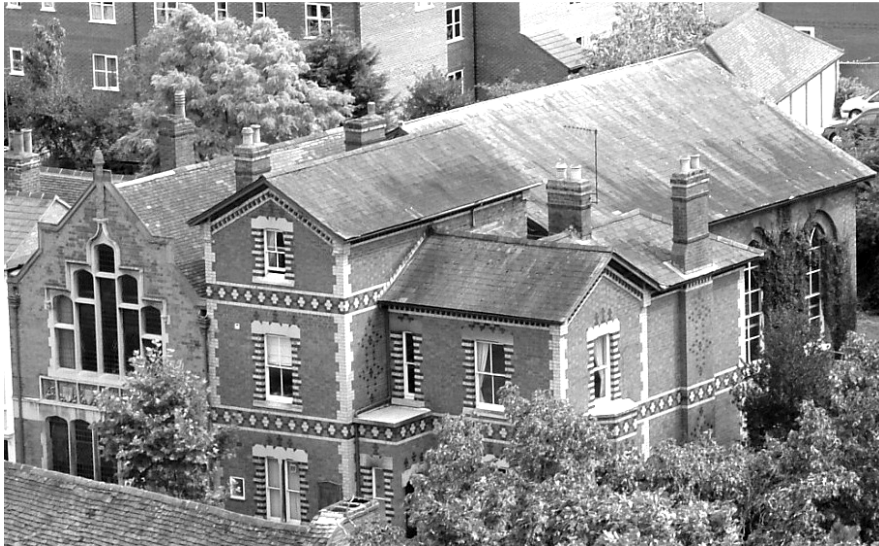


Minister Rev Mark Jennings  
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# Pershore Baptist Church



## Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

July 2009

[www.pershorebaptist.org](http://www.pershorebaptist.org)

### Dear Friends

#### ***Spiritual Gifts Are Not Bound by Prejudice***

Many of you have attended a class at church designed to help you discern your spiritual gifts. Thankfully, over the years, excellent biblical resources have been produced that equip believers to discover and develop the gifts God has given each of us for service. But what Scripture has revealed about our service in God's covenant community was as counter-cultural in the ancient world as it is for some people today. Why?

From Genesis to Revelation, some of the most unlikely people possessed some of the most extraordinary gifts. From elderly Sarah, whom God equipped to give birth to God's covenant people; to David, a young shepherd who rescued Israel; to Deborah who served as prophet and judge, God gives enormous capacity to people, not according to human standards or expectations, but according to God's purposes.

Scripture explains that every person who comes to faith receives from God spiritual gifts or abilities. These gifts are a sign of God's presence or power in our lives equipping us for service. Because the gifts come from God's Spirit, they are supernatural and an extension of God's power active in our lives.

*The gifts he gave are these: some are to be apostles; some prophets; some evangelists; some pastors and teachers. These gifts are to make God's people better able to do their work for him and to make the body of Christ become stronger (Eph. 4:11-12, Worldwide English New Testament).*

Because it is God who provides the spiritual gifts, we do not choose which gift we receive. The spiritual gifts are chosen for us by our all-knowing and loving Creator. Because of this, we may receive from God a spiritual gift which is unexpected and also challenging, given human prejudice. However, Scripture is quite clear that our spiritual gifts are accompanied by a responsibility to God. We are to "fan into flames the gift within us," according to 2 Timothy 1:4-7, recognizing that our spiritual gifts are to be developed and used for God's glory (1 Pet. 4:7-11, Rom. 12:3-8, Eph. 4:7-16, 1 Cor. 12:1-31.)

When Paul addresses the spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12:7-11, Eph. 4:11-12) he does not indicate that these gifts are given according to gender, ethnicity, or class. If leadership and authority were limited to males or people of a specific ethnic background (as has been argued by some Christians throughout history) would not Paul make that known in these passages

addressing spiritual gifts? Is this not the most likely place to make clear the gender limitations of leadership? Yet, where Paul addresses the spiritual gifts, he omits any limitations of leadership based on gender. Furthermore, the Bible tells us of women whose spiritual gifts enabled them to serve beside Paul as evangelists, prophets, pastors, teachers, and apostles (Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Cor. 12:28a).

