

The Message

December 2006

The quarterly magazine of the Bolton Methodist Mission

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Seeking to serve ... God, people, the community, the town in partnership with others

Member of Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre

Superintendent's prologue

Connecting with where people are

It would seem that the Church is beginning to wake up the challenge that it faces in our culture at this time by trying to connect with where people are.

A good number of us have begun to explore Fresh Expressions of Church and to look at the connections that we have in our town that can be the link to sharing our faith and opening doors to people so that they can begin to explore the message of the Gospel.

We have held a number of important events that have started that process, including the Narnia Day, the screening of World Cup Football and the Christmas Shoebox Festival. The latest in the line was in partnership with Bolton Council and our Local Radio Station Tower FM, when our doors were opened wide to the people of the town following the Christmas Lights Switch-on.

We were overwhelmed with hundreds and hundreds of people pouring through the doors to engage with craft activities, watch the Magic Lantern shows, eat mince pies and drink hot fruit punch, listen to our Praise Band, have pictures taken with Father Christmas and BWFC Lofty the Lion. The evening climaxed with carol singing led by the Praise Band, songs from the Whomsley Amateur Kids Theatre Choir and an opportunity to offer a message about the real meaning of Christmas, concluding with a Nativity scene provided by St George's School from Westhoughton.



There were many positive comments from the hundreds of people

who attended the night and who found it to have been a good way to round off the Christmas Light Switch-on.

It is vital that we continue to look for ways of connecting with where people are and to share with them the wonder and joy of our faith.

Next year during May and June, the Bible Society is engaging with the Churches in Greater Manchester for a campaign entitled "Unexpected". I am privileged to be a member of the Liaison committee for this campaign that has the aim to bring the Bible to people's attention and prompt them to explore its relevance and significance.

The campaign wants to engage directly with culture and with those who have little or no experience of the Church, the Bible or the Christian Faith. The Bible Society is putting a great number of resources into the campaign, including many bill board, beer mat, and taxi and bus advertisements, helping to organise some flagship events and encouraging local churches to put on events in their communities.

Here is a further great opportunity for us to fulfil our role as a mission, working with churches and key partnerships that we have formed so that we can help develop the campaign for Bolton and open the door for a further exploration of faith.

The Bible Society has carried out some research ahead of the campaign and discovered that key points of contact with people are through words like, love, hate, greed, loss, grief, and justice, all of which are central to our faith and found frequently in the pages of the Bible. The campaign wants to open people's eyes to the fact that the Bible is "unexpectedly" relevant to their lives.

Thinking of those key words, a further important theme for 2007 is 'Set All Free...' The 25th March 2007 marks 200 years to the day

that a parliamentary Act was passed to abolish Britain's involvement in the transatlantic Slave Trade. To commemorate this bicentenary Churches Together in England has established 'Set All Free' to help us to remember, to reflect and to respond.

Remember the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade, the abolitionists and the role of the Church in both slavery and abolition.

Reflect on the consequences of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery on racism, under-development and the impact on commerce.

Respond to the legacies of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, by taking action to end modern forms of slavery and by working to effect healing and reconciliation.

It wouldn't cost too much to change the rules of trade so that poor countries can work their way out of poverty. But the world's leaders won't act unless they hear enough people telling them. And every day they fail to act, thousands of people die because they can't afford the basics of survival. Bono (b.1960, Paul David Hewson, member of the rock group U2

With Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre, we shall be joining in this commemoration in a variety of ways within our town beginning with our joint Act of Worship held in January 2007 during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We celebrate at this time of year the birth of the one who came to set all free, who came to be alongside those at the edge and those who are persecuted. As we celebrate the wonder of the incarnation, we are called to remember those who are still captive in modern forms of slavery today.

May God's peace and presence be very real for you this Christmas and into the New Year.

