
                             10.30am "Nathanael" (Jn.1.43-50)  
                             6.30pm "It was like a dream" (Ps.126)
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July      8.00am "The faith of a Canaanite woman" (Mt.15.21—28)  
                             10.30am "Nicodemus" (Jn.3.1-15)  
                             6.30pm "In vain?" (Ps.127)
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July      8.00am "Jesus heals many" (Mt.15.29-31)  
                             10.30am "From prison to praise" (FAMILY SERVICE)  
                             6.30pm "Lystra – worshipped, then stoned" (Acts 14.8-28)
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July      8.00am "Jesus feeds the 4000" (Mt.15.32-39)  
                             10.30am "The woman at the well" (Jn.4)  
6.30pm "Jerusalem – a vital decision" (Acts 15.1-35)

We've loved someone for many years,  
With true adoring heart,  
It's been so easy to forgive,  
Without a thought that we should part.

How fortunate that person,  
To have a friend like us,  
Who never will desert them,  
Whate'er the pain or fuss.

We see the meanness and the sin,  
The worry and the pain  
Caused by that one, but still  
Determine to remain.

With full support and always there,  
We pray for them each day  
Anxious they should have the best  
With no thought they should e'er repay

And when their feelings have been hurt,  
We're always there with tender touch,  
To strengthen them in every way  
It is ourselves we love so much.

If only this love we applied,  
To others while we're here,  
What a blessing to the Lord we'd be,  
With all the people we'd draw near.

**Based on John 15:10-14**

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Following the ACM in April the following were elected to the 2010/11 PCC for St James’:

Neil Moon and Dennis Floyd - Churchwardens

Mrs M Clarke (Treasurer)	Dr G Joy	Mrs E Spanner
Mr B Dawes	Mrs L Keefe	Rev M Toogood
Mr J Dean	Mr R Lee	
Mrs R Flanders	Mrs M Myers	
Mrs E Jaquiss (Secretary)	Mrs S Prynne	

## ANY QUESTIONS?

### “What about the errors in the Bible – and all the contradictions?”

One approach to this question, if it ever comes your way, is to say, “Show me one!” The answer may come back, “Er, well ... How about that bit where it says God helps those that help themselves?” Of course, there is no such Bible sentence. So often, when people are put on the spot to come up with alleged errors or contradictions in the Bible, they are unable to do so.

But how do we deal with Bible difficulties we may come across?

**1. Deal with them humbly.** Despite what has just been said, it would be facile to maintain that we never encounter difficulties in the Bible. In the Bible, the eternal and infinite God has spoken his mind, and it would be strange if we finite humans found the reading of this Book to be a doddle!

When we encounter Bible difficulties, our first assumption ought to be that there are errors in our fallible understanding, rather than in the infallible Word of God. Nothing that God has spoken can be feeble or mistaken! The Holy Spirit is the divine Author of this Book – so, in our private daily reading and study, we need to ask for the help and illumination of the Holy Spirit.

**2. Deal with them jointly.** Others have studied the Scriptures and studied them in depth. So, although we are glad of the great principle, restated at the Reformation, that every believer can study the Bible for themselves – without the church having to tell them, at every turn, what they are to believe – nevertheless, we do well to consult more experienced students of Scripture. At times we will be like the Ethiopian

enquirer of Acts 8.31, who acknowledged his inability to understand “... unless someone explains it to me.” It is right that we should read the Bible on our own, ideally on a daily basis, and Bible reading notes like “Explore” can be tremendously useful, but we must not be afraid to ask others in the life of the church-family who we know will be able to help us.

We can learn one to one, in small study groups, through the regular exposition of the Bible at the church gathering, or from Bible commentaries. Understanding the Bible is not like a private correspondence course, or attending night school! It is a fellowship exercise.