If Scripture is intended to inform Scripture, then what is unclear must be understood through what is clear. It is clear that Junia was a female apostle (Rom. 16:7) and that women served as prophets who spoke in the churches (Luke 36 & ff, Acts 2:17, Acts 21:9, 1 Cor. 11:5). Women were evangelists (Mark 7:24-30, John 4:5-42, John 20:17); deacons (Rom. 16:1-2); teachers (Acts 18:24-26, Col. 3:16) and leaders of house churches

(Acts 16:13-15, 40; Acts 18: 1-3, 18, 24-26; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 1:11; Col. 4:15; Phil. 1-2; and 2 John 1:1). Paul said that women like Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis “worked hard in the Lord” (Rom. 16:12). To “work hard in the Lord” is how Paul describes his own missionary work. Euodia and Syntyche are said to have served as evangelists or coworkers in the church in Philippi (Phil. 4:2-3). Countering the patriarchy and ethnic prejudice of the ancient world, Scripture makes clear that gender does not limit service in Christ’s new covenant community. The spiritual gifts are given to us, not according to cultural expectations, but according to God’s divine purposes for building up the church. We exclude the gifts of women at our own peril.

<http://blog.sojo.net/2009/05/04/spiritual-gifts-are-not-bound-by-prejudice/>

### **Little Fishes – Babygrows – Babytalk**

**Term ends** week beginning 13th July

**Summer Activities** – Teddy Bears Picnic Thursday 30th July  
Bugs and Butterflies Thursday 20th August – both 10.30am to 1pm

**New term starts** week beginning 7th September

### **Saltmine Theatre Company Finding God in unexpected Places**

Sunday 12th July at 7 pm  
Number 8, High Street, Pershore  
Tickets £6 , Concs £5

### **A child shall lead them Timothy – most mentioned young person in the New Testament**

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations’ International Year of the Child.

**Timothy:** Timothy is one of the most-mentioned young people in the New Testament. Not only did Paul write two letters to him (1 and 11 Timothy), but he is mentioned six times in Acts and also in Romans, 1 and 11 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon and Hebrews; a total of nineteen references in all. The son of a Greek father and Eunice, his Jewish mother, he became a Christian when he was young and soon after joined Paul as a helper and travelling companion. Paul sent him to Thessalonica to encourage the new Christians there (1 Thess. 3:2) and he was with Paul in his missions to Corinth and Ephesus (2 Cor. 1:19; 1 Cor. 4:17). He was imprisoned for the sake of the gospel (Heb.13:23) and it was to him that Paul wrote his very last letter (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

Timothy is a wonderful example of how young people can serve the Lord and his Church. He had two spiritual experiences that prepared him for God’s work.

**First** he had the advantage of family faith and religion. Paul reminds Timothy of the faith of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Tim. 1:5). Although his father was not a Christian, clearly his mother’s influence, and no doubt her prayers, had much to do with him becoming a Christian.

**Second,** he had a personal experience of conversion to Christ as Lord and Saviour. Although the details are not given, Timothy was probably converted when Paul preached for the first time in his home town, Lystra (Acts 14: 6-20). Four times in his letters to Timothy Paul refers to him as ‘son,’ meaning a son in the gospel. ‘To Timothy, my true son in the faith’ (1 Tim. 1:2). ‘This charge I give to you, son Timothy’ (1 Tim. 1:18). ‘My beloved son’ (2 Tim. 1:2). ‘My son’ (2 Tim. 2:1). Luke tells us that Timothy was ‘well spoken of’ by the Christians in Lystra (Acts 16:2). No wonder Paul regarded him as one of his most trusted helpers (2 Tim. 3:10, 11).

Although Timothy’s age is not given, the impression is that he was a young man. Paul counsels him, ‘Let no one despise your youth’ (1 Tim. 4:12), and warns him against the temptations that face young people. ‘Shun youthful passions and aim at righteousness, faith, love’ (2 Tim. 2:22). Paul directs the Corinthian Christians to receive Timothy warmly and not to despise him, another obvious reference to his youthfulness.

This young man, who was timid and fearful by nature (2 Tim. 1:7), who was physically weak and advised to drink a little wine for his ‘frequent ailments’ (1 Tim. 5:23), was yet a promising leader in the Church and destined to be Paul’s successor. All the Timothys in our churches need our support, our confidence, our trust and our prayers.