God Bless you. Phil Mason, Superintendent Minister

Sayings of Jesus of Nazareth No.11

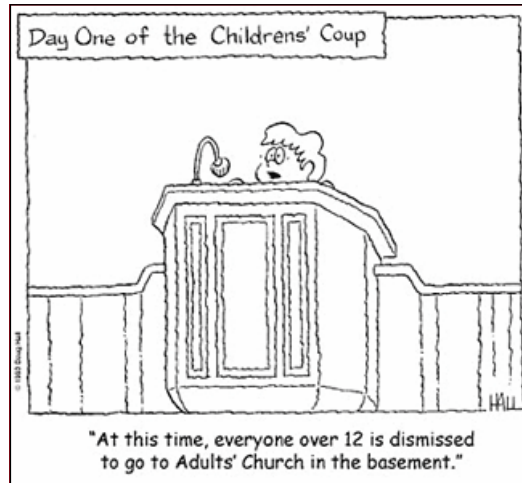
Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.
Matthew Ch5 v9.

We can bomb the world to pieces, but we cannot bomb the world to peace.

Michael Franti.

Always forgive your enemies. Nothing annoys them so much.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)



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Dictionary corner

Expand your vocabulary of less common words used in theology and hymnody:

Advent *noun* The coming or second coming of Christ, the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.

Incarnation *noun* The embodiment of God the Son in human flesh as Jesus. From the Latin in- 'into' + caro, carn- 'flesh'.

Epiphany *noun* The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi and also the festival commemorating this on 6th January. It has also come to mean a moment of sudden and great revelation.

Network: supporting the Fund for World Mission

Network supports world mission and raised £867.64. When added to the adult collection boxes total of £132.51, the overall total raised is just over £1,000. This money was spent on world mission, some of which went to provide relief after the Pakistan earthquake. Earlier this year Christine Elliott, World Church Secretary for Asia and the Pacific, visited the Abbottabad District of Pakistan that was devastated by massive earthquakes last October. She writes about her visit in Network magazine
Eva Parry and Olive Edge

You simply cannot imagine the devastation caused by the earthquake: physically, economically, socially and psychologically. Although some houses were not demolished in the earthquake, there have been over 1,500 after-shocks and people still sleep outside for the fear of being trapped in their homes. Tens of thousands of people now live in tent villages, with 20,000 in one such settlement near Batgram alone.

But the camps are also giving many children the opportunity to attend school for the very first time. Personal and community

counselling are offered and people are being enabled to think about the future. So while it is a big shock to the system, people are being given the tools they need to recover from this tragedy.

The Church of Pakistan (our partner church), Diocese of Raiwind, has been venturing into Jammu Kashmir to provide relief and is now planning to build a health unit for the survivors, using a £15,000 grant from the **Fund for World Mission**. This is only possible because of donations from our generous supporters. There are so many needs to be



addressed and the recovery stage will take a very long time, but inspirational work is being done.

The new London Methodist District caught a glimpse of the different ways in which Methodism contributes to life in London. Social care and justice was high on the Agenda for the representatives of the 43,000-strong London Methodist-related community as it gathered as part of a single unit for the first time in more than 125 years.

Roehampton University and the Methodist Church launched a report on the impact of Methodist Churches on today's society. The report's findings reveal that Methodists tend to be significantly more involved in community activities than the public at large, that they believe strongly in openness to all people and in promoting social justice.

The Methodist Church is calling for immediate international action to prevent further killings in the Darfur region of Sudan. Anthea Cox joined other faith leaders at Downing Street where they prayed for peace in the region. Over 200,000 people have been killed and millions have been displaced.

A new online space invites visitors to join a pilgrimage of discovery, freeing the mind from clutter, calming the spirit and strengthening awareness of and openness to God. Based on an ancient design, www.lostinwonder.org.uk is an online labyrinth that invites visitors on a spiritual journey of encounter and challenge.

The first of its kind in the UK, mtxt4u is the first regular texting service for 9 to 13 year-olds of its kind. Launched by MethodistChildren, the service aims to keep children in touch with what's going on in the world, give them food for thought and help them to get more involved in church life. To sign up, simply text JOIN to 07786205203 and it's absolutely free.

John Wesley's controversial antislavery pamphlet has been republished in advance of next year's Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Originally available in 1774, his Thoughts Upon Slavery challenged those in the society of his day to wake up to the evils of slavery.

The Methodist Church has been asked to take part in the Government's Commission on Integration and Cohesion, which is looking at issues of faith, identity and integration.

