

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)	7.30PM
	venue as announced	
	Men's Fellowship (3rd Tuesday monthly)	7.45PM
Wednesday	Tots' Club (term-time)	1.30 - 3.00PM
	Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	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
	Friday Youth Night (Ages 11-16)	7.30PM
	Missionary Prayer Group (monthly) at 1 Tinshill Mount	7.45PM

TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

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Registered Charity No. 511933

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THE MAGAZINE

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TINSHILL FREE CHURCH

APRIL/MAY 2011

Pastoral Letter — April/May 2011

Friend or enemy?

The hour has gone forward; the daylight, which was already increasing, has had a sudden leap forward in the evenings. I know Spring is here because our wooden garage doors, which normally stick a bit during the winter months, are rapidly contracting! The daffodils and crocuses are out. We are in the time of Spring, and of hope, and of planning for the Summer months. If there is a particular time when we praise God for His greatness, as giver of new life, then this is it!

But then words like Sangin, Helmand, Afghanistan keep cropping up on the evening news, accompanied by pictures of very young men — mainly teens and twenties. They have lost their lives in the continuing, long-running war in a country that has not known real peace for a very long time. I look at those pictures, and realise that those men are not going to return for Easter with all its promise — in fact, they're not going to return alive at all. Young men join the army, and the other services, for many reasons, but you have to be brave with the risks involved. Just recently, Lieutenant Jack Anrude of the "40 Commando Division", was awarded the Military Cross. He fearlessly led his men out of a Taliban ambush despite being shot twice; he picked up an injured Afghan soldier on his way to safety, under heavy fire. Perhaps you can remember the recent story of a soldier killed going to help an injured colleague; or another who lost his life trying to diffuse a roadside bomb. And so often, they lose their life just before they were going to return home from their 'Tour of Service'.

The best side of human nature is able to make a man give his life for his friends. The Bible tells us this is so. John 15: 13 tells us '*greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends*'. The footprint of God is still in us — we are indeed made in the image of God. People will still risk their lives for others. We should not underestimate the God-given characteristics which are latent in us, and particularly to go 'in the front line' of defending Queen and country.

But Easter time takes this concept a step further. Here is a Man who would

ROTAS

Week ending		Cleaning			
April	2	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain	
	9	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Natalie Walker	
	16	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams	
	23	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton	
	30	Ruth Holder	Beccy/Ben Henry	Jennie Lewis	
May	7	Mavis Mathers	Angela Mathers	Christine Crossley	
	14	Margaret Williams	Colette Hickman	Ann Mountain	
	21	Anne Sellens	Carole Brearley	Natalie Walker	
	28	Carol Getzels	Kathryn Hibbard	Deborah Williams	
June	4	Jenny Leng	Eva Ng	Rosemary Hilton	
For Sunday		Flowers			
Apr	3	Colette Hickman	10	Carole Brearley	
	17	Kathryn Hibbard	24	Eva Ng	
May	1	Beccy Henry	8	Christine Crossley	
	15	Ann Mountain	22	Mabel Simpson	
	29	Deborah Williams	June 5	Rosemary Hilton	
Library					
		Morning	Evening		
April	3	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Mavis Mathers		
	10	Angela Mathers	Paul Crossley		
	17	Christine Crossley	Jack/Ruth Rozday		
	24	Rosemary Hilton	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard		
May	1	Paul Crossley	Christine Crossley		
	8	Angela Mathers	Mavis Mathers		
	15	Christine Crossley	Jack/Ruth Rozday		
	22	Nigel/Kathryn Hibbard	Rosemary Hilton		
	29	Paul Crossley	Angela Mathers		
June	5	Rosemary Hilton	Mavis Mathers		

