



JESUS  
IS THE  
RESURRECTION  
AND  
THE  
LIFE  
Easter

*Newsletter*  
**SPRING 2008**

**He is Risen**

# *The Minister's Musings*



With the days slowly starting to lengthen again (though they have yet to get much warmer!) spring is approaching fast. Signs are everywhere if you know how to look, migrating birds are starting to return, insect life is returning and hibernating animals are starting to stir. Daffodils are pushing up from the ground here in Knaphill, and in Cornwall, they are being harvested for the florists and supermarkets to brighten up our houses. Yet in the grey of the drizzle and with the constant threat of snow still upon us, it is easy to believe otherwise. Spring is also the time in the Christian calendar to pause, to take stock, and reflect upon the forthcoming message of Easter. For just as in spring we see new life and new growth all around us, Easter is primarily a message of new life. But just as we can go about our day to day lives and miss its signs and the wonder of colour returning until everything is in full bloom, so too with Easter. It would be easy to spend the forty days of Lent as if they were just like any other day and crash upon the Easter festivities without really considering its purpose and central message.

But then what's so special about eggs and bunnies anyway? Well, nothing if they are just an excuse to gorge on chocolate and delight in cute soft toys or cartoons on cards, rather than signs of new life and promise. And that's the problem, the caricature of Easter and of Christianity, which is so pervasive, has tried to rob Easter of its full promise.

Lent is sometimes seen as a time to reflect upon the teachings of Christianity so that it can be better implemented, or a time for self restraint. Whilst both are laudable, they both miss the point. You see, Christianity, at its heart, is not a philosophy, it is not a legal code, and it is not a pathway of spirituality. The bible records very little of Jesus' teaching (considering he was doing it for over three years!), but the bible does, from Genesis through to Revelation, express God's desire to be known and this is

supremely expressed in and through the person of Jesus Christ. Yes Jesus was a real, historical, person who lived, died and rose again in a particular period of history, of which the testament of the extra-biblical material alone is over-whelming.

The Christian faith declares that, in and through Jesus, the creator of the world launched His plan to rescue the world from the decaying and corrupting force of evil. An event which brought about a new state of affairs, that is, the sovereign, rescuing rule of the Christ, here on earth. But if none of this happened, then Christianity is based on a mistake. You can't rescue our world of pain and injustice by turning it into a philosophy. Of course, this gospel was nonsense in the ancient pagan world, as it is still nonsense in the modern world, which is why instead of embracing and celebrating Christ, we too often embrace and celebrate the symbols; the bunnies and the eggs.

Jesus' resurrection was not a kind of odd phenomenon which validated a particular religious theology and it isn't an added extra, an addendum, to a moral philosophy. It is the launching-pad for God's new creation, it is the power that makes all things new; to bring hope and real life, life in all its fullness. Therefore, "Christian spirituality" is learning to live in that new creation, with that new hope. "Christian ethics" is learning to let the power of that new creation shape your life. And "Christian political theology" is discovering what it means, through the resurrection, for Jesus to be the world's true Lord, raised 'far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that can be invoked' (Eph 1 :21) and for us to know, follow and obey him.

Therefore, this lent, take time to come to know the person of Jesus more, the one who values you so highly, who did all that is necessary for you to know him, not just now but for all eternity in His new creation, which is budding all around us if you would be see.

*Richard*



## *Editor's Ramblings*

### **I'll think about it!**

As a child I wouldn't say that to my Mother - you didn't think about it - you did it and you did it properly and straight away or else!

Of course, as we grow older there are many things we have to "think about" such as further education, a career or dare you ask a certain girl out. Think about it - trouble is if you take too long thinking about it you may never do anything.

On the other hand by not thinking about something you can jump in feet first and come a cropper.

As we become wiser or is it more mature, we start thinking and making important decisions about our lives.

In my younger days I joined the Scouts run by a church group but left to join the Air Training Corps (ATC) so that I could join the RAF when I was called up, I thought about it and did it.

I left school at 14 and my Father said a post office linesman would be a good job. I went to London for an interview and test which I failed! Through my friends' father who was then manager of a small printing company took me and his son one Sunday after church to the factory and then I knew what I wanted to do.

Through the help of an elderly gentleman at the factory I eventually got a 7 year apprenticeship with a London company. I didn't have to think about what I wanted to do, I knew straight away and spent 41 years doing it.

At the age of 13 my friend took me to the Baptist church youth club. I didn't start going to church until I was 15. I had to think about it and plucked up courage to do it.

