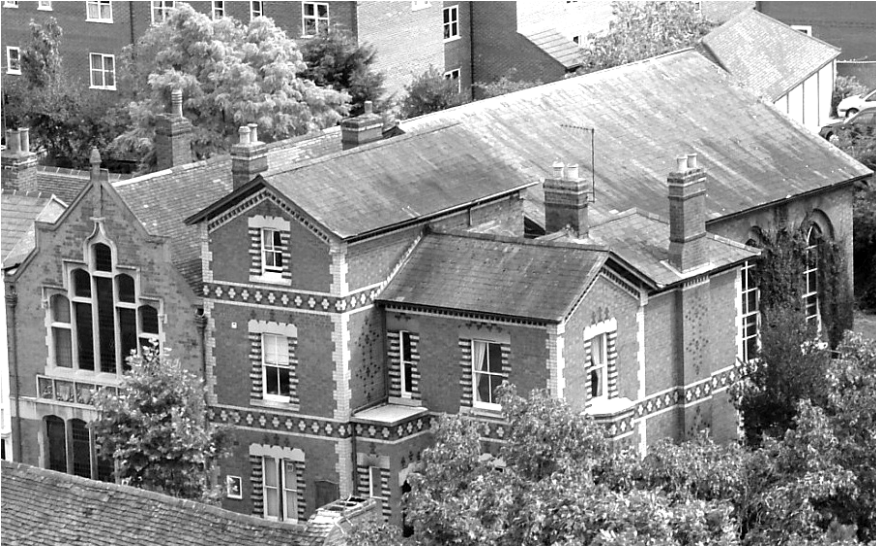


Pershore Baptist Church



Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

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www.pershorebaptist.org

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Dear Friends

The secret of happiness

There are three mistakes we can make when it comes to planning our future happiness.

Some of us suffer from '**Destination Sickness**', to quote the writer John Maxwell. We look ahead and think: when we reach **that** point in our lives, we'll be happy. It might be a trip, a new job, a new home, retirement. But in fact, our happiest moments in life will be found all along the way, not at some point pre-determined by us. That is a recipe for future disappointment!

Others of us suffer from '**Somebody Sickness**'. Are you looking for that certain somebody to make you happy? Sure, 'somebody' may bring you occasional happiness, but it will not be permanent. No other person can totally fulfil you – they have deep needs of their own. You have to take responsibility for your own happiness in life. The Bible urges us to 'delight in the Lord' – because He never fails us.

Still others of us suffer from '**Yesterday Blues**'. We like to crown the past with a halo, and remember only the good times. If your past was great, be thankful, but live – and be happy - where you are now – in the present! The Psalms urge us to remember: "**This** is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad **in it**."

All you need is love

Mother Teresa once said: "We cannot do great deeds, but we can do small deeds with great love." That's something to remember in our daily life. What good are great public efforts if they are fuelled by personal ambition or a desire to rule? If you are not personally kind, what good does it do you? The Bible says: "... If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, and have not love, I gain nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2,3, NIV) Who can you show some love to, today?

What are you supposed to be doing?

What does this coming autumn hold for you? Is there something God is asking of you?

Gladys Aylward was just a simple woman who did what she believed God called her to do. A movie, '*The Inn of Sixth Happiness*' was produced many years ago telling her life story. In 1920 she sailed to China, where she opened a home for orphaned children, who'd been left to starve or wander the streets. She'd read the words in Isaiah: "...if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will

satisfy your needs..." (Isaiah 58:10 – 11 NIV)

When the Japanese invaded China, Gladys was forced to flee. She ended up on the island of Formosa with more than 100 children to care for. Despite hardship and danger, she devoted herself to looking after them. Years later, when she was honoured for her work, she said: "I did not choose this. I was led into it by God. I'm not really more interested in children than I am in other people. But God gave me to understand that this is what He wanted me to do – so I did it!" Have you discovered yet what God has called **you** to do? Are you making plans towards it – this autumn?

Practise makes perfect

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bed-time story. From time to time, she reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. Then she would stroke her own cheek. Finally she interrupted: "Grand-dad, did God make you?"

"Yes, dear," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "Grand-dad, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, dear," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

It's hard to suffer in silence, because that takes all the pleasure out of the suffering.