- Thu 28 9.30am “What is Easter all about?” with local schools
7.30pm Followers’ Prayer Group at 68 Moseley Wood Walk
- May**
- Wed 4 7.45pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.
Speaker: Martin Sellens
- Thu 5 am/pm Church open as a Polling Station for local elections
2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: John Almond
- Fri 6 pm Good News Club/FYN restart after Easter break
- Tue 10 10.15am Second Tuesday
7.30pm Ladies’ Prayer Group
- Thu 12 7.30pm Followers’ Prayer Group
- Mon 16 7.45pm Evangelism Group at 175 Tinshill Lane
- Tue 17 7.45pm Men’s Fellowship
- Wed 18 7.45pm Deputation Meeting. Speaker: Peter Slomski
(Grace Baptist Mission, from Halifax going to Poland)
- Thu 19 2pm Thursday at Two. Speaker: Eric Holder
- Fri 20 7.45pm Missionary Prayer Group
- Tue 24 7.30pm Ladies Prayer Group
- June**
- Thu 2 2pm Thursday at Two
7.30pm Followers Prayer Group

The next magazine is due out on Sunday 5th June – the deadline for items will be Wednesday May 25th to Martin Sellens please.

Advance Notice

- Thu 9 Jun 7.45pm Annual General Meeting
- Mon 20 June – Fri 24 June Bible Exhibition for local schools.

certainly die for His friends, but has in fact died for His enemies. There is not one of us who began life as a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 15: 14 tells us *“You are My Friends if you do whatever I command you”*. None of us has done whatever He has commanded, as recorded in the Bible. Normally a friend would not demand of his/her friend that he should obey you! Friendship is mutual and on an equal basis. But since Jesus is God’s Son, and eternal, and He made us, He has every right to ask us to obey Him — and not one of us has done so personally.

This is what it means when Romans 5: 10 states:– *“...when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His son...”* we may not have thought we were enemies of God but the fact is, we have disobeyed His requirements for us. Reconciliation does not come automatically of course — there has to be personal faith placed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What Good News is this at Easter! That the Lord Jesus Christ has come to give His life for us. The Bible puts it another way:– *“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5: 8).

But then of course He rose again on the third day; without that, He could not give His life to us. But now that He has, we know that we have real life, abundant life, when we put our trust in Him. And life that goes on forever.

Perhaps this is a good time to pray for SASRA, an organisation which reaches out with the love of Christ to Servicemen; so that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, having chosen a career which has so many uncertainties. The one certainty comes from Christ as Saviour and Lord, for time and eternity.

With love and best wishes for Easter time

Glyn Williams

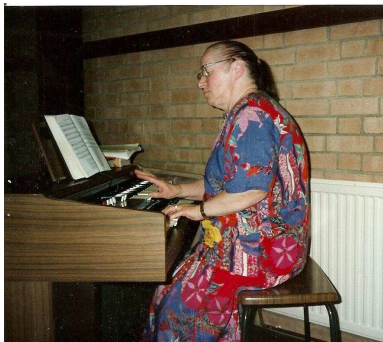
“I declare to you the gospel... in which you stand: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4

Fellowship News

Since the last magazine there have been some notable events at the church. Congratulations to Matthew Hibbard who celebrated his 18th birthday on 23rd January. On 11th February Niamh Hickman was born, weighing 8lb 12oz, a sister for Joe – she is settling well into church life! The thanksgiving service for the life of Rae Benson on 15th March was followed closely by a large gathering at the church to mark and give thanks for Tom Williams' 40th birthday on 19th March. At a special fellowship tea on 27th March we made a "surprise" presentation to Glyn & Margaret to mark the end of Glyn's full time paid pastorate and to thank them for the past 20 years of dedicated service. Up and coming we send our warm congratulations to Alan and Margaret Green who celebrate their Diamond (60th) wedding anniversary on 31st March and to Barrie and Christine Blayney who on 1st April have their Golden wedding anniversary. It has been an eventful couple of months!