**3. Deal with them patiently.** It is fascinating how Bible difficulties can melt away – given enough time for us to grow in our understanding. When baffled by an apparent Bible error, it is sometimes best simply to make a note of the difficulty, and then mentally to shelve it for a period, while we continue in study. It may be a year or two later – resulting from our own further reading, or hearing a Bible message – that suddenly the answer to the problem drops into our mind. “Of course!” It was as though the difficulty had never been there.

From an article by Richard Bewes

## **THANET BIBLE WEEK**

This is more or less a repeat of the article in the last edition of the magazine! Please do aim to come to as much as you can of this year’s Thanet Bible Week: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The two speakers this year are Rev. William Taylor (Tuesday and Wednesday) who is the Rector at St Helen’s Church, Bishopsgate, in the City of London – and Rev. Geoff Thomas (Thursday and Friday) who is Minister at Alfred Place Baptist Church, Aberystwyth. Both these men are gifted Bible teachers, and we are privileged to have them come to speak in Thanet. The Thanet Bible Week is really like having a Keswick Convention on our own doorstep!

The evening meetings start at 8.00 p.m. at St James’ Church. Coffee and tea will be available in the Church Centre after the meeting.

Each of our two speakers will also lead a lunchtime seminar (in the Church Centre) – William Taylor on the Wednesday and Geoff Thomas on the Friday. These start at 12 noon when we eat lunch together (bring your own sandwiches – but drinks are provided). We hand over to the speaker at 12.30 and finish at 1.30.

The full programme is as follows:

William Taylor

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 8.00 pm “The shape of change” (Lk.4.14-30)  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon “Fit for purpose” (1 Tim.1.12-20)  
“ 8.00 pm “The power to change” (Lk.4.31 – 5.11)

Geoff Thomas

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 8.00 pm “The loveliness of Christ” (Song of Solomon  
5.10-16)  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon “The life of John Bunyan”  
“ 8.00 pm “The joyfulness of Christ” (1 Peter 1.1-9)

**Robert Bashford**

**JULIA SMITH – THE AFRICAN ADVENTURE HAS BEGUN**

Julia Smith, daughter of Howard and Faith, and once a member in the St James’ youth group, studied Nursing at Southampton University and after graduation joined the staff of the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield. She is also an active member of Christ Church Fulwood. Over the last 18 months or so she felt an increasing call to do some kind of missionary work. Upon hearing a talk in her church about the Mercy Ships, she applied and was accepted to serve on the Africa Mercy Ship as a surgical ward Staff Nurse for a 10 week period.

The Africa Mercy ship is a converted rail ferry moored off the coast of Togo, West Africa. The ship serves the surgical needs of the local population for a period, before moving off for a refit where necessary and then on to another developing country.

You can read more about this medical mission at [www.mercyships.org.uk](http://www.mercyships.org.uk).

Julia says:

“Dear friends,

*“I thank my God very time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil.1:3-6).*

Firstly, thank you so much for all your continuing prayers and encouragement. Anyone who has undertaken missionary work in similar circumstances will know how hard, and how wonderful an experience like this can be. This is how my first two weeks on board the M/V Africa Mercy have been. A rollercoaster of emotions as I settle into living and working on a ship (which constantly sways from side to side with the Atlantic Ocean currents!).

Nursing on board is totally different to anything the UK has to offer. It is so refreshing to acknowledge Christ as the power behind everything we do here and to pray for the work and the patients at the start of each shift on the ward. The hospital wards are a joyous place to work as local translators, nurses and medical and administrative staff work so well together, providing the best care possible to as many patients as possible, with very limited supplies and facilities. Men, women and children are all cared for together and I have become a paediatric nurse overnight!

The surgical work conducted on board is astounding. Our facial surgeon, Dr Gary Parker has served with Mercy Ships for over 20 years and become a world expert on removing large facial tumours, jaw bones and reconstructing faces on the people of western Africa. He has developed this work from scratch. When he started, there were no text books or lecturers telling him what to do, he has developed his skills in the field and his work is phenomenal. The other big area of medical mission is eye surgery. Dr Glenn Strauss has served on board for many years as an eye surgeon correcting the vision of thousands of West Africans with cataracts and other complex eye conditions.

