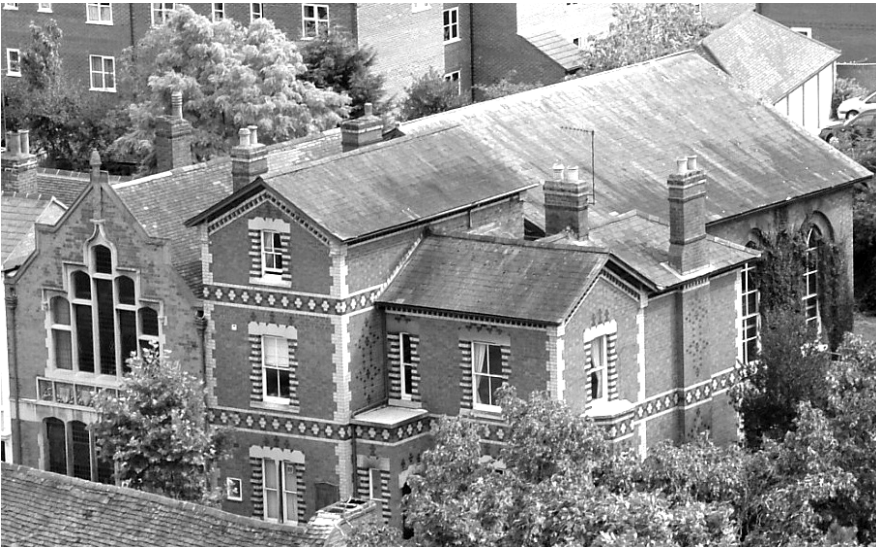


Pershore Baptist Church



Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

June 2007

www.pershorebaptist.org

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Dear Friends

Charles Wesley

300 years on, we still love his hymns

By 1742, four years after his evangelical conversion, Charles Wesley had published four collections of hymns. In these collections were some of his finest hymns on the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord. When the fifth collection of hymns appeared in 1742 it included a masterly treatment of Christ as our great High Priest.

As we read in the letter to the Hebrews, the ascended Christ now appears 'in the presence of God on our behalf' (9:24). He makes intercession for those who 'draw near to God' (Heb. 7:25), and as Paul puts it, Christ who died and was raised from death, is now at the right hand of God 'interceding for us' (Rom. 8:34). Charles opened the hymn with lines that encourage us to put away our fears and doubts.

Arise, my soul, arise

Shake off thy guilty fears ..

Our Risen Lord now stands at God's right hand to plead our case!

Before the throne my Surety stands

My name is written on His hands!

Jesus is our 'Surety' (Hebrews 7:22), meaning 'guarantee,' and the second line picks up Isaiah 49:16 where the Lord says that his people's names are 'graven on the

palms of My hands.' The hymn is emphasising that our ascended Lord will not forget us; He has written our names on His hands!

In the NT the sacrificial death of Christ is often referred to as His 'blood,' meaning that His life was given in His death on the Cross. His death is effective for the sins of the world and now in heaven that redeeming blood testifies that the work of Christ is forever acceptable to God (Heb. 9:12-24).

*His blood atoned for all our race
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.*

The lines 'Five bleeding wounds he bears, Received on Calvary,' refer to the nail marks in Christ's hands and feet and the spear wound in his side. These very wounds are pleading for us at the heavenly throne.

*'Forgive him, oh, forgive,' they cry
'Nor let that ransomed sinner die.'*

Our heavenly Father hears the prayers of Christ on our behalf! What a glorious truth! What assurance! What a foundation of unshakeable faith! What confidence we have! Not only did Christ die for us! Now he prays for us! He prays for you! He prays for me! He prays for all his people!

The Father hears Him pray

His dear Anointed One

He cannot turn away

The presence of His Son.

The Spirit answers to the blood

And tells me I am born of God!

June 17 - Father's Day

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. Ever wonder how the idea of Father's Day came about? Well....

