

THE MAGAZINE

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TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

MAY 2009

Pastoral Letter — May 2009

Prospects

The month of May is full of happy prospects for the church at Tinshill. Firstly, the AGM takes place on 8th May. Too often people groan at the prospect of church business meetings. But we view them as opportunities to hear of spiritual reports from various departments and to praise God for encouraging growth – it is His work and only He can bring real spiritual increase! Let us then view the AGM as a special worship meeting!

Then on Sunday the 10th May we have a very special day – we have the prospect in the morning of the infant dedication of Joseph David Hickman, when his parents, Tim and Colette, will promise to nurture him in the ways of God through His Word the Scriptures, and to teach him the gospel of salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The church fellowship will be encouraged to pray for him as he grows up. In the evening of the same day we have a baptismal service for three of our young ladies, who like Lydia in the book of Acts, have had their hearts opened to the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit. Every baptismal service at Tinshill seems to have the atmosphere of Revival! And how we would love to see true Revival break out under God here and throughout the land, bringing glory to God and many souls saved by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us not forget the prospect of our third annual Ladies Day on May 16th, when Clare Robertson from Acorn books (and Roundhay Evangelical Church) will be coming to minister as speaker. The ladies appreciate a special day for them when, in a relaxed atmosphere, they can benefit from the teaching and experience of another Christian lady. We trust that it will be an encouraging time for all.

By the time the end of the month comes, plans will be complete for our sixth annual Bible Exhibition run in conjunction with the Open Air Mission. For the first time we will have four schools sending their primary children, making a total of around 480 children, during the four days commencing June 22nd. In days when bible teaching is at a low ebb, what a privilege it is for children to hear so many bible stories in a 60 minute

period, and then complete a quiz sheet. The children and adults always enjoy the experience. This time, the exhibition is called “The Amazing Acts”. Remember all our schools’ work, which is generally increasing.

I am reminded of the verse Proverbs chapter 16: 9 which reads: *“A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps”*.

At an individual level we should always say ‘God willing’ or ‘DV’ when we make plans, whether near or far into the future. We don’t know what will come tomorrow, sent by God to possibly change our plans – we should not be complacent enough to think we can control our future.

The same applies as a church fellowship, as plans like the above are made. But at least we know that each event has already had much prayer surrounding it – we believe that they are all in God’s will and we expect His favour and blessing, particularly to those intimately involved. The Lord will direct our steps on this route, just as we believe that He has helped to plan the way.

With warm greetings

Glyn Williams

Contending for the faith

It has been 200 years since the birth of Charles Darwin, and as Christians who take the Bible literally as the inspired and inerrant Word of God we are saddened by the influence Darwin’s theories of evolution have had on society and education. In the book, ‘Contending for the Faith,’ by David Fountain, we read about a man called E J Poole-Conner. This book highlights the influence Darwin, along with other changes in society, had on the evangelical (nonconformist) church in England.

During the 18th century men such as Whitefield and Wesley along with many other preachers were raised up to bring the gospel to many from all classes of society, resulting in changes in behaviour amongst the poor, and moral changes in the way government made decisions. Into the 19th century the church continued to grow. The established church continued to have

great spiritual and moral influence. But in the mid 19th century there was a great revival in England, where many were saved and the nonconformist churches particularly saw much growth. One significant preacher of that time was C H Spurgeon. Satan though is never idle and not long after this evangelicalism in England was undermined in a way never seen before. Many evangelicals within the Anglican church were leaving the established church and joining independent evangelical churches. David Fountain writes, “As Nonconformists became accepted by society, so society was accepted by Nonconformity. The idea that a successful church is the socially busy church began to be popular and sermons on moral, literary and social topics became more frequent... The churches became an accepted local institution.” Prior to this universities did not accept anybody who was not Anglican, so the nonconformists had set up colleges to educate the young. David Fountain goes on to say that as the universities opened to non-Anglicans the nonconformist colleges became purely theological, academic colleges. In these colleges liberalism began to flourish. Darwin’s ideas about evolution were being taken on board along with other liberal theology, making it acceptable for theological students at evangelical colleges to question the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. This led to what has become known as the Downgrade Controversy.

