

NOVEMBER 2008

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

As I sat down yesterday to start this letter, the outcome of the US presidential election was still to be declared. Would Senator Obama or Senator McCain be victorious? Whatever the result, there would be a 'first': a first non-white President, or a first female Vice-President.

Now, on Wednesday morning, the result is thankfully clear. Not only that, but Mr McCain was gracious in defeat – even chastising some of his audience who started to boo at the announced result. My prayers are for President-elect Obama and his advisors, as they start to put together a team which will govern the United States for the next four years.

Then, I notice that last month I wrote about the beginning of the UK and US financial crisis, as banks failed and were bailed out. Now the crisis has been revealed as a truly global one: Japan, China, continental Europe (and Iceland), Russia – even some of the oil-rich states are all feeling the pinch. It's all down, we are told, to institutions lending money that they didn't have, and borrowing money they couldn't afford from other institutions which apparently didn't have it anyway.

Which leads me to ask, what actually *is* money? To you and me on one level, it's the coins in our pockets and purses, and bits of paper saying "I promise to pay the bearer..." and that works because we trust the Bank of England and the US Treasury and so on. But what about the Bank of Zimbabwe, whose dollar in 1980 would have bought a British pound note and today will buy a hundredth of a penny?

The promise on those bank notes is worthless: *real* money, we are told, is little electrons whizzing along wires from one continent to the next. "Such things are too high for me: I cannot understand them!" (Psalm 139: 6)

So much of our civilisation today is about trust. Trust that our politicians will be true to the promises they made before they were elected; trust that the banks and building societies will take care of our money (whatever money is!); trust that our emergency services will come when we dial 999; trust that our neighbour will be a true neighbour if we ask him for help.

In all of these, your experience – as mine – may be patchy. In some: neighbours, ambulance service, for example, I have nothing but praise. In others I have my reservations. The Psalmist had similar thoughts, when he wrote "Put not your trust in princes" (Ps 146:3), and he goes on in later verses, "the Lord loves the righteous, ...but frustrates the way of the wicked"

Which brings us back to our opening paragraph, strangely enough. For the official motto of the US is "In God we trust"!

Let us commit to the Lord not only the President-elect, but his advisors, the bankers, and all who serve us. For if prayer is needed at any time, it is now.

Love and peace to you, and prayers for love and peace in our world,

Revd Jim.

£

MONEY MATTERS

OFFERINGS DURING OCTOBER 2008

October	Cash	Envelope s	Total
Oct. 5 th	£ 52.60	£122.40	£175.00
Oct. 12 th	£ 38.75	£173.10	£211.85
Oct. 19 th	£ 70.96	£158.00	£228.96
Oct. 26 th	£ 78.90	£132.00	£210.90
TOTALS	£241.21	£585.50	£ 826.71

~~~~~

The final total from the Communion Offerings during September and October which were made on behalf of the **SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (SSAFA)** amounted to **£132.14**

Vivien Crispe

~~~~~

The Communion Offerings During November/December will be made to a local charity for people suffering with Dementia. The actual name of the charity is called "For Dementia", so please support this charity at our monthly morning and evening Communion Services.

~~~~~

**FLOWER LIST**

**NOVEMBER 2008**

Date    Donated by    Arranged by

**NOVEMBER 2008**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs. Kath Jones                                - Pam Maycock
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Mr. & Mrs. Day                                 - Susan Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Mrs. H. Guerin                               - Sheila Mortimore
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Mr. & Mrs. C. Thompson               - Vivien Crispe
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Mrs. G. Thompson                         - Pam Maycock

~~~~~

Message from the Editor

I am now getting over my 'jet lag' after returning from the USA. Visiting Boston was very interesting and a lovely city. Connecticut was absolutely beautiful with all the autumn foliage at its best. We chose the right time to see it all and this apparently was one of the best 'falls' they have had for years. Also very warm, in the 70's.

