

MARCH 2011

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

Yesterday and next Sunday (when you will probably be reading this) Jonah was / is the subject of our morning Service.

An interesting character, Jonah. Probably most of the Old Testament prophets were reluctant or afraid to start their ministry, but Jonah had an answer all of his own to the Lord's call: he did a runner!

In Jonah's case, his problem was arrogance! He was convinced that the wicked people of Nineveh did not even deserve to be told how bad they were, and he wasn't going to waste his time telling them. So there. So he got onto a boat and tried to sail away to where God couldn't find him. (Such a place doesn't exist, by the way, even if God had let him go all the way.)

But then, when the Lord convinced Jonah to do what he was told, and Nineveh actually repented, well, Jonah goes absolutely mad: "That's it! I'm sure you're wrong, God, and I've had enough! I just want to die, here, in the hot sunshine." The Lord, too, has had enough of Jonah's nonsense, and gently points out that He is the Creator of all, and loves us all, no matter what or who we are, or what we've done with our lives.

On the face of it, Jonah was a thoroughly disagreeable character. But he had one good thing going for him: he still listened to God – even if he didn't obey Him all the time.

Now not many of us are like Jonah... not that I know of, anyway. But sometimes we're – dare I say it – worse than Jonah, in that we don't even notice that the Lord is speaking to us at all, or we hear what we want to hear, and think that it's the Lord speaking. The disciples were a bit like that. They were very happy to be with Jesus when He was teaching and healing, but when He told them that He was to die and they would continue His mission, they just didn't understand. "If we go on just the way we are" they thought, "it will be all right."

Isn't that true of our lives sometimes? It's unsettling to change – to take on something new. But then something happens – it might be small; it might be shattering. And, whether we like it or not, we are forced to change.

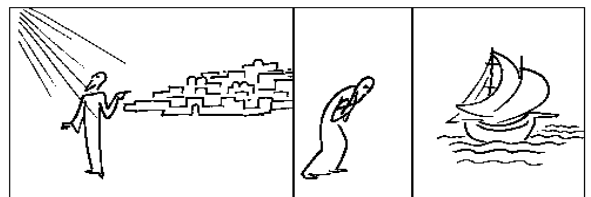
Nowhere is this more true than in institutions such as the church. I know that in the past I have spoken about churches I've served where people were fond of speaking about 'the good old days' when the Sunday School was so big that they needed to hire a special train for Sunday School outings. And there was dear old Reg, who, whenever anything was proposed, was apt to say "We tried that in the High Street Church in 1956, and it didn't work *then!*"

But lives change, and churches change – even The Hyde! As a matter of interest, I've just compiled the new Church Directory, and I discovered that one third of our membership didn't even attend worship here when Cathy and I came in 2003. And if you did the same sum on regular worshippers, you would find an even greater proportion of newcomers.

To respond to this change we have already recruited more Elders, and we still need people to help lead and serve this local branch of the Vine, which is Christ's Kingdom.

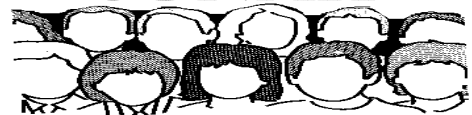
Will you be one of them?

Love and peace,
Revd Jim.



A Highlights from the life of Jonah

JONAH



YOU AND ME

In the end Jonah listened to God. Do we listen and obey or run away!! Each one of us has something to offer to the Church. What can you give?



NEWS AND NOTICES FROM THE CHURCH

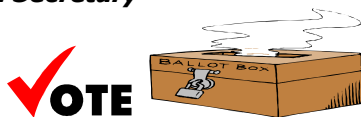
ELECTION OF ELDERS

At our Church Meeting held on 15th January 2011 it was agreed that the number of Elders to be elected should be two.

Will all members, therefore, please complete their nomination slips for the Election of Elders, ensuring that they are returned to me **NO LATER** than Sunday, 13th March.

Please pray that God will lead us to elect those whom He chooses.

*Chris Mortimore
Church Secretary*



**WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER**
Friday 4th March 2011



“How many loaves have you?”

A service prepared by the Christian Women of Chile

At 2.00 p.m.
Kingsbury Free Church
Slough Lane NW9 8QG
Speaker: Mrs Mavis Sutton
Retired Missionary

At 7.30 p.m.
The Hyde United Reformed Church
Edgware Road, Colindale
Speaker: Revd Angela Hopkins
Curate, Holy Innocents Parish Church

Refreshments are available after each service.
ALL ARE WELCOME – MEN, WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 9TH APRIL
AT 9.30 A.M. FOR 10.00 A.M.