Then God took over, started to challenge me and my life. Then at 18 I was baptised and became a church member and Sunday School teacher. What I didn't know then was that the whole church was praying for me. Six months later I was called up to do my National Service with the RAF.

Many in other churches don't practice Baptism by immersion - but many in other denominations are beginning to read their Bible and beginning to ask for Baptism by immersion even if they had made a commitment elsewhere.

All I can say is - DON'T think about it - DO IT. It will be the best experience of your life - a testimony to all at the service. And remember if you take too long thinking about it you may NEVER do it and regret it for the rest of your life.

**Read Matthew chapter 3 verses 13-17.**

**Verse 15 In this way we shall do all that God requires.**

**Jesus did not have to "think about" giving his life on the cross -**

**in LOVE, HE DID IT!**



## *Fellowship News*

It's been a hard 3 months since Christmas, weather-wise that is, but signs of Spring are just around the corner.

But thanks to everybody who helped in so many ways with the Christmas activities.

The children's activities were much appreciated, so was the Christmas carols at the Bisley home by the Knaphill Heavenly? choir, who have been asked back to sing again at Easter!

During the bad weather some of our meetings had to be cancelled, but we were soon back in full swing again.

## *Sad News*

Our sister Dorothy died in hospital on Sunday 14th February at 5 am.

The funeral service was held at the church on 19th February at 3-30, followed by a committal service at Woking Crematorium at 5 pm. It was Dorothy's wish that the Rev. Bob Younger would take the service which was shared by Richard, the minister of the church. Please continue to pray for Bruce and the family at this time. Please see obituary elsewhere in the Newsletter.

During the cold snap many of our friends had been suffering various ailments, too many to mention by name. But you have all been in our prayers, praying for your recovery and it is good to see most of you are well and back with us again.

Please pray for Ellen Goode who had a fall while on holiday in Egypt and damaged her foot and spent some time in hospital there. She is home and slowly recovering and it is good to see her back in church again.

Continue to remember Cis and Floss in your prayers.

Pray for those who are contemplating Baptism and Church Membership.

Please pray for the coming election - re-election of Deacons. They are "servants" of the church and need your prayer support at all times. Derek has decided it is time to "stand down" after serving 50 years on the diaconate, 20 in his previous church and 30+ at Knaphill. Thank you all for your support and trust in me. And NO I am not retiring from God's work.

We welcome Margaret to the fellowship and it is a joy to have her share with us on Thursday mornings in our fellowship hour.

Please also pray for Lydia who had a slight stroke in December and is recovering well and sends her love to you all.

# *Memorial to Dorothy Jean Whittingstall*

God's Word tells us that *"the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, where no torment can ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish, they **seemed** to have died, and their departure was thought to be an **affliction. BUT THEY ARE AT PEACE.**"* Our friend Dorothy is **at peace**. Free from the frustrations and failing strength which were such a trial for so active a woman. We remember her years of teaching, her musical gifts, and her **homemaking** skills as wife and mother. We acknowledge the gracious and merciful love of the Lord who has called her to eternal rest in that place He had been preparing for her.

Dorothy and I shared a special bond, both having grown up in **Churches of Christ**, the origins of Knaphill Baptist Church so long ago. We used to thumb through our old **"Christian Hymnaries"** and remind one another of those familiar tunes. That legacy would sometimes prompt our Dorothy to tell me she would **not** play the particular hymn I had chosen - she just **didn't like** the tune in the Baptist Hymn Book! Ultimately I worked out an effective strategy: I would say, *"No problem, Dorothy; I'll just play for that one myself."* A short while later the phone would ring, and there would be Dorothy, telling me she'd thought about it, and probably she **could** play that hymn after all!

Dorothy was born in her parents' home at 66 The Broadway in September 1924. Winning a scholarship from Knaphill Primary School, she moved on to Woking Girls' Grammar School, then to teacher training in Brighton during World War II. She told me about her memories of the *"hit and*

*run"* bombing raids by the Luftwaffe. After graduation she spent two years teaching in Larkhall, a little mining school in Scotland, before returning south to teach in various schools, including Horsell C of E School.

An interest in amateur dramatics brought her into contact with Doug Whittingstall - and then to marriage in July 1953. They had a house built in Shirley Place, which they named *"Seefeld"* -as a reminder of the Austrian resort where they had spent their honeymoon. In 1990, I organised a coach trip to see the famous Passion Play at Oberammergau, and arranged to drop off Dorothy, Doug, Harvey and Bruce to spend an afternoon in Seefeld, before rejoining us in nearby Innsbruck. What a thrill it was for the happy couple to revisit a place of happy memories, and to let the boys see where it had begun all those years before!