Living and working with people from over 30 different nations is a life changing experience in itself. The Americans have the highest proportion of crew members here (I think). There is also a wonderful mix of Canadians, Aussies, Kiwis and Europeans. I share my cabin with two Canadians, one Dutch lady, one Aussie and one German! You couldn't get more multicultural if you tried. The cabins on board are very comfortable, air conditioned (I love air conditioning!), with one bathroom per cabin. If that sounds a little cosy, you only have to go outside, feel the heat, the poverty, the daily fight to keep living and you become much more grateful for all you have on board and at home.

The people of Togo are amongst some of the worlds' poorest. The government is corrupt with many believing that the recent general election result was far from democratic. This morning I attended a wonderful local church in a nearby fishing

village. Pastor James served with Mercy Ships in the 90s and in 1995 planted this church which has grown so strong in numbers, so blessed by God. The poverty surrounding the church is overwhelming yet the people are so warm and welcoming and the children are adorable!

*Praise God for*

- The opportunity to serve Him here in Togo.
- For the people I have met so far, the welcome I have received.
- The nurses on the ward who work so hard bringing so much joy to the patients and their families in difficult circumstances.
- Pastor James and his wonderful fishing village church.
- Each volunteer here and the sacrifices they have made in order to serve God in this way.
- Opportunities to get off ship on days off and enjoy relaxing with new friends.

*Please pray*

- I would continue to settle into life on the ship (it takes sometime) and feel more at home here each day;
- That I would grow in confidence nursing on the ward. We are all working in ways that are foreign to us so flexibility and patience are vital.
- That I would allow God to teach me more about Himself and my relationship with Him whilst I am away from the distractions of the western world.
- I would be a humble and congenial cabin mate as I share my living space with 5 other people.
- For Laura living on her own at our house in Sheffield.

Thank you once again for all your support, prayers and encouragement. They have seen me through a difficult couple of weeks and are hugely appreciated.

With love and Best Wishes,  
Julia

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God” (Phil.1:9-11).”*

## **LADIES BREAKFAST**

Many thanks to all the people that contributed in making the Ladies Breakfast on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April possible and so successful.

Many ladies attended, the breakfast was lovely, the speaker Becky Saywell gave a very interesting talk about her faith and family. The breakfast ended with prayers and everybody received a booklet, "The Love Unknown" – the moving story behind the symbolism on Dora Wordsworth's grave by Derrick Bingham.

It certainly was a very nice way to have breakfast – thanks again.

**Teresa Merry**

**DEADLINE DATE:** Please may all articles for the August and September magazine be with the Editor by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010. Thank you.

### **The Spiritual Railway**

The line to heaven by Christ was made,  
With heavenly truths the rails are laid,  
From earth to heaven the line extends,  
To life eternal where it ends.

Repentance is the station then,  
Where passengers are taken in;  
No fee for them is there to pay,  
For Jesus is Himself the way.

The Bible, like an engineer,  
Points out the way to heaven quite clear,  
Through a tunnel, dark and dreary here,  
It does the way to glory steer.

God's love is fire, His truth is steam,  
Which drives the engine and the train;  
All you, who would to glory ride,  
Must come to Christ and in Him abide.

Whether first or second or third class,

Through repentance, faith and holiness,  
The way to glory you must gain,  
Or you, with Christ, can never reign.

Come then, poor sinner, now is the time,  
At any station on the line;  
If you will repent and turn from sin,  
The train will stop and take you in.

