

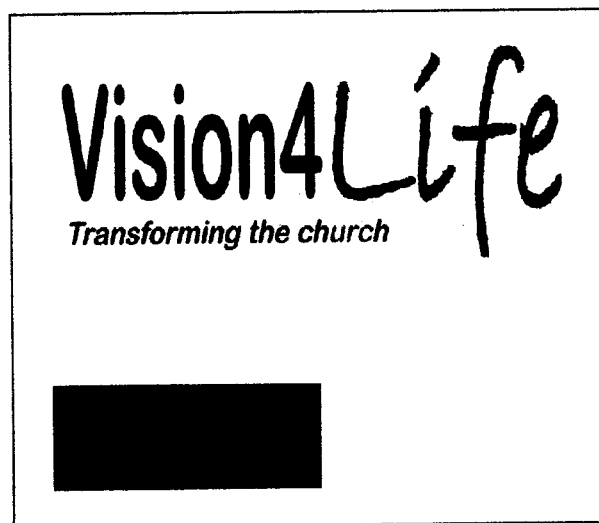
FEBRUARY 2008

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

Well, Christmas and the New Year are over, and, on a personal note, our reaction here at the Manse is "Thank goodness for that!" The month of December, up to Christmas Day, was a pretty positive one, with congregations up, great celebrations, and a sense that we were properly observing the wonderful news of our Saviour's birth.

But after that, for us, things went downhill with one fashionable bug after another making our lives pretty miserable. In fact, we had to cancel the New Year's Manse party for the first time in 14 years: we felt pretty bad about that, and want to say sorry to those who like us were looking forward to it.



But that's all over, and in our Church Meeting on 12th January I laid out an exciting new 3-year programme launched by the URC nationally. It's called *Vision4Life*, and you will hear much more about it over the next few months, and see information inserted into the weekly notice sheet from time to time. But here's a brief overview of the programme.

- in November 2008 we will be looking at ways of studying the Bible together. This will last the whole of the year, until,
- in November 2009 we move onto new ways of prayer – individually and with others, and finally
- in November 2010 we will be equipped to 'move out' of the safety of the church with the Gospel. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN STANDING ON STREET CORNERS OR ON DOORSTEPS WITH A MESSAGE!** It will mean, rather, that by now we will be equipped to speak of our faith to others.

If all that's slightly scary, or if it seems to mean that we might be challenged to do things we are not used to doing – well, that's good. But if it causes you and me to move away from the idea of church being a slightly respectable, warm and fuzzy Sunday club – well, that's good too.

I'm seventy years old this year, sometimes tired, sometimes jaded, and often wonder where Our Lord is leading the Church – and whether we can hear His voice anyway!

But even I am excited by Vision4Life, and I invite you to join me as we eagerly look forward to what is being planned.

Because I'm convinced, with George Rawson the 19th Century hymn writer that

*The Lord hath yet more light
and truth*

To break forth from His Word.

May that Lord bless us all as we explore that Word together, in study, in prayer and in reaching out!

And, oh yes, a very happy New Year to you all!

Love and peace,
Revd Jim.





NEWS AND NOTICES FROM THE CHURCH

CHURCH MEETINGS

At our Church Meeting held on 12th January 2008, it was agreed unanimously that in future our four (4) Church Meetings a year will all be held on Saturday afternoons.

Therefore, the Church Constitution will have to be amended and this will be done at our next Church Meeting to be held on Saturday 12th April at 2 p.m., which is our Annual General Meeting.

Chris Mortimore

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COW PAT STOVES

Many, many thanks to you all for your generous gifts of money for our World Vision project this Christmas. We were able to purchase 7 Cow Pat Stoves and, in addition to this, a number of you specially gave me money to buy meals for children so were able to provide a meal for over 300 children.

This has been an amazing response and we are so grateful to you all for remembering others less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas time.

Thank you,

Sheila Mortimore.



EASTER DATES

Easter is early this year so I am giving you early notice of our services to be held over the Easter period.