Down to Niagara – not so warm 35° - wind, sleet and even a little flutter of snow. All the same it was incredible seeing The Falls, going on the Maid of the Mist boat ride, having our evening meal up the Skylon in the revolving restaurant. Such views and colours. On to New York – so much to see but my friend and I saw most of the tourist attractions. A very good holiday with everything going as planned. Now back to Colindale and normality once again!

May I have any material for the December Messenger by Sunday 23rd November. Thank you.

Vivien Crispe

NEWS AND NOTICES FROM THE CHURCH

H.A.B.I.T.

As H.A.B.I.T. has now been supported by Church meeting, we are aiming to sponsor a cot for 6 months. To do this we need to raise £1,200 and want you to keep filling your pots. One Sunday during December we will ask you to bring your pots along to Church to place in our dolls cot.

If any of you fancy some baby shopping, then we will also receive bibs, vests and two piece suits for newborn to 9 months old to fill our suitcase.

Please do not buy expensive items. If you would rather we shopped, then small gifts of money given to either of us will be gratefully received.

We are hoping to arrange some extra fund raising social events, so watch this space!

Roger and Susan Day

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR CHATTERING CHILDREN

I realised this morning that I have missed something since we had our wonderful new premises just a year ago – the sound of the children from Junior Church who used to meet in the Hendon Room when we could hear their chatter and singing and laughter. It was lovely.

This morning during the latter part of our service we heard the excited chatter once again, this time as they prepared to sell us cakes and biscuits they had iced and decorated to raise money for Christian Aid.

Yes, it is wonderful to have such lovely new premises with room for all the extra children we now have in Junior Church (*Praise the Lord*) but in gaining we have also lost a little – the SOUNDS of the children.

May we be forever thankful that we have such a thriving group of young people, cared for by a very loyal band of teachers. Just because we may not hear them, we must always remember they are a VERY important part of our church.

CONGRATULATIONS

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”

New Year's Eve Communion

Chris Mortimore

CHRISTMAS

I know it seems early to be talking about Christmas but our Christmas Events are starting early in December, so you need to know the dates in advance.

On Saturday 6th December we will be having our Christmas Lunch. To help with the catering will you please add your names to the list on the Notice Board by the Community Hall.

Here are the further events to be held over the Christmas period.

Sunday 7th – 3 p.m. Candlelight
Carol Service

Sunday 14th – 10 a.m. Service of
Lessons & Carols

Saturday 20th – Between 10 a.m.
and 1 p.m. –
Mulled Wine and
Mince Pies at
the Manse

Wednesday 24th – 11.30 p.m. –
Christmas Eve Communion

THURSDAY 25TH – 10.30 A.M. –
CHRISTMAS MORNING CELEBRATION

Wednesday 31st - 8 p.m. onwards –
New Year's Eve
Party in Community Hall

31st - 11.30 p.m. –

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR

WORLD VISION

Once again it is time to ask you to dip into your Christmas Funds to help those less fortunate than any of us at The Hyde.

At Church Meeting it was agreed we would donate School Uniforms for girls in Senegal, where many girls are denied schooling because they can't afford uniforms, which cost £20 for two uniforms. We will also contribute a meal for 70 children in Cambodia at a cost of £12.

Depending on how much money we collect, depends on how many uniforms and how many meals we provide. Think of your Christmas Dinner and what it will cost, then think of the 70 children who could benefit from one meal for £12.

Please give generously, anything from 50 pence will be very gratefully received.

Many, many thanks.

Sheila Mortimore

Remember My promise that My suffering ones will know My compensation, that those showing compassion and forgiveness earn My own tender love and My deep understanding.

Paul Wardrop-Day

Singing in the Spirit

The recent presentations of SPIRIT SONGS by The Life and Mission Choir were a wonderful opportunity to sing praise to God and witness the power of his Holy Spirit – even if I do say so myself!