**Written by Leonora Beale, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1882**

### **IT'S GOOD TO TALK!**

*Our Father in heaven:  
May your holy name be honoured;  
May your kingdom come;  
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
Give us today the food we need;  
Forgive us the wrongs we have done,  
as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.  
Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us from the  
Evil One. (Matthew 6:9-13)*

### **Lost for words?**

This prayer is not as well known as it used to be. No longer is it widely used in school assemblies. No longer does the average family worship together. No longer do the majority of young people go to Sunday activities at the local church. *No wonder we are at a loss to know **how** to pray when a **crisis** looms!*

### **The keys to prayer**

The prayer that Jesus taught his followers is our most reliable guide as to **how** we speak to God. This model-prayer contrasts in **style** and **content** with those who prayed in Jesus' day. They prayed in public (to be seen) and used long and complicated prayers (to impress God), verses 5 and 7. Jesus taught that **secrecy**, **simplicity** and **sincerity** are the keys to **real** prayer, verses 6 and 13.

## **Putting first things first**

Evidently, this model-prayer has clear **priorities**. The prayer also has an **order** to it. In prayer we must first seek God's **glory**, God's **will**, and God's **purposes** for the world and our own lives, verses 9-10.

Only when we have our **priorities** right are we equipped to pray for **our** daily needs (which involves **trust**), the forgiveness for our sins, and our forgiveness of those who have wronged us (which involves **grace**), and the request that God will not lead us into tough trials, but save us from the Evil One (which involves **faith**), verses 11-13.

### **1: 'Our Father in heaven...'**

Prayer is obviously a natural experience for those who belong to God's family. The fact that the prayer begins with '**Our Father...**' indicates that we pray as God's **children**, and that it is our right, privilege and joy to talk to him with confidence.

Our Father may be 'in heaven' but he is not an **absentee** Parent, nor is he **aloof**, **distant** or **illusive**. Certainly we don't need to make an **appointment** to speak with Him! His children are much **loved**. He **cares** for them constantly. He only wants the **best** for them. He loves to hear their **voice**. In fact their **needs** are his supreme concern!

The fact that our Father is '**in heaven**' is a great encouragement, because heaven is the ultimate seat of all **power** and **authority** – and our Father **reigns** supreme! **Nothing** is impossible for him – or our **prayers**!

### **Praying as members of a family**

The fact that prayer takes place within a **family relationship** might be a discouragement to some. They will be cautious because they may be excluded from normal family-life and relationships. A recent national survey showed that 10,000,000 people live alone in Britain today – the biggest increase being among 25-44 year olds. Apparently, 1 in 4 children live with a single parent, and 2 in every 3 marriages are failing in society. So many are isolated through **broken relationships**!

Thankfully, whatever our family situation, we can talk to God in prayer. Whatever our personal experience of earthly fathers (and they all fail at some point!) our **heavenly Father** can be trusted absolutely. But don't take my word for it – the apostle Paul, writing about praying to God, said: '*through Jesus Christ we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him...*' *Ephesians 3:12*.

It's time to get **talking!** You'll be surprised just how **good** it is to talk!

**Michael Toogood**

## **WHEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE GOES**

“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation...” Matthew 26:41 NKJV

The enemy knows what God-given potential is, and he's out to stop you before you reach it. Prayer puts a shield of divine protection around you; don't live without it! There are hands holding this devotional that may not be here next year unless somebody prays on their behalf (Luk2 22:31). There are people reading this page who thought that they, of all people, would never 'blow it', yet they did. Unless you acknowledge the propensity to sin that's within you, you won't pray against it and you'll always be vulnerable to the enemy's attack. During the last hours of His life, Jesus warned His disciples, 'Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson paraphrases the words of Christ: 'Stay alert, be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger.' Paul writes: '... Put on every piece of God's armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm ... Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion' (Ephesians 6:13-18 NLT). The most effective weapon the enemy has against you is you! Your old sin nature must be taken to the cross and crucified daily. The place of prayer is where you do that. In God's presence you see yourself as He sees you. There, at the point of repentance, He reveals, He removes and He restores. When your prayer life goes, so does your protection. So get busy and reorder your priorities.

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## **THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE – SPEAKING OUT LOUD AND CLEAR**

An introduction into the work of the Christian Institute.

