

The Grapevine

DEC 2010 - JAN 2011

Keeping you in touch with Loughton Methodist Church.
A member of Churches Together in Loughton

In this edition

Getting to know you - Christine Baker - page 10

Changes in Children's & Youth work - page 20

Report on CTL Women's Conference - page 18



An invitation to **Deepen**
Discipleship

Celebrating Scripture as a gift from God
Reading the Bible so that it speaks into our lives
Bearing the Word into our communities

biblefresh
It could change your world

Loughton Methodist Church

High Road, Loughton IG10 1RB

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Sunday Services 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.30 pm

Junior Church 10.30 am *Superintendent* Mr Michael Hall

Toddler Church, 10.00 am Tuesdays (in term time)

LOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH is one of the 13 Methodist Churches that form the London (Forest) Circuit.

We are one of 6,000 Methodist Churches in Britain committed to increasing the awareness of Christ's presence in society and working for the good of all.

We believe in a God of diversity and creativity and seek to reflect that in our worship and membership which ranges in age, background and opinion.

Our premises are designed to serve not only the congregation but the wider needs of Loughton.

- ❖ We welcome people at all stages of faith, whoever they are and however life has treated them. Those who worship come with a mixture of joy and pain, struggles and achievements in their lives. We aim to be a community which is honest with God and with themselves and which gets support from others as they face the demands of everyday life.
- ❖ Many find in Church a place where our deepest questions about life can be explored and hope is revealed in Christ's life and teaching. But it is also a place where people get involved in practical concern for others as we look for ways to show Christ's love in action.

Across the world Methodists have joined with others to make a real difference to major social evils like human rights abuses, pollution of the earth and Third World Debt.

There are about one million people in Britain who have an active connection with the Methodist Church. There are 70 million such people across the world. To find out more about the national church contact: -

www.methodist.org.uk and for LMC www.loughtonmethodist.org.uk.

Articles for publication in the Grapevine can be left in the Church Office or sent to the editor, Keith Watts, 238 Buckhurst Way, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. IG9 6JG.

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The views expressed in articles in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, minister and officers or the church generally.

CHURCH SERVICES AT LOUGHTON

December

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|---|
| 5th | 9.00 am | Mrs Christine Watts ~ Prayer Service |
| | 10.30 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion |
| 12th | 10.30 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Family Service with Nativity |
| 19th | 9.00 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion |
| | 10.30 am | Mrs Joan Love |
| | <u>6.00 pm</u> | Rev Tony Morling ~ Carol Service |
| 24th | 3.00 pm | Crib Service for tall the Family |
| | 11.30 pm | Rev Tony Morling - Midnight Communion Service |
| 25th | 10.30 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Family Christmas Celebration |
| 26th | 10.30 am | Mr David Hobbs |

January

| | | |
|------|----------|---|
| 2nd | 10.30 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Covenant Service with HC |
| 9th | 9.00 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Covenant Service with HC |
| | 10.30 am | Mrs Judith Lampard |
| 16th | 9.00 am | Mr Martin Lawford ~ Prayer Service |
| | 10.30 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ JMA Family Service |
| 23rd | 9.00 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion |
| | 10.30 am | Mrs Gillian Farnfield |
| 30th | 9.00 am | Miss Jean Fryer |
| | 10.30 am | Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion |

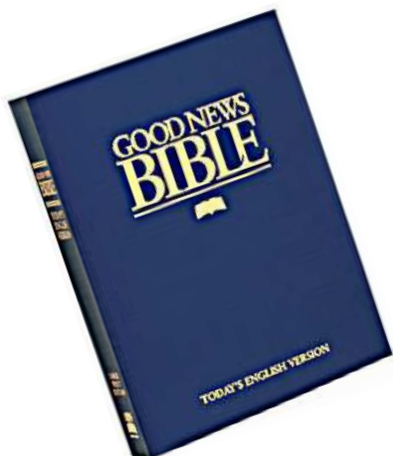


Minister: Rev Anthony Morling
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From our Minister

Letter from the Manse

Throughout 2011 the Methodist Church is encouraging churches and individuals to **deepen their discipleship by focusing on the Bible**. This particular year marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, which brought the Scripture in the English language and had a dramatic effect on our nation's life.



This focus on the Bible is a starting point for becoming more serious about our discipleship and reminding us of our roots as a disciple-making movement. John Wesley said that Methodism was raised up by God to bring "Scriptural Holiness" to the land. At LMC I want us to do this in ways that deepens our love of God and neighbours and makes the Bible more accessible to others.

As a church we have signed up to the *Biblefresh* movement- a broad cross section of Churches and agencies who want to inspire a greater confidence in the word of God

www.biblefresh.com . And as individuals we are all being encouraged to commit time and energy to knowing and loving our Bibles better.

To help us do this Church Council has agreed to purchase daily Bible reading notes for all those who request them. Throughout December Peter Moles will be displaying a variety of resources which will then be ordered for you. Some are particularly suitable for new Christians, others for youth and children and for those others for have been following Christ for many years. I am sure that you will find something that is right for you. But please note it does require you to look and choose which one you want.