It all started way back in 1909 because of a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in

Txt pry

God, u r d ultimate artst+I pry dat wat I cre8 2day, thrgh my spch, thghts+wiv my hnds will cntain d luv+beuty dat u put in2 makin dis earf. Im ur tool, plz use me2cre8 ur wrks.

Laura Garrett

June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day in America than on any other day of the year!

Suspicious subtract, faith adds, but love multiplies. It blesses twice – him who gives it and him who gets it.

CT Studd

News of the Family

Marie McKenzie has had a fall and broken her arm. She had a fight with her hosepipe and lost. Needless to say she is a long way from being happy! We pray that she has a speedy recovery from all her ills.

Premier Christian Radio sends 9,000 Bibles to Iraqi Christians

Since the recent launch of Premier Radio's partnership with their Charity of the Year Open Doors, listeners of the station have donated £45,000 - equal to 9,000 local language bibles for persecuted Christian in Iraq.

Small groups of Christian converts are forming in villages in Kurdistan, which is Northern Iraq. A spokesman for Open Doors UK, explains: "These Christians worship in local Kurdish languages, but there is little literature available. Because of this, we have been asking listeners of Premier Radio to raise money to send Bibles to Christian believers in these areas. We have been amazed at the response from Premier Radio listeners; their generosity has been inspiring."

Of what does life essentially consist?... the Bible answers that life is composed of relationships.

Robert Horn

Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church.

C H Spurgeon

World Mission Link Group

Four young members of a BMS Action team joined the youth of Pershore and Evesham Churches at their Impact service, in Evesham, on 6th May. A couple of oldies from the WML group also attended. They pronounced the experience "Different" but were thrilled to find God honouring His promise to be present when we gather in His name.

Also the latest e-mail from the Wilsons is now on the board in the entrance hall. Please read this and join in the prayer requests, particularly for the ongoing honey project.

John Newell

Thanks to the Tisdall family over 50 people of the church family and friends enjoyed another successful and action packed evening at the New Inn in Crothorne.

The tension mounted as the evening drew towards the sudden death play off, won eventually by Sam, one of the youth, in a close contest with Alan Taylor.

Thanks also to the children who kept the balls rolling and the skittles standing.

Anne Sadler

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.

Derek Bruce

What word across makes nine words down?

T	Y	A	S	O	O	S	A	D
Y	T	P	Y	T	T	Y	L	E

Answer next month

Weekday prayers

Monday Wash Day - Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday Ironing Day - Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday Mending Day - O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Being right with God does not make you right about everything else.

Joel Edwards, Baptist Assembly 2004

Our strength is shown in the things we stand for. Our weakness is shown in the things we fall for.

Thursday Cleaning Day - Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday Shopping Day - O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

Saturday Cooking Day - Help me, my Saviour, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday The Lord's Day - O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

The world does not want us to sit on our beam ends just enjoying Jesus.

Alistair Brown, Baptist Assembly 2004

Compromise is the art of dividing a cake in such a way that everyone believes they got the biggest piece

Dear Friends,

At the Songs of Praise service I had opted to read a poem. Many of you thought I had written the poem but I must confess that I didn't. It was always a favourite of mine though, and I did want you to hear it. I cannot remember who wrote it but it was a fellow student at University. We had a wonderful Christian Lecturer who always gave us inspiration for our poems and every lesson she would say. "Always remember to pray for the people who are part of your everyday life, as well as those in the World tragedies. They need your prayers and the love of God as much as anyone else." Many poems which were then inspired were written about everyday occurrences in the student's lives.

As you know University has a mixture of students with different cultures and circumstances - the rich jostle with the poor and the Christians with other denominations and even non-believers. However friendships

evolve with the oddest combinations and discussion were always very interesting and enlightening.

Everyone I met - without exception - had some problem, tragedy or horrible experience happen to them at sometime in their life. Therefore we were encouraged to write poems about things we wished to bring before our own God for prayer and so many things the Christians wrote about were stories which can be related to in the Bible which was written so very long ago.

Tonight I'm going to pray for all of the people who have not yet come to know God and also for people who are lonely and alone. Most of all I am going to pray for my wonderful Church family who have helped me through a most difficult year in my life. May God continue to Bless you all in the work you are doing through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To finish I would just like to print one of the poems I have been writing about to show you how thought provoking they can be; - *Marie McKenzie*.