### **Our Aim**

The Christian Institute exists for “the furtherance and promotion of the Christian religion in the United Kingdom and elsewhere” and “the advancement of education”.

The Christian Institute is a non-denominational Christian charity committed to upholding the truths of the Bible. We are supported by individuals and churches throughout the UK.

We believe that the Bible is the supreme authority for all of life and we hold to the inerrancy of Scripture. We are committed to upholding the sanctity of life from conception.

### **Helping Christians**

The Christian Institute wants to help Christians answer the challenges of living in an increasingly secular society. We want to help Christians understand and respond to the major moral and ethical issues of the day. The work of the Institute supports Christians in speaking up for what they believe.

### **Tackling Issues**

There are so many issues crying out for a Christian voice. The Christian Institute deals with issues affecting marriage and the family, education, religious liberties, medical ethics, drugs and the constitution.

### **Informing Debates**

The Christian Institute informs Christians and others about the latest issues. We produce publications and briefings which are in-depth but also easy to use. We also publish information on our extensive website, which is fully searchable, user-friendly and free. The Institute holds lectures, seminars and public meetings all over the UK. These events are an opportunity for Christians and others to be informed at first-hand. We give Christian comments to the media, to politicians and others in the public arena. In this way we aim to inform debates and bring a Christian influence to current concerns.

### **Useful Research**

There is a great deal of secular research which shows the consequences of rejecting God's moral law. This ought not to be a surprise. The God who created this world knows what is best for this world. His laws are for everybody's good at all times. Therefore, the Christian Institute highlights the most useful research – pointing people to the wisdom of God's law.

### **Key Arguments**

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.” (2 Cor.10:5). The Christian Institute helps Christians understand the key arguments of contemporary issues. We give answers to some of the most difficult questions. In this way we help Christians to be a Christian influence in a secular world.

For further information or to be added to the mailing list please contact Freepost RRHG-ZBKL-EFFB, The Christian Institute, Wilberforce House, 4 Park Road, Gosforth Business Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE12 8DG or [www.christian.org.uk](http://www.christian.org.uk).

### **HOW GOOD ARE YOU WITH NUMBERS?**

If you answer all the questions correctly then they will add up to 2001

- \_\_\_\_\_ How many?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Books in the Bible
  - \_\_\_\_\_ How old is Methuselah
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Sons of Jacob
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Men did Gideon choose to fight the Midianites
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Days did Joshua go round Jericho
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Persons in the Trinity
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Plagues in Egypt
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Books in the Old Testament
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Sons of Noah
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Years the Israelites spent in the wilderness
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Books in the Pentateuch
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Job
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Birds Noah sent from the ark
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Days in a week
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Deacons first appointed
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Years in a jubilee
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Times Peter denied Jesus
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Churches in Asia John addresses in the book of Revelation
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Commandments
  - \_\_\_\_\_ People on board ship with Paul
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Books of the New Testament

**2001**

**Find the answers later in this magazine**

In TITUS 2:12 we find the rules to live,  
In ROMANS 12:13 we find the rules to give,  
In LUKE 10:27 we find the rule of love,  
All given by our Father there above.

In MATTHEW 7:13 we find the way to seek,  
In PROVERBS 15:1 we find the way to speak,  
In MATTHEW 10:16 we find the way to be,  
We follow these to reach eternity.

## **SATURDAY SHOP**

The Saturday Shop's takings for April amounted to £213.82 whilst May saw the tills ringing up £315.59 for which we are grateful to God and all who contributed in any way.

However, the Shop is not only about money, for it is an opportunity to meet friends, old and new, and to enjoy teas, coffee and cold drinks with freshly baked scones etc always available.

If you have not been before why not visit the Shop on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00am at the Old School Hall, Garlinge?

**JESUS SAID:** ““The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.” , “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”.” (Luke 4:18-21)

Jesus's words on reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth.