We performed at four venues and witnessed to a wide range of Christians and non-Christians. Each presentation was unique and different and gave us a chance to show the power of God in our lives. I'd really like to thank those of you who came to see the show, some for the first time and others for a repeat showing. I'd also like to thank the members of the Hyde congregation who constantly uphold the choir and their efforts in your prayers. We really seem to be going from strength to strength at the moment, with increasing numbers and bookings up to May next year. I really feel the Lord is using the choir in a powerful way.

A recording of my Musical Wise Man Foolish Man is to be released soon, so watch this space for details – if it is finished in time it could be a Christmas present with a difference!



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

20th November Christmas Decorations
4th December Meal out @ The Moon (Meet at 12 noon)
18th December Christmas Party

+++++

Continuing Redevelopment

If you have been in the Meeting Place in the last week or so, you will have noticed a "DANGER" notice on the door into the hall. We are now well into phase 2 of the redevelopment, in an effort to bring the whole of our premises to a state in which nothing more needs to be done for a good many years.

In recent weeks,

- all of the hall windows have been replaced by modern double-glazed units,
- the service road between the church and the shops in Sheaveshill Parade has been dug up and is being replaced by a new reinforced concrete road,
- the worn-out hall floor is being replaced by a new oak floor,

- the lights and fans in the hall have been cleaned and serviced... what a difference it makes!

So, a big thanks to all who have continued in this major work. What will we do with ourselves when it's all complete at last? ☺

Revd Jim

“Songs with Bells On!”

Christmas

Community Sing Song

Come along and join in the fun

Completely FREE!

All are welcome – bring the whole family!

Just turn up!

Saturday 20th December 2008

between 3 and 4:30pm

The Community Hall,
The Hyde United Reformed Church,

Varley Parade, Colindale, NW9 6RR

Sing all your Christmas favourites:

White Christmas Jingle Bells Rudolph the

Red Nosed Reindeer Frosty the Snowman

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town

Favourite carols

and many, many more!

Stay for a drink and a mince pie afterwards – all FREE!

More info (020) 8200 0323

Hyde and Seek Toddler Group

Starts on FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

Every week 9:30-11:30am

WANTED

- Donations of appropriate toys, especially tricycles, ride alongs and other energy zapping items!

• Volunteers to make teas and coffees

If you want to help or more info please speak to
Maria Wardrop-Day or
Cathy Gould - (020) 8200 0323

I read the following in Lund Parish Magazine whilst on holiday in Lancashire last month. It caught my eye and thought it should be shared...

Paul Wardrop-Day

“PEOPLE”

**People are often unreasonable,
illogical and self-centered;
Forgive Them Anyway.**

**If you are kind, People may accuse
you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be Kind Anyway.**

**If you are successful, you will win
some false friends and some true
enemies;
Succeed Anyway.**

**People may cheat you;
Be Honest and Frank Anyway.**

**What you spend years building,
someone could destroy overnight;
Build Anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness,

**they may be jealous;
Be Happy Anyway.**

**The good you do today, people will
often forget tomorrow;
Do Good Anyway.**

**Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough;
Give the World the Best You've Got
Anyway.**

**You see, in the final analysis, it is
between you and God;
It is never between You and Them
Anyway.**

Mother Teresa was so moved by these verses she had them placed upon a wall of Shishu Bhaven, her orphanage in Calcutta, India. Through no fault of Mother Teresa, they are widely and inaccurately attributed to her. The verses actually were written by Kent

Keith in a motivation booklet for high school counselors published while he was a student at Harvard in 1966.