On Saturday, 9th April we will be holding our Church Annual General Meeting to which all Church Members and members of the Congregation are invited.

We will meet at 9.30 a.m. for Tea, Coffee and “Croissants” (the spelling is right, I think!). The meeting will then start at 10 a.m. This is a change in the time of the meeting and, therefore, we hope that more people will attend.

*Chris Mortimore
Church Secretary*

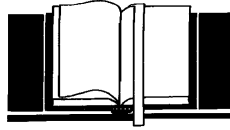


Don't forget to come to the



**Table
Top
Sale**

Saturday 5th March
10:00am-2:00pm



**PREACHING PLANS for -
MARCH 2011**

MARCH

- 6th March - 10.00 a.m. - The Elders
- 13th March - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould
6.30 p.m. - Communion
Mr. Keith Berry
Rev. J. Gould
- 20th March - 10.00 a.m. - Communion
Rev. J. Gould
- 27th March - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould
- 3rd April - 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 March 2011

MARCH

- 6th March - 11.00 a.m. - The Hyde (Elders)
- 13th March - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road
- 27th March - 11.00 a.m. - Queens Park

APRIL

- 3rd April - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde

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MENS BREAKFAST

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US FOR
BREAKFAST AND A GOOD CHAT, THEN
YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY ON
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH AT 9 A.M.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED THEN PLEASE
SPEAK TO ME SO THAT I CAN ADD YOU
TO THE LIST.**

Chris Mortimore



DIARY FOR MARCH 2011

MARCH

- Wed. 2nd - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
7.00 p.m. - Contemplative Prayer
- Thurs. 3rd - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi
- Fri. 4th - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Club
7.30 p.m. - **Womens World Day
of Prayer Service**
- Sat. 5th - 10.00 a.m. - **2 p.m. - Table Top
Sale with Lunches**
- Sunday 6th - 10.00 a.m. - **Elders Led Service**
- Wed. 9th - 9.45 a.m. - House Group
1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
7.15 p.m. - House Group
- Fri. 11th - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Club
- Sat. 12th - 9.00 a.m. - Mens Breakfast
- Wed. 16th - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting
- Thurs. 17th - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-De-Hi
- Fri. 18th - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Club
- Wed. 23rd - 9.45 a.m. - House Group
1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service
7.15 p.m. - House Group
- Fri. 25th - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Club
- Wed. 30th - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service

APRIL

- Wed. 6th - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service

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BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY
AND LIGHTEN YOUR WAY
AND LESSEN Y YOUR CARES
WITH DAILY PRAYERS.
QUIET YOUR MIND
AND LEAVE TENSION BEHIND
AND FIND INSPIRATION
IN HUSHED MEDITATION.



Every day I will thank you.
I will praise you for ever and ever.
(Psalm 145.2)

Our SPOTLIGHT this month is on

GWEN NASH

This is Gwen's story which makes interesting reading



I was born at Thornton Heath in South London in 1927, and moved to Burnt Oak when I was 5. My little brother, Fred was three years younger but sadly isn't alive anymore.

I had a few illnesses as a child and used to attend Great Ormond Street Hospital. I could only attend school part time and couldn't do sports. With being so ill as a child it was considered an achievement to pass exams to attend a good school.

Just before World War II started in 1939 we moved to Kenton so Fred could have his own bedroom! I went to Cophall County School as it was called back then, throughout the war years.

During this time my father was at war as a sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and served in El Alamein, Tripoli, Italy and Sicily. So, we actually saw very little of him throughout the War. In 1943, I started work at the age of sixteen at the Oxford University Press in Neasden. It was an old fashioned office, and it was called a counting house (as in 'the queen was in her counting house!'). I learnt a lot there; but it was like being in a Charles Dickens novel! I had to sit on a ledger to reach my desk to work on the actual ledgers!!

I also worked in other office jobs; Frigidaire in credit control and for Brylcreem (various capacities) who had offices in Honeypot Lane. There was a firm who made barrage balloons for the war nearby. I had training there in a junior version of the Women's Services where I was a corporal. I also learned aircraft recognition at the same time. I worked till 1954 and left because I was expecting Steven, but I got married first!.....

I met George in 1948 in an odd way - thanks to the Olympics, held in London that year. Mum, Dad and I used to go to speedway at Wembley, but whilst the Olympics were being held there, we had to go to Wimbledon instead on a coach. George and I got sat together on one coach trip.....the rest is history!!

We married at St Margaret's, Edgware, on the 29th March, 1952. I remember there was thick snow everywhere; it didn't spoil the wedding, but some guests couldn't turn up and we couldn't go away on honeymoon. There was still rationing in that year, I had to borrow a wedding dress... and we were presented with government issue blankets as a wedding present!! We moved in with mum for a while (which was interesting!), and when we moved house, I fell pregnant with Steven in 1954 then Graham in 1958.