There is a series of events planned throughout 2011 which helps us to respond in many different ways. But it all begins on December 5th this year when Christine Elliott (Secretary for Methodist External Relationships) will attend morning worship. She recently visited the Amity Printing Press in China and will bring with her the 70 millionth commemorative Bible printed in China. God is doing wonderful things in China and there is an insatiable desire for the Bible.

The paradox is this. In China where there is limited religious freedom there is great hunger for the Bible while we in the free West are all too often lukewarm. Let us follow the example of our Chinese brothers and sisters and make 2011 a year of **deepening our discipleship by focusing on the Bible**. The choice is ours. Lets take it.

Every blessing

Tony



Christmas Greetings

As in previous years there will be two ways of sending Christmas greetings to church friends. Money raised from both will be split between Whitechapel Mission and PALS for Dalits.

1) There will be one BIG Christmas card on display for those who want to wish all their friends at LMC a Happy Christmas without buying lots of cards. For the Sundays in Advent there will be a BIG card in the Welcome Area after the 10.30 services. Simply write a message on a sticker provided, make a donation and stick the sticker onto the card.

2) The Christmas post box is for the circulation of cards among friends who are in the current Church Year Book and live locally. The box will be in the Welcome Area during the Sundays in Advent and in the Church Office on week days until Friday 17th December. These cards will be available for distribution from Sunday 19th December. Any help with delivering cards to the housebound during Christmas week will be greatly appreciated.

Jane Gooding and Julia Walker



Dates for the Diary

December

- 3rd 12.30 pm Marriage of Ellie Casey to James Laker (see below)
- 3-6th Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox weekend (see below)
- 4th Youth trip to South Bank for London Eye and Ice Skating
- 5th 10.30 am Bible Sunday focussing on Bibles for China with the 70th million Chinese Bible
- 10th—12th Christmas Tree Festival at Trinity Church Mannock Drive with A Christmas Concert on 11th at 7.30 pm.
- 14th 7.30 pm Meet the Architects see page 8

January

- 27th 7.30 pm Café Worship will be going to St Mary's for a concert by the Watoto Children's Choir check 'The Week' for further details
- 29th 10.00 am Ladies who Brunch at Café Rouge see Page 14

Ellie Casey (Jenny's daughter) will be marrying James Laker on Friday December 3rd at 12.30 at Christ Church, Wanstead (on the Green). Tony Morling will be taking part in the service.

It is a large church with plenty of room for all who would like to come and share in this happy occasion!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - shoe box weekend

Your help would be appreciated for as long or short a period as possible over the weekend Friday 3rd to Monday 6th December in the Wesley Hall.

Friday 3rd December 7pm—Unload shoeboxes from van into Wesley Hall and set out tables and 'fillers' for Saturday

Saturday 4th: 9am-5pm—Wesley Hall open for helpers to check boxes. A few 'strongmen/women' needed to help pack van

Sunday 5th: 2pm-5pm—Wesley Hall to continue with checking boxes

Monday 6th: 9.30am onwards—Helpers with estate cars/cars with large boot space are needed to transport the remaining shoe boxes to the Woodford depot of Samaritan's Purse, starting at LMC at 9.30am.



St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Building a Faith Community—Many Gifts, One Spirit

October 4, 2010

To: Our Sisters and Brothers at Loughton Methodist Church

Greetings from your Family at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

We have received your wonderful letter of September 23rd and must return the thank you, also felt deep in our hearts. God's gift and yours of loaning us Tony, Cathy, Ronan, and Columba this summer was indeed a special gift that will remembered for years to come. We are grateful that both Bob and Tony were inspired to seek a pastoral exchange, and the match between our congregations could not have been better.

Like Bob's experience with arriving just in time for the Holiday Club event, Tony also came to St. Matthew's just in time for our Vacation Bible School. He was immediately in the swing of things, not only with VBS and his first Sunday service in our pulpit, but also a monthly Church Council meeting, home visitations with several severely ill church members, and a Men's Breakfast. Quite naturally, we were thrilled again when Cathy and the boys arrived on July 31st and we had the opportunity to hear Cathy sing at the Communion Service the next morning. While we learned from Tony the importance of "standing on the shoulders of giants," we also gained the lessons of fellowship and friendship, and the importance of being in mission balanced with evangelism. Better yet, we learned evangelism in Tony's style of a warm handshake, a warm heart and the quest to simply sit and talk with each other about life in God's world.

With Bob and Evelyn back at home in the States, we are now enjoying the many stories that they share of their experience with you and the ministry they received from your warm hearts. Thank you for extending to them your wonderful hospitality, your homes and the joys of being a "church in community" in your circuit and with the many other Christian denominations in the Loughton area. God's church in Acton, MA called St. Matthew's is indeed very much richer from Tony and Cathy's time with us, as well as from the joyous experiences that Bob and Evelyn gained from you. Please share this letter with the Trinity Church as we also recognize that they were a big contributor to the benefits.

In Christ's Love

Derek Kotze,
Lay Leader

Ron Adams
Church Council Chair



Arts and Drama Building Project Open Meeting Tuesday 14th December 7.30pm



The architects and surveyors designing the new Arts and Drama Building for the Church and CDRC have been developing a detailed, costed, plan, based on the Church Council's preferred approach and in conjunction with the Project Group.

They will present their plans to the Church Council at a meeting on **Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm.**

All members of the congregation are warmly invited to attend this meeting. Following the meeting information about the plans will be made available in writing.