### TAKING & GIVING

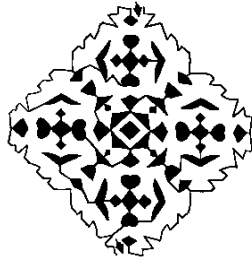
If you look at a map of Israel you will see that there are two small inland seas. And if you look closely you will see that these two seas are linked by the River Jordan. The river starts in the northern hills and goes through the Sea of Galilee, then through the Jordan valley, and ends up in the Dead Sea. But even though the water is all from the same river, the two seas are completely different.

All around the Sea of Galilee are towns and villages, trees and farms. The Dead Sea has no trees or farms, it is dead. What makes the difference? The Sea of Galilee is alive because it has an outlet. It passes the water on as quickly as it flows in. The Dead Sea is dead because it passes no water on.

In St Luke's Gospel we read what Jesus said about giving – 'Give to others, and God will give to you' (chapter 6, verses 27-28). Unlike the two seas we can choose how we want to be: to give and take and be alive. Or just to take - and become sad and lifeless.

### IN & OUT

Can you find your way through this lacy maze?



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
**Did you hear about the slimy monster who was famous for his farmyard impressions?**  
He couldn't do the noises but he could do the smells.



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
**And what about the monster who went shop-lifting?**  
He was crushed under Tesco's.

### News of the Family

**Mike Godwin** died in June. Our thoughts and prayers go to **Angela** and all the family.

### In loving memory of Ivy Winkett

Ivy was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1912, the eldest of three children. She is survived by her sister Eva and brother Jesse. She lived typically in Libbery, a little hamlet of no more than 10 dwellings, between Upton Snodsbury and Grafton Flyford and would have walked across the fields to school at Grafton Flyford. Upon leaving school at 14, she went into 'service' working for the local Doctor and his wife.

She met and, on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1931, married Frederick John Winkett at Startford Upon Avon Registry Office. They had three children- Pat, Alan and Graham - all born in Pershore .

During the war Ivy worked at the busy Willow Café at 1 Bridge Street. In the years immediately after the war Ivy ran for a time a Fish and Chip Shop from, of all places, their front room in the High Street! The family also willingly took in various evacuees as well as a local Pershore family. Such was Ivy's kind, generous and hospitable way.

Ivy was very active in retirement baking and selling cakes for the Women's Institute Market, what is now the Saturday Country Market. This is something she continued to do well into her 80's. She also had a great love of gardening and

would spend hours amongst her beloved flowers. You'd typically see her digging up something here, splitting and planting something else over there.

In later life, when her eye sight and hearing were beginning to fail, she joined the local Pathfinders group, where group members would pick up and drop off Ivy so she could enjoy the formative talks and share in the friendship and fellowship which this valuable group affords.

At the time of her death, Ivy was both the oldest and we suspect the longest serving member on the church roll. Family and church members remember her as being always ready to help others, even willing to go without herself, if it meant that she could help another. She was a kind and considerate soul and even when her failing hearing and sight prevented her from coming to Church, she maintained a keen and prayerful interest in the life and people of the fellowship.

Having bravely battled with breathing difficulties and having been reliant upon oxygen for some time, she was admitted to Pershore Hospital in early April where she was wonderfully cared for by the nursing and other medical staff at the Hospital. Her big heart finally gave way and she died peacefully on the evening of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. We give thanks to God for her life, bless her memory and count a privilege to have known her.

### Thursday Club

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> there is a Garden Party by invitation of Eileen and Peter Merry

### Women's Own

July 1	There is a possible boat trip
July 15	Communion – Rev Mark Jennings Followed by a Summer tea

### Move towards God

Should we feel at times disheartened and discouraged, a simple movement of heart towards God will renew our powers.... he will give us at that moment the strength and courage that we need.

*Francois de la Mothe Fenelon*

### Knocked out

Policeman: "How did you knock the old man down?"  
Motorist: "I didn't. I just pulled up to let him go across – and he fainted."

### St Richards Hospice 25th Anniversary

Please put the following date in your diary  
11th July 2009 - **Strawberry Tea** from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Venue: **Manse Garden**

Please tell your friends and family, and bring them along, all proceeds to "St Richards Hospice".

#### Loose change

In the Church there is glass bowl, please donate all your loose change to this worthy cause.