Toward the end of Spurgeon’s life he became involved in a dispute within the Baptist Union. He, and a small number of other men, objected to this change in attitude towards the Bible. In fact he gave warnings about liberal theology which many refused to believe was a threat, but as a result Spurgeon left the Baptist Union. One writer says of Spurgeon, “The Bible was not for Spurgeon a thing for rational justification; it was the starting point for all right reason on religious matters. He was one of the few men of his generation who really felt more certain of the truth of the Bible than he did of the truth of contemporary science. If geology was in conflict with the Bible, then so much the worse for geology.”

Despite Spurgeon’s efforts the majority of nonconformist churches in the country took on board ‘Higher Criticism’ – which essentially means that they questioned the verbal inspiration of Scripture. But the Lord was gracious and sent men to follow in Spurgeon’s footsteps, men such as E J

Poole-Connor and more recently Dr Martin Lloyd Jones. These men went against the tide of liberal theology and re-established the reformed doctrines in the minds of many evangelical Christians. David Fountain describes the late 19th and early 20th century as probably the most disastrous period of church history this country has ever known. But today we are amongst a large number of evangelical churches throughout this country where the reformed doctrines are preached and continue to go forward. Despite the best efforts of men like Darwin and those who undermined the church from within, the Lord has remained faithful to us, more than we in this country deserve.

Jonathan and Yvonne Chell

Treasures in the British Museum

When I last went to London in mid March I took my sister Alison for lunch in The British Museum, which is the oldest public museum in the world, established back in 1753.

I was keen to see The Great Court, designed by Sir Norman Foster, and opened in 2000 at a cost of some £100 million. It surrounds the Reading Room and is covered by a widespan, lightweight roof creating London's first indoor public square. It is well worth seeing and very impressive. The roof



British Museum – Exterior View

contains 3,312 panes of glass each uniquely cut to size, and is the area of a football field.

Whilst we were there we spent some time looking at some of the various treasures contained in the British Museum. The Elgin Marbles or Parthenon Sculptures brought back from Athens by Lord Elgin in the early 1800s



The Great Court

are displayed in a separate gallery. The apostle Paul would certainly have seen these sculptures high up on the Parthenon when he visited Athens as recorded in Acts 17.



Elgin Marbles – Detail

I was struck by two other particular subjects. The first was The Great Torc, quite a small object but of great interest, found at Snettisham in Norfolk and dated at around 100BC. It was quite beautiful – solid but intricate and clearly of



The Great Torc

great value. The inscription described it as one of the most elaborate golden objects from the ancient world. It was made from gold mixed with silver and weighs over 1kg! Complex threads of metal have been grouped into ropes and twisted around each other with the end of the Torc cast into moulds and welded onto the ropes.

The other object was much larger but displayed nearby and included a plaster cast of part of the staircase built by King Artaxerxes III (ruled about 350BC) at the Palace of Darius at Persepolis, Iran with writing in cuneiform – or ancient script. I was thrilled to see something associated with Biblical history and to remember that the Bible is history as well as wisdom, poetry and prophecy. Artaxerxes is mentioned in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah whilst Darius is spoken about in both these books, Daniel, Haggai and Zechariah. It is good to remember that the Bible is supported by history and that as Christians we have such deep and ancient roots based on the history of our world.

My appetite has been well and truly whetted. I have now bought a copy of “Through the British Museum with the Bible” by Brian Edwards/Clive Anderson published by Day One – I shall be going back to discover more treasures!

Martin Sellens

Groundbreakers 2009



The Groundbreakers holiday club was run during the Easter holidays, from Tuesday 14th April to Friday 17th April. The theme was people who broke new ground for God. We looked at men such as Elijah who challenged the prophets of Baal to see if their gods could send down fire from heaven – of course they couldn't,

despite frantic efforts on the part of the prophets. Elijah's God, however, responded immediately and in a way that proved beyond doubt that He alone is the one true God.