A decision on the plans will NOT be made at this meeting. The Church Council will meet again on 12th January to decide the way forward, giving time for consideration of the plans over the intervening period.

Caption Competition
Suggestions on the conversation come from Elizabeth Bond - Tony, Have you seen my coat around anywhere?
And from David Mills - "Local vicar welcomes new Chelsea striker".



The good news is Tony has been reunited with his coat, not sure if the cow was instrumental in its recovery!!!

Action For Children House To House Collection

Trisha and Marilyn would like to thank everyone who helped with the above collection. The total sum raised was £1548.76.

Christmas tree festival
Trinity Church
December 10th -12th

Magical decorated trees

Church open from Friday 3pm to
Sunday 4pm

*Judge which tree has the
X-Factor*

Saturday 11th

10.30am: Come for a cuppa and bacon/
veggie sandwiches. Kids activities.
7.30pm: Christmassy Musical Evening,
refreshments and buffet - £7.50

Sunday 12th

10.30: Christingle Service followed by
buffet lunch - no charge

*

joy

grace

hope - love

faith - peace

honour - purity

courage - loyalty

goodness - prudence

sympathy - humility

fortitude - temperance

brotherhood - cooperation

and

God

is

love

~~Unknown~~

Christmas Greetings and Thank you

Jenny Casey and family would like to wish everyone at LMC a very happy Christmas!

We would also like to thank everyone for their prayers and love which continue to strengthen and sustain us. We feel blessed to be part of such a wonderfully caring and loving church.



William Godfrey plays hockey and was recently selected to go for national training in Lilleshall for the under 15 age group. He was one of 64 youngsters selected from all over the country for the weekend of training. It is the first step forward to achieving his goal of playing for England. He had to go to lots of selection days to qualify and was the only one selected from the Essex County squad.

Well done William.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU 23—

Christine Baker



I was born in London and moved at five weeks old to Hainault where I went to school. I have lived locally since the 1970s. My first job was with Jaeger Current Accounts department followed by a stint in PR at 20th Century Fox, the film company. Jobs with theatrical agents followed and finally to BBC Radio and then BBC TV working on live programmes as a production assistant. In particular Grandstand, Commonwealth Games and other big sporting events. It was a career but then I went and got married to Steve and then pregnant with Owen.

I was pregnant with Rhiannon when we moved from Buckhurst Hill to Loughton and went on to have Megan. After 10 years of working from home in PR and journalism I went into the Voluntary Sector as Publicity Officer for Barnardo's. I followed that as Regional Appeals Manager for the Winged Fellowship Trust, providing respite care for profoundly disabled people. I was the fundraiser for Jubilee Lodge in Chigwell. We raised £1.1 million for its refurbishment and two

fundraising initiatives won awards in the industry. As you can see very media orientated. I am also Vice-Chair of Epping Forest Chamber of Commerce. I am sure that being married to Steve for 35 years keeps me grounded. I suspect though he never thought he would have to deal with me 24/7 when he signed up!

After 26 years in Loughton we moved to Theydon Bois which we love and really feel part of the village family. We are content.

It was at Staples Road School that I first became aware of LMC through Christine Dickins who moved 10 years ago Lewes, some of you may remember her and husband Chris. Steve worked away regularly so it was a big deal to make a commitment to the Church but Leslie Griffiths was the WOW factor.

What is your earliest memory?

Being driven around in the back of my Dad's van.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Nelson Mandela because of all that he has taught the world.

What is your favourite book?

Anything by Marian Keyes, who I am convinced, is completely bonkers.

If you were Prime Minister, what would be your key policy issue?

I am a long standing Governor at Davenant and keenly interested in education. It has been a changing marketplace over the years and there are more to come. I support measures that bring back a sense of morality and integrity to our society.

What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career? Well it's been a varied career. Steve and I have worked together for the last ten years on events, event management, PR and charity fundraising. It feels like my skills have come together and if you throw Mother, home maker and wife into the mix, and now Nana, what more is there to ask?

What is your best memory of school days? My English teacher, Miss Small, who I have always thought taught me extremely well. I consider good accurate and grammatical use of the English language vital particularly in this electronic age.

What / Where is your favourite place? Sydney, which we visited earlier this year. We loved our tour of Australia but I couldn't get enough of Sydney, in spite of the ash cloud.

How did you first become involved in the Christian faith? I started as a Catholic, due to an Irish father and gave it my best shot until my late teens. I wanted to get Owen Christened and looked at a Church in Buckhurst Hill but the Vicar was so arrogant we gave up the idea. Eventually, all three were christened on the last day of the old church at LMC with Leslie Griffiths – we have it on film.

What helps to sustain you in your faith journey? Being a member of LMC (over 25 years) and its Ministers. I did hit a rocky patch a year or so ago when someone very close died and having see the power of prayer in action in our Church I was convinced he would pull through. A devout Roman Catholic he told me not to worry about him as he was ready for whatever his Lord had in store for him. He died aged 46 after three years of debilitating ill health. I could not believe he had gone. It was his wife who got me back saying that neither he nor she were bitter – I found them both an inspiration.

If you were to summarise your faith in a few words, what would you say? Very tricky to summarise but I am a great believer in things happening for a reason - add to that a touch of serendipity and see what happens?