What do you do with your motto in life?

You may bring to your office and put in a frame, a motto as fine as its print;

But if you're dishonest while playing the game, that motto won't make you a saint.

Put up your placards and cover your wall, but here is a word I announce:

It isn't the motto that hangs on the wall, it's the motto you live that counts.

If your motto says 'Smile' and you carry a frown; 'Do it now', and you linger and wait;

If your motto says 'Help' and you trample men down,

If your motto says 'Love' – yet you hate,

When you stand before God and be judged for your deeds,

You'll know as the evidence mounts

It wasn't the motto you hung on your wall, but the motto you lived that counts.

Jesus said: "...For a tree is recognised by its fruit.." (Matthew 12.33, NIV)

What kind of fruit are you bearing today?

If I remember, the Messenger will be available on the church website (address on the front cover). You may need broadband.

News of the Family

Congratulations to **David & Sandra Dixon** who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary (that's 40 years for those who don't know about these things).

Rough

A little girl asked her mother, "Can I go outside and play with the boys?" Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough."

The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"

		Reading the Bible						
Date		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
5 Aug	Lev 19-21	Lev 22-24	2King 16-20	Psalms 87-89	Prov 13	Eze 37-42	Luke 23-24	1Thes 1-3
12 Aug	Lev 22-24	Lev 25-27	2King 21-25	Psalms 90-92	Prov 14-15	Eze 43-48	John 1-2	1Thes 4-5
19 Aug	Lev 25-27	Num 1-4	1Chron 1-4	Psalms 93-95	Prov 16	Dan 1-6	John 3-4	2Thes 1-2
26 Aug	Num 1-4		1Chron 5-9	Psalms 96-98	Prov 17-18	Dan 7-12	John 5-6	1Tim 1-3

Lavender Biscuits

If you have lavender in your garden, do try these delicious August biscuits! They come out soft when warm from the oven, and 'crisp up' as they cool down. Goes well with a rich creamy desert such as syllabub or ice cream.

Use:

- 225g unsalted butter, softened;
 - 110g caster sugar;
 - 175g self-raising flour;
 - 1 medium egg, well beaten;
 - 1 tbs dried lavender flowers
- (Makes 20-24 biscuits.)

What to do:

Pre-heat your oven to 180°C/Gas Mark 4. Cream butter and sugar in bowl until light and fluffy. Add a spoonful of flour to prevent curdling, then mix in the beaten egg. Stir in flour and lavender flowers, mixing well. Drop teaspoons of the mixture, spaced well apart, on to baking trays lined with parchment paper. Bake for about 15 minutes until the biscuits are brown around the edge and golden yellow in the centre. You'll need to do several batches. Leave to cool on baking tray for several minutes. Then use spatula to transfer to a rack.

For a good speech: stand up, speak up and then shut up.

Barn Dance & Supper

Saturday 27 September 2007. Details in July Messenger on page 11 or ask Tracy Wheeler.

The **Woman's Own** and **Thursday Clubs** do not meet in August.

Some groups do not meet in August, please check with the organizers for details.

Praying on the Run

This 70-year-old marathon runner knows how to finish a race.

Although she lives near the top of the world (in Alaska) and her surname suggests a famous family tie, Eleanor Claus isn't related to Santa. And this lively 70-year-old isn't your typical grandma either.

In October 2004 Eleanor ran the Chicago Marathon. She completed the 26.2-mile course in 4 hours and 48 minutes, finishing first in her age division. To date she has run 23 marathons.

"When my daughters were teenagers, they talked me into running a 10k Women's race with them," Eleanor recalls. "I felt so good about it, and being able to do something with them they enjoyed, that I decided to continue." She soon discovered that daily workouts provided her a context to focus on what was in her heart. "It dawned on me that my daily runs were a perfect opportunity to talk to the Lord," Eleanor says. "I started using the alphabet as a guide as I prayed on the run. Starting with the letter A, I'd celebrate the attributes of God: Awesome, blessed, compassionate ..."

Eleanor also uses the alphabet to pray for people.

"Over the years I have compiled a prayer list of family, friends, and those with special needs who have crossed my path," she says. "During marathons, it's kind of cool. Since there are 26 miles and 26 letters, I can spend more time praying for each individual and family than I normally do. It also helps the time go faster."