Thursday 20th March –
7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Passover Meal and Communion.

Friday 21st March –
3 p.m. Good Friday Meditation

Sunday 23rd March –
8 a.m. Easter Morning Communion and Breakfast followed at 10.00 a.m. by the Easter Celebration Service.

In addition to the above Services, Churches together in Hendon and Colindale will be holding a March of Witness on Good Friday (time to be advised).

Also Paul and Maria will be distributing Easter Eggs on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. If you want to know more please see the separate article in *The Messenger*.

Chris Mortimore



Easter is a season of hope and joy and cheer, with beauty all around us to see and touch and hear.

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Spalding Hall update:

You will all remember that at the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 9th December, we, as a church, resolved to sell Spalding Hall for the amazing sum of £1.3million pounds.

Since then, the Grants Loans and Property division of the Synod have confirmed that they are in agreement with the sale.

Our lawyers and surveyors had been preparing documents in anticipation and they now inform us that they are working to complete the sale within the next 8 weeks.

Many of us have been involved either directly or indirectly with the sale of property and we know, therefore, that problems can always occur!

Please pray for a favourable outcome for the sale and continue to thank God for his goodness to us here at The Hyde.

New Building

We have now been in our wonderful new building 3 months. Already it is hard to conjure up those dark corridors and toilets. All our visitors comment on the space, light and warmth coming from the new rooms.

Have you noticed how many more people come through for coffee now we have moved to the Community Hall? Have you noticed the growth in fellowship -- people sitting and talking to new friends who were formerly strangers? - - and as our own sense of community grows and widens, we will be more empowered to take His Love out into Colindale and beyond.

Cathy Gould

Message from the Editor

Well, I am off on my travels once again - 'planes, ships and trains' to Australia, New Zealand and California with a few stops in exotic places in between!


I shall return on Easter Monday so the March edition of The Messenger will be produced by the Rev. Jim. Did he volunteer or was he pushed?


Can you please let Jim have material for the March Messenger. Hopefully it will be back to normal for the April edition, although a little late maybe.

Vivien Crispe.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Hyde-de-Hi!

 (give it a try!)

7th February
The return of Edna Jury, speaking on Noel Coward
and 21st February,
a members' afternoon
2.00 p.m. until 
3.15 - ish

DISTRIBUTING EASTER EGGS

If you are interested in handing out Easter Eggs, Paul and Maria would appreciate your help. This will take place on Good Friday and Easter Saturday along the Colindale shops.

Dates - Good Friday 21st March.

Easter Saturday 22nd March.

Please meet at the Church between 1.30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Good Friday and 10 a.m. on Easter Saturday. Should you wish to make a donation towards the purchase of Easter Eggs, please hand this to Paul or Maria.





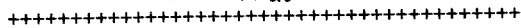
MENS VALENTINE
BREAKFAST

On Saturday, 9th February, at 9 a.m. there will be a Special Valentine Breakfast. This breakfast will be for the LADIES of the Church and not , on this occasion, the Men.

However, the MEN will prepare the breakfast and serve it so that you ladies can enjoy a breakfast provided for you by the Men.

If you would like breakfast, please let me know, otherwise I shall be approaching you ladies for your positive response.

Chris Mortimore

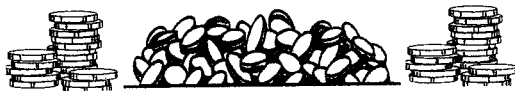


THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those kind people who have made donations towards the production of The Messenger.

This does help tremendously towards the cost of the printing and publishing also postage for sending copies to those far away.

There is a little box at the back of the church for donations – 20p is all that is needed each month to help towards the cost.



ANGELS

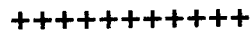
You've never seen an angel!
I really am surprised.
They come from many places and
In all sorts of guise.

Some come from quite a way away,
And some are just next door
But they can bring just what we need,
Or what we're waiting for.