What message would you want to give if you were asked to give a sermon? I have done so many fundraising appeals for charity they feel like a sermon. Once I am committed and enthusiastic there is no stopping me!

What hymn or song means the most to you? Make Me A Channel of your Peace – gives me a lump in my throat whenever its sung be it at a funeral or during our service.

Thank you Jean Fryer would like to thank everyone at the church for their kind wishes and gift as she received her certificate marking 50 years as a Local Preacher

It could change your world

During the coming year we will have a monthly testimony as to how people use their Bibles in their life the first is:-
Andy Croft



Andy Croft is Associate Director of Soul Survivor and co-author of Storylines: Exploring the Themes of the Bible

Tell us about a time when God spoke to you vividly and personally through the Bible.

I was in the middle of writing a book with a friend and had nicknamed it on my laptop for a joke 'the book of truth'. Having only written a couple of chapters I suddenly had a crisis of confidence – I didn't know a lot about the Bible so why was I trying to write a book about it? In the middle of the serious questioning and doubt about the whole project I opened the Bible at random (not a prophetic technique that I had ever found very helpful but one I can't help but have a crack at every now and then!) The verse in front of me was Daniel 10:21 'but first I will tell you what is written in the book of truth'. Obviously I took the verse totally out of context and did all the things Bible

commentators tell you not to do, but at that moment I was OK with that, I was just a bit stunned. As far as I can tell there's no other place that phrase 'book of truth' occurs in the Bible and certainly not with the words 'I'll tell you what's written' in it. I've since decided, having written my book, it was God's way of saying that he was going to explain to me what was written in His book, the real book of truth. Maybe not the best Bible-reading technique but certainly a massive encouragement at the time!

In recent years what has helped to keep the Bible fresh for you?

Reading the Bible isn't about gathering information, how many chapters or books we've read or whether we can reel off verses from memory. It's about a relationship. Understanding this is at the heart of what it is to read the Bible and receive life from its pages. Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me...' (Jn 5:39-40). If we read the Bible just for the sake of it, it's likely to become dry and lifeless. But if we read the Bible because we want relationship with the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Life, then it's quite different. It becomes a way of getting to know our Friend.

The most helpful thing I've realised is that *reading the Bible keeps us fresh*: it's the water for our soul, the food for our stomach, the air for our lungs, the beat for our heart, the sugar for our tea and

even the ketchup for our burger. Keeping the Bible 'fresh' isn't something that happens by putting it on an ipod or redoing the front cover. The Bible can't help but be refreshing when it leads us into the presence of God.

What does your regular practice of Bible reading look like?

For a long time I got discouraged because I'd read a bit in the morning and by lunchtime I'd have forgotten what I'd read. I suspect I may not be the only Christian who has had that experience... What's the point of reading the Bible if you can't remember it? A friend answered that question for me when they pointed out that when I was seven years old I ate a lot of food. I can't remember what it was, but it did me good at the time. Often we can 'pooh pooh' the small revelations we have when we read the Bible. 'What did you learn from the Bible this week Andy?' 'Oh not much at all, I just learnt that Jesus is compassionate, not a lot, just that.' I've discovered that reading the Bible is all about the small revelations! It's about a gentle drip drip drip. It does us good even if we can't always remember what we read.

I've found it's not always about spending hours in the Bible but reading it regularly. I tend to read the Bible in one of three ways:

- As a novel – just sitting down with a book of the Bible and reading it through;
- Studying it – getting a helpful commentary online or from the book shop and going through a bit of scripture each day;
- Meditating on it – just taking one verse, writing it down on a scrap of paper and then chewing on it (mentally not literally) throughout the day.

What would you say to a Christian who is struggling to read the Bible?

Me too! Reading the Bible can be tough, especially when we get to one of those random bits in Ezekiel. Or even when I'm in a less random bit! I'd say commit to doing it, pray about it, do it with a friend. Start with the passages that excite you – and after a while, challenge yourself with the bits you're less sure about. Another mistake I know I've made in the past is spending too long looking for some deep and hidden truth in a passage; to be honest, I find I get much more out of just focusing on the main and the plain meaning of the text.

What is your prayer for the Biblefresh initiative?

That others and myself would fall more in love with Jesus as we discover him in his Word and as his Word reaches into our lives.

Ladies who Brunch

- a gift to yourself

Saturday 29 January

10.00am - 12.15pm

@ Café Rouge

Loughton High Road



A morning of coffee, conversation, worship, teaching, brunch and prayer

SPEAKER : TBA

Cost - £12.00

(includes brunch and drinks from a special menu)

Numbers are limited, please book and pay in advance

CATHY MORLING 020 8508 1834

Beyond the Victorian Christmas card

The Christmas we experience, with its decorated trees, cards and visits from Santa, has much to do with the imagination and tastes of Victorian England. But the bigger picture of Christmas, the challenge of the story as it is told in the Bible, was not lost on Victorians. Poets like Robert Louis Stevenson and Christina Georgina Rossetti were able to put the annual celebrations in a faith context.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote many poems and prayers for children, as well as novels such as *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*. The poet Christina Georgina Rossetti is the author of two familiar Christmas carols – “In the bleak mid winter” (set to music by several composers, including Gustav Holst) and “Love came down at Christmas”. Both can be found in the Methodist hymn book, *Hymns & Psalms*.