For Eleanor, the regimen of running has become a metaphor for her walk with the Lord. Hebrews 12:1-3 is not just a wall-plaque Scripture to her. As she runs and prays, she recognises the importance of looking to the Lord amid life's challenges.

"It takes a lot of hard work and months of preparation to train for a marathon," Eleanor says. "That also is a picture of what's involved in running the marathon of faith."

The fascination with long-distance adventure must run in the Claus family. Last year, at age 18, Eleanor's granddaughter and namesake, Ellie, became the youngest musher to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Greg Asimakoupoulos

Christianity Today

A lady was collecting the charity envelopes. Calling at one house she met the response, "Sorry I can't give you anything, the dog ate the envelope."

"Ah," responded the collector, "don't worry, I have a spare envelope."

Back came the quick reply, "It's no good, he'd only eat that one too."

Stormont Stepping Stone

For some time now many of us have been concerned about the volume of noise that hit us as we enter church on Sunday mornings and I know that people leading the services have tried to inject a quiet period just after the notices. I still feel however that we all need to make more effort to prepare ourselves properly for worship.

On a holiday in Cambridgeshire last year Peter and I visited a church which displayed a notice which I think might give us all a bit of encouragement. It read as follows:

"When you come to this place of worship be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God."

Before the service – speak to the Lord

During the service – let the Lord speak to you

After the service – speak with one another."

Eileen Merry

Honesty is like an icicle; once it melts that's the end of it.

Holiday church

A family on holiday went to visit a strange church. Afterwards, father criticized the sermon, mother thought the organist had played atrociously, and the daughter disliked the choir's choice of anthems. Then the small boy of the family ventured: "But it was a good show for a pound, don't you think, Dad?"

It only takes a spark

We recently attended a service of thanksgiving for Doris at Evesham Baptist Church of which she was a member and, of later years, had lived in Seward Close Baptist flats. Doris was a lovely humble lady, not without life's troubles as she had lost her husband very early in their marriage in an accident and was left to bring up their two children.

She threw herself into life being a very active member of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

Many of the tributes were given in the service, one of which was given by the minister's wife, Mrs. Pillar. She told how Doris had shared a concern that something be done for young mums and had prayed much about this.

They sang "It only takes a spark". The spark in this case was first of all Doris's prayerful vision and then Mrs. Pillar and others ignited that spark into what was to become Baby Talk. The flame then spread to our church here in Pershore where we now have a very vibrant Baby talk.

One lady's prayerful concern sparked off something that is meeting the need of new mums in the friendly atmosphere of our church.

'Baby Talk' runs from 10.30 – 12.30 each Thursday morning except school holidays. 'Little Fishes' meet 1.30 – 3 pm on Mondays.

If you are ever near the church at these times pop in (we'll give you tea or coffee) and catch the vision 'sparked off' by Doris. *Muriel Adamson*

August 28

Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

After St Paul, who was the most influential Christian writer ever?

St Augustine of Hippo, whose feast-day is 28 August. He lived and wrote in a time of social and spiritual chaos. The Roman Empire was collapsing, the world was about to slide into the dark ages and the Church was under serious threat from both heresies within and paganism without.

What St Augustine wrote helped the Church both to avoid perversions of Christianity, and to stand strong and unafraid amongst the violent tumult of the times. His writings held sway over Christianity for the next 15 centuries or so, and still influence us heavily today.

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in modern Algeria. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a Christian. After studying rhetoric at Carthage to become a lawyer, he instead became a scholar-philosopher.

He abandoned Christianity for Manichaeism, and lived with a mistress for 15 years. He moved to Rome and then Milan to teach rhetoric, but slowly grew disenchanted with Manichaeism.

After a long interior conflict, vividly described in his 'Confessions', Augustine was converted and baptised a Christian in 386-7. He returned to Africa in 388, and joined some friends in establishing a quasi-monastic life. He was ordained priest in 391, and four

years later became coadjutor-bishop of Hippo. From 396 until his death in 430 he ruled the diocese alone.

Augustine had a brilliant mind, an ardent temperament and a gift for mystical insights. Soon his understanding of the Christian Revelation was pouring forth in his many voluminous writings.