We've even had a visit from
'Souper man and wife',
Bringing gifts and helping hands
To get us through some strife.

So thanks to all those angels
Who carry out the will of
Him whose service in His life
They're bringing to us still.

Thank you - Joyce Field

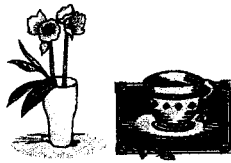


**COFFEE MORNING
AND LUNCHES
IN COMMUNITY HALL
WILL BE HELD ON**

**SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2008
FROM 11.00 A.M. WITH
LUNCHES FROM 12 NOON
TO 1.00 P.M.**

**Come along and enjoy the
Good food, good fellowship
and a good chat!**





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

How good are you at flower arranging?

How good are you at pouring out teas and coffees after the Sunday morning service?

We are in desperate need of help – arranging the flowers perhaps once a month on a rota – help can be given to start you off. Please talk to Vivien or Sheila if you think you can help.

We also have a rota for tea and coffee making – again maybe once a month – if you can help please see Christina Eddisford.

It doesn't matter if you are a novice and it doesn't just have to be the women of the church. We are all quite capable of pouring out cups of tea! Think about it!!!



~~~~~  
***There are some dates available to be filled on the Flower Rota if anyone would like to make a donation for a Birthday, Anniversary, or in Remembrance. These are as follows:-***

**February 10<sup>th</sup>,  
March 30<sup>th</sup>,  
April 6<sup>th</sup>,  
May 4<sup>th</sup>,  
June 29<sup>th</sup>,  
July 13<sup>th</sup>,  
August 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>  
November 30<sup>th</sup>.**



Laura sent this from Jamaica via Cathy's E-Mail



## **MAKING PANCAKES**



Six year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mum and Dad, but it was getting very bad. He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove and he didn't know how the stove worked!. Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor.

Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pyjamas white and sticky.

And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him.

Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process!

That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour.

Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to 'make pancakes' for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried...

I was thinking, and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that need rekindling or three words needing to be said, sometimes, 'I love you' can heal and bless! Remind every one of your friends that you love them. Even if you think they don't love back, you would be amazed at what those three little words, a smile, and a reminder like this can do.

**SHROVE  TUESDAY**

£

**MONEY MATTERS**

**OFFERINGS DURING  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007**

**NOVEMBER**

| Nov. 2007             | Cash           | Envelopes      | Total          |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>  | £ 47.50        | £297.50        | £345.00        |
| Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> | £ 58.00        | £237.00        | £295.00        |
| Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup> | £ 16.00        | £114.00        | £130.00        |
| Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup> | £ 60.00        | £150.00        | £210.00        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>         | <b>£181.50</b> | <b>£798.50</b> | <b>£980.00</b> |

**DECEMBER**

| Dec. 2007             | Cash           | Envelopes        | Total            |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | £ 40.00        | £ 210.00         | £250.00          |
| Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>  | £ 47.50        | £409.50          | £457.00          |
| Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> | £ 45.80        | £123.80          | £169.60          |
| Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> | £ 75.00        | £263.00          | £338.00          |
| Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup> | £ 58.50        | £141.50          | £200.00          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>         | <b>£266.80</b> | <b>£1,147.00</b> | <b>£1,414.60</b> |

**RETIRING COMMUNION  
OFFERINGS**

The December Communion Offerings were donated to the Salvation Army and amounted to £65.90



Communion Offerings during January and February will be made on behalf of The Gideon Society.

Joyce Field

**FLOWER LIST**

**FEBRUARY 2008**



**DATE DONATED BY ARRANGED BY  
FEBRUARY 2008**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Miss V. Crispe - Susan Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Church - Pam Maycock
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Mr.&Mrs.Thompson - Sheila Mortimore
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Miss V. Crispe - Pam Maycock