A Victorian Christmas card
© 2007 Jupiterimages Corporation

Café Worship to become Out of the Box

At the last planning meeting organising our Café Worship services we reviewed how we felt these services were being perceived. It was generally felt that some of the events organised went further than the description 'Café Worship' implied, not that this was a bad thing. We have had a range of events form our meetings at Costa Coffee to drama /dance performances and even the pilgrimage events and the quiet Taize style worship.

It was agreed that we would like to continue doing all these type of activities but do them under an umbrella name of **Out of the Box**. And to make it clear through our advertising what the particular evenings would be and also not necessarily on a Sunday.

A program has been drawn up for the coming months and the first of these will be on Thursday 27th January when we will be going to St Mary's for a concert being given by the Watoto Childrens choir from Uganda. This will be at 7.30 pm, at the time of going to press we do not know if this will be a ticketed event or just turn up. Please keep a look out for further information in 'The Week'

The Watoto Children's Choir is an African choir that is dedicated to improving the way of life for children in Africa. The choir is based in Kampala, Uganda , at Watoto Church (formerly Kampala Pentecostal Church or KPC) dubbed "**The Home of Watoto**" composed of about eighteen children, mainly from Uganda. At any one time, there are several choirs touring all over the world ministering God's love to the nations.

Watoto means "Children" in Swahili language, and is made up of children who have lost one or both parents to the AIDS epidemic or to war.

A prayer for Advent

O God
houses and trees, buses and shops
are silhouetted against a dark blue sky
As the lights of the town beckon,
may your star of promise
draw us onward and nearer our destination:
to know you more deeply who and where we are,
to worship you and glorify your name forever;
through the Christ-child of Bethlehem.
Crucified God, we ask this.

From Momentum a Methodist publication more articles can be found at www.methodist.org.uk/momentum

'God's project' increases its following

Laurence Wareing visits a youth drop-in centre in Seascale and discovers how it has been changed by recent tragedies.

The young people of Seascale in Cumbria had already had their share of grieving to do before 2 June 2010 – the day on which taxi driver Derrick Bird drove through neighbouring communities, killing and wounding men and women in mainly random attacks. Four of Bird's victims were shot in Seascale. Three died and one was carried on a ladder into Shackles Off, a Christian drop-in centre for young people in the heart of the village.

Lyn Edwards oversees Shackles Off, together with a team of volunteers and the young people themselves. She recalls that during that very week, the community was preparing for the funerals of teenagers from Keswick High School, killed in a coach accident. Nor was it long since the devastating floods in Cumbria that claimed the life of police officer Bill Barker. Many of the young people knew PC Barker's family.

Then came the killings – and an aftermath of shock and grieving for young and old alike. Feelings are still raw, says Lyn, but she is nevertheless aware of how the shootings – and the way in which Shackles Off responded – have affected the centre's place within the community.

The drop-in, which the young people themselves have dubbed 'God's project', is no larger than a decent-sized living room with a kitchenette at one end. On 2 June, its tables

and chairs were cleared to one side and it became an ad hoc Accidents & Emergencies unit, and a base for the police in the days following. Its doors were open, too, for old and young to come in for cups of tea and to try and explain the inexplicable. Four months on, "members of the community still want to use the space because it was their safe haven during those days. Older people drop by and the teenagers make them cups of tea."

It wasn't always like this. There had been a good deal of suspicion about the establishment of a centre that not only was overtly religious but which would also be a space at which "gangs" of young people would congregate. Now Lyn speaks of a community rallying round when one of the centre's windows was vandalized and of the gift of a television and TV aerial from the police – installed just in time for the summer's World Cup football tournament.

As the centre celebrates its second birthday, the support that Shackles Off offers to young people in and around the community is being recognised. Lyn speaks with delight of one teenage girl who, for several years, shunned contact with almost everyone in the community. At Shackles Off she has found the confidence to be with others. Other young people are supported through substance abuse, court cases, and with their learning needs. The next big initiative will be to respond to the worrying number of minors under the influence of alcohol at night.

When Lyn first came to Seascale she says, "I didn't know what I thought I was going to do – except tell young people that God loves them." Through the actions of Shackles Off, on good days and bad, teenagers are opening up to that Christian care – and the wider community is also beginning to get the message.

Dear Rev. Tony Morling,

Dalit Liberation Sunday 31st Oct 2010 at Loughton Methodist Church

Thank you very much for inviting us to join the Church service encompassing the Dalit Liberation Sunday on the 31 Oct 2010. Mr. Vijay Bagha and myself were pleased to join you in the Service. We thank Gill Webster for coordinating this wonderful Dalit Liberation Sunday event under you Pastoralship. I was delighted to speak on the situation of the Dalits in India and in the UK and about UK Equality Act 2010 in the context of Caste Discrimination and more importantly the situation of Dalits within the Church in India. We are contended that Churches now are waking up to the plight of the Christian. I hope that the congregation would have enjoyed my Dalit awareness song on Dr. Ambedkar.

We applaud the effort of your Church in giving computer education to Dalit children in India. We pray that your continued support would be an instrument of change for the Dalit Christians. We request you to raise awareness amongst the Churches in the UK and in India to address the issues concerning Dalit Christians and to effectively contribute for their Spiritual, social, educational and economic development.