Memories of Rae



On Sunday evening, 6th March, two of Rae's granddaughters came into church at the end of the evening service to speak with Glyn to tell him that their grandmother, Rae Benson, had just passed away. (Rae lived a few doors up from the church). We had been called to the hospital late on the previous Monday evening as the family had been told that Rae did not have much time left. It was

a very special time, not least by the fact that although Rae's eyes had been closed most of the day, as soon as Glyn settled near to her hospital bed, took her hand and spoke to her, she was quickly awake and alert. Although she was unable to speak, she was obviously communicating with small nods,

Outside Appointments

Do pray for our elders in their ministry, inside and outside the church. Their outside appointments in the next couple of months are:

Sun	10 April	am/pm	Glyn Williams	Thornhill Baptist Church
Sun	1 May	am	Martin Sellens	Thorpe Edge
Wed	4 May		Glyn Williams	Wednesday at 2, Bethel Armley
		7.30pm	Glyn Williams	Phil May Court, Bethel Armley
Sat	14 May		Glyn Williams	West Grange Men's Meeting
Sat	21 May	2.30pm	Martin Sellens	Torch Trust for the Blind City Evangelical

DIARY

April

Thu	7	2pm	Thursday at Two.	Speaker: Frank Burhouse
Fri	8	7.45pm	Elders/Deacon Meeting at 26 Woodlands Avenue	
Mon	11 –	10.30–	} Splish and Splash Holiday Club each morning (for children aged 5-11)	
Thu	14	12.30		
Tue	12	7.30pm	Ladies' Prayer Group	
There is no Second Tuesday meeting in April.				
Wed	13	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.	Speaker: Alan Brearley
Fri	15	7.45pm	Missionary Prayer Group at 1 Tinshill Mount	
Tue	19	7.45pm	Men's Fellowship.	Speaker: Roger Norris
Wed	20	1.30pm	Tots Club Easter Special	
		7.45pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.	Speaker: Tim Hilton
Thu	21	10-12	Asda Chaplaincy	
		1pm	Thursday at Two Easter Special.	Speaker: Alistair Park
Fri	22	7.30pm	Good Friday Service with Communion	
Tue	26	7.30pm	Ladies' Prayer Group	

Paul's conversion

This occurred, of course, on the road to Damascus – or certainly it began there! The question is, what did the men who were with him hear during this dramatic event? In the actual account (Acts 9: 7) *“the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one”*. Yet in Acts 22: 9 where Paul addresses the Jewish crowd, we read *“And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me”*. Did the men hear a voice or not?

Answer – yes: In Acts 9: 7, they heard ‘the sound of the voice’ ie. they could hear that some speaker was speaking to Paul, but they did not hear (or make out) what the speaker said. In both cases, they heard something, but not to understand for themselves. They were hearing something vague as far as they were concerned, because God was speaking to Paul exclusively. The Greek word for ‘hear’ is very broad indeed. Whatever they heard, they did not understand.

There is an answer to every case – I am not saying that we have found out all the answers. What I am saying is that, on no occasion, is there an impossible situation where two opposites collide at a point in time.

The Bible is reliable – it is God's word – it is God-breathed.

Glyn Williams

Preaching Plan

		Morning	Evening
April	3	Roger Norris	Glyn Williams
	10	John Harris	John Harris
	17	Glyn Williams	Nigel Westhead
	24	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
May	1	Alan Brearley	Erroll Hulse
	8	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams
	15	Martin Sellens	Glyn Williams
	22	Stephen Emmott	Stephen Emmott (Mirfield)
	29	Matthew Seymour	Matthew Seymour (LRBC)
June	5	Glyn Williams	Glyn Williams

increases in the already shallow breathing and an intensity of gaze from wide open eyes. We had an hour with her, in the welcoming presence of the family, and then after Glyn reading and commenting on verses from the Bible, and praying, we came away. As we did so, Rae's eyes closed.

There was most definitely a leap of spirit there as she responded to Glyn's presence and his talk of the Lord and of Rae's worship and service at Tinshill over many years.

We did not know if we would see her again, but her express desire had been to be taken home from where she could go to be with the Lord. Amazingly she was brought home to her bed in the lounge, and was there for that short time before her gaze finally fixed on her Saviour in heaven.