Know and grow—the review of our calling

As every Methodist Church has been asked to do, we have been reviewing the ways in which we support the Methodist Church's 'Our Calling' priorities, which are summarised in the box.

As part of the review, we commissioned a questionnaire survey of the membership at the Victoria Hall. Alison Hulse, the District Training Officer, has analysed the responses on our behalf and presented a report to stewards in September 2006. The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine where members thought we were in respect of the five priorities of 'Our Calling' and to identify potential actions that might make us better and more closely focused on achieving our aims relative to the priorities. Suggested key areas are highlighted in bold.

Worship

Members rated as approaching 'very good' the ability to express wonder, love and praise in worship and also the way that services link to what is important in daily life. Slightly less highly rated was the suggested level at which the congregation takes an active part in worship.

As you might expect, based on the 'broad church' that the Victoria Hall serves, there was a range of views expressed in relation to particular aspects of worship including comments on the balance between old and new worship material, use of many words relative

WORSHIP

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

LEARNING & CARING

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

SERVICE

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

EVANGELISM

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

to use of other means of communication, such as visual means, and the balance

"I can go out uplifted and ready to face the challenges before me"

between extempore and read prayers. Members made mention of the fundamental need for **sincerity in preaching**. Some made comment on the best way to use worship space with suggestions about the best **seating for worship**, such as a need to sit closer together and use different spaces for evening worship. A number of members made mention of the need to **improve sound system** which is thought to be less than adequate.

Overall, we conclude that we are holding together **different approaches in worship** which touch chords with the diverse group of people that make up the congregation. Overall the mix appears to be meeting the needs of our members.

Learning

While our members thought that the church was approaching being 'very good' at helping them grow as a Christian, there were quite a few who thought that the church was not helping them link faith to everyday life as well as it might. Members thought that generally, training for jobs they do in the church was good.

Most comments suggested that improvements could be made by providing more of the same sorts of things that are provided already, for example more day time **small groups and Bible study**.

Caring

Our members rated the level of care of the church, the support and encouragement of pastoral visitors, and the care offered to those on the fringes of the church as approaching 'very good', with the care we offer to those on the fringes just scoring slightly more highly.

The responses are encouraging, but there were some concerns



Allow us to be open to newcomers, put aside our inhibitions and fears.

about the ease with which newcomers might quickly and easily be able to move from the 'fringe' into the 'inner life' of the church. Sometimes this is to

do with logistical issues, for example, being linked with how easy it is to feel comfortable using the Coffee Bar after the service. Others are probably more linked with how ready we are to open ourselves up to newcomers. The particular way we support the bereaved, perhaps, for example, by starting a support group, and also the way that we **follow through people who leave** should also give us cause to reflect.

Service

'Very good' scores were common for responses to questions about how willing we are at letting others use our premises, our response to people in need and how good we are at supporting members who do work to help others. This is may not be surprising, after all we are a Mission church, but there were still suggested elements of **tension between the congregational life of the church and the Mission projects.**

Many respondents accepted and supported the extensive work of the projects and other work undertaken by the Mission itself. Members suggested that it is good when a situation of need is fully and properly explained. This helps gain popular support for the activity.

Evangelism

Members generally rated less highly our ability to share our faith with family and friends, the way our life shows to others that we are followers of Jesus and how good we are at making more followers of Jesus.

On the other hand, some noted how they had developed themselves and were feeling better equipped to talk about their

Highlights from young people's responses

Church Favourites: the band, atmosphere, friendship, games, involvement in services.

The Light Years Favourites: seeing friends, chatting, discussing, games.

I would bring my friends if: more fun stuff, more singing variety.

faith than they once were. Others also noted the powerful way that we can use our location and premises to good effect with, for example, the **Narnia day and the football world cup screenings.**

A number suggested that smaller groups meeting at different times in the week would be a good way of further developing opportunities for sharing faith.