So what did he write? Most famous is 'The Confessions', the sermons on the Gospel and Epistle of John, the De Trinitate and the De Civitate Dei. This last, 'The City of God', tackles the opposition between Christianity and the 'world' and represents the first Christian philosophy of history.

Many other works were undertaken in his efforts to tackle various heresies: Manichaeism, Pelagianism, or Donatism, and led to the development of his thought on Creation, Grace, the Sacraments and the Church.

Augustine's massive influence on Christianity has mainly been for the good. Few others have written with such depth on love, the Holy Trinity and the Psalms. (The preamble to the marriage service in the BCP is closely based on Augustine.) But his views on Predestination and some of his views on sex (that it is the channel for the transmission of Original Sin) have since been mainly ignored by the Church.

As bishop, Augustine fearlessly upheld order as the Roman Empire disintegrated around him. At the time of his death, the Vandals were at the very gates of Hippo.

ANAGRAMS

Is this a sensible way to spend your time?

When you rearrange the letters:

PRESBYTERIAN - Best in prayer

ASTRONOMER - Moon starrer

THE EYES - They see

GEORGE BUSH - He bugs Gore

THE MORSE CODE - Here come dots

SLOT MACHINES - Cash lost in me

ANIMOSITY - Is no amity

ELECTION RESULTS - Lies, lets recount

SNOOZE ALARMS - Alas! no more z's

A DECIMAL POINT - I'm a dot in place

THE EARTHQUAKES - That queer shake

And for the Grand Finale

MOTHER-IN-LAW - Woman Hitler

Stormont Stepping Stone

All you need is love

Mother Teresa once said: "We cannot do great deeds, but we can do small deeds with great love." That's something to remember in our daily life. What good are great public efforts if they are fuelled by personal ambition or a desire to rule? If you are not personally kind, what good does it do you? The Bible says: ".... If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, and have not love, I gain nothing."

(1 Cor 13:2,3, NIV)

Who can you show some love to, today?

Holiday traffic

What part of the car causes the most accidents?

The nut that holds the wheel.

Meditation on the Good Use of Sickness

Lord, you are good and gentle in all your ways; and your mercy is so great that not only the blessings but also the misfortunes of your people are channels of your compassion. Grant that I may turn to you as a Father in my present condition since the change in my own state from health to sickness brings no change to you. You are always the same, and you are my loving Father in times of trouble and in times of joy alike.

*Blaise Pascal (1623 – 1662)
mathematician and scientist*

The difference

What is the difference between results and consequences?

Results are what you hope for; consequences are what you get.



CHURCHISH

If you are going abroad for your holiday you learn a few foreign words and phrases to help you to understand and get along more easily. Perhaps you learn a language at school? All this helps to make it easier to understand things during your visit to a strange place.

So what about all those strange sounding words used by people who go to church? Words like chancel, liturgical, episcopal, hocktide, cantoris, litany, and so on. Are they speaking Churchish? Probably – and that's not a good idea because no one bothers to translate for visitors.

If someone talks to you in Churchish, ask for a translation. St Paul said in his letter to the Galatians: 'I would rather say 5 words that mean something than 10,000 words that people cannot understand'.

We need to make the Church easier to understand, less strange, more friendly and open.



WHAT IS...

Do you know what these Churchish words mean? Answers at the bottom of the page.

BELFRY – is it part of a church tower or a type window?

COPE – is it a piece of music or a cloak?

GARGOYLE – is it a fancy door way or a decorative rainwater spout?

SUFFRAGAN – is it a type of bishop or a flag pole?

PEW – is it something to wear or something to sit on?

LECTERN – is it a book rest or a type of candlestick?



What's French for 'I am an Australian'?
Moi Aussi.

What happened to your German homework?
I made it into a paper plane and someone hijacked it.

What do elves learn in school?
The Elf-abet.

Answers: Belfry – part of a tower where the bells are; Cope – a cloak; Gargoyle – waterspout; Suffragan – type of bishop; Pew – seat; Lectern – a book rest.

Despite the floods, on Sunday 22nd July 54 people took communion. Praise the Lord!

Another puzzle for you. Each answer is of four letters, running clockwise from the number. The letters in the top rows across spell a sentence.

1			4			7	8			
	2		3		5	6		9		10
11			13		16	17		19		
	12		14	15				18		20

- 1 American Indian tribe
- 2 Rescue
- 3 Knots
- 4 Salver
- 5 Heehaw
- 6 Competed
- 7 False God
- 8 Retain
- 9 Stop
- 10 Nearly (6 letters)
- 11 Closed
- 12 Take notice
- 13 Carbolic
- 14 Ale
- 15 Scottish isle
- 16 Belonging to us
- 17 Celestial body
- 18 Apprehension
- 19 Immense
- 20 Mother's sister

Answer next month
(There is one spelling mistake)

Statistic of the month:

A third of churches are growing

One of the more interesting findings in the 2005 English Church Census was that a third, 34%, of churches in England grew in the period 1998 to 2005. That's about 13,000 growing churches.

It is considerably more than the 21% of churches which grew between 1989 and 1998 – some 8,000 in total. 5,000 more growing churches must be good news!

The 34% percentage varied by denomination. Some, like the Church of England at 36% were very similar, and some, like the Roman Catholics and Methodists much less (at 23% and 25% respectively). One denomination, the Pentecostals,

saw over half, 51%, of its churches growing in the period, the next nearest being the New Churches (or House Churches) with 44%. However, when it is asked, "Why are these churches growing?" the answers are less favourable. Most are growing because people are leaving the declining churches and joining the growing congregations (what is sometimes called transfer growth or "Shifting the chairs on the Titanic"). While of course some people are coming to faith, and perhaps more so in growing churches, the plain fact is that overall there are more deaths than conversions.

Subject: PROUD TO BE BRITISH

Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV.

And the most British thing of all? - Suspicion of all things foreign!

Only in Britain can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in Britain do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in Britain do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a **diet** coke.

Only in Britain do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

Only in Britain do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

Only in Britain do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in Britain are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink.

Not to mention.

3 Brits die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue.

142 Brits were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts.

58 Brits are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

31 Brits have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

19 Brits have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate.

British Hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after Xmas cracker-pulling accidents.

18 Brits had serious burns in 2000 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A massive 543 Brits were admitted to A&E in the last two years after trying to open bottles of beer with their teeth.

5 Brits were injured last year in accidents involving out-of-control Scalextric cars.

and finally...

In 2000 eight Brits were admitted to hospital with fractured skulls incurred whilst throwing up into the toilet

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
7.30pm	House Group Middle Lane, Crophorne
7.45pm	Prayer meeting at Church
Wednesdays	
2.30pm	Women's Own – Lower Room
7.45pm	Prayer and Bible Study 21 Ganderton Court
8.00pm	Bible Study 48 Mayfield Road
Thursdays	
10.15am	House Group 20 Abbeycroft
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. Details from Simon Townend.

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.

Every Member Matters

At the last church meeting (21st June) for only the second time that I can remember, we were not quorate and, therefore, unable to approve the previous minutes, vote on applications for membership or approve any other decision.

While we rejoice in growth in membership as more people feel called to play a fuller part in the decision making processes of our church, we have to acknowledge that it is our individual and collective responsibility to ensure that this can happen by attending members' meetings and encouraging (reminding) others to do likewise.

I know that there are some members who, because of age and infirmity, are no longer able to attend services or meetings but who are still very much with us in spirit. Additionally there will always be some who are ill on the night or are prevented from attending by unforeseen circumstances. However, to have reached the state where one member spent much of the meeting ringing round to try and 'drum up' attendance is a very poor reflection on us all – it reminded me of a parliamentary session where the government of the day dragged in the weak and the lame to try and push through an unpopular bill – it doesn't always work there and didn't work for us either, we were still not quorate at the end of the meeting.

As we all try and cram more and more into our already busy lives it may be that Thursday evenings are no longer the best time to hold church meetings. After Sunday morning worship is one possibility although we would probably need rather more sustenance than a cup of coffee between one and the other! Constructive ideas or suggestions for alternative times would be most welcome. At the end of the day it doesn't really matter when the meetings are held, what does matter is that sufficient members are present to allow a full meeting to take place.

*Ann P Taylor
Church Secretary*

It's a fact

There really is no story about the Resurrection in the New Testament. Except in the most fragmentary way, it is not described at all. There is no poetry about it. Instead, it simply proclaimed as a fact. Christ is risen! In fact, the

Unless something very real indeed took place on that strange, confused morning, there would be no New Testament, no Church, no Christianity.