We had our own place when Graham started school and I was working. I was lucky that my boss was forward thinking enough to offer me flexible working, so it didn't interfere with school runs.

I worked at Remploy in the late 60s in the Export Department. I loved this job because of the different rules concerning exporting to different countries. It was never boring thanks to the variety of countries I dealt with. It was a great shame to be made redundant from this job after 14 yrs.

However, whilst there, the Contracts Department next door to us acquired a new secretary. Her boss asked me to take her to lunch.....guess who it was?? Our very own Vivien Crispe! That's where our friendship started. One day, Vivien said she couldn't come to lunch as she was attending her church's lunchtime service and asked if I'd like to go with her, which I did. It was taken by George Gibson then.

I attended the Union Church, a URC church in Mill Hill where I went to brownies as a child. Whilst we lived in Kenton, my brother and I went to Sunday school; in later years, I used to attend by myself every Sunday till I was 18. There was a lapse in my attending church for a few years until Vivien invited me to that lunchtime service.

When George and I retired many people were saying to we should move out of London and we ended up living in Northampton. We both realised we'd made a mistake - we only stayed 4 years and as George then became ill it worried me that we weren't living close to family for support. Moving back to London, George did say to people that it felt like he'd come home. George was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the early 90's a couple of years after we'd moved back. He passed away in 1997.

It's been lovely being Mum and Nanna to my two boys, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Watching both boys being very sporty has been a pleasure since I wasn't allowed to take part as a child- it's wonderful being able to watch them run in marathons and other races and play football to a high level... I'm very proud of this!

House group became important to me whilst looking after George; being able to leave him in the evenings and attend was a point in the week to which I looked forward.

Mrs Verona Alleyne.

Our friend Verona has been increasingly housebound for many months now, and we heard last weekend that she was about to move to a new flat in her daughter's house in Hemel Hempstead.

We are of course sad to see her go, but relieved that she is now safer where she can be more carefully looked after. Our prayers are with her as she adjusts to her new home after 29 years in Colindale.

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Silver Surfers

Some of us have computers and are Silver Surfers but how did we learn to surf the internet? Some have been self-taught and some attend classes.

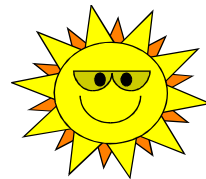
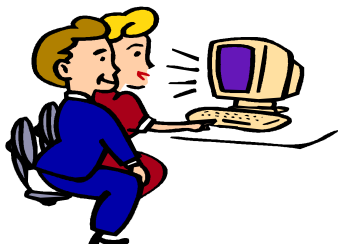
There is an advert on the television that tells us we are never too old to learn. Luke Guerin is proving this to be the case.

After school he returns to help the Silver Surfers learn how to use their computers and get into the Internet.

This has been set up through his school and Luke does a very worthwhile job. I am sure he sometimes finds it a little frustrating when his pupils do not quite understand what they are doing or why!

Keep up the good work Luke. The 'oldies' do need to know all about surfing the net and finding information and help from the young like yourself is often very much needed!

Luke does say how much he enjoys teaching us 'oldies' and the rewards are good too - chocolates and things!!



HOLIDAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Susan and Roger Day have just returned from a very relaxing and interesting holiday in South Africa looking very tanned. Some mornings they would get up and have breakfast looking out over the Indian Ocean.

They visited family and whilst staying with the family they had the opportunity to visit a farm which was run by faith. They also visited a primary school in Kroonstad where 20 children wrote individual letters to Susan and Roger as part of their English lesson. Each child requested them to reply to their letters which has kept Susan busy since they returned home. A bit of writers cramp for Susan, possibly!!

They also enjoyed a visit to a Township which was something they have always wanted to do. On this trip they were able to do an escorted tour which they found very interesting. It was a good holiday for Susan and Roger.

