

MAY 2008

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

Cathy and I have just returned from York where, for the first time, both our families (Cathy's and mine) spent time celebrating her 'big six-oh'! A wonderful, relaxed occasion, in which all the young'ens (everyone under 40!) got on splendidly together. Don't ask – otherwise we'll bore you with the pictures!

Talking with a friend yesterday, the conversation got round to the joys of being a grandparent – enjoying the company of the little ones, but not being responsible for them... until something goes wrong, but that's another story.

That's for most of us, of course. But for some it's very different. Having been born in the late thirties, I had a father who was off fighting Mr. Hitler when I was growing up, and a mother who was engaged in 'war work'. This meant that Granny was my dad and mum. Sometimes I'd get to see my glamorous mum, and much less often a strange man with a scratchy uniform and guns and things would come and stay for a few days. That was dad.

In my own little way, I missed my father like anything. I used to make up little stories for myself about 'when dad comes home' – I never considered that he might not, of course.

And I got to wondering: was the 'in-between' time – the time between Easter and Pentecost – a bit like that for the Apostles? The Man Whom they had followed, had loved, for three exciting years was gone, and yet not gone.

They had nothing much to do, and yet He had promised them that they would be the start of 'The Church' – whatever that might be.

Were they making plans? Or when Peter said "I'm going fishing!" was he thinking of making arrangements for an uncertain future?

Then came the Ascension. What did that mean? Had Jesus left them for ever? It certainly seemed like it; it must have felt pretty final.

More waiting.

Then, all together in Jerusalem, perhaps in that same upper room where they had celebrated Passover, they had it all come together. So that was it! Lives changed, power unlike any other they had experienced before, and theirs to use to the glory of God.

They were released from their uncertainty, and were burning to tell the story of their Risen Saviour.

And what of us? We've celebrated Easter; we look forward to Pentecost... again. Will we experience the 'mighty rushing wind', the light 'like tongues of flame'? Or will it just be another joyful celebration, after which we all go home and live our lives as before?

The Holy Spirit is waiting to take us on the next stage of our journey: are we willing to get on board?

Love and peace to you all,

Revd Jim.

LIFE AND MISSION CHOIR
“SPIRIT SONGS”

You will see in the diary of events for May that the Life and Mission Choir will be presenting “Spirit Songs” at four different locations.

Now, if you can't get to three of the churches, then I am sure you will be able to make the fourth. Sunday, 11th May is Whit Sunday and at 7 p.m. the Choir will present “Spirit Songs” at The Hyde.

“Spirit Songs” is based on the Fruits of the Spirit and we ask that everyone makes a real effort to come and be filled with The Fruits of The Spirit.

Chris Mortimore

ELDERS LED SERVICE

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
THE ELDERS AS THEY
PLAN AND LEAD WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY 18TH MAY
AT 10 A.M.**

Chris Mortimore

Message from the Editor

I am not sure whether we are in Spring or Summer! Today it is a beautiful day with all the bluebells out in the garden. Last week I was going to go to Kew Gardens – it was an absolutely freezing day and looked more like winter! No doubt the seasons will right themselves soon and things will be back to normal, whatever normal is for our weather. It's time to prepare gardens for the summer so, get to it!

May I please have material for the June Messenger by no later than 25th May. Thank you.

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**MENS BREAKFAST**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> February the Men entertained the Ladies at a Valentine's Breakfast. During the breakfast the ladies took a collection and asked the men to choose where the money should be donated.

£30 was collected which has been divided, £15 being given to Kathryn Strachan, who is going to Spain on a Mission and £15 to The Hyde towards the purchase of New Hymn Books for the Church.

Thank you ladies, for your contributions.

Chris Mortimore

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**SO YOU THINK YOU'RE BIG!**

At the end of March about seven of us went to a dance presentation by The Big Ballet – each dancer weighing nothing less than 17 stone!!

To say the least, it was most extraordinary and entertaining. These huge Russian women were performing ballet, one especially dancing all the time on her ballet shoe blocks in her tutu.

Now I will never consider myself big or overweight again but if only I could perform like they did! It was an excellent evening and to see these large women dancing with their young, sylph like men ballet dancers was hilarious. All in all it was a good evening and thanks to Lena for arranging this outing. I am sure there will be other similar outings.