Alison Hulse and John Parkin

You cannot call something a revival unless it changes society. Jim Wallis



*A colourful array of children at the Summer French Speaking Congregation Children's day. You can appreciate the colours by looking at the full colour version of *The Message* at www.boltonmethodistmission.org.uk*

Beechville Residential Home

Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) has a new initiative in Bolton. The Beechville Residential Home in Chorley New Road, Lostock, Bolton, was established as a Quaker residential home around fifty years ago on the donation of the property. In recent years, changes in residential care regulations have caused increasing difficulties for the home with the result that early in 2005 MHA was invited to take over the management. A full assessment of the property and the future needs of residents and staff was undertaken and the decision was taken to move out the residents and staff and redevelop the site.

The plans for the new home have been prepared and are to be submitted to the Local Authority for approval. The new building will be within the confines of the old property ensuring that there will be no need to damage any of the mature trees that are on the site. There has also been a need to make arrangements for the bats that had made their home in the old building. The Home will have accommodation for sixty residents and will be able to meet the needs of those who require residential care, nursing care and dementia care. Its projected completion date is the end of 2007.



Methodist people have always generously supported MHA and it is hoped that the New Beechville Home will receive similar support. Some of the ways in which folk could help are shown in the box.

- *Support group member*
- *Supporting fundraising*
- *Preachers to lead weekly services*
- *Craftwork teaching to residents*
- *Prayers*

Your commitment can be large or small but everything you are able to offer in time, talents or money will enrich the lives of the residents within the home.

Brian B. Young (MHA Representative Bolton and Rochdale District)
brian.young12@btopenworld.com

The Be-attitudes

A creed based on the Matthew Ch5, VV1-10.

We believe in God ...

Who cherishes the poor
And offers them the riches of the Commonwealth of God

Who hears the sobbing of the sorrowful
And provides them with undying comfort

Who sees those who tread softly and humbly
And gives them the earth to look after

Who satisfies the hungry and thirsty
With the hospitality of the choicest Table

Who honours the merciful
And shows them the fullness of the mercy of God

Who recognises pure hearts
And invites them to look upon the glory of God

Who strengthens the peacemakers
And names them the free children of God

Who suffers with the persecuted
And promises them the freedom of the City of God.

Bruce Prewer.

Check out the new look mission web pages at www.boltonmethodistmission.co.uk. You can download Music for Meditation recorded during services.



Phakamisa's dream for 2007

'To DREAM the impossible dream....'. 'I've had a DREAM' said Pharaoh to Joseph. 'I have a DREAM' said Martin Luther King as he challenged and inspired oppressed Americans to strive for freedom. 'We have a DREAM' say the unemployed Phakamisa caregivers who support orphaned and abandoned children, 'to give our children nutritious meals AND earn some money.'

'We have a DREAM to not just eat boiled vegetables, but food that tastes good and is also healthy,' say the vegetable gardeners. 'We have a DREAM to be able to enjoy a balanced, appetizing diet to strengthen our bodies while the Anti-retrovirals fight the disease,' say the

Phakamisa is a project run by our link church in Pinetown, Durban, South Africa.

It exists to serve, uplift and empower impoverished communities through the provision of educational training, resourcing and support.

This year it will support and educate 15,000 children every day through various programmes.

It provides support and training for people working in 80 vegetable gardens which will feed 850 families.

Some of the caregivers produce beautiful beadwork and derive an income to support their orphans.



Tholuthando HIV AIDS support group.

'We have a DREAM,' says Phakamisa, 'to uplift and empower impoverished communities through the provision of educational training, resourcing and support.' 'We have a DREAM,' say friends called to share the resources, hope and love they enjoy, "to alleviate the suffering of others.'

Could it be that as we share our individual dreams, they will mingle and merge, and be transformed into something new that changes

lives and gives life?

Recently, Phakamisa conducted its annual survey asking participants how we could better serve them. An overwhelming request was received for instruction in cooking and baking both for the family and for income generating purposes. Anxiety was expressed over our eighty vegetable gardens, which are yielding good crops, but where the local, impoverished market is limited and where many people in the vicinity practice subsistence farming.

What an opportunity to combine a need and a resource for a creative solution. By applying a value-adding principle, excess vegetables could be converted into enticing, nutritious fare, ensuring a variety of meals to tempt even the most jaded appetite.

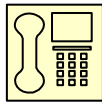
We have a DREAM: to employ a full time, qualified agricultural and nutrition expert to teach our caregivers and others. Imagine: spinach muffins; madumbie biscuits; carrot cake; home-made peanut butter; pineapple and banana jam; pickled beetroot and beans; sweet potato soup; dried spinach..... To realize it we need to convert one of our training classrooms into a training kitchen. Are we dreaming "the impossible dream?"

It will cost R62,000 (£4,800) per annum for the trainer, R145,000 (£11,000) to install the kitchen (including electricity and plumbing) and need a bursary of R 4,000 (£300) bursary per caregiver attending lessons.

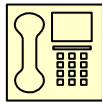
Phakamisa is a partnership ministry and you are a vital part of our dreaming process, so pleasedream about this a little and share your thoughts with us. Could it be that as we share our individual dreams, they will mingle and merge, and be transformed into something new that changes lives and gives life?

Dreamily, Glenda Howieson

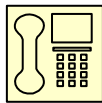
0800 587 2252



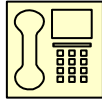
Sightline Vision (North West) is a confidential telephone help line offered on an 0800 free-phone number to those who are visually impaired, their family and friends. The volunteer



team who staff the line are living themselves with the loss of vision. We provide an opportunity for callers to speak to someone personally and informally about the fears and

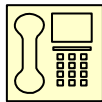


anxieties associated with failing sight, or loss of vision to whatever degree. Our aim is to offer support, encouragement and, if



required, telephone numbers where more practical help can be found.

Pray for Sightline, that they may continue to meet the needs of the visually impaired and their families.



We do not offer a counselling service, however, regular instruction in listening skills is given by a qualified counsellor who is blind and we provide a contact telephone number if counselling is required.

Sightline Support is offered on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings between 6pm and 10pm. A 24hour answering service is also available. The service can only be accessed through the helpline number 0800 587 2252 and this helps to comply with our strict confidentiality policy. We are a registered charity.

Margaret Rothwell

Linking the young homeless

NCH's Bolton Accommodation Project is an innovative scheme supporting homeless and vulnerable youngsters in finding a safe place to live; helping them get away from the many dangers of sleeping rough on the streets. Local 'householders' — people who have a spare bedroom and who are prepared to provide a little support too — welcome a young person with nowhere else to go into

A prayer for renewal and revival

Gracious and inspiring God,

We rejoice in all that you have done for us, as one church and as individuals.

We cry out, demanding justice and peace, which only you can bring.

We long for renewal and revival, for your love to take central place in our lives and relationships.

May we be refreshed by your Spirit, embraced by Christ's love and empowered in service.

Renew and revive Lord, beginning with me. Amen.

*Offered to the Methodist Church
by the Methodist Youth Conference*



Concerts listing

Sat 9th Dec	Houghton Weavers & Wingates Band
Sat 16th Dec	Bolton Choral Union 7.30pm
Sat 27th Jan	Bolton Symphony Orchestra Concert
Fri 9th Feb	Hoover Band
Sat 3rd Mar	Bolton Hospice and Bolton Symphony Orchestra Charity Concert 7.30pm
Sat 10th Mar	Bolton Choral Union
Sat 31st Mar	Wingates Band



with homes

their home. A dedicated NCH support worker helps each youngster for independent living so they can get a fresh start in life.

Taken from Children Today, Autumn 2006, NCH's quarterly newsletter





Editorial

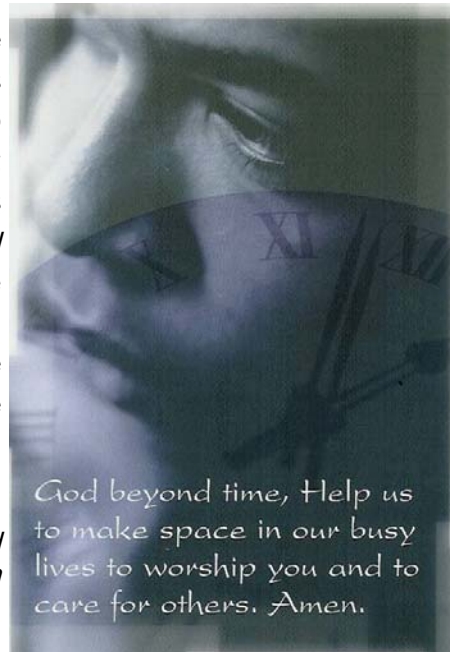
In Advent, we will be thinking about Christ's coming and the revelation of the meaning of God's Kingdom. What, then, are the characteristics of the Kingdom? Well, much of Jesus' teaching and indeed the Old Testament, revolves around the need for justice for the poor and oppressed.

Too often, however, we are good at misinterpreting Jesus' teaching, perhaps partly because of our own peculiar western culture. Jim Wallis, of the Sojourners in America, tells how his audiences suggested that, without exception, 'the poor you will always have with you' is Jesus' most famous quote about the poor. We need to ensure, however, that we interpret it in the context it was said: Jesus was assuming that the *social location* of his followers would be in *close proximity* to the poor. How wrong if we were to presume he meant that there is nothing we can do about poverty, leading to a "why bother" attitude.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas. John Parkin

The growing appreciation of the importance of religion is one of the big stories emerging from the way 21st century journalism is developing — it is one of those changes that national broadcasters are being forced to come to terms with through what is happening at a local level, and the way religion is reflected on local radio is a hugely important part of the process.

*Edward Stourton, BBC Radio 4
'Today' presenter.*



*God beyond time, Help us
to make space in our busy
lives to worship you and to
care for others. Amen.*

My Christmas shopping list
A can of composting worms
A disaster survival kit
A school uniform
A mosquito net
A basketball
A beehive
Eighteen hours of computer training
A seed and tool pack
A flock of guinea fowl
Carpentry tools
A community tap
Baby scales
A month's salary for a teacher
Three little pigs
A smokeless oven
2,000 saplings
A school grant
A bicycle
Five midwifery kits
A latrine (if I'm feeling flush)
A herd of goats (no kidding!)
Sixteen ducks (a quacking idea!)
A ewe and ram
A mobile clinic
A cow
Solar panels
Emergency shelters

All available from
www.presentaid.org or 0800
 3300 500 via Christian Aid.

If the war goes on
 and the children die of hunger
 and the old men weep
 for the young men are no more,
 and the women learn
 how to dance without a partner,
 who will keep the score?

If the war goes on
 and the truth is taken hostage
 and new terrors lead
 to the need to euphemise;
 when the calls for peace
 are declared unpatriotic,
 who'll expose the lies?

If the war goes on
 and the daily bread is terror
 and the voiceless poor
 take the road as refugees;
 when a nation's pride
 destines millions to be homeless,
 who will heed their pleas?

If the war goes on
 and the rich increase their fortunes,
 and the arms sales soar
 as new weapons are displayed;
 when a fertile field
 turns to no-man's-land tomorrow,
 who'll approve such trade.

If the war goes on,
 will we close the doors to heaven?
 If the war goes on,
 will we breach the gates of hell?
 If the war goes on,
 will we ever be forgiven?
 If the war goes on

© 1997, 2002 John Bell & Graham Maule,
 WGRG, Iona Community
 Written in 1991, the song was both a protest
 against the first Gulf War and against the
 seeming inability of either commercial or
 church music to offer texts of protest or
 lament.

An epilogue on prayer

Based on Matthew Chapter 6 verse 5-8

Works of piety. Turning now from works of charity to works of piety, Jesus teaches us in the next section about prayer. 'When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them.' This means that we must guard against hypocrisy and insincerity in our prayers. Don't say what you don't mean. Prayer is lifting your heart to God. All words of prayer without this spiritual content are hypocritical. So whenever you try to pray, make it your chief aim to meet with God, to lift your heart to him and share your whole life with him. Don't be like the hypocrites who 'love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them.' The only aim of their prayers was that they should be seen. The approval of the bystanders was their only reward for they couldn't expect any reward from God.

Selfish prayers. Actually there are other reasons why prayers don't get a blessing from God. Looking for any material benefit cancels the value of prayer. Whether we say our prayers, or attend public worship, or whether we help the poor, if we do it for any selfish reason it is unacceptable to God. God hates any action which doesn't promote his glory. Good deeds done for the wrong reason, however good they may seem in human eyes, are worthless in God's eyes.

Private prayer. 'But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen.' You may pray to God and praise him openly when you gather for public worship. But when you have special requests to make to God, whatever time of day or night, then 'go to your room and close the door.' Be as secret as possible. Of course the prayer is more important than the privacy, so you should still pray when the privacy is lacking. So,

'pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father who sees what you do in private, will reward you.'

Avoid useless repetition. 'When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do. Don't use a lot of unintelligible theological jargon.' Don't repeat the same thing over for the sake of length. The success of your prayers is not proportional to their length. That is a heathen idea.

Jesus here is not questioning the length or the brevity of our prayers, although he does condemn length without meaning, saying much and meaning little. Nor does he condemn repetition, since in the Garden of Gethsemane he himself prayer three times, using the same words. But he does condemn meaningless repetition, just as pagans repeat the names of their gods over and over again, and even some Christians repeat the same string of prayers without ever meaning what they say. Jesus rejects the idea that God is impressed by the prayers which contain the longest words and the most complicated sentences. These are foolish and superstitious ideas which Christians should leave to others who have never seen the glorious light of the gospel.



A line drawing based on Albrecht Durer's famous praying hands

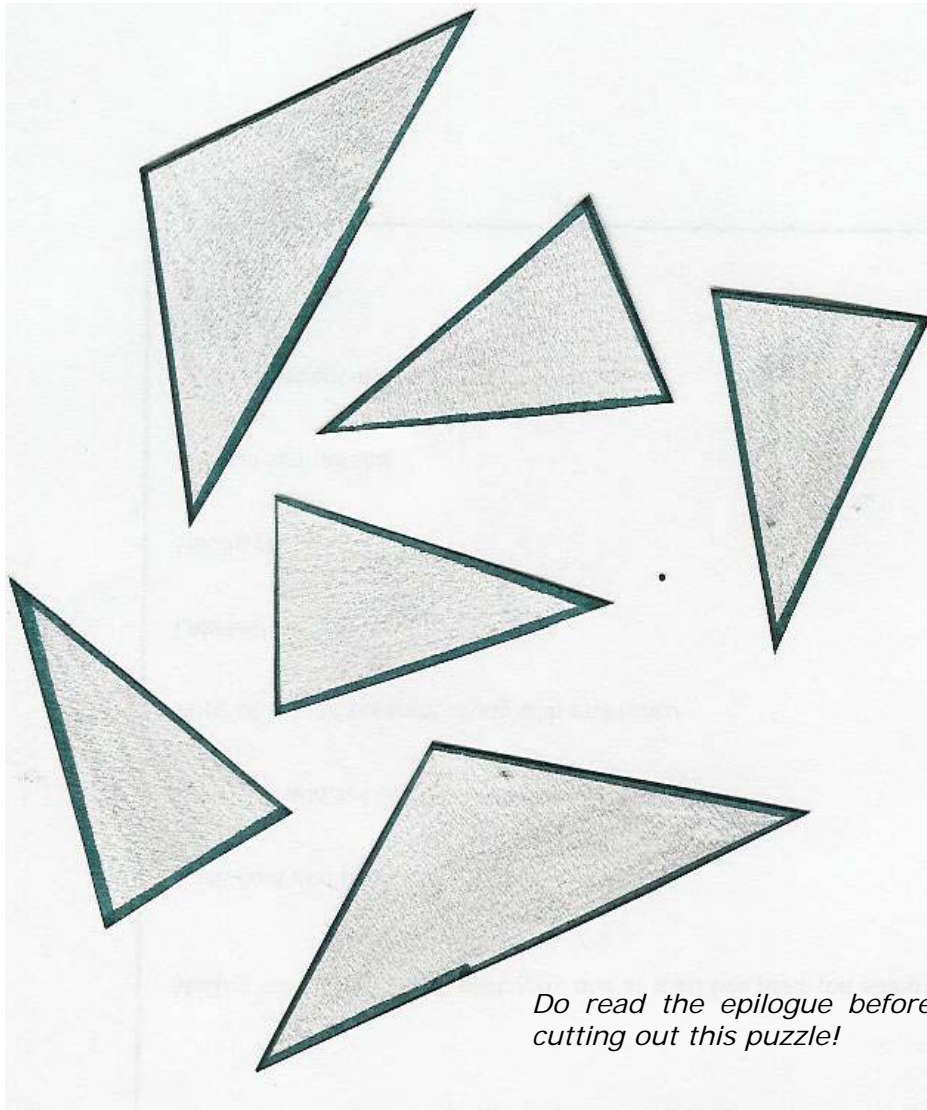
God knows already. 'Do not be like them.' The purpose of your praying is not to inform God, as though he didn't know already what you wanted. No, it is to inform yourself, to fix your heart and to remind yourself of your continual dependence on God, who is always more willing to give than you are to ask. Then you will be more willing and ready to receive the good things he has prepared for you.

Part of Rev'd John Wesley's sermon 'On Prayer', translated into modern English by James D Holway.

Janet Smith will be back in the next edition.

Puzzle Page

Can you make a five pointed Star of David from these triangles?



Just to reassure our readers, there was no 'correct answer' to the September 2006 Puzzle Page activity.



Family news

Congratulations to Phyllis Southern on the birth of her great grandson, Shaun Francis, on 24th August 2006 to her granddaughter Leah Clegg and father James Broom. Congratulations also to Gwyneth and Ron Cartwright on the birth of their grandson, Theo, to their son Roger and wife Nikki.

Congratulations to Mollie and Charles Mills who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (that is 60 years folks!) on 28th September 2006.

Congratulations to Martine Mundebe Luteke and Colin Ledbetter on the service of blessing they had on 24th September 2006 in preparation for a time when they can seal their relationship in marriage.



Colin Ledbetter and Martine Mundebe Luteke

Congratulations also to John and Scarlet Small on the birth of their grandchild Elisha to their son John and Kerry on 4th September 2006.



We celebrate with Katherine and Craig Bryan on the baptism of baby Liam Stuart

Without the contemplative dimension in our lives, we cannot be fully human... Contemplation and action are both necessary to basic stability. There is a need to take regular times of quiet in order to be disciplined in the generous giving of self in our activity." *Mother Mary Clare (Encountering the Depths)*

Diary Dates and Events

Thu 7th Dec	Advent reflection at the Parish Church, 12.45pm
Sun 10th Dec	Shoppers Carol Service at lunchtime
Thu 14th Dec	Advent reflection at the Parish Church, 12.45pm
Sun 17th Dec	Candlelight Carol Celebration with Tower FM & BWFC Junior Whites at 6.30pm
Thu 21st Dec	Advent reflection at the Parish Church, 12.45pm
5th & 6th Jan	Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
12 & 13th Jan	Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
15th Jan	Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
19th & 20th Jan	Sleeping Beauty Pantomime
Sun 21st Jan	CTBTC United service at Bolton Parish Church
Sat 3rd Feb	CTBTC Ceilidh at YMCA
Thu 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Mar	Lent reflections at Parish Church 12.45pm
Sat 24th Mar	Auction

See Page 17 for concerts listing

Ministry team

Superintendent:	Rev'd. Philip R. Mason	01204 493 271
Deacon:	Janet Smith	01204 841 619
Minister:	Rev'd. Dr. Brian Tomkins	01204 667 296
Supernumerary:	Rev'd. Bryan Ashberry	01204 520 376
Lay worker:	Mrs Dilys Tomkins	01204 667 296
Director of music:	Mr Jeremy Plummer	01204 602 743
Congolese Minister:	Pastor Hubert N Kayonda	01204 465 790
Youth worker:	Tracey Kane	01204 363 429
Local Preachers & Worship Leaders: Geoff & Brenda Cooper, Nikki Bradley, John Cambray, Sylvia Fairhurst, Phil Glanvill, Tricia Harper, Fiona Key		
Victoria Hall office: 01204 522 569 (9:00 am to 3:15 pm)		
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www.boltonmethodistmission.co.uk (full colour version of The Message available)		

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