



"It may well attract more young folk to join the congregation but I still prefer the old church notice board"

Riches of friendship

No medicine is more valuable... none better suited to the cure of all our temporal ills than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble – and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy. -

St Aelred of Rievaulx

The difference between men and women

Because he is a man, when he locks his keys in the car he will fiddle with a wire long after hypothermia has set in.

Because he is a man, when the car isn't running very well, he will pop the bonnet and stare at the engine as if he knows what he is looking at. If another man shows up, one of them will say to the other, I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start."

Because he is a man, when he catches a cold, he needs someone to bring him soup and take care of him while he lies in bed and moans. Because she is a woman, she never gets as sick as he does, so for her, colds are not a problem.

Just what is evangelism?

Ultimately, evangelism is not a technique. It is the Lord of the Church who reserves to himself his sovereign right to add to his Church. -

John Stott



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

From the Editor:

The March edition of Contact is due to be published on March 2nd 2014.

Copy, in whatever form, should reach me by Sunday February 23rd 2013.

Sylvia

From Pastor Sam

I WANT TO SEE JESUS!

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with Him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai. *"Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:5)* he declared, urging them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in the light of what God had told them.



Rev Sam Owoo

The series of teachings and preaching we embarked upon in the run up to Christmas and the weeks after, have allowed us to evaluate & reflect on our own spirituality in the weeks leading up to the new year and long after. For instance, the wise men travelled for thousands of miles to see the baby Jesus. They would not let distance or the dictates of Herod get in their way, although they knew very well that this Jesus was in no way able to communicate with them. This was Jesus at his most vulnerable who seemingly had nothing to bring to the meeting (the table). And yet they were determined that distance would not keep them from seeing Jesus. How far are you willing to travel for Jesus? To meet with Him? I have often watched with bemusement as people travel far distances and throng to some place or meeting where some sort of purported "miraculous" sign and wonder. Don't get me wrong, I believe in miracles and God knows that I am alive today because of His miraculous hand and saving grace. But a weeping statue? Even a stinky dirty water in Enugu (Eastern Nigeria) ? Please give me a break! What amuses me most is that I know that those people and even a lot of so called Christians would not care a hoot about Jesus were it not for they think is in it for them! In other words, what they think Jesus can do for them. Be it physical, Spiritual, emotional healing, social or financial breakthrough. Sorry to de-stablise your theology and notion of Jesus as a heavenly waiter. Jesus is nobody's waiter! Running round at your every beck and call. The notion of Jesus as a heavenly Gordon Ramsey or Marco Pierre White is a childish one and should be banished from Christian circles. There is a reason why the visitors who came to see the baby Jesus are called wise men and it would do us good to buy into such wisdom. How far will you travel to see a Jesus who has nothing to give you? And would you be a blessing to Jesus even then? I am reminded of the words of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego (who the bible says were 10 times wiser than the skilled magicians and wise astrologers) that *"Our God is able to deliver us.....but even if he doesn't ..understand this that we will never under any circumstance bow our knees to your god!"*.

(Continued on page 2)

Later on in Jesus' life, others like Zacchaeus, who was vertically challenged did not let that hinder them from seeing Jesus. Instead, Zacchaeus found a way around his problem, obstacles and hindrances. It is worth noting that as the bible states, Zacchaeus was wealthy, in charge @work (Chief tax collector, CtC sounds similar to CEO, COO, Financial Controller ,FC etc etc). Physically he was not ill nor was he seeking Jesus on behalf of someone who was ill, like the Centurion. Zacchaeus was "fine". There was no reason why he should need Jesus. But like every man on this planet he had a God-shaped hole that he knew only an encounter with Jesus could fix.

Oh that every man would become a Zacchaeus! By the way, my personal opinion is that when Zacchaeus woke up that morning his whole ambition for the day was that he would see Jesus. In my mind Zacchaeus would have been happy with a wave from Jesus. Any temporary acknowledgement of some sort from Jesus that he had seen the efforts and energy Zacchaeus put into making sure encounter happened would have okay with Zacchaeus. I don't think expected Jesus to stop impromptu everything else and any other for the day and focus on "lil olde You could almost feel the chill run down his spine and with the excitement of a child whiz down the tree. **Salvation is come to this house!** This one too is Abraham's child says Jesus!