## **KIDS ARE QUICK!**

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.  
Maria: Here it is.  
Teacher: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?  
Class: Maria.

Teacher: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?  
John: You told me to do it without using tables/

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?  
Donald: H I J K L M N O.  
Teacher: What are you talking about?  
Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

### **FOR WORDSMITHS (continued)**

You lovers of the English language might enjoy this –

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP'.

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report.

We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost ¼ of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sum comes out we say it is clearing UP>

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP for now my time is UP, so it is time to shut UP!

### **GROWING OLD**

Remember that we folk are worth a fortune with silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs.

While I have become a little older since I saw you last I have become quite a frivolous old gal, having two gentlemen with me all the time – Will power helps me to get out of bed, and Arthur ritus never leaves me alone.

The minister came to call the other day, he said at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him I do that all the time, no matter where I am – in the living room, the study, the kitchen, or upstairs, I ask myself “What am I here after?”

### **MORE KIDS ARE QUICK!**

Teacher: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

Winnie: Me!

Teacher: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

Glen: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

Teacher: Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I'.

Millie: I is...

Teacher: No Millie ... Always say, 'I am'.

Millie: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet'.

Teacher: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

## Daddy's Poem

Her hair was up in a pony tail, her favourite dress tied with a bow.  
Today was Daddy's Day at school, and she couldn't wait to go.  
But her mummy tried to tell her, that she probably should stay home.  
Why the kids might not understand, if she went to school alone.  
But she was not afraid; she knew just what to say.  
What to tell her classmates of why he wasn't there today.  
But still her mother worried, for her to face this day alone.  
And that was why once again, she tried to keep her daughter home.  
But the little girl went to school eager to tell them all.  
About a dad she never sees a dad who never calls.  
There were daddies along the back wall, for everyone to meet.  
Children squirming impatiently, anxious in their seats  
One by one the teacher called a student from the class.  
To introduce their daddy, as seconds slowly passed.  
At last the teacher called her name, every child turned to stare.  
Each of them was searching, a man who wasn't there.  
'Where's her daddy at?' She heard a boy call out.  
'She probably doesn't have one,' another student dared to shout.  
And from somewhere near the back, she heard a daddy say,  
'Looks like another deadbeat dad, too busy to waste his day.'  
The words did not offend her, as she smiled up at her Mum.  
And looked back at her teacher, who told her to go on.  
And with hands behind her back, slowly she began to speak.  
And out from the mouth of a child, came words incredibly unique.  
'My Daddy couldn't be here, because he lives so far away.  
But I know he wishes he could be, since this is such a special day.  
And though you cannot meet him, I wanted you to know.  
All about my daddy, and how much he loves me so.  
He loved to tell me stories, he taught me to ride my bike.  
He surprised me with pink roses, and taught me to fly a kite.  
We used to share fudge sundaes, and ice cream in a cone..  
And though you cannot see him. I'm not standing here alone.  
'Cause my daddy's always with me, even though we are apart  
I know because he told me, he'll forever be in my heart'

With that, her little hand reached up, and lay across her chest.  
Feeling her own heartbeat, beneath her favourite dress.

And from somewhere in the crowd of dads, her mother stood in tears.  
Proudly watching her daughter, who was wise beyond her years.  
For she stood up for the love of a man not in her life.  
Doing what was best for her, doing what was right.  
And when she dropped her hand back down, staring straight into the crowd.  
She finished with a voice so soft, but its message clear and loud.  
'I love my daddy very much, he's my shining star.  
And if he could, he'd be here, but heaven's just too far.  
You see he is a soldier. And died just this past year  
When a roadside bomb hit his convoy and taught brave men to fear.  
But sometimes when I close my eyes, it's like he never went away.'  
And then she closed her eyes, and saw him there that day.  
And to her mother's amazement, she witnessed with surprise.  
A room full of daddies and children, all starting to close their eyes.  
Who knows what they saw before them, who knows what they felt inside.  
Perhaps for merely a second, they saw him at her side.  
'I know you're with me Daddy,' to the silence she called out.  
And what happened next made believers, of those once filled with doubt.  
Not one in that room could explain it, for each of their eyes had been closed.  
But there on the desk beside her, was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.  
And a child was blessed, if only for a moment, by the love of her shining star.  
And given the gift of believing, that heaven is never too far.