**MARCH**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Mr. C. Jones.  
MOTHERING SUNDAY
- 9<sup>th</sup> March - Mr. & Mrs. Mortimore
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - Mr. & Mrs. Maycock
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Mrs. G. Nash  
EASTER SUNDAY
- 30<sup>th</sup> March - Church

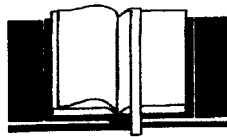


The collection made at the Candlelight Carol Service for the National Children's Homes raised £350.00



The Christmas Morning Service offering on behalf of the Retired Ministers & Widow and Orphans of the three Denominations amounted to £67.00.





**PREACHING PLANS for -  
FEBRUARY 2008**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. C. Mortimore
- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould  
6.30 p.m. - Communion  
Rev. J. Gould
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Communion  
Rev. G. Roper
- 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould  
and The Gideons

**MARCH 2008**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10.00 a.m. Mr. C. Mortimore**

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**PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS FOR  
CHRIS MORTIMORE**

Please pray for Chris as he leads  
worship at the following venues  
during February 2008

**FEBRUARY 2008**

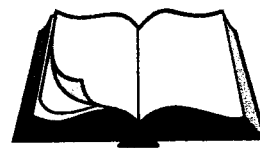
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde
- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 10.30 a.m. - Totteridge
- 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 11.00 a.m. - Northwood Hills

**MARCH 2008**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde**



Count your blessings,  
Count them one by one,  
Count your blessings,  
See what God hath done;



**DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2008**

**FEBRUARY 2008**

- Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 11.00 a.m. - Coffee Morning &  
12.00 noon - Lunches
- Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - House Group  
1.15. p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
7.15 p.m. - House Group
- Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi  
6.00 p.m. - Elders Meeting
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - 9.00 a.m. - Valentine's Breakfast
- Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
- Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - House Group  
1.15. p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
7.15 p.m. - House Group
- Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi
- Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> - 10.00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
with "The Gideons"
- Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> - 1.15.p.m. - Lunchtime Service

**MARCH 2008**

- Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> - 11.00 a.m. - Coffee & Lunches
- Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - House Group  
1.15. p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
7.15 p.m. - House Group
- Thurs. 6<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi

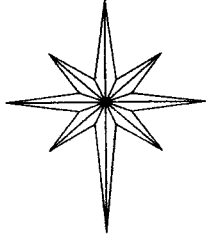
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Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one;  
And it will surprise you  
What the lord hath done!





## Finding your star...

The story of the wise men has remained one of my favourite Bible stories. It tells of some *magi* (aka stargazers, wise men) in the Middle East who decided to abandon their comfortable lives in pursuit of a new star that had appeared in the sky, with the crazy notion that it would lead them to the future king of the Jews. No doubt, they became the butt of the jokes among their peers. One could imagine the bantering that might have gone on in their circle of friends, 'Are you guys nuts or what?' 'Why would anyone in their right mind set out on such a foolish endeavour?' 'Why risk one's life or reputation for some unproven theory?' Why?

Nevertheless, a small band of them stuck to their guns and set off on the epic journey, convinced that they were going to find what they were looking for. For within their hearts laid a hunger, a need, a drive for the "more" and the unknown star represented a call from heaven to follow and to seek. They were prepared to leave behind all the conveniences their wealth, status and success had to offer and embarked on a road that risked everything. Though the journey was long and painful, even dangerous at times, what kept them going was their call: the star that travelled before them.

Imagine their excitement and joy when the star stopped over Jerusalem. Alas, they have arrived! Armed with their gifts, they headed for the palace, their hearts bursting with anticipation and hope of seeing the new born king who would bring about a new world. Much to their surprise, there weren't any joyous celebration; instead, there were only lies, insincerity and deception. They had to endure a steely interrogation by King Herod, who was beside himself with rage and jealousy.