WINTER by Liam Sheehy.

Eventually they came to force her lock,
And scuff across the heap of unpaid bills
That lay upon the mat. The landing filled
With neighbours, none of whom had ever knocked
Upon her door. Yet now they seemed quite shocked.
As if they'd never heard that winter killed
The old, and didn't understand the chill

Of loneliness within that council block.
The sergeant sighed, and gently closed the door
Behind him, knowing, as he crossed the hall,
The pointlessness of calling 'Are you there?'
He caught the awful stench of death before
He found her, sitting with a purple shawl
Clasped tight, in vain, against the frozen air.

Childhood accidents - they just aren't what they used to be!

Remember the days when summer holidays meant that most children climbed trees – and some fell out of them? And when most children rode bicycles – and some fell off them?

Well, all that is changing. A recent study of hospital admissions shows that the number of tree-related incidents has fallen by 36% from 1999 to 2006. And there has been a 22% fall in the number of children injured in bike accidents.

On the other hand, RSI injuries brought on by playing "PlayStation Generation" are up 35%. And last year more under-14s were injured falling out of bed, or even falling off their chair, than falling out of a tree.

Missing plays and festivals

You most likely had more of it than your children are having: the chance to experience a religious festival.

A recent survey of 4,000 parents of pre-teen children in the UK revealed that just over half of them regret the lack of nativity plays and Harvest Festival celebrations in schools.

While 75% of the parents had fond memories of such events, only 34% of their children had taken part in a school nativity play and 17% in a Harvest Festival.

Sunday school was also in the top ten list of experiences that parents wanted their children to have. Other experiences included: board games, seaside day trips and school milk breaks.

Marriage in heaven

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple were involved in a fatal car crash. They found themselves outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting, they begin to wonder: Could they possibly get married in Heaven?

When St. Peter showed up, they asked him. St. Peter said: "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he left.

The couple sat and waited. Two months passed, and the couple were still waiting. As they waited, they discussed that IF they were allowed to get married in Heaven, SHOULD they? "What if it doesn't work?" they wondered. "Are we stuck together FOREVER?"

Finally St. Peter returned, looking somewhat ragged. "Yes," he informs the couple, "you CAN get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple, "But we were just wondering, what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard onto the ground. "OH, COME ON!" he shouted. "It took me three months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how long it'll take me to find a solicitor?"

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds

What about Baptism?

We ask why baptism is necessary? For example, Salvationists and Quakers are well known in their rejection of baptism. So what should we say to the person who is a Christian but sees no need to be baptised!

Firstly, we have the clear command of Jesus. He made baptism a vital part of his final charge to his disciples before he left them: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' (Matt 28: 19,20). Therefore, being baptised is a matter of obedience, if we claim that Jesus is our Lord.

Secondly, baptism is the sign of belonging to the Christian community. In the New Testament it was regarded as the norm that conversion to Christ involved membership of the Christian Church. The New Testament knows nothing of an unbaptised Christian! So Paul talks about belonging to the church in terms of baptism: 'For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one

Spirit to drink.' (1 Cor. 12: 13). The church has only one mark of belonging: baptism.

Thirdly, baptism is a necessary component of initiation. When Peter preached at Pentecost, he called for the following response: 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 2: 38). Each of these elements is part of Christian initiation ie. repentance / faith and baptism (our action), forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit (God's action). So baptism is part of becoming a Christian, and not simply a witness to it. This pattern can be seen with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8), Paul's conversion (Acts 9), Cornelius (Acts 10) and the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16). Therefore, to see baptism as simply an opportunity to witness to becoming a Christian is a less than adequate understanding of baptism itself. It also explains why the New Testament strongly links baptism with salvation ('this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you': 1 Peter 3:21).

Therefore, let's ask ourselves the question if we are Christian, Have I been baptised?

God has given us two hands

– one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. *Billy Graham*

If at first you succeed, break it and start over again.