*Frederick Buechner
The Magnificent Defeat*

Prayer Calendar for August 2007

- 1 Jimmy & Rosie Flanders
- 2 Malcolm & Mo Fletcher
- 3 Philip & Jean Gelaky
- 4 Tracy Genever & family
- 5 **What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will give us later** *Romans 8:18*
- 6 Mick & Angela Godwin
- 7 John & Doreen Gosney
- 8 Paul & Lynne Gosney
- 9 Marilyn Griffiths
- 10 Anne Harding
- 11 James & Rebecca Harrison & family
- 12 **You will not receive because the reason you ask is wrong** *James 4:3*
- 13 Colin & Val Harvey
- 14 Marge Harvey
- 15 Christina Haworth
- 16 Carol Heath
- 17 Gordon & Jill Hill
- 18 Allan & Rose Hitchman
- 19 **Let the wise listen and add to their learning** *Proverbs 1:5*
- 20 Mick & Pat Hooper
- 21 Mike & Francisca Hooper
- 22 Steve & Jacqui John & family
- 23 Andrew & Ruth Jones & family
- 24 Ema & Rob Kirbyson & family
- 25 Georgina Klee
- 26 **Take control of what I say, O Lord...** *Psalms 141:3*
- 27 Margaret Locker
- 28 Jean Lockhart
- 29 Marjorie Ludlow
- 30 Tony & Janet Liddington & family
- 31 Roz Mackay

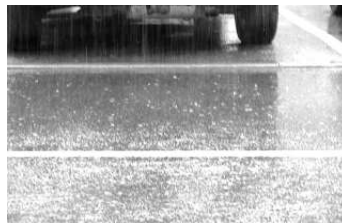
Editorial

1. Messenger material for the September edition to be in by **noon on Sunday 19th August**. Please observe this 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

Dedication of George Wood – 15 July 2007



and didn't it rain!



Interregnum Update

The process of finding a new minister is broadly as follows:-

- 1 Churches seeking a minister send their profile to the Baptist Union and ministers seeking a new church also send their details and CV to the BU. The Settlement Committee meets every two months to identify which ministers might be best suited to which church.
- 2 Details and CVs of approximately 6 ministers are sent from the BU to the deacons of the interregnum church for their consideration. If the deacons decide not to proceed with any of the ministers on the list, a further list will be sent out after the next Settlement Committee meeting.
- 3 When the deacons identify someone that they feel might be the right person, a meeting is arranged so both parties can get to know each other and explore whether to take things further. (It goes without saying that much careful thought and prayerful consideration go into each stage of the process). If either or both parties don't want to proceed any further, BU is informed and the deacons either contact another of the ministers for whom they have details or wait for a new list.
- 4 If the meeting goes well and both parties wish to proceed the minister is invited to 'preach with a peep'. In essence this means that they come as any other visiting minister, the difference being that they might subsequently be invited to 'preach with a view' i.e. – with the possibility of becoming the minister.
It may be that things go no further than 'preach with a peep' in which case it's back to the lists!
- 5 At the 'preach with a view' stage it is customary to arrange a social get-together so that members of the church fellowship can informally meet the prospective minister and his/her family. There could also be the opportunity for the minister to give a testimony, respond to questions from members of the church fellowship etc.
- 6 After the minister has 'preached with a view' there is a special church members meeting at the earliest opportunity at which the members vote whether or not to invite him/her to be the minister of our church. If the vote is in favour – great rejoicing – if not, back to the list.

We are currently at Stage 4. On Sunday 19th August, Rev Tim Welch is coming to 'preach with a peep' at both morning and evening worship. I realise that a number of you will be on holiday but it is important that as many of our fellowship as possible join us for worship on 19th. Although ultimately it is the church members who have the privilege and responsibility of voting for a new minister, everyone in our fellowship can play their part coming to hear potential ministers preach, talking to them and by sharing their thoughts with the deacons and members. Please pray for Tim as he prepares for these services. Pray also for us all as we seek to discern God's will so that we will know without doubt who it is that God has chosen to take us forward in His name.

Ann Taylor