Vivien Crispe

**PREACHING PLANS for -  
MAY 2008**

4<sup>th</sup> May. - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. C. Mortimore  
**11<sup>th</sup> May - 11.00 a.m. - Whit Sunday**

Joint Service with  
 Chinese Church  
**7.00 p.m. - "Spirit Songs"**

18<sup>th</sup> May - 10.00 a.m. - Communion  
**Elders Led Service**  
 Rev. J. Gould

25<sup>th</sup> May - 10 a.m. - Rev. J. Gould

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**PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS FOR  
CHRIS MORTIMORE**

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

**MAY 2008**

4<sup>th</sup> May - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde  
 11<sup>th</sup> May - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road  
 18<sup>th</sup> May - 10.30 a.m. - St. Andrews,  
 Eastcote

**DIARY FOR MAY 2008**

**MAY 2008**

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi  
 Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11.00 a.m. - Coffee Morning &  
 Lunches

Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> - 1.15. p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
 Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> - 7.00 p.m. - "Spirit Songs"  
 at Letchworth

**Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> - 11.00 a.m. - Joint Service  
 with the  
 Chinese Church  
 - 7.00 p.m. - "Spirit Songs"  
 at The Hyde**

Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - Housegroup  
 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
 7.15 p.m. - Housegroup

Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde-de-Hi  
 6.00 p.m. - Elders Meeting  
 Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00 p.m. - "Spirit Songs"  
 at Upminster

Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> - 7.00 p.m. - "Spirit Songs"  
 at North Finchley

Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
 Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - Housegroup  
 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
 7.15 p.m. - Housegroup

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**DON'T FORGET**

**"SPIRIT SONGS"**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**7.00 P.M. AT**

**THE HYDE**

**Presented by the Life and  
 Mission Choir.**

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Give it a try!  
 2.00 p.m. until  
 3.15 - ish

**1<sup>st</sup> May**  
 Members' Afternoon  
**15<sup>th</sup> May**  
 Come early for a Christian  
 Aid Lunch.

**MENS BREAKFAST**

**THE NEXT MENS BREAKFAST  
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY,  
7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008  
AT 9 A.M.**

**SO, TO ALL MEN – COME AND  
JOIN US.**

*Chris Mortimore*

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**THE MESSENGER**

Please remember that there are costs involved in producing The Messenger and it would be greatly appreciated to receive any donations towards the printing and paper, etc.

It is only necessary for 20p a month to be put in the yellow box at the back of the church. This will help not only in producing but for postage also, as The Messenger is sent to quite a few readers around the country. For those who have been generous enough to donate, many thanks for your help.

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**THE NEXT
COFFEE MORNING
AND LUNCHES
WILL BE ANNOUNCED
AT A LATER DATE**

**FROM 11 A.M. FOR COFFEE AND
12 NOON FOR LUNCHES**

**COME AND JOIN US
FOR GOOD FOOD,
GOOD FELLOWSHIP
AND A GOOD CHAT.**

THE TABLE

The church is like a table,
a table that is round.
It has no sides or corners,
no first or last, no honours,
here people are in one-ness
and love together bound.

The church is like a table
set in an open house,
no protocol for seating,
a symbol of inviting,
of sharing, drinking, eating;
an end to 'them' and 'us'.

The church is like a table,
a table for a feast
to celebrate the healing
of all excluded-feeling,
(while Christ is serving,
kneeling,
a towel around his waist).

The church is like a table
where every head is crowned.
As guests of God created,
all are to each related;
the whole world is awaited
to make the circle round.

Fred Kaan (born 1929)

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The Minister announced:  
"Now that Sister Christine has successfully completed her examinations we want to congratulate her.  
Will you please remember to pray for all the patients on Ward 3D where she will be working?"

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# REFLECTIONS

## **WIVES AND HUSBANDS**

### **AN ODE TO MY WIFE**

She dug the plot on Monday,  
The soil was rich and fine.  
But she forgot the dinner,  
so we went out to dine.

On Tuesday planted roses,  
she says they are a must.  
They really are quite lovely,  
But she forgot to dust.

On Wednesday it was daisies,  
They opened with the sun,  
All white and pink and yellow.  
But the laundry wasn't done.

The poppies came on Thursday,  
A bright and cheery red.  
She really was engrossed  
because she never made the bed.

It was the violets on Friday,  
A colour she adores.  
What never bothered her at all  
Was crumbs all over floors.

I hired a maid on Saturday,  
My week is now complete.  
My wife can garden all she wants,  
The house will still be neat.

Its nearly lunch time Sunday,  
I cannot find the maid.  
Oh no, I don't believe it,  
She's out there with the spade!

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### **WIFE vs HUSBAND**

A couple drove down a country road  
for several miles, not saying a word.

Earlier a discussion had led to an  
argument and neither of them  
wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules,  
goats and pigs, the husband asked  
sarcastically,

“Relative of yours?”

“Yep,” the wife replied,

“Inlaws”.

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### **Wives and Husbands** **What Paul has to say** **In Ephesians 5**

Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord.  
For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ  
is the head of the church.....

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Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved  
the church and gave himself up for her to make  
her holy.....

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