### **Getting through today**

So far today, God, I've done all right.  
I haven't gossiped,  
haven't lost my temper,  
haven't been greedy, grumpy.  
nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent.  
I'm really glad about that.  
But in a few minutes, God,  
I'm going to get out of bed ...  
and from then on I'm going to need your help!

### **PRAYER OF JABEZ – THINK BIG!**

**“God wants people to have ‘large goals’. He wants us to ‘reach and stretch’ instead of accepting what we already have.”**

Think of well known Bible characters; Abraham, Moses, Rahab, Esther, Daniel, Paul, Peter etc. Most probably the list would not include Jabez. A well respected and faithful man, living in an uneventful time in Israel's history, his name is mentioned only four times in Scripture (1 Chronicles 2:55; 4:9-10)

1 Chronicles 4:9 states that "Jabez was more honourable than his brothers" This would suggest that Jabez was honoured because of his relationship with God. 1 Samuel 2:30 clearly states that "Those who honour me, I will honour".

Jabez wanted to succeed and increase his fear of influence for God. Hence the prayer in 1 Chronicles 4:10: Jabez cried out to the God of Israel "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain".

In this very short but powerful prayer, Jabez first asked God to bless him. Secondly he asked God to enlarge his territory or increase his responsibility and thirdly he prayed that God would be with him and stay close. Lastly Jabez asked that God would keep him from harm.

Jabez has asked that God would give him more influence and opportunity to bring glory to Him. This is a specific goal. He is making a bold request and asking God to give him BIG things. He may have also wanted to enlarge his wisdom, understanding, humility, patience, love and joy. It would appear that the idea here is that God wants people to have "large goals". He wants us to "reach and stretch", instead of accepting what they already have.

Scripture reassures us that the "prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). The prayer of Jabez was indeed answered: "And God granted his request". As Christians, we know that we do indeed worship a God who answers our prayers. Like many other examples in Scripture, the prayer of Jabez wonderfully illustrates this fact.

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**Answers to number quiz: 66, 967, 12, 300, 7, 3, 10, 39, 3, 40, 5, 140, 2, 7, 7, 50, 3, 7, 10, 296, 27**

## JUNE 2010

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	)	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	)	Home Bible Study Groups ( <i>whatever date and</i>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	)	<i>time have been arranged for your Group</i> )
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service with the Lord's Supper
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Thanet Bible Week Meeting
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Thanet Bible Week Seminar
	8.00 pm	Thanet Bible Week Meeting
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	8.00 pm	Thanet Bible Week Meeting
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Thanet Bible Week Seminar
	8.00 pm	Thanet Bible Week Meeting
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Saturday Shop, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Garlinge Lunch, Old School Hall
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Focus on Prayer, Church Centre
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service with the Lord's Supper
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Friendship Club Outing
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00 pm	Bible Study, Church Centre
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Living Stones Bible Study Group, 49 Orchard Road

## JULY 2010

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
	7.45 pm	Garlinge Outreach Team, 49 Orchard Road
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Extremely Friday
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service with the Lord's Supper
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	)	
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	)	Home Bible Study Groups ( <i>whatever date and time have been arranged for your Group</i> )
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	)	
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Saturday Shop, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Garlinge Lunch, Old School Hall
	7.30 pm	PCC, Church Centre
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Focus on Prayer, Church Centre
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
	2.00 pm	Dandelyon Patchers, Church Centre
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service with the Lord's Supper
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Friendship Club Garden Party
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00 pm	Bible Study, Church Centre
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am	Parents and Toddlers, Old School Hall
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00 am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting, Church Centre