“It is well with my soul”

Peace starts with the knowledge that our sin has been paid for in full; that therefore nothing can come between us and God; that nothing can make Him love us less. We know that we have an eternal hope in Him, and so we gain a new perspective on all of life’s problems. No matter what storms rage against us, no matter what trials should come, we know that God will save us out of them all. We look through the storms to the day when all storms will cease, when clouds will no longer herald tempests and hurricanes but will usher in Christ in His glorious return. One day the trumpet will sound, the Lord will descend and we will be with Him forever more. Tears and heartaches will cease, and sorrow and sighing will fade away. Then it will be **truly well with our souls.**

During the war in 1944 both Alice and her sister, Ruth, were evacuated to St. Helens in Lancashire where their Auntie Gertie encouraged Alice, then 10, to play her violin.

Alice was gifted with her hands in sewing and knitting. She learnt Latin “O” level in 9 months and passed Grade VIII with distinction on the violin, eventually attending the Royal College of Music at 17 years. She was also a natural leader and organiser, and when Billy Graham came to London on a mission, Alice organised prayer meetings in her home in Colindale. At this time she also started helping with Sunday afternoon hospital services in the wards of Edgware Hospital.

Alice then began attending Camrose Baptist Church evening services, as it was too late to get back to The Hyde Church in Colindale for evening service, which led to Alice being baptised there, becoming a full Church Member being supported by them as their Missionary for the rest of her life.

Evangelism and witnessing to others was a natural part of her Christian life, going to France to join the summer team evangelising in the villages in French. This led to Bible training in French at the European Bible Institute near Paris, offering to serve overseas with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF).

ALICE COMPAIN – 1934 – 2008

As some of you will already be aware Alice Compain passed away recently.

Alice was born to a French Father and Swiss Mother and grew up in a multi-cultural Christian home. She was for many years a member at our Hyde Church, attending both Sunday School and the Girls Life Brigade, where she was very much influenced by the life and witness of the Company Captain, Cap Ganderton.

Alice evangelised in Laos using her music to produce a Lao hymnbook, then in 1973 was invited to join the small group of OMF members to Cambodia for reaping and training converts before the Khmer Rouge took over. Here Alice taught French and learnt Khmer. Evacuated from Cambodia with no time for farewells to her Cambodian friends, it was back to Laos, where she was

again evacuated. Alice also worked with Cambodian refugees in Thailand.

In 1989 foreign workers were once again able to go into Cambodia. Alice took her violin becoming a teacher at the university of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, being the first OMF worker to return back to the country. Alice's ministry continued in Cambodia, occasionally visiting Laos, eventually being granted the rare honour of Cambodian citizenship in June 2005.

It is due mainly to Alice that the Cambodian and Lao churches can sing the praises of God not only in their own languages but also in their own native music forms. Her dedication to music was great.

For those who knew Alice, we can truly say she was a shining light to the people where her evangelism and mission gave hope to all who were living under the threat of war and persecution for most of their lives.



**and in the morning,
We will remember them.”**

For the Fallen,
Laurence Binyon, 1914

+++++

During the Second World War, parts of Birmingham suffered severe bombing. One morning after a particularly bad night only a few teachers and children gathered in the school assembly hall. The headmaster asked if anyone had a favourite hymn. A small boy's hand shot up. "Please can we have:

‘Glad that I live am I?’

.....

When I was in New York I went to see 'Ground Zero' with my friend. It is hard to imagine that there was once twin towers where now there is only a building site, with cranes and diggers everywhere.

Most of the memorabilia which was attached to the fencing immediately after the attack has now disappeared and is located in the little St. Paul's Chapel right opposite the site.

We went into the Chapel, which quite amazingly suffered not even a broken window from the blasts and only the great tree outside fell protecting the whole area. This was a place to remember with all the devastation and suffering. Much was written about this disaster and amongst which was the following poem:-

REFLECTIONS

REMEMBRANCE

This Remembrance Day we will reflect on those who gave their lives for our country, whether a loved one, friend or the countless others who were lost.

**“They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun**

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL

**It stood. Not a window broken.
Not a stone dislodged.
It stood when nothing else did.
It stood when terrorists brought
September down.
It stood among myths.
It stood among ruins.**