#### Old Mobile Phones wanted

"The Telegraph" are running a promotion

Donate your old phone, and they in turn will send a cheque, another way of rising money for "St Richards Hospice"

### Weekly Church Events

Sundays	
10.30am	Family service with Sunday School Communion 3rd Sundays
6.00pm (5.00pm in winter)	Evening Worship Communion 1st Sundays
Mondays	
1.30pm	Little Fishes playgroup
7.45pm	Prayer meeting at Church
Tuesdays	
7.30pm	House Group – Main Street , Pinvin
Wednesdays	
2.00pm	Women's Own – Lower Room
7.30pm	House Group – 46 Holloway Drive
7.45pm	Prayer and Bible Study 21 Ganderton Court
Thursdays	
10.30am	Baby talk
7.45pm	Deacon's Meeting 1st and 3rd Thursdays

There is a **Monthly Communion service** on a Wednesday at 2.30pm

**Impact-** A generation Youth Event on 4th Sunday at 7.00pm

The **Thursday Club** meets in the Lower Room at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.

**Church Badminton** is between 8-9pm on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in Pershore High School. Details from Anne Sadler.

The **Multiple Sclerosis Group** meet on Monday mornings in the Worship area.

The **St John's Ambulance** use the Upper and Lower Rooms on Tuesday evening.

**U3A Choir** uses the Upper Room on alternate Wednesdays at 2.15pm.

## To keep you amused

Olny srmat poelpe can raed tihs. I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istllef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmoranttl! if you can raed tihs psas it on !!

Psas Ti ON!

## The sweetest cure for hay fever

Does the onset of summer with its soaring pollen counts reduce you to a snivelling wreck? If so, you've probably tried all the usual cures. You might barricade yourself indoors beside an air-conditioning unit for the next few weeks. Or you could spend the summer in a drowsy daze, high on antihistamines. Some people try steroids, and then look in the mirror a lot, worrying about what the drugs are doing to them.

But there is an easier way: have you tried swallowing a spoonful of honey a day?

So far the evidence that this really works is only anecdotal – no medical studies have proved conclusive.

## Baptists to Bournemouth for 400th anniversary celebration

Baptist Christians have just celebrated 400 years of Baptist witness in Europe. 2009 marks the 400th anniversary since the establishment of the first ever Baptist congregation in the world, founded in Amsterdam in 1609.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) and BMS World Mission, a Baptist-based global mission organisation, focussed on the anniversary as part of their annual Baptist Assembly being held at the Bournemouth International Centre. A Europe-wide celebration is being held in Amsterdam this month (July).

But thousands of people in the UK have tried it, and say it has transformed their lives.

The principle behind the honey-taking is simple: desensitisation. For while the pollen that the bees set out to collect is the heavy-grained variety that doesn't cause problems, mixed up in that are small amounts of the light, windblown grass and tree pollens that inflame the lining of your nose and eyes.

So – if you suffer from hay fever, why not reach for the honey jar? Try a spoonful a day this summer, and begin again next April, well before the pollen season, to give yourself time to adjust to the pollen again. If it works for you, great. If not, all you'll lose is a bit of your waistline.

## July 16 Saint Helier

Take the book of Samuel in the Bible, add a bit of Luke Skywalker father/son conflict from Star Wars, stir in a dash of Pirates of the Caribbean, and you sort of have the story of Saint Helier – the first saint and martyr of Jersey.

According to the legend, it all began in 6<sup>th</sup> century Tongeren (now in Belgium). A pagan couple badly wanted a child, but the wife was barren. In desperation they sought the help of a local Christian, Cunibert. He advised them to pray to the Christian God, and to promise that any child born would be 'given back' to God. So they did, and then the wife fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Helier.

The parents were delighted – at first. But as the baby grew into a boy, it became clear that Helier was different from other children – he was precociously intelligent and could perform miracles. Helier's father found this unsettling, and grew jealous of Cunibert's influence over his son. Finally he plotted to have Cunibert murdered.

In horror at such treachery, Helier fled. He wandered far, eventually reaching a monastic community in Normandy, run by Saint Marculf. Here he settled, seeking a life of contemplation, but it was not to be. Marculf had received pleas for help from the very few residents of an island called Gersut, or Agna (now called Jersey). They, too, had had bitter experience of violent men who killed their loved ones without warning: the Vikings and Saxons

and Vandals had each visited the island in turn. Now they sought some comfort from the Christians: would someone bring them the gospel? They had no one to shepherd them.