God knows what he is going to make of us.

James Montgomery Boice

House rules

If you drop it – pick it up.
 If you sleep in it – make it.
 If you empty it – fill it.
 If you open it – close it.
 If it rings – answer it.
 If it cries – love it.

Peace between neighbours

Peace between neighbours near,
 Peace between kindred here,
 Peace between lovers dear,
 In the love of the King of us all.

Peace man with man abide,
 Peace man to wife allied,
 Mother and bairns to guide,
 And peace of the Christ above all.

Bless, O Christ, bless my face,
 My face bless every face,
 Christ, bless mine eye with grace,
 Mine eye give a blessing to all.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

God's Care

How brief is our span of life compared with the time since you created the universe. How tiny we are compared with the enormity of your universe. ...yet during every minute and ever second of our lives you are present, within and around us. You give your whole and undivided attention to each and every one of us. Our concerns are your concerns. And you are infinitely patient with our stupidity.

I thank you with all my heart....

Fulbert of Chartres (c.970–1028)

The older you get, the more you should listen to your body. Unfortunately, your hearing is often the first to go

		Reading the Bible						
Date	Day	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3 Jun	Exo	29-32	2Sam 20-24	Psalm 60-62	Job 41-42	Jer 42-46	Luke 5-8	2Cor 6-8
10 Jun	Exo	33-36	1King 1-4	Psalm 63-65	Prov 1	Jer 47-52	Luke 7-8	2Cor 9-10
17 Jun	Exo	37-40	1King 5-9	Psalm 66-68	Prov 2-3	Lam	Luke 9-10	Col 1-2
24 Jun	Lev	1-3	1King 10-13	Psalm 69-71	Prov 4	Eze 1-6	Luke 11-12	Col 3-4

Having received her new bus pass, a woman remarked that the photo didn't do her justice. "It's not justice you want," he replied. "It's mercy."

Godliness is nothing but God-likeness. *George Swincock*

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. *Henry D Thoreau*

Don't be afraid

'Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear...' Psalm 27:3

Someone once wrote: 'You may not be able to prevent the enemy from pitching his tent in your neighbourhood, but you can be confident that your Father will prepare a banquet table for you in his presence. The enemy's presence does NOT in any way diminish your supply, for God knows how to break through the enemy's camp and provide for you. The attack that comes against you will never exceed the weapon you have been given to resist him with. That weapon is a confident heart that refuses to fear a foe that your Champion has already defeated.

So what should you be convinced of? That the Lord is your light; your salvation; the stronghold of your life (Psalm 27:1-2) Jesus defeated

Rhyming commands

Have no other god but me,
 Unto no image bow the knee,
 Take not the name of God in vain,
 Do not the Sabbath day profane,
 Honour thy father and mother too,
 And see that thou no murder do,
 From vile adultery keep thou clean,
 And steal not though thy stare be mean,
 Bear not false witness-shun that blot,
 What is the neighbour's covet not.

Anon circa 1731

The Weekly News

Lord, let me seek to serve, not to impress. *Andy Brookes*

Satan so he would have right to defend you. You may see the enemy's camp and be aware of the size of his forces; you may recognize that his plan is to wage war against you – but he'll never succeed, because he can triumph only where fear and lack of confidence exist.

Why don't you pray this prayer: "Father, I thank you because I am fully persuaded that you are able to keep me from the evil that's in the world, because Jesus stands before you on my behalf. (John 17:15) The enemy is powerless to harm me and I don't even have to enter into battle with him. Therefore, I choose to use my energy today to praise you for your love from which I'll never be separated. (Romans 8:38,39) Amen.

From UCB daily notes.

Lost without your sat nav?

If your car's satellite navigation stops working this summer, and you can't think of an earthly reason why, you are probably right. It is the sun that is to blame. Scientists now believe that bursts of radiation caused by solar flares interfere with the signal from satellites orbiting the earth, causing the receivers in cars to lose track of their position. The scientists, funded by Nasa and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, hope that in studying solar flares they will find some answers. In the meantime, keeping a roadmap in the car might be a good idea!