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agenda
Zachy"!

Something happens when you take time and put energy and integrity in searching for Jesus and seeking an encounter/audience with Him. You get more than you bargained for! Heaven stops and smile over you. You get not only Jesus but also Father, Son & Holy Spirit because the three come together. It's almost like buy one get two free! Only this time what is on offer is beyond anything that money can buy! As Zacchaeus and Simon the Sorcerer found out. How humbled, olde Zachy must have felt climbing a tree with all that money in the bank! If only he could write out a cheque for this one and save himself communal embarrassment.

So what tree do you find yourself climbing to see Jesus? What hidden physical disability ,or health struggles are you dealing with? Like good olde Zacchaeus you need to stay focused on the mission of seeking out Jesus from the crowd and be determined to catch his eye. I can assure you my friend that your efforts will not go un noticed. The Jesus I know will definitely stop when he gets to where you are. Believe you me it would be worth all the efforts & energy you put into seeking him and desiring an encounter with him. Hang in there! And as Jesus said to the Greeks who sought an audience with Him and wanted to see Him (John 12:23) "*The hour has come for God to be glorified*"

Your hour too will come for God to be glorified!

Adjusting to change:

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him...." 2 Corinthians 3.18

We all warm to the idea of perfecting our characters: what we hate is the process. In the meantime, we form habits, and then our habits form us, and it is hard to change. Yet without change, there is no growth. But if you have the right attitude, every change (whether positive or negative), will be a growing experience. It's up to you!

Consider this:: trees need more than one season to produce fruit. Rainy seasons are growing seasons too, and they always come before harvest. You don't have to like the rain, you just have to understand its purpose.. The Bible says that Christians are being changed into Christ's likeness. (2 Corinthians 3.18)

But to be like Jesus, you have to follow wherever he leads. That means following him through the wilderness of temptation, the complete surrender of your will to God and, finally, to the place of crucifixion. There's no other way!

To walk with him means you'll be in a different place tomorrow than you are today. The question is are you willing to follow him all the way? Take a moment and consider your answer, for it will determine your destiny.

(Adapted from UCB The Word for Today daily notes free from 01782 642000).

Youth Stuff - February 2014

This month, Kidz Church and Youth Church will be looking at the challenges and excitements of following Jesus, through some stories from Luke's Gospel. Specifically:

Luke 5:1-11 - The calling of the disciples.

Luke 9:18-27 - Peter finally works out who Jesus is.

Luke 9:28-36 - The Transfiguration.



After a break over Christmas, the teenagers are again meeting for worship practice on Friday evenings from 6:30pm-7:30pm (before Choir and Youth Club). We will take a break during half term (21st Feb).

Youth Club now meets from 7:30pm-9pm on a Friday evening in the hall. We have lowered the age range a little to start at year 6 (10/11 year olds) and shortened the time by half an hour. We are still trying to attract young people from the community and starting from a slightly younger age might be more fruitful. It also means that we can build on our links with local primary schools. Again, we will take a break during half term (21st Feb) to allow the Sale to set up.

On Friday March 7th there will be another Re-Unite Reading-wide youth service. Our Youth services continue to be the last Sunday of the month for the moment, but the best date is still under review.

From 14th-18th April we will be at Spring Harvest. As well as activities for teenagers, Spring Harvest is great for families, singles and older people. If you would like to join us, then please let me know (cost likely to be £250ish per adult including two meals per day, but cheaper for children). Sam & Heather will be there at the same time as us with their boys. It might be possible to spread the cost. Please let me know by Feb 9th if you are interested.

Ray Ellis



February 2014

Last year — 2013

I can barely remember it! As winter drags on, it seems ages since we were thinking about the end of the year. However from an accounts point of view can now look back and see that we finished 2013 very positively.

The total offering for the year was **£55,841** which was almost £3,000 above budget. When you remember that we set that budget before we even were certain we would have a new minister that's remarkable.

Our total income ended up at £92,023 almost £8,000 above the budget total.