Marculf could not ignore such a plea, and so he sent Helier and a companion, Romard, to Jersey. The two monks found a small community of fishermen on the sand dunes where the modern town of St Helier would later grow. Helier chose to settle on a tidal islet, nowadays known as the Hermitage Rock. Romard, it was agreed, would act as the 'go between' between Helier in his hermitage and the fishing village.

Helier had chosen a remote spot for the peace and quiet it would give him as he approached God. But one day he discovered that his tidal islet had another great advantage as well. While looking out to sea and praying, he suddenly saw the sails of attacking pirates, stealthily approaching the island in boats.

Frantically, Helier signalled the shore of danger coming, and the fishermen and their families scattered into the surrounding marshes, beyond the reach of the bloodthirsty, lustful pirates. This happened time and again, and became so well known in island history that even today, small dark clouds on the horizon are still known as *les vailes dé St. Hélyi* (the sails of St. Helier). As if that were not enough, Helier's prayers and the sign of the cross on

another occasion stirred up such a storm that a raiding party was driven clear off the island.

One day the pirates finally caught up with Helier on his tidal islet. They beheaded him. Helier was deeply mourned, and has always been revered in Jersey for having brought Christianity to the island.

When his head and body were sent back to France, a healing spring is reputed to have sprung up on the place where the boat came ashore, and so Helier is better known there as a healing saint. The traditional year of his martyrdom is AD 555. His feast day is still marked in Jersey by an annual municipal and ecumenical pilgrimage to the Hermitage, on 16 July.

## Social Events

September 19th – **Barn Dance** – Peopleton Village Hall

October 17th – **Variety Evening** – Pershore Baptist Church

November 21st – **Quiz & Chips** – Pershore Baptist Church

For details of any of the above see Tracy Wheeler

**Badminton** July 3rd and 17th at Pershore High School – details from Anne Sadler

**You are invited to** a free BBQ and presentation of **Synergy 2010** on Saturday 18th July at Lenchwood Christian Centre at 3.30pm.

RSVP by 13th July to [Synergy2010@live.co.uk](mailto:Synergy2010@live.co.uk) or 01386 765946

## Churches Together in Pershore

The Lent donations to Chernobyl 2000.

The Charity, which aims to bring practical support to the children of Belarus affected by the radio active fallout from the disastrous fire at the nuclear power station has benefitted from a donation of just over £1850.

Thank you to all who contributed to this worthwhile donation.

## Budget

Father-in-law: Are you saving any money?

Young man: “Sure. It’s easy: we have a budget. And by the time we balance it every weekend, all the places where we could spend money have closed.”

## Lee & John Rawson

are selling 16 Rushers Close, Pershore. A very nice 2 bed retirement flat. With beautiful gardens & site manager. Price £80,500. All enquiries to 01386.556159

## Comfortable?

Recently, I went through the motions of something that I do frequently – booking into a hotel where I was to be staying for a few nights whilst speaking at a conference. The lady behind the desk was, as usual, polite and helpful. Then she handed me the key and said, “I hope you have a comfortable stay”.

As I made my way towards my room, I thought about her words, “have a comfortable stay”. My theme at the conference was ‘evangelistic disciples’ and my main area of focus was that God can only really use us effectively when we are prepared to leave our comfort zone. A key verse was to be Luke 9 57,58: “A man said to Jesus, ‘I will follow you wherever you go’ ... Jesus replied, ‘The Son of Man has no place to lay his head’.”

The next morning as I read through

my notes I came to the conclusion that Jesus was saying the following him is difficult because we surround ourselves with so many things that become part of our life – part of our ‘comfort zone’. These things, whilst not necessarily wrong in themselves, can easily prevent us from following Jesus into the places or situations where he really wants to take us.

Have you heard the challenge of Jesus, and felt inclined to follow but then ‘sat back down’ because it is more comfortable where you are? It has been said that if we want to do something we will find a way: if not we will find an excuse.

Today, why not take some time to say to God – “I will follow wherever you go”? And then ... it may not be comfortable ... but ...!

*Dennis Pethers is an evangelist, a Baptist minister and General Director of Viz-A-Viz, a Christian charity committed to relevant communication of the gospel to people today.*

*Engage, news from the BMS*

## Be kind to newts

July is a dangerous month for newts. This month they will be leaving their breeding grounds in ponds and ditches and striking out on land, where they will stay until next Spring. They will come out of the water hungry and looking for insects, worms and slugs before they hibernate this coming autumn. You are unlikely to see one, as they spend their days hiding under stones, in wall crevices, or compost

heaps. Newt numbers have plummeted as three quarters of our natural ponds have disappeared in the last 100 years. So to help the survivors survive a bit longer, why not leave the vegetation around any ponds long, and include some piles of logs, leaves and compost heaps in your garden?

## There is an early deadline

for the August Messenger. Any late items WILL be excluded. It is 12th July.

## Archbishops' Zimbabwe appeal raises almost £300,000

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York say they have been humbled by the response to the appeal launched at the beginning of Lent. It highlights the support needed by churches who are struggling to feed the hungry and provide health care.

In a joint statement, the Archbishops have said: "The support of the general public has been overwhelming. We know that rebuilding Zimbabwe is a long-term aim, and this short intervention is still only reaching a small number of the many millions in need. Thank you for enabling us to do this."

"Our brother Bishops in Zimbabwe have highlighted the need for immediate relief activities to address the cholera epidemic and

starvation, but also that we support programmes that provide long term solutions to poverty. So at their request we will be providing seed-corn for crops in time for the planting season which normally starts end of October.

"More of the dioceses of Zimbabwe are expected to send in their specific requirements in the next few weeks, and they have told us that their focus will be on the most vulnerable in their communities; those living with HIV, the elderly as well as children.

Three dioceses, those of Central Zimbabwe, Masvingo and Matabeleland, are the first ones to roll out the supplementary feeding programme in schools, and Easter week saw the first food distributed through the Church schools.

## £180,000 programme to strengthen rural churches

The Arthur Rank Centre has launched a £180,000 training project to strengthen churches in the countryside in response to an urgent call from church leaders. 'Rural Life and Faith' could benefit 13,000 rural churches of all denominations, and will equip them for a modern role in villages and the countryside.

## Wonder

When all thy mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm lost  
In wonder, love and praise.

*Joseph Addison*

## The host sent by post

Consecrated communion wafers are to be being distributed by post in a new online mail-order service.

Jonathan Blake, the Open Episcopal Church's Archbishop of All London, says it is aimed at people who either cannot attend Eucharist or those who have drifted away from church. He launched the service on Sunday, the feast of the Corpus Christi (14th June), at postthehost.net. He said: "Jesus made himself available to everyone".

*The Times*

## Prayer Calendar for July 2009

- 1 Pete Everitt
- 2 Jim & Grace Fasey
- 3 Marshall & Helen Faizey & family
- 4 Jimmy & Rosie Flanders
- 5 ... **The one who plants generously will get a generous crop**  
*2 Corinthians 9:6*
- 6 Philip & Jean Gelaky
- 7 Tracy Genever & family
- 8 John & Doreen Gosney
- 9 Paul & Lynne Gosney
- 10 Anne Harding
- 11 James & Rebecca Harrison & family
- 12 **What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will give us later**  
*Romans 8:18*
- 13 Keith & Theresa Hart & family
- 14 Colin & Val Harvey
- 15 Carol Heath & family
- 16 Naomi Haywood
- 17 Allan & Rose Hitchman
- 18 Pat Hooper
- 19 **Rejoice that your names are written in heaven**  
*Luke 10:20*
- 20 Mike & Francisca Hooper
- 21 Betty Hughes
- 22 Mark Jennings & family
- 23 Steve & Jacqui John & family
- 24 Andrew & Ruth Jones & family
- 25 Ema Kirbyson & family
- 26 **It is God who makes us able to do all that we do** *2 Corinthians 3:5*
- 27 Georgina Klee
- 28 Margaret Locker
- 29 Jean Lockhart
- 30 Marjorie Ludlow
- 31 Tony & Janet Liddington & family

## Editorial

1. Messenger material for the August edition to be in by **noon on Sunday July 12th**. Please observe this **EARLY** deadline.
2. If there are any serious errors/oversights, please tell me!
3. If you would prefer a larger print version of the Messenger, have a word with me.

Thanks

Mike Taylor