Rae loved music and was an accomplished pianist and was always glad to exercise that gift in Tinshill and was our evening pianist for many years. She was a good cook and offered much hospitality in the home down in Woodhouse. Rae's large cheesecakes were very popular at church events. She was a primary school teacher by profession and that experience was used as she taught in Sunday School for many years. She also hosted the church young people for many informal times in her home.

She ministered at the other end of the age scale too because for many years she visited Jack and Millie Williams who lived locally (sister and brother-in-law of one of our church members) and picked up Millie for church every Sunday. Who can tell the final results of such a faithful ministry.

Eventually the car had to go as she became more and more debilitated having suffered two serious strokes and a series of smaller ones. But Rae was a fighter, she was tough. Who can forget the sight of a very frail but determined Rae trekking down the hill to church leaning heavily on her zimmer frame (but having a lift back up the hill) even if it took so long that it made her a bit late. For a long time she was given a lift by Alex and Lai San, but there were the days when she just wanted to manage it on her own.

The last months of life were hard ones for Rae, but she was at home where she wanted to be, with a 24 hour a day care package. God chose the moment to take her to her permanent, everlasting home with Him, and

with all true believers. The thanksgiving service for her life was held at Tinshill on Tuesday 15th, and her earthly remains were laid to rest in Yeadon Cemetery, to await that glorious day of resurrection which will come as surely as did the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ who she trusted personally as her Saviour and Lord.

We offer our sympathy and love to Chris, Barbara and Yvonne and the grandchildren at this time of family loss and parting.

For us, her spiritual family at Tinshill, we await with joy the moment of reunion with Rae, and all fellow believers, when the grave shall yield up its dead to the powerful call of the voice of the Lord Jesus when He comes for His own, when we shall receive our resurrection bodies.

One last, moving fact to share on Rae's living faith. She had, when she was younger and fitter, written out and given to Glyn her instructions about some details for her funeral. She had not only chosen the four hymns but had (at some point of quietness in the church) recorded herself playing all four hymns all the way through. She gave the instructions and the tape to Glyn with a note as she was going away on holiday — "hope to see you back at Tinshill, but if not, with Him". That's reality and that's faith in the Saviour. I found it very moving sitting down for a few minutes and listening to the hymns on the tape knowing it was Rae playing what she knew we would sing at her funeral. I list the hymn choices below, with one of the verses quoted.

1. A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord (Supplementary book 37)
2. When peace like a river attendeth my way (New Christian Hymns 809)
3. When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more (New Christian Hymns 865)
4. Lord it is eventide, the light of day is waning (Supplementary book 92)

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;

When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.

Margaret Williams

Jewish Jericho. It is possible that our Lord had left the Jewish city and had not yet arrived at the Roman city. This is the most likely solution.

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" John 6: 37.

The first part of the verse seems at odds with the second part of the verse;_

The subject matter is the gift of the Father to the Son of all who come to Jesus – it clearly bears relevance to the fact that we are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1: 4). But the last part of the verse gives the emphasis of 'whoever' – namely anybody.

"...whoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3: 16).

"...whoever believes in the son has eternal life" (John 3: 36).

"God commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17: 30).

Professor Verna Wright used to say that becoming a Christian was like facing a door that says above it "enter all who will", and then having got through it you look back and it says above the door "chosen before the foundation of the world". That illustration certainly shows the balance between the call to repent which is directed to all, and God's hidden work and will in bringing someone to be born again of the Spirit.

But is that all that can be said? Which takes preference both in time and power? The eternal choice of God or the 'choice' of man at a particular point in time? We would have to say, the eternal choice of God.

So John 6: 37 in particular means

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me (whom the Father has given to Me) I will by no means cast out." Those who come to Christ have already been worked upon by the Holy Spirit already.

Similarly, wherever you see the offer "*whosoever will may come*" or words like that, those who come have been powerfully prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, the word ‘hate’ is the very one used when people are your enemies. *“Do good to them that hate you”* – Matthew 5: 44.