I'm sure we all miss Dorothy for a whole range of reasons: her musical gifts, her pride in her family, her wealth of local knowledge, her willingness to learn new ways of *"doing church"* -and her loyalty to her many friends. Above all, though, nobody could ever question the depth and enduring quality her love for her Lord and Saviour. Right now, she's probably playing the best organ in all creation, accompanying the best choir in all creation, to the glory of the Eternal God and Father of mankind!

*Bob Younger*

# A Fishy Story

Now it came to pass that a certain group had called themselves FISHERMEN. And, lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the area was surrounded by streams and lakes and rivers, filled with hungry fish.

Week after week and month after month, these fishermen met to talk about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about the fishing. With much care they defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared fishing to be the primary task of the fisherman.



Continually they searched for new methods of fishing. Further they said, "The fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning". They loved slogans such as "Fishing is the task of EVERY fisherman". They sponsored special meetings called "FISHERMEN'S CAMPAIGNS" and "THE MONTH FOR FISH-ERMEN TO FISH". They paid for costly nationwide and even worldwide congresses to discuss and promote fishing, as well as to hear about all the new fishing equipment, fish calls and fish bait.



The fishermen built large and beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters". They organised a board of men who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the catching of fish of different colours in far-away streams.

The board also hired staffs and appointed committees to further define and defend fishing and to decide what new streams should be considered.

Large, elaborate and expensive training centres were erected to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology! After tedious training many were graduated, given fishing licences and sent to do full-time fishing. Some were sent to distant waters!

Many spent much time and study and travel to learn the history of fishing and see far away places where the founding fathers had great catches in centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years before.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides and handbooks. Presses were kept busy day and night, producing material solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment and programmes for meetings to talk about fishing.

Some who felt called to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But, like the fishermen back home they engaged in all other kinds of occupations as well. They built power plants to pump water for fish and tractors to plough new waterways. They travelled here and there to look at fishing nets, fish factories, fish receiving houses, fishing boats and all new developments in the fishing industry. Some said they wished THEY could be part of the fishing party, but felt called instead to be furnishers of the fishing equipment.

Others felt that their job was to relate to the fish, so they would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know that they were nice, land-loving neighbours was enough. A few felt that swimming lessons for the fish and better fish food may well help. Some spoke of purifying the water, moving fish to other waters, or getting rid of their natural enemies.

After one stirring meeting on "the necessity for fishing", one young fellow actually left TO GO fishing! The next day he reported catching two outstanding fish. He was honoured for his excellent catch and scheduled in big meetings to tell others how he did it. So, to have time for sharing his expertise with other fishermen, he quit fishing. He was also placed on the fishermen's General Board as a person with considerable experience.

Almost no-one on the Board ever fished. So those that they sent out to fish did exactly as those who sent them. They formed groups and held meetings to talk about the great need for fishing and prayed much that many fish might be caught. They analysed the fish and discussed what was necessary to catch them. They waxed most eloquent on how others fished wrongly and bemoaned the fact that the fish were not processed properly when they were caught! But... there was one thing that they did not do... THEY DID NOT FISH!

However, they were still called fishermen by those who had sent them. They wrote glowing letters back to the Board and their home fishing clubs about all the fishing potential even though a little criticism sometimes came back that no fish were caught. But, because those who criticised didn't catch fish either, the criticism was not taken too seriously.

Now it is true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of the dead fish every day. They receive ridicule from some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they never actually fished. They also wondered about those who felt it was little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not obeying the Master, who had said, "Follow Me, and I will make YOU fishers of men"?

Imagine how hurt some were when it was suggested that those who don't catch fish are not really fishermen! Yet, it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if, year after year, he never catches a fish? Is one really following IF HE ISN'T FISHING?



Jesus said:

**"FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU  
FISHERS OF MEN"**

Matthew Chapter 4, verse 19

## *Ruth's Page*

Around this time of year, we start to think about what we will do when the warmer weather arrives and plan trips and summer holidays, etc. There are so many places around the world to visit, including the many towns and cities mentioned in the Bible, which is what my quiz is based on this time.