However we did also spend more than the budget but ended the year with a deficit of just £295 which again was much better than the budget.

We start this year with a decent balance of £14,799 which helps get us over the humps of winter fuel bills and other expenditure in the first part of the year.

The new budget is based on continuing to give as best as we can, particularly through the offering whether in cash or direct to the bank. The budget agreed at the church meeting needs an average of £4,900 per month which is actually £16 less than we have averaged since Sam arrived, so we can do this.

As always with God anything is possible and we have a budget that forecasts another deficit this year (larger this time) but we know that God will honour our giving if we honour Him. So, let's ask Him to make it work, and shows us how we can help again.

We pray for the wellbeing of our members and friends but we should also pray for the wellbeing of our church finance.

Once again many thanks for the generosity shown last year, it was wonderful.

Steve

Testimonies;

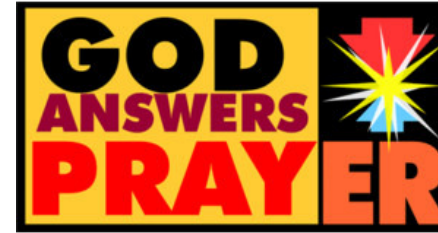
Psalm 126:1 – *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, it seemed like a dream! How we laughed and sang for joy!. The other nations said: "What amazing things the Lord has done for them!". Yes glorious things, What wonder, what joy! May we be refreshed as by streams in the desert.- The Living Bible.*

- Our very own dear Reverend **Sylvia Stevenson** has reached the hard decision that the time has come to give up driving. God made this very clear to her. We rejoice that she sold her car very quickly, thanks to the help of Frank and Sue Pond, and we pray that the car will be a real blessing to the family that bought it. It is quite a challenge to learn to adjust to living without a car in this day and age, but we thank God for Readibus and the free hospital transport arrangements, as well as the generosity of other drivers.
- **Betty Westall** has been able to replace her car; Once again thanks to all those who helped and upheld Betty in prayers during those difficult times.
- Several people have given testimonies of seeking, finding and starting new jobs this year. PTL. (Praise the Lord) Lets keep the testimonies coming.
- **The Mwanza family** are on the brink of mega life-changing, country-impacting breakthroughs. Let's **PUSH**. (Pray Until Something Happens). (all the way! These are jaw-dropping breakthroughs! We serve an awesome God!
- A new volunteer driver has been found to add to the number of people who are available to drive the minibus! PTL!
- Our sister **Doris** is also on the brink of a life changing breakthrough.
- Katie Wise had a successful third and final operation and in addition she had fantastic results in all the 5 assignments she had to submit at university (the lowest of which was 68%) despite the operation! What a clever girl! Please keep Katie & the Wise family in your prayers. Two people who have been part of our congregation here at Tyndale have decided they want to be baptized. Please keep Sharon & Sam in your prayers as their baptismal preparation class starts and finishes.

Change of address:

Please note that Gwen Davis has changed her e-mail address to:

gwendavis@btopenworld.com



Free at last

Jesus Christ is the key which unlocks the door of the prison cell of our own making and sets us free to live in the idle world of God's love and purpose.

- Kenneth Pillar

Love

Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care,
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a Heaven in Hell's despair.
By William Blake, from Songs of Experience 'The Clod and the Pebble'



Prayer for patience

*Dear Father,
Waiting is so difficult. And we seem to have to do it so often, and in so many situations. Waiting for news, waiting for opportunities, waiting for test results, waiting for others – even waiting for you, Lord, when we so long for you to do something.
Please give us patience. Ripen in us that 'patience' part of the fruit of your Holy Spirit, so that we can wait without anger, without frustration, without stress, knowing that you are Sovereign, that your timing is perfect.
Help us to recognise that, in the end, simply trusting you can take the weight out of the wait. So help us to trust you, Father, and to relax in your care as we wait.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.*



Prayer Board

Please remember to pray for our elderly folk and for those who can no longer attend the Sunday Services: Vera Gigg, June Moulden, Eric and Megan Horner, and Ethel Sumner. You can use the Church Directory as a prayer guide.