So, what can it mean? Well, Matthew 10: 37 reads *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me”*. In other words, we must love father, mother etc less than we love the Lord Jesus Christ. You might argue that we love our mother and father in a different way to the way we love Jesus. The first is family love, the second is spiritual love. But these two loves come into conflict when one of them has to come first. The Lord is saying that if you are following the Lord Jesus you must put Him first, before your family, if there is such a conflict. One application might be being determined to attend church on the Lord’s Day even when a member of the family calls (perhaps unexpectedly). You love the Lord Jesus more than you love the family.

The blind man at Jericho

Some people see discrepancies in the accounts of blind men who were healed by Jesus near Jericho. These accounts include the named blind man, Bartimaeus. It is said that Matthew 20: 29-34 reports that two men met with Jesus as he went out of Jericho with the cry *“Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David”!* In Mark 10: 46-52, and Luke 18: 35-43 however, there seems to be one blind man, named in Mark’s gospel as “Bartimaeus”.

Now, it is possible that these were two separate events, but it must be said that the conversations are very similar throughout the three reports. If they are the same event, they are not contradictory, for Bartimaeus was seen in Mark’s account as the dominant character. There may well have been another blind man with him. You might meet two people in one morning, and tell one friend in the afternoon that you met so and so, one of the two. You might get home and tell your spouse that you met the other, which you did. The two reports are not against each other – they are simply incomplete.

There also seems to be a problem in that Luke reports that Jesus was ‘coming near’ Jericho, while Matthew and Mark report that He was leaving Jericho. There were two parts of Jericho – the Roman Jericho and the

A very special surprise

Margaret and I set off for the church thinking that we were going to a normal “fellowship tea” on Sunday 27th March. There did seem to be a lot of cars and people there; but we still had no suspicions of anything unusual. After a very nice tea and some good fellowship, Martin (Sellens) put two chairs in a prominent position and I got worried — sure enough, we had to sit on them!

Martin then publicly explained that the church wanted to mark the end of my full-time Pastorate at the end of March, which dated back to Summer 1990. First came a lovely card featuring Buttermere Lake in our well-loved Lake District and this was signed on several ‘pages’ by all in the fellowship (and one or two previous members who had visited recently); then came a large beautiful colourful basket of flowers and then a parcel which consisted of a year’s subscription to the National Trust for both of us; a full information pack on the houses, gardens, special buildings and sites, and a full list of these (with lots in Cumbria where we are due to visit in early summer). Then Martin gave us a white envelope which he explained contained gifts from many people in the fellowship — we took this home and opened it together after the evening service. This held the very generous and very moving gift of £945.

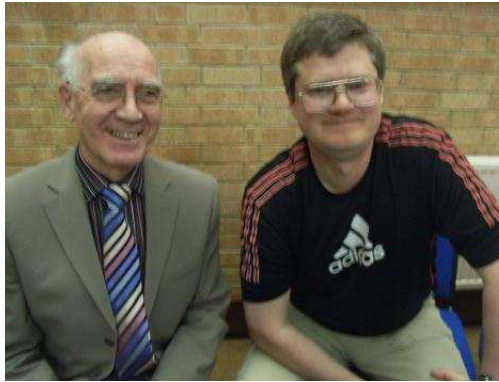
We would like to thank the members and friends of Tinshill for their loving gifts, and support over these 20 or so full-time years of service. I continue in a part-time capacity for the time being. We praise God for His provision in many ways over those years materially, mentally and spiritually. The Lord has kept His loving control over us, and we are praying that He will further provide a new Pastor of his choice in His good time.

We thank God not only for the gifts but for God’s people themselves at Tinshill, who love the word, have been attentive to the ministry and have been (and are) our family in Christ.

Glyn and Margaret Williams

A Birthday Shared

Saturday 19th March was lovely in more ways than the weather (bright sunshine all day) – it was the day of Tom Williams’s 40th birthday and we had a time of celebration in the church.



Having known serious illness for many years Tom had been planning for a while that his 40th birthday should include a time of thanksgiving to the Lord for strength and preservation given, so the whole church was invited to join together with the family at 4pm on that Saturday, which was the actual day of his birthday. We are so thankful and glad that so many came and made it very special for Tom.

We had some quizzes (politics, history, jumbled names and dingbats) with prizes and a giant pass the parcel circle so that everyone from ‘grandma’ at 92 to Maisie at 4 months could ‘sit in’ as three parcels went round at the same time. We then had a buffet tea together (and thank you to those who willingly made quiches and desserts). Following some thank you’s and comments from me on behalf of the family we sang four of Tom’s chosen favourite hymns and the singing was really something which will especially remain in my memory.

Tom had specially asked that the time together should include a devotional talk and he was very glad when Malcolm Peters agreed to come down from Thirsk to do this. Malcolm and Caroline have been a great support to us through some difficult years.

Malcolm’s talk was built around occasions when the Lord Jesus told people to “Be of good cheer”. When life is extremely difficult it can be very trite when people tell us to ‘cheer up’ but when the Lord Himself says “Be of good cheer” to us and in His word we see the context in which He says it, then it’s a very different thing. The Lord Jesus brings it to us really as a

How did Judas die?

We have two reports in the Bible of how Judas Iscariot died, and they do seem at first sight to be contradictory.

Matthew 27: 5 tells us *“Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself”*.

Acts 1: 18 tells us *“Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out”*. This report does not tell us how he fell headlong. It would require some momentum for his ‘entrails’ to gush out.

Are these reports compatible? Yes they are.

Judas did not die in or near the field which he had purchased.

Peter does not say that Judas did not hang himself. Nor does Matthew say that Judas did not fall. Indeed, that is likely considering the injuries.

The Valley of Hinnom is where the bodies of the executed lay. Judas could have chosen to hang himself on a tree on the edge of a precipice which overlooked the valley.

He hung there for a while, until the tree or a rope snapped. Judas fell down the ledge, severely injuring his body in the process. Trees still grow round the ledges of this valley and the valley contains rocky terraces 25 to 40 feet high and almost vertical.

‘Hating mother and father’

It does seem contradictory that we are to ‘hate mother and father’, and yet at the same time to honour them.

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” – Luke 14: 26.

“Honour your father and your mother” – Exodus 20: 12.

Firstly, it does not mean hate your mother, father... if they are not Christians and are leading ungodly lives. That would not be an excuse to ‘hate’ them.

beginning of time. He set eternal desires in your heart and just at the right time sent his only Son into the world to die for you, dealing with your guilty state before Him. Now He wants a relationship with you through a Resurrected Jesus. Are you going to reject such a wonderful Saviour?"

No, I thought.

"If you do, at the end of time you'll have God to answer to and that's a fearful thing", Glyn continued with great urgency. "Don't wait for your finite mind to work out all the answers to life, it'll never happen. The mysteries of life are too deep. Simply trust in Christ today, find meaning in serving Him and know the peace of being in a right relationship before a Holy God."

Yes, I thought nodding my head, You're the One I've been seeking, Lord. I threw away a packet of cigarettes on the way home; a rich colour had come flooding into my life.

Owen Bentall
(Member of Mirfield Evangelical Church)

Inconsistencies in the Bible? Part 2

Brief notes from the Second Tuesday seminar in February

Introduction

Firstly, a reminder that Christians believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible – men were 'carried along' by the Holy Spirit to record the Scripture. Therefore, if the Bible as originally given were proved to be wrong, it would mean that the Holy Spirit Himself is in error. That cannot be.

It is also right to remind you that many so called inconsistencies are explained by realising that two witnesses to an event can be concentrating on two different things – they are still compatible.

I would add another point, that some of the 'inconsistencies' people raise are really trivial in nature. It is still important to show that the Scripture is correct, of course, but the opposition is pitiful if some of these examples are the best they can do!

command in view of the reality of the spiritual dwarfing the tough temporal. Brief notes of the texts Malcolm used are below:-

Pardoned – Matthew 9: 2

The man brought to Jesus for healing was indeed in dire need physically, but Jesus first addresses his greater need (as with all of us) which is forgiveness of sins to make us right before God – the massive transaction which will take us safely into eternity. When this is settled, he healed the man physically thus demonstrating to the Jewish cynics that He had all power as the Messiah.

Saved – Luke 8: 48

The poor lady who had suffered this wearying haemorrhage with its exclusion and humiliation has faith to believe only a touch upon Jesus will heal and help. It does. He feels power go out of him dealing with her uncleanness as she touches his garment in faith. He tells her to "be of good cheer" and says her faith has made her well. The word he uses for 'make well' is also translated 92 times in the New Testament as 'saved'.

Adopted

He also calls her 'daughter' which, although used for a Jewish girl being a daughter of Abraham, holds the truth that when we have faith in Jesus for salvation we are adopted into His eternal family.

The Lord Himself is near – Acts 23: 11

Paul is in prison and the Lord stood by him. In Mark 6: 50 the disciples were in deep difficulty in the darkness of a severe storm – the Lord saw them (He sees all, even in the darkness of a swirling storm) He came near and His presence changed everything.

Mighty, majestic Messiah – John 16: 33

We will have trouble of many kinds in this world, but we can "be of good cheer" as this Mighty One has overcome the world and He is our strength and the ruler of our final destiny in Heaven if we are trusting in Him.

In conclusion Malcolm suggested we sang a final hymn together – "Who can cheer the heart like Jesus, by His presence all divine". (New Christian Hymns 666)

Tom was encouraged by Malcolm's talk and also by the thoughtfulness and effort put into the things that were written in the many cards he received. He was also delighted that the contributions given instead of presents amounted to £162 (this has been sent off to London City Mission for the Webber Street work as Tom requested on the invitations).

Glyn closed the birthday thanksgiving with prayer, many of the church family closed the time with much help in clearing up and setting up ready for Sunday worship, and I close this article with a very big **thank you** to all who contributed in so many ways on that day, and to all who have prayed for many years for Tom (inside and outside the Tinshill fellowship), and who, I know, will continue to do so.

Margaret Williams

Easter Chicks

Over the last few weeks at FYN some of the girls have enjoyed making Easter pom pom chicks. The finished chicks are lovely and it has been great to see the girls' sense of achievement as they have finished their masterpieces!



It is always lovely to see new life at spring time; especially the new lambs and chicks. New born chicks (and lambs) are so precious and delightful but are in need of much love and care as they grow. The teenagers who come to FYN are just the same- they are precious and delightful to us and yet far more so to God. It is a reminder of how these teenagers need to grow up

knowing the love and care of such a loving heavenly Father. Please will you pray with us that they will trust Christ as their Saviour now whilst they are still 'precious young chicks'.

The FYN team

How I Quit Smoking

As Glyn's full-time Pastorate drew to a close it was encouraging to receive some testimonies from a leaflet produced by Mirfield Evangelical Church to mark their 25th Anniversary. One testimony is reproduced here with permission.



It was a chilled Sunday evening in February 1997. I'd not had contact with the Evangelical Church for some months and just nipped out for a quick smoke. The comet Hale-Bopp was shimmering mysteriously in the night sky. Without warning I dispatched my cigarette, turned heavily on my heel and found myself shuffling the one and a half miles to Mirfield Evangelical Church's new premises on Wellhouse Lane.

"Meaningless, Meaningless! Everything is meaningless", read the preacher from the Bible that evening.

I'd been welcomed warmly, shown to a seat, sung hymns and listened to ardent prayers. Now I sat absorbed as the tall, lithe figure of visiting preacher Glyn Williams began revealing the relevance of the Bible book Ecclesiastes to life today.

"Solomon is writing about what life would be like if there were no God; much as today's atheists would view things", he said. "Solomon concludes that such a life would be utterly meaningless. Utterly pointless. Utterly empty. Is that how you feel?"

Yes, I thought.

"Well the evolutionists might claim you're a meaningless product of time and chance, but it's not what the Bible teaches. God planned you from the