We thank you for giving us a wonderful lunch. Please convey our sincere gratitude to every member of the congregation including Paul, Keith, Patricia, Angela. Barbara for their wonderful support for the development our people back home. Your great help and support would really make a big difference in the lives of Dalits.

Yours sincerely,
Savio Mahimaidass
Convenor



I told Kasta about our Dalit Prayer Morning and Dalit Sunday. This is his reply:

"Thank you for this update. This makes us feel cared for and strengthens our commitment to fight caste based discrimination. Thank you for your solidarity and prayer."

And the latest on the computers:

Regarding the computers I had heard earlier from Computer Aid International that 25 computers are in the process of being sent to Mumbai Old Port to avoid delay as the regular new port has been experiencing congestion at the moment. I will keep you posted as and when I hear back from Sylvie and the shipping agent in the UK. Once again thank you for your concern.

Kasta will also be joining us at Loughton in September 2011 and will be speaking to churches and schools about the plight of the Dalit people.

The Dalits were also featured on Radio 4 and you can hear the broadcast on line at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/default.stm>

'Made For The Secret Place'

A Conference for Women
Loughton Methodist Church
12-13th November 2010

Cathy Morling writes... It is a privilege to be a part of the team who organise this annual event. The 'Flying Pigs' are a remarkable group of women in ministry in Loughton. The churches we represent are diverse but we are united by our love of Jesus. We desire to grow, listen and be inspired in faith together, as we seek to serve the women in our area.

A big thank you to all those from LMC who made it possible – the Office's support, those who helped to clean the church building, beautify areas with posters, voiles and flowers, made visitors welcome, operated the power points, led workshops, baked cakes... It was a team effort from start to finish and wonderful to work with other Christian women from the community too.

I gained much from the weekend – I reached out and held the hand of my Father God in a new and special way, sensed the Spirit's joy as we worshiped together in many different forms and felt God's challenge afresh to walk out further with Him and the 'Flying Pigs'.

I've asked a few others to share their reflections with us...

Liz Guest writes I found the Women's Conference to be superb - not a detail had been overlooked! LMC was transformed - for corporate worship, the centre piece of the Worship Area was a large cross, from which a cascade of pearls, fairy lights and sparkly fabric fell; for more private moments, the

Church Hall was home to "the secret place" - a beautiful private temple, flowing with organza and filled with cushions and candles.

The speaker, Linda Holt, was inspiring. Her remarkable closeness to and love for God was so evident, also, knowing His love for her so fully, she ran towards him for more. This strong relationship fed into her everyday life so fully - and from her came a very down to earth outpouring of love for those who might be hard to love.

She concluded her talks with a quite beautiful prophetic vision about the conference organisers (the women Ministers and Ministers' wives of Loughton - also known as "The Flying Pigs") building on what they had done, and bringing about real change to Loughton.

Vera Stacey writes... Friday was very good. Linda talked about opening up our hearts to God. He is open to us. We must rest in the Spirit. I went down to the drawing table and drew a red heart with me in it. I just wrote next to it 'I am home where I belong'. Linda is one of those special people. She goes out at night, walking the streets, encouraging others to think about God's love for them. They give out flip flops to young people who are drunk and can't walk in their high heels. Some need a hug and a few kind words. These teams of Street Pastors are like good Samaritans.

Mary Howarth writes... It was special.

A time to reflect, to take life more slowly, to talk and listen carefully with friends, with other Christians and, most importantly, with God. It was a time to feel loved and cherished. From something as basic as a plethora of pastries, cakes, teas, coffees, hot punch and the fun-sized chocolate in the

'goodie' bag to the real presence of the love and care of God the Father (Daddy) and the ready prayers of the leaders.

start to think about what God wants me to do with the next part of my life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the organisers.

For me it came at an opportune time as I begin to stop celebrating my retirement and

Help - I'm a parent!



Loughton Methodist Church is offering a 6 week practical parenting course aimed at mums, dads and carers of young children.

The course will be based on a Rob Parsons DVD followed by discussion.

We don't promise to solve all your problems... but we will aim to:

- Give you an opportunity to discuss your questions and share your experiences with other parents and carers
- Help you to practise the basic principles of positive parenting to raise happy and healthy children

Give you the confidence to develop your own strategies for supporting your child

When: Thursdays 10am - 11am, starting 10th February 2011 for 6 sessions
excluding half term week

Where: Loughton Methodist Church Hall
Led by Angela Aldred

Booking is essential as there are only a limited number of spaces
Limited childcare available,

but please make your own arrangements if possible

Contact Angela Aldred for further information 01992 560455
or ask at Church Office for booking form

Our Children's and Young Peoples Work

Michael Hall writes... LMC does fantastic work with children and young people and we can be proud and grateful to God for the good things we see amongst us. Activities such as Junior Church, Holiday Club, Girls Brigade, Butterflies, Toddler Church, SNYF and TY's continue to attract good numbers and there are clear signs of the Spirit's work among us. The arrival of Chloe has strengthened these organizations and helped create new ones like SonSeekers. God is at work among us and we give thanks to Him for all our blessings.

The question is whether we now need to express our collective ministry with greater clarity. To have a clear, simple and understood aim and a biblical picture which helps us to understand what we believe God is calling us to achieve.