Katie Wise continues to make a good recovery and is doing well in her University studies.

Elsie Clarke wishes to thank all the members of Tyndale for the many expressions of love and prayer that she has received following the death of her husband.

John Lane has begun a course of chemotherapy. Please pray for him and Haulwen at this very difficult time.

Our Church Family **Sharon Bethel** has spent several days in hospital following an emergency admission with breathing difficulties. She is now stabilised.

We thank God for the doctors and nurses who have been such a blessing to our friends. All members of our church family are important.

Please let Pastor Sam or Gwen Davis know of any pastoral needs as they arise.

If you are interested in learning about baptism and church membership, please speak to Pastor Sam or Sylvia.

By joining the classes you are not committing yourself to either baptism or church membership.



Become Part of Our Church Family

Baptism and Church Membership

Looking ahead:

Marriage Alpha Course in the Spring for Married Couples, partners, those dating or thinking about marriage – Come and find out what Christian marriages should be like.

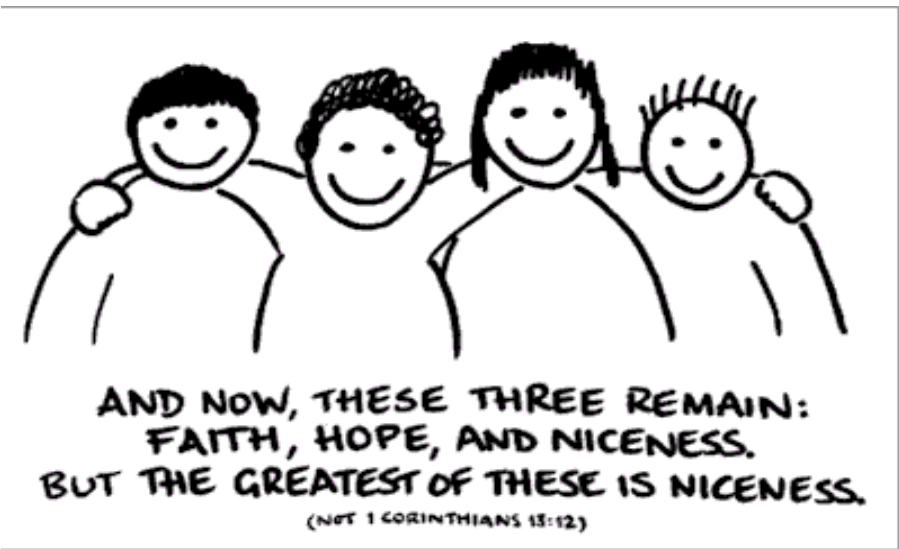
Spring Harvest:

Some of us will be going to Spring Harvest from the 14th to the 18th of April 2014.

Church Away Day: We will be going away as a church group (a day of BBQs, picnic, and en-visioning the church at Bulstrode House, Gerrards Cross (45-50 mins drive) on Saturday the 21st of June, 2014. We are hoping to leave here at 9.00am and get back for 5.00pm. Please block this date off in your dairy.

Monthly Sales: In future, the monthly sales are no longer going to be monthly from now on going forward. Rather they will happen during school holidays or half term such as the last week of February, May, July, October plus A Nearly New Sale in August, & December.

BMS Coffee morning - February 8th - from 10—12 pm .



Sundays in February

*(All services will be conducted by our minister,
the Revd Sam Owoo
unless otherwise indicated.)*

Feb 2 10.30am Praise and worship Sunday - with
Testimonies:

Feb 9 10.30am Missions' Sunday = featuring
BMS National Week of prayer, led by Peter Davis

Feb 16 10.30am Communion Service

Feb 23- 10 30am Family Service led by Kidz Church leader - Steve Wise

March 2 READING HALF MARATHON

11.30a.m "Songs of Praise"

(Please note later start)



Tuesday Fellowship

2.15pm

There's a space for you!



Feb 7

Members bring their contributions

Feb 14

Jean Autton

Feb 21

TBA

Feb 28

TBA

SALE

Saturday

February 22nd

Starting at 11am

BRUNCH

February 8th
At 11.30am —12.30am

JUMBLE SALE