The small band of travellers must have left the palace feeling confused and dejected. Have they made a terrible mistake? Have all their efforts turned to nothing? What would their peers back home think of them now? They must have felt such fools! With King Herod's instructions ringing in their ears, they saddled up and headed for Bethlehem to search for this controversial and mysterious child.

What kind of child should they be looking for now? Besides, what is in the small and insignificant town of Bethlehem?

As they set off with heavy hearts, the star above began to move ahead of them once more and it eventually stopped over a house. This time, with much apprehension and caution, they entered the house and saw the child with his mother. Suddenly, something happened deep within them and they knew in their heart of hearts that they have found what they were looking for. They have discovered the "more" in what seemed so little, so poor, so insignificant. The call from heaven gave them new hearts and minds. And they knelt down before the child in worship and adoration, and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They gave the best they had.

When they were ready to head for home, they were told in a dream not to return to Herod so they took a different route home. After what they had been through, what they had seen and experienced, their lives would never be the same again.

The story of the *magi* is also our story. Like them, to be attentive to our own call, to hunger for the "more" and to remain faithful in our struggles are part of our life's journey. Like them, we too can find the wisdom and power of God in the weak, the poor, the vulnerable and the lowly. We, too, can never be the same again.

This is a story of conversion, of our search, sometimes in the midst of plenty and the call to find our own star, to travel by a different road and finally never to be the same again.

Lena Ding





# REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

## Valentines Day



### "THE MATCH"

She had eyes of cornflower blue,  
While he had eyes of brown,  
She loved the fresh pastoral view,  
Alas! He loved the town.

She liked to picnic on the green,  
Or on a tranquil shore,  
While he preferred a livelier scene  
And loved the ocean's roar.

He liked to socialise each week,  
She didn't care to dance.  
He, quick-tempered, she so meek,  
And yet this strange romance –

Has lasted now for thirty years,  
They hope for sixty-four!  
For they agreed to disagree  
And LOVE – can I say more?



LOVE is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.....

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is LOVE.

1 Corinthians Ch.13



Had he been forgetful when she first met him, she wondered, as she walked towards the church? He probably was but it hadn't mattered then. At twenty-four in his last year of theology degree, his search for truth and his certainty of answers in the Christian faith, made him a compelling, mesmerising companion. She admired his clarity of thought, his passion, his vision. She found herself watching him, asking about him, wishing she knew him better. And even before he ever really noticed her among the gaggle of students who often hung around together, she was probably already a little in *love with him!*



LADIES, ENJOY THE VALENTINE BREAKFAST

**The Hyde Church Colindale**  
**A fellowship of the United Reformed Church**  
**Varley Parade,**  
**Edgware Road,**  
**London**  
**NW9 6RR**

**Telephone Number: 020 8200 9123**  
**[www.thehydechurch.org.uk](http://www.thehydechurch.org.uk)**

**Minister:**  
Rev. Jim Gould  
020 8205 5320  
[colindalejim@aol.com](mailto:colindalejim@aol.com)

**Secretary:**  
Chris Mortimore  
020 8205 1209  
[chrismortimore@waitrose.com](mailto:chrismortimore@waitrose.com)

**Treasurer:**  
Joyce Field  
020 8205 3457

### **Sunday Services**

***Morning Worship*** – *Every Sunday throughout the year*

**10.00 a.m.** - Family Service and Junior Church

Holy Communion – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month

Family Services – As announced

***Evening Worship*** – *Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening in the month*

**6.30 p.m.** - Evening Service and Holy Communion

**A Warm Welcome Awaits You**

### **Weekly Activities**

**Wednesdays** from 1.15 to 1.40 p.m. – a **Lunchtime Service**  
at 9.30 a.m. or 7.30 p.m. **Housegroups** meet twice monthly  
(see the Minister or Secretary for further details)

**Thursdays** at 2.00 p.m. ‘**Hyde-de-Hi!**’ A friendly meeting for all  
which meets on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays each month.

**Saturdays** **On the first Saturday of the month**, from  
11.00 a.m. to 1 p.m. – **Coffee Morning and Lunch**  
**On the second Saturday (usually!) Men’s Breakfast**

Please feel you will be welcome at any of the above meetings!