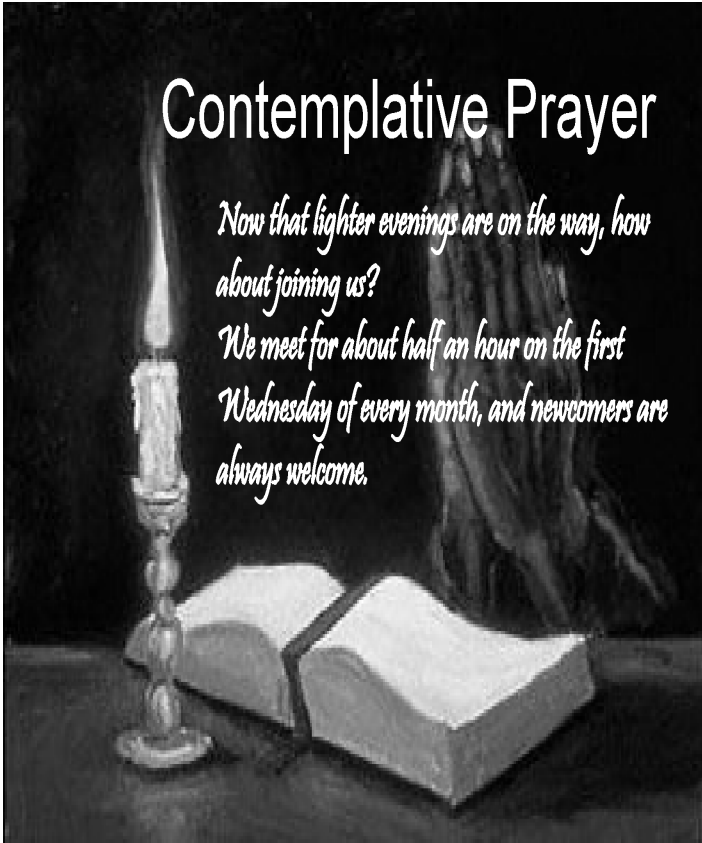


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Our sympathies go to Peggy Day, Roger's Mother, on the passing of her sister, Audrey, recently. We also remember the rest of the Family at this time of grief. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.



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Contemplative Prayer

Now that lighter evenings are on the way, how about joining us?

We meet for about half an hour on the first Wednesday of every month, and newcomers are always welcome.

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Hyde-de-Hi!

 (give it a try!)

3rd March: A good chat, plus optional table-top games.

17th March: by popular request, the return of Edna Jury, with tales & songs of Irving Berlin

2.00 p.m. until

3.15 - ish



PRAYER

The Oxford dictionary of the Bible gives the definition of prayer as: ‘The act of communicating in words or in silence with the transcendent God’.

Jesus gave us a prescription for prayer:

- Pray quietly at the most convenient time when you can be alone (Matthew 6:6)
- Pray in simple and straightforward words – you’re not telling God anything he doesn’t know already (Matthew 6:8)
- Pray in the clear and concise way I’ve taught you (Luke 11 2:4)
- Pray when necessary, especially when things are tough and there are difficult decisions to be made (Luke 22:39-44)
- Pray without being discouraged, and persistently, even if the results you wish for don’t happen immediately. (Luke 11: 5-8; 18:1-8)
- Pray in the confidence that what you receive from God will be good and right, for even human parents give good things to their children (Luke 11: 9-13)

This prescription that we have been given by God – to pray, and therefore to communicate with him – is fundamental to our life as Christians. In the present climate, in both church and society, it is not something we can afford to forget. Indeed, we desperately need this prescription for our health.

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Message from the Editor



I am sure if we get any more rain we will have webbed feet. My fishes survived the ice but they are now nearly swimming up the garden path! At last the snowdrops and crocuses are out and the forsythia is in bloom, a good sign Spring is nearly here. I suppose the rain is what makes England such a green and pleasant land!



May I have all material for the April issue of The Messenger no later than Sunday 27th March. Thank you.

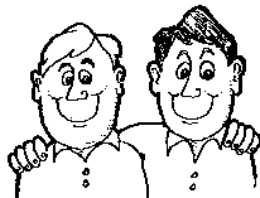
Vivien Crispe

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS

FRIENDSHIP

The dictionary says that a friend is a person known well to another and regarded with liking, affection and loyalty, an ally and supporter



Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

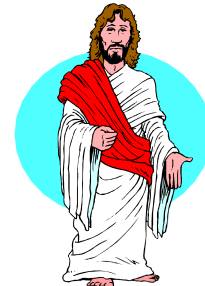


Friends are a priceless gift. Without the obligation of kin, they choose to be there for you when skies are fair and when stormy winds blow. They hold your hand when you are suffering and share your joy when blessings flow.

Embrace your friends and hold them close, for they are more precious than silver or gold. They sparkle more brightly than diamonds.

Treasure them and strive to be the best friend you can be to them.





Jesus said that we are His friends and that He shares with us the concerns of His heart.

How wonderful to know that this friendship can be returned – that we can share the concerns of our heart with Him!



What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.

O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry,
Everything to God in prayer.



**GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO
MAKE AND KEEP FRIENDS**



**Loving God,
We know that where two
or three are gathered
in your name there will be
love and friendship.**

FRIENDSHIP