- In all, over fifty children came along during the week, with an average of 37 each day. Our games and crafts sessions were based on a construction theme and the church hall was made into a temporary construction site, complete with a cement mixer positioned on the platform!
- All of the memory verses directly related to each day's story and we gave out a large number of books and Bibles to those children who learnt all four verses.
- The quizzes, whilst not only being a chance to remind the children of the gospel truths learned during the morning, were hugely fun and we are thankful particularly to the young people for being willing to make fools of themselves. The picture shows Chen and



Matthew covered in shaving foam having cheese puffs thrown at them; the team with the most cheese puffs stuck on the foam won!!



- Thank you for your prayers for us and for the children during Groundbreakers. Please continue to pray for the children and for Good News Club and Key Club. Bookmarks have been produced to help you in your prayers, if you haven't been given one, please speak with Margaret Williams

Deborah Williams/Jenny Leng

New books for the church library

Below is a list of books recently added to the library. I am sure you will be helped, encouraged and blessed by reading them, as I have been.

Commentaries / Scripture reading and study

Two additions to the Welwyn Commentary Series

Heavenly love: the Song of Songs simply explained

Christ all sufficient: Colossians and Philemon simply explained by J. Philip Arthur

Family / Social / Contemporary issues

When the darkness will not lift: doing what we can while we wait for God – and joy by John Piper. Even the most faithful, focused Christians can encounter periods of depression and spiritual darkness, when joy seems to stay just out of reach. In this book John Piper gives comfort and guidance to help in these times, and uses real life examples and sensitive narrative to show readers abundant reason to hope that God will pull them out of the pit of despair and into the light once again.

Visit the sick: ministering God's grace in times of illness by Brian Croft. This book is designed to instruct and motivate pastors, church leaders, and other care-giving Christians through the counsel of the heroes of church history, to recapture the practice of visiting the sick.

Doctrine

Discipline with care: applying biblical correction in your church by Stephen McQuoid. In this thorough treatment of the subject, the author provides a biblical framework for church discipline, one of the most difficult issues in contemporary church life. Because prevention is better than cure, he shows that discipline is not just about punishing but includes a whole way of life which keeps us spiritually accountable and in a right relationship with God. By using appropriate case-studies, he also demonstrates the complications of real life situations and highlights the lessons that can be learned.

Christine Crossley

MAF News to SHARE

Responding to medical emergency needs

Bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.

In the UK, we take our health system for granted. But in many parts of the world, healthcare is limited and patients often die because they are unable to get to hospital. In times of emergency, MAF flights bring medical help, enabling patients to get to hospital quickly and often saving lives.

Six-year-old Timothy is one patient whose life was saved. He had been receiving treatment in a small hospital in Matany in the east of Uganda, but became unconscious for five hours and urgently needed to reach the larger International Hospital in the capital Kampala.

Our team arranged for a doctor and nurse to meet us at our Kajjansi base

and flew them to Matany. It took the doctor some time to stabilise Timothy sufficiently for the flight to Kampala. Without the plane, it would have taken the doctor a full day to reach Matany, and Timothy would not have survived a further full day's journey over rough roads.

Unfortunately, sometimes it can be too late to receive medical attention. Our team in Uganda reports, 'A man came early into our office asking if we could collect his father who had suffered a stroke and had been unconscious in Matany Hospital for over a week. He needed to be moved urgently from there to Kampala so he could have a scan.'

Pilot Matthew Slaubaugh was already in the area and was able to divert his flight. The plane landed at Matany airstrip just 2½ hours after the request was received. The patient was brought to the plane, flown to the capital and then transferred by ambulance to hospital. Unfortunately, later that evening he collapsed and the staff were not able to revive him.

On the other side of the world in Papua New Guinea, rough mountainous terrain makes travelling even short distances extremely challenging. Medical care is limited and any complications in childbirth can put the lives of mother and child at risk.

A phone call to pilot Michael Duncalfe one Sunday lunchtime led to an urgent medical flight for a young woman from Koinambe, who had been in labour for over 24 hours. Michael arrived an hour later, saving an eight-hour trip by bus and foot over sometimes impassable roads.

Barely able to walk to the plane, the pregnant woman Peggy was supported by her mother and a local health centre worker. Even sitting in the plane was a struggle due to the pain. Within 30 minutes, Peggy was helped into a vehicle from the Anglican church and taken to Mount Hagen Hospital where she delivered a healthy baby girl.

MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical need.

Mission Aviation Fellowship

PREACHING PLAN

		Morning	Evening
May	3	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
	10	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams (Baptismal)
	17	Rob Mitchell	Rob Mitchell (Leeds City Mission)
	24	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	31	Jonathan Chell	Glyn Williams
June	7	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams

OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Remember our Pastor, Glyn Williams, in his ministry over the coming month. He has the following outside meetings this month:

Monday 11th May 7.30 p.m Leeds City Mission Committee

Monday 1st June 7.30 p.m Leeds City Mission Trustees Meeting

Note:

Glyn will also be attending the wedding of Rachel Harrison to Tony Barker at Moreton in Marsh on Friday 29th May. We wish them God's blessing.

DIARY

May

Wed 6 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Speaker: Andrew Lolley

Thu 7 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Jonathan Chell

Fri 8 7.45pm Annual General Meeting

Sun 10 am Dedication of Joseph Hickman in the morning service
pm Baptismal Service – Natalie Walker, Lucy Naylor and Katy Sellens to be baptised

Tue 12 10.15am Second Tuesday

7.30pm Ladies' Prayer Group at 14 Bedford Drive

Fri 15 7.45pm Elder/Deacons Meeting at 87 Tinshill Road
7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount

Sat 16 10.30am Ladies Day Speaker: Clare Robertson

Mon 18 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 87 Tinshill Road

Tue 19 7.45pm Men's Fellowship

Thu 21 10-12am Asda Chaplaincy
2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Rodney Steel
7.30pm Followers' Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk

Wed 27 Deadline for items for June edition of the Magazine –
to Martin Sellens please

June

Thu 4 2pm Thursday at Two Speaker: Ken Link

Fri 5th 4-6pm Asda chaplaincy

Please Note:

There will be no Ladies' Prayer Group on May 26th and no Second Tuesday meeting in June.

Don't Forget

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study will be held on Wednesday evenings in May starting on 6th May and continuing on 13th, 20th, 27th at 7.45pm until about 9.30pm

ROTAS

Week ending

May	2	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Ruth Barugh
	9	Ruth Holder	Ann Mountain	Yvonne Chell
	16	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams
	23	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton
	30	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley
June	6	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Katy Sellens

Cleaning

For Sunday

May	3	Anne Sellens	10	Ruth Holder
	17	Mabel Simpson	24	Jenny Leng
	31	Angela Mathers	June 7	Margaret Williams

Flowers

Library

		Morning	Evening
May	3	Yvonne Chell	Angela Mathers
	10	Christine Crossley	Mavis Mathers
	17	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Jack/Ruth Rozday
	24	Paul Crossley	Rosemary Hilton
	31	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers
Jun	7	Yvonne Chell	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard

Shoe Boxes Appeal Reminder 2009

Please remember to collect shoeboxes with separate lids and cover them with Christmas paper. Can you please keep them at home until we ask for them in late September, as we don't have storage space for them over a long period. Thanks.

Margaret Williams

Diary of Services and Activities

Sunday	Prayer Meeting	8.00am
	Morning Worship*	10.30am
	Key Club (Children aged 4-11)	10.30am
	Evening Worship	6.30pm
	Holy Communion follows the first morning and the third evening service each month *A fully supervised crèche for young children is run in the church side room during the sermon.	
Monday	Followers (Young people of secondary school age)	7.30PM
Tuesday	Second Tuesday (monthly)	10.15AM
	Ladies' Prayer Group (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) venue as announced	7.30PM
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45PM
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00PM
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study — during May	7.45PM
Thursday	Thursday at Two (senior citizens – fortnightly)	2.00PM
	Followers' Prayer Group (fortnightly) at 68 Moseley Wood Walk	7.30PM
Friday	Good News Club (Children aged 5-11)	6.00PM
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45PM

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