1. Which city was Paul's home town?
2. To which city in Macedonia did Paul send at least two letters?
3. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle?
4. Which city is associated with Joshua and the blowing of trumpets?
5. The church in which city had a congregation that was neither hot nor cold?
6. Which city is often referred to as Zion?
7. What city was home to the man who gave Jesus a burial place?
8. Where did Peter have his vision of a sheet filled with unclean animals?
9. What was Abraham's original home town?
10. Which town was home to Mary, Martha and Lazarus?
11. Where did Jonah board a ship bound for Spain?
12. Which Philistine city was home to Goliath?
13. Which town was the home of Peter, Andrew and Philip?
14. Which of Noah's great-grandsons became the world's first great conqueror and built many cities including Ninevah?
15. In which town did Zacchaeus climb a tree in order to see Jesus?
16. Which two cities were destroyed by God for their wickedness?
17. In which city did Paul and Silas meet Lydia, their first European convert?

### **Answers to Christmas Trivia Quiz (December 2009 Newsletter)**

1. Blitzen; 2. Brighton; 3. Denmark; 4. Mistletoe; 5. North America; 6. Christmas Island; 7. 1949 for UNICEF; 8. USSR; 9. Twankey; 10. Cuba; 11. Sandringham; 12. Great Britain; 13. On the stairs; 14. "Please put a penny in the old man's hat"; 15. Christmas Cards (J C Hall of "Hallmark"); 16. 359; 17. J R R Tolkien; 18. Austria; 19. Paul Young; 20. Martin Luther.

## *True Stories*

### *Looking unto JESUS, the author and finisher of our faith*

Hebrews chapter 12, verse 2 a

The well known evangelist Ch.H SPURGEON tells of the hour of his own salvation. "A preacher spoke about words from the prophet Isaiah in chapter 45, verse 22: Look unto Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth!" He turned directly to me with the words: "Young man, you're looking very poorly, and so wretched you'll stay your whole life through and in death if you do not obey the words of the prophet. Look unto JESUS CHRIST, do it now!" I was frightened but at the same time I looked unto JESUS - and was blessed. It was a matter of a second that changed my life from eternal death to eternal life! The dark cloud that hung over me for years had vanished. The words "Look unto JESUS" made all darkness disappear and revealed to me GOD'S glory and grace. The bond was broken - my soul was free. I would have liked to jump up and praise the Lord together with the whole congregation. I would have loved to sing of the LORD JESUS CHRIST'S precious blood and of the faith that alone blesses only by one look unto the LORD JESUS CHRIST. I saw the crucified LORD before my inner eye. I saw HIM and lived. From then on Calvary's cross was my guiding star. And since I have looked unto the LORD JESUS CHRIST, I have looked unto HIM throughout my whole life.

## *Both sides of the fence*

An errand boy in London was waiting in front of a house and leaned over the iron gate until his head and arms were on one side and his body on the other. Then he asked himself which side of the fence he was on.

Before he had decided the gate was suddenly opened and his neck badly wrenched. He decided it was dangerous to be on two sides of a fence at the same time.

The boy was Michael Faraday who later became a great scientist and a much loved man.

"How long halt ye between two opinions?" is still a relevant question and "No man can serve two masters" a divine command.

## *Upper Class*

A small boy's grandmother died. His mother wondered how to explain what had happened to her. She decided to say, "I've got some sad news to tell you, Peter. We will not be seeing Granny any more".

"Oh" he said, "Why?" His mother paused, then said "She's gone to live with God." "Crumbs", was the reply. "How posh".

## *Oh Dear*

A parishioner stood on the church steps, thanking the vicar. "It was a wonderful sermon you preached today, everything you said applied to somebody or other I know".

## *Medical Mission Birthday Scheme*

### April

1<sup>st</sup> Adele De Bono  
5<sup>th</sup> Miss Pam Rice  
6<sup>th</sup> Mrs Brenda Elliot  
6<sup>th</sup> Camilia De Bono  
23<sup>rd</sup> Miss Joanna Stringer

### May

8<sup>th</sup> Mrs Joan Kenton  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mr Bruce Whittingstall  
17<sup>th</sup> Mrs Toots Lockyer

### June

8<sup>th</sup> Mrs J Hollingshead  
10<sup>th</sup> Mrs Dot Wye

We wish all these friends a very happy birthday and God's blessing on the year to come. If you would like to join up please find a leaflet at the back of the church.

Rita.

## *Junior Church*

We thank God that Joanna is able to help again along with Jill, Sohan & Judy, as we now have more children coming in answer to our prayers, but of mixed ages. We have decided to go with, and Richard sent for a set of adventures on DVD whose characters use Bible stories to aid them combat Roman enemies and so on. All ages will watch one of these stories and then split off in age groups if necessary, to tackle various supplied games, crafts and puzzles that bring out the main message. So far it has been a lot of fun, as long as the DVD Player works! We have studied Daniel in the Lion's Den, The Miraculous Catch and Samson. The children enjoyed being caught fish under a net while we read the prayer for example, and took home fridge magnets they'd made. This FRIENDS AND HEROES scheme will be especially useful when a leader is away. Please pray for us all, including the DVD Player!