If we can it would help prospective parents and children to understand what we are about. It would also help the various organisations to have greater coherence and for the whole church to understand what drives our ministry.

Our proximity to the forest makes plants a natural point of connection and the soaring wooden beams in the church remind us of trees. Plants and trees are all dependent upon good roots which draw up nourishment to keep the life flowing. There is the lovely image of church as trees of all ages continuing to grow together sourced by a common root system.

There are also strong Old and New Testaments images that speak of roots. All of them draw pictures of *roots going deep down into God and drawing nourishment from God so that they can grow, flourish and produce a*

rich harvest. This is something that motivates all out work. One child was asked what comes to mind when he thought about the words "Junior Church", he said he thought of meeting in groups. When he was asked what "Roots and Faith" meant, he responded by saying it meant, "going deeper into God".

Here are a few references to 'roots' in the Bible:

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." *Ephesians 3:17-19*

"Continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. *Colossians 2:6-7*

"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Two proposals were taken to the recent Church Council Meeting.

At the Youth Committee it was agreed that their collective work comes under the banner of Roots: Children and Youth Ministry at LMC. The names of the various organisations do not necessarily change i.e. Butterflies, Girls Brigade etc, but they are all identified as being part of Roots:

Children's and Youth Ministry at LMC. At a meeting of the Junior Church staff it was agreed that they adopt a new name based on the concept i.e. "Roots" or "Roots on Sunday". In consultation with the children of the various departments they will choose new names appropriate to the theme of trees, growth and life.

The Church Council unanimously supported the new change.

In practical terms it means on the website and publicity that all our current and future activities would be branded under the umbrella term of Roots: Children and Youth Ministry at LMC.

At a deeper level it is about our collective intent to encourage young lives to put down deep roots into God which will last a life time.

Today's Youth – What we've been up to...

We came back together in September very enthusiastic after our summer break and weekend away together at Solid Youth Festival. We jumped head first into the term with the idea of leading a Children's Address so we could feedback to the church our time at the Solid Youth Festival. This resulted in the very exciting creation of a worship band who led the worship for the children's address! They have been continuing to rehearse together and they will be leading the worship for the second time during the Toy Service Children's Address on the 28th November.

At the beginning of the term every young person was given a Soul Survivor: Bible In One Year. It is great that the TY's and the leaders are doing this as part of something bigger and with at least another 12,500 people. As no doubt you

have also noticed, generally young Christians/people are becoming increasingly biblically illiterate. Whilst many of them believe the bible to be true they simply don't find it relevant for their lives. Our challenge is to connect them with God's Word not simply so they can have more biblical knowledge but so that His Word can begin to shape their lives. The aim of Bible In One Year is to see a generation that are deeply rooted in the Word of God, aware of its truth, promises and author.

There is a forum on the Soul Survivor website where the young people can discuss with one another what they have read that day as well as read a bible commentary each day, written or a video by one of the Soul Survivor leaders or from another youth leader around the country (like Chloe and Tom have done!) In the New Testament we are currently half way reading through the gospel of Luke as well as Numbers crunching our way through the Old Testament.

In our TY sessions we have looked at a variety of biblical passages including the story of Mary and Martha where we learnt that our priority in Christian living is to listen to God in order to have a relationship with Him and to know Him better and to do this we need to read His Word (the bible) daily. We have also had a session comparing the Old Testament commandments about being clean/ unclean with the New Testament commandment that we now have through our Lord Jesus. From this we looked at the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet and with some expert help from Cay Clark we all washed and massaged each other's feet. We looked at the humility of Jesus' act but also the deeper meaning of Jesus telling us to get alongside one another and metaphorically speaking wash each other's feet.

We've now entered the busy rehearsal stages for the nativity and are looking forward to being a part of this year's theme "Christmas through

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

the Ages". We are also very excited about this year's Christmas trip to the London Eye and Ice Skating on the Southbank Saturday 4th December.

We will be kick starting next term with the New Year forest walk during the 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday 2nd January 2011!

Wishing everybody a very Happy Christmas!

Tom Donoghue

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship dates

Sunday 9th January 7.30-9pm At the manse.

Sunday 13th February 7.30-9pm Venue TBC

Sunday 6th March 7.30-9pm Venue TBC

Sunday 10th April 7.30-9pm Venue TBC

Sunday 8th May 7.30-9pm Venue TBC

Junior Mission for All



Sunday 16th January 2011

JMA stands for Junior Mission for All. It is a group for children and young people which began within the Methodist Church as early as 1812. The aim was to involve the children in the missionary work of the church by collecting at that time a halfpenny every week from eight people.

In 1841 a Window magazine was produced for the young collectors to learn about the work of the church overseas and then in 1903 medals were presented for every £5 collected this would be like collecting well over a hundred pounds today.

Here in Loughton, JMA has been an important part of the mission work of our church for

many years. We currently have 35 children and young people in this church who will renew their JMA promise to 'learn, pray and serve with the world-wide church of Jesus Christ'.

JMA members learn by reading the colourful JMA Rainbow magazine. We have read this year about different churches worldwide and the fact that there are at least 70 million Christians in the Methodist family all around the world and the number grows every year.

