

JULY/AUGUST 2008

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

According to a Greek legend, in ancient Athens a man noticed the great storyteller Aesop playing childish games with some little boys. He laughed and jeered at Aesop, asking him why he wasted his time in such frivolous activity.

Aesop responded by picking up a bow, loosening its string, and placing it on the ground. Then he said to the critical Athenian, "Now, answer the riddle, if you can. Tell us what the unstrung bows imply."

The man looked at it for several moments but had no idea what point Aesop was trying to make. Aesop explained, "If you keep a bow always bent, it will break eventually; but if you let it go slack, it will be more fit for use when you want it."

People are also like that. That's why we all need to take time to rest.

Some of you know that my conversion happened at the Keswick Convention when I was 20 years old. I remember my work-mates mocking me just a bit when I said I would be spending my holiday at a week-long Christian meeting, and I had my doubts, too. What was I letting myself in for? (And, as I remember it, I had had my arm twisted more than somewhat to persuade me to come, that first time!)

But when I got there, I found a huge tent full of 5,000 young people who were having a good time... nothing like the 'holy lot' I had been dreading. And the preachers were lively, and to-the-point, and even cracked jokes and made fun of each other sometimes. And perhaps I don't have to say it, but I will: not a beer can or alco-pop – what the advertisers would have us believe are essential to 'having a good time' – in sight all week!

It was in that relaxed, laughing, light-hearted, almost irreverent atmosphere that I suddenly found myself, with scores of others my age, at the front of the tent, meeting Jesus, with tears streaming down my face. And my joy became complete.

There have been other times, of course, when my faith has been strengthened in calm, serious contemplation – or in three years at theological college in serious, intense (well, some of the time) study. But Keswick 1958 still stays with me as proof that the Lord also comes to us when we relax... and especially when we relax in Him.

I started with a fable, I'm going to end with a true story.

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright told of a winter when he was 9, walking across a snow-covered field with his reserved, no-nonsense uncle. As the two of them reached the far end of the field, his uncle stopped him. He pointed out his own tracks in the snow, straight and true as an arrow's flight, and then young Frank's tracks meandering all over the field.

"Notice how your tracks wander aimlessly from the fence to the cattle to the woods and back again," his uncle said. "And see how my tracks aim directly to my goal. There is an important lesson in that."

Years later the world-famous architect liked to tell how this experience had greatly contributed to his philosophy in life. "I determined right then," he'd say with a twinkle in his eye, "not to miss most things in life, as my uncle had."

If you're planning a holiday, make sure that you do relax... but most of all, do make sure that you don't miss the important things that the Lord has to say to you.

Love and peace,

Revd Jim.

RELAX WITH THE LORD



NEWS AND NOTICES FROM THE CHURCH

U.R.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The U.R.C. General Assembly will be held in Edinburgh from Friday 11th to Monday 14th July.

Please pray for the Assembly and for our Minister Jim Gould and Charles Aidoo, both of whom will be attending on behalf of our area.

Chris Mortimore.

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NEW LIFE

“IT’S A GIRL”

I apologise to Paul and Maria that I omitted to insert an entry in the June Messenger announcing an addition to the family. I make amends now by happily announcing that on 1st May, Maria gave birth to Sarah Maria, a beautiful girl weighing in at 8lb 1 oz.

So, to Paul and Maria and Natalie we offer our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to their future happiness.

Chris Mortimore

I had a phone call during June from Dick Alford, formerly a member at The Hyde and now the minister at Rochester U.R.C. Both he and Lynn send their greetings to all at The Hyde and Dick told me that Jacqueline, their daughter, had given birth to a daughter, Jessica Mae, on the 15th June weighting 8lb 4oz. On behalf of The Hyde I sent them our best wishes.

Chris Mortimore]

CONGRATULATIONS!

CHURCH MEETING

Our next Church Meeting will be held on Saturday, 19th July at 2 p.m. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation but I do implore all Church Members to make every effort to attend.

If anyone is unable to join us, will you please notify their apologies to either me or one of the Elders.

Chris Mortimore

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SUNDAY 20TH JULY
the date you mustn't miss!

 **THE 2008** 
INTERNATIONAL
FEAST 

will take place at
65 Colindeep Lane
at 12.30 
prompt.

Contribute a measly £3.00
(or lots more, if you like)
to the Church Project

  

(SEE CATHY IF YOU CAN
MAKE AND BRING A DISH
FROM YOUR OWN CULTURE.)

PREACHING PLANS for -

JULY/AUGUST 2008

JULY

6th July - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. C. Mortimore
13th July - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. R. Day
6.30 p.m. - Communion
Mr. C. Mortimore
20th July - 10.00 a.m. - Communion
Rev. J. Gould
27th July - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould

AUGUST

3rd Aug. - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. C. Mortimore
10th Aug. - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. Allan Down
6.30 p.m. - Communion
Rev. Phillip Stewart
17th Aug. - 10.00 a.m. - Communion
Rev. G. Roper
24th Aug. - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould
31st Aug. - 10.00 a.m. - "Songs of Praise"

SEPTEMBER

7th Sept. - 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 July and August.

JULY 2008

6th July - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde
6.30 p.m. - Whetstone
13th July - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road
6.30 p.m. - The Hyde
20th July - 6.30 p.m. - St. John's, Kenton

AUGUST 2008

3rd Aug. - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde
6.30 p.m. - Whetstone
10th Aug. - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road
17th Aug. - 11.00 a.m. - Queens Park
31st Aug. - 11.00 a.m. - Regents Square

SEPTEMBER 2008

7th Sept. - 10.00 am. - The Hyde

DIARY FOR JULY/AUGUST 2008

JULY

Wed. 2nd July - No Lunchtime Service
Thurs. 3rd July - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi
Sat. 5th July - 11.00 a.m. - Coffee Morning
and Lunches
Wed. 9th July - 9.45 a.m. - Housegroup
1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
7.15 p.m. - Housegroup
Thurs. 10th July - Sun 13th - URC General
Assembly
Wed. 16th July - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
Thurs. 17th July - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi
7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting
Sat. 19th July - 9.00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast
2.00 p.m. - **CHURCH MEETING**
Sunday 20th July - 12.30 p.m. - INTERNATIONAL LUNCH
Wed. 23rd July - 7.30 p.m. - Joint Housegroup Party
Wed. 30th July - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service

AUGUST

Sat. 2nd Aug. - 2.30 p.m. - 5 p.m. -
Cream Teas
Wed. 6th Aug. - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
Thurs. 7th Aug. - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi
Wed. 13th Aug. - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
Wed. 20th Aug. - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
Thurs. 21st Aug. - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi
7.30 p.m. - Elder's Prayer
Meeting
Sunday 24th Aug. - 12.30 p.m. - Elder's Bar BQ
Wed. 27th Aug. - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service

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NICKNAMES

Who gave wild flowers their nicknames,
London Pride and Bird's Eye Blue,
The Pennywort and Tonguebleed,
Thrift and Tansy, Lady's Shoe?
The little laughing nicknames handed down
from tongue to tongue,
known by the older cottager and to the very young.
Why there is one wild meadow flower called
'Break you Mother's Heart!'
Such fragrant bits of nonsense,
Where did all these nicknames start?

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CREAM TEAS

SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST

AT

67 WAKEMANS HILL AVENUE

FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 5 P.M. –

COME ALONG ANY TIME

SCONES, BUTTER, JAM AND CREAM

£2.00 PER PORTION



**STRAWBERRIES
AND CREAM**



£1.00 PER PORTION



PLUS TEA, COFFEE OR

COLD DRINK.

*PROCEEDS RAISED FROM
THE CREAM TEAS
WILL GO TOWARDS THE
CURRENT CHURCH PROJECT
FOR ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE*

HOLIDAYS

July and August are months when a lot of people go on holidays, so if you are one of those going away, may I, on behalf of the Church, wish you travelling mercies and a happy time.