Ann.

## *Knaphill Women's Fellowship*

We ended our Autumn session with our usual Christmas Dinner - again much enjoyed by all; and this year having more space we were able to invite husbands to join us, and just managed to squeeze them in -comfortably we hope. We sent a cheque from our Dinner to Barnabas Fund, remembering those who are suffering for their faith. And now to this new year. Well, our first meeting had to be cancelled because of the weather, but we have met normally since then. I'm glad to say our two sick members Joanna and Yvonne are both much better, and Joanna has been back and we hope to see Yvonne soon. Unfortunately Toots is now under the weather since her operation in November, and we send her our love and hope she improves soon. This is a short session with Easter being early, so we must make the most of our remaining weeks. The Lord has been good to us, and we ask His blessing on us in the days that lie ahead.

Ellen Goode

P.S. We have just heard of the sudden passing of Dorothy Whittingstall this morning - while we were in Church Dorothy was with the Lord. She had been a faithful member of K.W.F. - our organist and Treasurer for a number of years. She had been unwell for some time and she is now out of her suffering. We will miss her, and we remember Bruce at this sad time, and pray the Lord will be very near to him and comfort him as he picks up the threads of a new life. We look forward to seeing him back amongst us soon. Bless you Bruce.

# *John Goulding - of the Haven*

John died recently in St. Peter's Hospital. John had been associated with the church for many years. He enjoyed Wednesday Coffee Mornings and also attended the Sunday evening services. His funeral was held with his family in Hampshire at his request.

A service of thanksgiving for John is planned to be held at the church on Saturday 13th March at 2 pm. Everybody welcome.

## *Some Late News*

Ellen Ives has had her knee operation and is back home. Please pray for her complete recovery. Paul is now back at work, having been offered a job with one of his previous employers.

The Women's Day of Prayer was held at the church on 5th March. Thanks to all those ladies who took part.

Spring is in the air - our thanks to Ken and Mary for looking after and planting the Spring display in the tubs in front of the church.

## *From The Treasurer's Calculator*

The Church Accounts for 2009 will be presented to the Church Annual General Meeting in the week following the publication of this article. Without wishing to disclose too much before the members have had an opportunity to hear and consider the information, I can say that we had a very diverse year!

The sheer variety of the entries in the accounts, whether for events we participated in or external organisations we have contributed to is amazing and is a testimony to a Church that is alive and living the gospel.

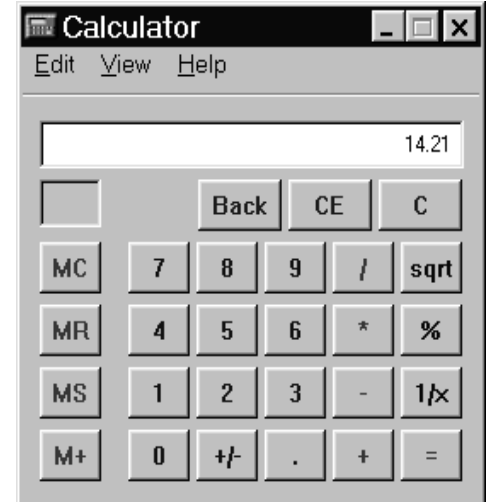
We have now set our budgets for 2010. As before these are really only a reflection of the steady state activities of the church, but for the first year we have included a significant some for projects. We have a number in mind, including something to draw

attention to our building as people pass along the High Street and this will strengthen our position as a church in the community.

So I hope that 2010 will be another year of strengthening the church, but numerically and spiritually, continuing to build on the progress of 2009. With that in mind we have set a date for a Day of Thanksgiving for April 25th. This will be more than just a Gift Day, and will our opportunity to say "Thank You" to God for all that he does for us, both corporately as a church and individually.

Thank you for the remarkable response to the appeal to support the work of the BMS Relief Fund in Haiti following the devastating earthquake. We sent a total of £907.82! Your personal gifts made up nearly £600 of that.

May I offer one challenge? The Open Door Coffee Mornings that have been run by the Church for many years now have provided a real example of the church serving the community in an area of obvious need. What should we do next?



Finally, recent offering figures...

	Oct '09	Nov '09	Dec '09	<b>2009 avg</b>	Jan '10	Feb '10
Actual	£549	£519	£595	<b>£577</b>	£749	£549
Target	£531	£531	£531	<b>£531</b>	£605	£605