Thursday Club

On June 28th there is a visit to The Pump House Environmental Centre, Barbourne, Worcester. Tea/coffee available for a small charge.

There is no charge for the visit but donations are welcome.

Further details, including time of the visit, from Pam Rayner.

Woman's Own

6 Rob Mace – *Outreach Officer for Wychavon DC*

20 Rev Rodney Firman – Communion Service

If God had voice mail...

Most of us live with voice mail as a necessary part of our lives. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? ...

Thank you for calling heaven.

For English, press 1; for French, press 2; for all other languages, press 3.

Please select one of the following options: Press 1 for request; press 2 for thanksgiving; press 3 for complaints; press 4 for all others.

I am sorry, all our Angels and Saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to: God, press 1; Jesus, press 2; the Holy Spirit, press 3.

To find a loved one that has been assigned to heaven press 5, then enter his social security number, followed by the # key. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and dial 666.

For reservations to heaven, please enter JOHN followed by the numbers, 3 16.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, life and other planets, please wait until you arrive in heaven for the specifics.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Our computers show that you have already been prayed for today, please hang up and call again Monday. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local minister. Thank you and have a heavenly day.

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 21Ganderton 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.

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.



COLOURS IN CHURCH

Have you noticed that, from time to time, the colour of things in church changes? No, I don't mean the minister goes a funny colour or someone paints the walls, but the special robes that the priest wears, and the front of altar among other things, change from time to time. Each season of the Church's year has its own distinctive colour and these are called liturgical colours.

GREEN is the colour we have more than others. Green, the ordinary colour of nature, is used during the seasons of Epiphany (after Christmas) and Trinity (between Whitsun or Pentecost and Advent). Trinity lasts for about half the year so green is the colour we see most.

The next change of colour is to **PURPLE**. Purple, the colour of penitence and preparation, is used for Lent (the 40 days before Easter) and Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas).

Then comes **WHITE** and **GOLD**, which are used for all the joyful

festivals - Easter, Ascension and Christmas.

RED, the colour of fire and blood, is used at Pentecost to remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples like tongues of flame (Acts 2:11). It is also used on the festivals of martyrs to remind us of their sacrifices.

COLOUR QUIZ

Complete each of these with a colour, for example cordial would be LIME cordial. Each colour is only used once.

1. admiral
2. Christmas
3. marmalade
4. quick
5. sky
6. Royal
7. ribbons
8. glass
9. submarine
10. elephants



Define the word 'information'.
How the Red Arrows fly.

What is yellow and black and has red spots?

A leopard with the measles.



ANSWERS: 1:red 2:white 3:orange
4:silver 5:blue 6:Navy
7:scarlet 8:wine 9:yellow 10:pink

Prayer Calendar for June 2007

- 1 Tim & Emily Wood & family
- 2 Jim & Edna Woodcock
- 3 **Love your enemies...do good to those who hate you.**
Matthew 5:44
- 4 Marc & Kate Young & family
- 5 Wesley & Muriel Adamson
- 6 Peter & Sheila Allies
- 7 Mary Attwood
- 8 Betty Banbury
- 9 Sue Baker & family
- 10 **The Lord takes care of those who obey Him**
Psalms 38:14
- 11 Tony Beaton
- 12 Stan & Joan Bell
- 13 Mary & Norman Bowley
- 14 Nick Bridges
- 15 Les Brookes
- 16 Miriam Burton
- 17 **Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ.**
Philippians 1:27
- 18 Eamonn & Kathy Canning & family
- 19 Ann Chaplin
- 20 Silvia Christian
- 21 Brian & Frances Collingbourne
- 22 Henry Cowe
- 23 Chessie Cookley
- 24 **Love your neighbour as you love yourself**
Mark 12:31
- 25 Molly Crooke
- 26 David & Vera Davies
- 27 David & Sandra Dixson
- 28 Peter & Shelagh Edwards
- 29 Pete Everitt
- 30 Marshall & Helen Faizey & family

Editorial

1. Messenger material for the July edition to be in by **noon on Sunday 17th June**. 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