All the money we raise will make a huge difference to the lives of others in this country and overseas. Today JMA income is still divided in this way - £1 out of every £5 is used for 'Mission in Britain' and the remaining £4 for work in other parts of the World Church.

As we look forward to our JMA service on 16th January, keep collecting, keep praying and trusting that 2011 will be another successful year for JMA.

Deborah Davies

SonSeekers

'Not now Mary I am fixing the car!'

Possibly my favourite quote of the last term was at SonSeekers, the new creative arts group, we asked the children to act out the scene when Mary goes to tell Joseph that she is going to have a baby. We said we wanted them to think about what each character would say, do, and feel.

And it was a purely innocent and comical moment when one little boy quickly told Mary 'Not now Mary I am fixing the car!' So we promptly added it to the script for the coming Nativity play!

As adults we can be very complacent with the Christmas story, we've heard it for many years. It been such a privilege to be able to teach it to the SonSeekers children, some of

them have been told the story all of their lives and for others it is the first time they have really heard it.

It has been an adventure every week as Jen and I have taken one small part of the story and with the children gone deeper with it, and really spent time thinking about it. We tend to skim over the some of the characters in the Christmas story, but these children had the chance to really spend time thinking about how scared the shepherds must have been, and how sad the inn keeper must have been to know he had to turn a heavily pregnant lady away.

Some of the comments from the children have been very funny, but there have been some very profound moments and it is a real blessing to be able to share these moments with the children.

I still have moments and days when I remind myself how lucky I am to be paid to do the things that I love doing! Very few people can say that about their jobs these days.

I pray that for each of us over the Christmas period, that we find times to just be. To sit. To dream. To delve into the Christmas story, and to try and find things in it that we have never really given enough time and thought to.

I pray that we can be challenged by small children, by their simple faith, by their desire to go deeper into a story than we would ever dream of.

Wherever you find yourself within this amazing story this Christmas, I wish you a really safe and happy time.

God Bless *Chloe*

TY's Extra



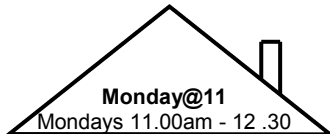
Hi there - just to let you all know that John Hart has given a beautiful handmade cross to TYs. John crafted the cross out of

Walnut & English Elm and set it into a base formed from the root of an English Oak tree. This will be something that we will use each week during the TY sessions and we will pass on the thanks from all of TYs to John.

John has been very moved by the notes that he has received, the comments that were made about him by TYs in church and also the present that he was presented with from Junior Church. The present itself was a donation, made on John's behalf, to Present Aid to provide woodworking skills for those with disabilities. This makes the gift of the cross particularly poignant, and we are aware that we did not offer parents the opportunity of donating to the gift. There was, of course, a card signed by or on behalf of all the current TYs. Should you feel that you would like to make a donation, please either contact Anne Spong, as Junior Church treasurer or Present Aid direct (www.presentaid.org).

Liz Guest

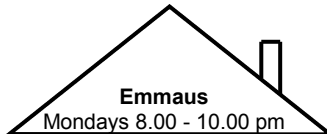
House groups



Monday@11
Mondays 11.00am - 12 .30

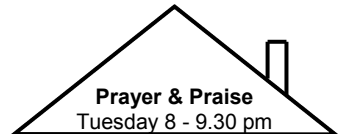
Fellowship Group

Venues and dates as announced
Leader - Rev Tony Morling
Tel: 8508 1834




Emmaus
Mondays 8.00 - 10.00 pm

A fellowship group that enjoys sharing and bouncing ideas off each other
Venue - various homes
Leader - Peter Moles & Irene Sampson
Tel: 8508 0258



Prayer & Praise
Tuesday 8 - 9.30 pm

A group that enjoys worship and prayer together
Venue - 16 Harwater Drive, Loughton
Leader - Chris & Fiona Beament
Tel: 8508 9983




Cover to Cover
Wednesday 1.30 - 3 pm

A group that enjoys fellowship and discussion.
Venue:
93 Queens Road.
Loughton,
Contact:- Pat Perry,
Tel: 8508 9014.



Seekers Group
Wednesday 8 - 10 pm

A group that enjoys fellowship, support and learning together, meets on 1st & 3rd Weds in month.
Venue - various homes
Leaders - Chris Watts & Barbara Hills
Tel: 8504 6064



JAM - Just a minute
Thursday mornings

For busy mums, meets for discussion, prayer and fellowship around the kitchen table. on Thursday mornings in different homes. (children welcome.)
Tel- Mel Larg, 01992 579592



Oasis
Thursday 8 - 9.30 pm

A group that enjoys singing, fellowship, and study
Venue - various locations around Loughton
Leader - Mary Ford & Derek Clarke
Tel: 8504 6700 & 8508 7588



Omega
Meets monthly in afternoon by arrangement

A group which meets for critical discussion on Christianity in our technological and pluralistic society.
Contact: Patricia Smith 8505 5291 or Keith Aldred 01992 560455

Other Church Group details

Butterfly Club

A weekly gathering on Mondays for carers and pre-school children, meeting in the Wesley Hall in term time, 1.30 to 3.00 pm. Contact - Victoria Williamson 8502 2339

Toddler Church

A time of worship for pre-school children and their parents/carers. Meets Tuesdays in term time in the church at 10.00 am. Contact - