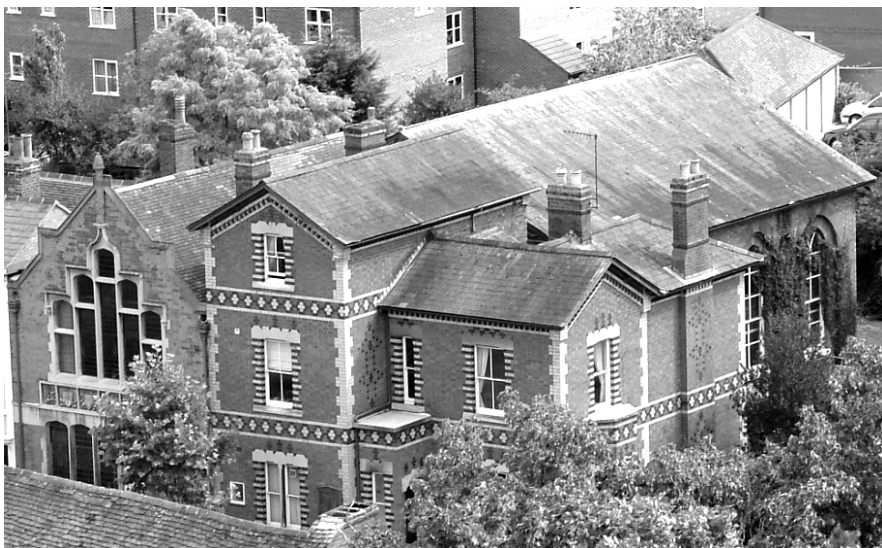


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Pershore Baptist Church



Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

July 2007

www.pershorebaptist.org

Dear Friends

Learn how to be hurt...

That's not a very positive thing to say! Perhaps not. But it helps! George Verwer, the remarkable founder of Operation Mobilisation, an extraordinary world-wide outreach and 'helps' ministry, said it first. "Get more familiar with pain and don't let it be such a big deal," he said. George's huge heart is turned more and more to the suffering of Christian believers in India and the unending needs, spiritual and physical, of that great subcontinent.

The Apostle Peter, who eventually would be martyred, wrote to his fellow believers, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ... [As for instance, when you're honest in your business, your competitors do twice the volume.] However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed but praise God that you bear that name (1 Peter 4:12-13, 16).

From prison, Paul wrote in Philippians 1:29 -- so calmly, so matter-of-factly -- "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him."

A brilliant Indian researcher in nuclear medicine, whom the UN consults on such matters, is

constantly offered important scientific work in countries outside India and wonderful jobs elsewhere at a very high salary. He has two little sons with cystic fibrosis, a rare disease in India. One son has already died from it. Indian heat is the worst possible climate for it but he stays in India. Why? He uses the royalties from his writing and fees from his numerous speaking engagements to run a school to train evangelists who spread the Gospel all over that vast land. India is desperate for Indian evangelists.

What gives that family "staying power" to stay in India? This is their life verse: "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear to myself, so that I might finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace God."

As for being hurt, do you hang on to past hurts? If you nurse and coddle those old pains and grievances and concentrate on them, it hurts you again and again. Why not have done with all that and start living?

Beware

As you prepare for the school holidays, remember this: children are natural mimics - they act like us in spite of all our attempts to teach them good manners.

Church Walk

On Saturday June 16th ten keen walkers met up at Pershore bridge car park at about 10:00 in the morning. When everybody was there, including Mike Taylor who kindly volunteered to lead our group and Anne Sadler and her map, as Jacqui John (the original group leader) was unable to attend as Nathan had been unwell the night before (so please pray that he will get better soon.) our expedition began. We set off up Pensham Hill through the woods of the Horticultural College, over the fields and up and down the hills. All the time worrying if our cars would be all right as the river had been so incredibly high and was rising. We walked and walked and walked and then came to Great Comberton where we were not the only ones on the road, for there, on the sides of the roads were dozens of scarecrows. I thought this is a tad peculiar. It was not bonfire night for another 5 months! But there they all were, each dressed for doing a different job, one was a gardener, one was a policeman, one was a postman, one was a butcher lady and so on, and they were all on display as part of the villages open day. We finished our walk back at Pershore Bridges where a quick check confirmed that the river had risen 2 inches in our absence! Then we all had a drink and some of us splashed around on the steps. Then most people left but the people with packed

lunches stayed and ate them. Over all a very enjoyable morning was had and we just missed the rain as well. Thank you to all that took part, especially Mike who stepped in at such short notice. Thank you.

Joshua James Wheeler

When the lady in question is bad-tempered.

With family holidays beginning this month, many men and children may be asking themselves why some women seem more ill-tempered than others over the loss of suitcases, getting stuck in heavy traffic, poor holiday accommodation, etc. Well, the answer may lie partly in their genes.

Recent research at the University of Pittsburgh has found that anger, hostility and pugnacity may be rooted in variations in the DNA of a serotonin receptor gene.

The study was the first to look at the relationship between variations in the serotonin receptor 2C gene and anger and hostility. It focused on 550 unrelated European women. Researchers found that those women who had one or both of two alterations in the promoter regions of the serotonin receptor – were more likely to score lower on tests for anger and aggression.

The researchers did not offer any specific advice to the husbands and children of women who scored high on tests for anger and aggression. But asking such women what is wrong with their genes is probably not a good idea!

News of the Family

On June 11th **Margery Barbour** was 90. Many congratulations to her. She is now living in Georgia in America with her daughter and is very happy.

Both **Alan Taylor** and **Nathan John** have been unwell and need our prayers.

What's Your Next Step?

Does this month spell the end of school, college, or even a job, for you? Then congratulations are in order: you have completed a significant step!

Now it is time to consider your next step. The dictionary defines 'step' as a physical movement that advances you in a desired direction. You take a 'step' forward in order to get somewhere specific, not just to stop yourself falling flat on your face. Each 'step', however small, can take you towards a specific goal.

The Bible reflects this. It is filled with the metaphors of stepping, walking, running and goals, pilgrimages, journeys, all to describe the years of our lives.

When we were babies, we clung to our parents' hands as we learned how to take our first steps. They stayed right by us, to keep us from falling, and to steer us in the right direction. As adults, the Bible tells us that a successful journey through all of life is based on how near we walk to God – and let him guide us in the steps we should take.

Choosing your next step in life this year is important. The good news is that you need not do it on your own. The Bible makes clear that in God, you have a divine 'life coach'. He knows you perfectly – and he has a plan for your life. Most of all this involves a personal relationship with him.

We've all seen toddlers staggering towards danger, ignoring their parents' cries of warning. We've all seen adults making a mess of their lives. They are ignoring their personal divine Shepherd, Guide, Teacher and Helper.

A baby learns to walk safely by listening to its parents. We learn what God's will is for us through daily reading of his word, in the Bible, and in obeying what we read.

For when God guides us, he does not hand down a divine map of our lives. His guidance is more like that of a torch – light for our daily path.

God's final 'step' for you is that you should know, enjoy and glorify him forever. Throughout our lives, we are to be taking small daily steps towards the Eternal City and he will see that we reach our final goal.

Meanwhile, the Lord wants you to succeed in the earthly goals that he has for you! Ask God to be your guide and helper as you take your next step.

Please note that the morning communion in July is on the 22nd **NOT** the 15th

Mercy Ships to Set Sail for Africa

The world's largest non-governmental hospital ship, Mercy Ships' 'Africa Mercy', recently set sail for Liberia, in Africa, following eight years of conversion work and global fundraising.

The former Danish rail ferry has been converted into a state-of-the-art hospital ship at a cost of over £30m and will provide free healthcare and community development services to the poorest people of Africa.

The Africa Mercy is the fourth ship to be operated by the international charity Mercy Ships, which has provided more than £350m worth of services since its inception in 1978.

More than 400 volunteer crew will be taking part in the ship's first field service in Africa providing free medical care, capacity building, relief aid and community development programmes to the people of war-torn Liberia.

£1m worth of hospital supplies, equipment and materials have been loaded onto the ship, transforming the vessel from an empty shell into a state-of-the-art hospital ship and small village.

In addition to the hospital supplies, essential goods including 3000 toilet rolls (a three month supply), 400 waste paper bins, 26.8 tons of frozen meat and fish (a four month supply), 420kg of coffee courtesy of Starbucks and 4,000kg of breakfast cereal have been loaded. The projected surgical capacity onboard the Africa Mercy is approximately 7,000 operations per year including cataract removal/lens implant, tumour removal, cleft lip and palate reconstruction, orthopaedics and obstetric fistula repair.

Over the years Mercy Ships has treated more than 200,000 people in village medical clinics, performing more than 32,000 surgeries and 180,000 dental treatments, and completing more than 800 construction, agriculture and water development projects.

Judy Polkinhorn, Executive Director, Mercy Ships UK, said: "A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has been involved in the whole project from start to finish. It is a great pleasure to know that the ship will be sailing to Africa shortly to carry out life saving treatments and giving hope back to thousands of families in the poorest communities of the world."

Make me willing to be used by you

Lord, make me willing to be used by you. May my knowledge of my unworthiness never make me resist being used by you. May the need of others always be remembered by me, so that I may ever be willing to be used by you.

And open my eyes and my heart that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for you.

There as a decorator named Wayne who was very interested in making a penny when he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time. Eventually the local Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of its biggest buildings. Wayne put in a bid for the exterior painting and because his price was so low, he was given the job.

He set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, needless to say, the turpentine thinners.

Wayne was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church. Wayne was knocked off the scaffold, landing on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Wayne was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke.....

(Wait for it.....)

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Sir, I have a lot of sympathy with the choir of the church of St Gregory the Great, Dawlish, who protested against their vicar's move to start happy-clappy, youth-oriented services.

The Church of England's current focus on all things to do with children is laudable, but this degree of concentration depends on the goodwill and co-operation of the elderly, a section of the Church that is often sidelined, belittled or brought down to juvenile level.

The burden and boredom of membership of parochial church councils, deanery synods and the new lay ministry groups falls mainly on those aged 60 and over. These people keep the Church ticking over and it is common sense not to antagonise or patronise them. They could well take up their zimmer frames and walk into the sunset without the accompaniment of badly played guitars or pressure to install toilets and tea-rooms in a building once called a church, but soon to be a social club.

I'm one of these geriatrics; I speak from the heart.

*Rohaise Thomas-Everard
Dulverton, Somerset
Letter in The Telegraph*

Zoo

One day Joe's mother turned to Joe's father and said, "It's such a nice day, I think I'll take Joe to the zoo."

"I wouldn't bother," said father. "If they want him, let them come and get him!"

Reading the Bible						
Date	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Sat
1 Jul	Lev 4-6	1Kings 14-18	Psalms 72-74	Prov 5-6	Eze 7-12	Luke 13-14 2Cor 11-13
8 Jul	Lev 7-9	2King 19-22	Psalms 75-77	Prov 7	Eze 13-18	Luke 15-16 Gal 1-3
15 Jul	Lev 10-12	2King 1-5	Psalms 78-80	Prov 8-9	Eze 19-24	Luke 17-18 Gal 4-6
22 Jul	Lev 13-15	2King 6-10	Psalms 81-83	Prov 10	Eze 25-30	Luke 19-20 Phili 1-2
29 Jul	Lev 16-18	2King 11-15	Psalms 84-86	Prov 11-12	Eze 31-36	Luke 21-22 Phili 3-4

Sermon

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me," replied his father, hoping to teach the boy about listening faith.

"Oh. Then why do you keep crossing things out?"

Each temptation leaves us better or worse; neutrality is impossible.

Erwin W Lutzer

Fairtrade grows

Britons are helping create a Fairtrade revolution, according to the American-based Christian Science Monitor, with sales in 2006 up 46% from the previous year. According to Traidcraft, Britain has overtaken Switzerland to become the largest Fairtrade market. The Fairtrade Foundation's website is: <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

The river

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large, raging violent river.

Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about two hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength - and some tools to cross the river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: "God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross this river." Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

Who do you trust?

75% of people trust clergy to tell the truth, according to a Mori poll taken in 2006, while 92% trust their doctors. Perception of clergy truthfulness has fallen since 1983 when it was 85%, while the scores for doctors and teachers have risen. Only 19% trust journalists, just slightly less than the 20% who believe that politicians are generally truth-tellers - this remaining more or less steady over this same period of time.

As she struggled to get a childproof cap off a bottle of medicine, her eight year old daughter raised an interesting point.

"Why do they bother to have childproof caps?" she asked. "Children hate medicine."

Reader's Digest

What your snoring partner is doing to you

If your partner snores, it will cost you two years of missed sleep over your lives together.

A staggering 15 million British adults live with a snoring partner, who deprives them of an average of two hours sleep a night. If an average relationship lasts 24 years, this equates to a loss of two years' sleep.

These are the findings of a study by the British Snoring and Sleep Apnoea Association (BSSAA). Of the 2,000 adults questioned, 85% said that their relationship with their partner would be better if they would stop snoring. Over half

(55%) said that snoring had even affected their sexual relationship.

The victims of snorers admit to feeling irritation, frustration and upset with their partner. They complain that the lack of sleep also leads to them making mistakes at work.

The BSSAA have come up with a variety of devices to combat the problem: nose and chin strips, nasal dilators, breathing devices, ear plugs, allergy testing kits and even nightwear that stops snorers from sleeping on their backs.

Allergies on the increase

Nearly half of the population is now prone to allergies. Around 20 million people in Britain suffer from some form of food intolerance. Nearly half – 45% of the population – have an adverse reaction to everyday foods such as milk and wheat.

Milk, eggs, peanuts, nuts, fish, shellfish, soya and wheat are to blame for 90% of allergic reactions. These are the findings of a recent survey by the medical charity Allergy UK. An allergy is far from a simple disease, and no one is quite sure why there has been such an increase of them in the population.

Noticing a removals van parked outside the house two doors away, a man thought it would be neighbourly to introduce himself to the new people.

As he offered a welcoming hand, he was met with a stony stare.

"We're moving out, he was told.

"We've lived here for three years."

Reader's Digest

Pershore Baptist Church Barn Dance and Supper

*Saturday, September 22nd 2007 at
7'o'clock
At Bishampton Village Hall*

Featuring 'Folk with a Joke'

*Tickets Available from Tracy Wheeler
Adults £6*

Children (Under 14) £3

All Profits will be donated to the Church Building Fund



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, Cropthorne
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.

Thursday Club

On 26th July there will be a visit to Witley Court. Pam Rayner will have details later.

Woman's Own

- 4 Trip round the Lavender Fields
Tea at Broadway Methodist Church
- 18 Communion Service
Summer tea afterwards

The word you were looking for is RESTFULLY

Lost in translation

Friends took their six year-old on a car trip to France. To help pass the time on the way down to the Channel, the boy practised his new reading skills by calling out road signs.

He fell asleep just before they entered France. When he awoke he saw the French motorway signs and said in a worried tone, "I think I forgot how to read while I was asleep."

Want to improve your relationships? See love as a verb, rather than as a feeling.

*Stephen Covey
Reader's digest*

In the Fair Forest

In Summer when the woods are green
And leaves are large and long
Full merry it is in the fair forest
To hear the small birds' song.

Babysitter

A young girl was babysitting for the first time - beginning her shift shortly after supper and as the children were playing in front of the house. At bedtime she sent all the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch TV. One child kept creeping down the stairs but the young girl kept sending him back. At 9pm, the doorbell rang. It was the next-door neighbour, Mrs. Brown, who asked anxiously whether her son was there.

The babysitter brusquely replied, "No." Just then a little head appeared over the banister and a voice shouted, "I'm here Mum but she won't let me go home."

To see the red deer seek the dale
And leave the hills so high,
To shade themselves among the
glades
Under the greenwood tree.

Old Ballad



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 doorway 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.

Exam papers explained

"IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN"... I didn't look up the original reference.

"A DEFINITE TREND IS EVIDENT"... These data are practically meaningless.

"WHILE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE DEFINITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS"... An unsuccessful experiment, but I still hope to get it published.

"THREE OF THE SAMPLES WERE CHOSEN FOR DETAILED STUDY"... The other results didn't make any sense.

"TYPICAL RESULTS ARE SHOWN"... This is the prettiest graph.

"IN MY EXPERIENCE"... Once

"IN CASE AFTER CASE"... Twice

"IN A SERIES OF CASES"... Thrice

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT"... I think.

"IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT"... A couple of others think so, too.

"CORRECT WITHIN AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE"... Wrong.

"ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS"... Rumour has it.

"A STATISTICALLY-ORIENTED PROJECTION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE FINDINGS"... A wild guess.

"A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF OBTAINABLE DATA"... Three pages of notes were obliterated when I knocked over a cup of coffee.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH ADDITIONAL WORK WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PHENOMENON OCCURS"... I don't understand it.

"AFTER ADDITIONAL STUDY BY MY COLLEAGUES"... They don't understand it either.

"IT IS HOPED THIS STUDY WILL STIMULATE FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THIS FIELD"... I quit.

It is shocking to reflect that a change in the weather has more effect on some men's lives than the dread alternative of heaven or hell.

C H Spurgeon

A brain is known by its fruits.

H G Wells

Prayer Calendar for July 2007

- 1 **They think they will be heard because of their many words** *Matthew 6:7*
- 2 Tim & Emily Wood & family
- 3 Jim & Edna Woodcock
- 4 Marc & Kate Young & family
- 5 Wesley & Muriel Adamson
- 6 Peter & Sheila Allies
- 7 Mary Attwood
- 8 **Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be** *Matthew 6:21*
- 9 Betty Banbury
- 10 Sue Baker & family
- 11 Tony Beaton
- 12 Stan & Joan Bell
- 13 Mary & Norman Bowley
- 14 Nick Bridges
- 15 **Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me** *Mark 9:37*
- 16 Les Brookes
- 17 Miriam Burton
- 18 Eamonn & Kathy Canning & family
- 19 Ann Chaplin
- 20 Silvia Christian
- 21 Brian & Frances Collingbourne
- 22 **Leave no... foothold for the devil** *Ephesians 4:27*
- 23 Henry Cowe
- 24 Chessie Cookley
- 25 Molly Crooke
- 26 David & Vera Davies
- 27 David & Sandra Dixson
- 28 Peter & Shelagh Edwards
- 29 **He said to them, "Go into all the world..."** *Mark 16:15*
- 30 Pete Everitt
- 31 Marshall & Helen Faizey & family

Editorial

1. Messenger material for the August edition to be in by **noon on Sunday 22nd July**. 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