Chris Mortimore



Give it a try!

2.00 p.m. until

3.15 - ish

3rd July

"Our Treasures"



17th July

Members' Afternoon

7th August

'Just a chat'

21st August

Outing to

Kenwood House



*The Hyde-de-Hi!
Summer Outing
is
open to all!*

*Visit Kenwood House
on 21st August,
10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Visit House, Gardens,
and lunch at the cafe*

*Sign-up sheet
in the Community Hall
Corridor.*

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LUNCH AT
POOLSFORD ROAD

I know it's a way ahead but please put this date in your diaries. On Sunday 7th September at 1 p.m. we will be holding our Annual Lunch, the proceeds of which will go to our current Project for St. Luke's Hospice.

So, make a date at 5 Poolsford Road for food and good fellowship.

Chris Mortimore

Message from the Editor

It seems we are now well into the summer and having some really nice weather for a change. Recently, as a church, we enjoyed good fellowship together at Broxbourne for the farewell to Roberta Rominger, our Moderator for the North Thames Synod, as she takes up her new post as General Secretary of the URC.

We also enjoyed a very windy but sunny church picnic at Sunny Hill Park. We have more events to look forward to in the next few months – so please come along and enjoy them.

I now have a break for two months but keep collecting any items for the next issue of The Messenger.

Please let me have material by no later than **Sunday 24th August.**

Happy holidays.

Vivien Crispe

AT A GLANCE
DATES TO REMEMBER

COFFEE MORNING AND LUNCHEES –
Saturday 5th July at 11 a.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday 19th July

CHURCH MEETING
Saturday 19th July
At 2 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL FEAST
Sunday 20th July
at 12.30 p.m.

CREAM TEAS
Saturday 2nd August
From 2.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

HYDE-DE-HI OUTING to
Kenwood House and Gardens
Thursday 21st August
10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Please put these dates in your
Diary and come and enjoy the
Fun and fellowship together.

'CATCH THE VISION' PRAYER

May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon us
May the call of God sustain us as we
Seek to be Christ's people,
Transformed by the gospel,
Announcing good news to the poor,
Proclaiming freedom for those in prisons
Of wealth, poverty, disease and disorder.

REFLECTIONS

“HOLY HILARITY”

A priest from Holland was visiting our rectory recently and one night at dinner he explained that the red, white and blue in the flag of the Netherlands symbolizes our taxes. We turn red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill and blue when we pay them.

One of the American priests responded, “That’s the same with us. But we see stars, too”.

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“Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.”

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“In step with the current trend towards conservation, today’s sermon was produced with recycled parts of previous sermons.”

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“The sopranos and altos will sing ‘Hallelujah,’ The tenors will sing ‘Amen,’ and the basses will sing ‘Oo-wah, diddle-dee, doo-wah.’”

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“We interrupt this sermon to inform you that the Senior boys are now in complete control of their Sunday school class and are holding Miss Moseby hostage....”

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“I don’t know what to think – the weather bureau says snow, my big toe says partly cloudy, and the Lord says forty days of rain!

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The policeman got out of his car and the lad who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. “I’ve been waiting for you all day”, the policeman said.

The lad replied, “Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could”. When the policeman finally stopped laughing, he sent the lad on his way without a ticket.

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The wise old Mother Superior from county Tipperary was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her comfortable. They gave her warm milk to drink but she refused it. One nun took the glass back to the kitchen.

Remembering a bottle of Irish whiskey the nuns had received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened and poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

The nun took the glass back to Mother Superior’s bedside and held the glass to her lips. Mother drank a little, then a little more. Before they knew it she had downed the whole glass, down to the last drop.

“Mother,” the nuns asked earnestly, “please give us some wisdom before you die.”

Mother Superior slowly raised he head and with a pious look on her face whispered, “Don’t sell that cow”.

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A little boy was overheard praying:
“Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it.
I’m having a real good time as I am.”

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Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues
With songs of joy.....

Psalm 126 v 2a

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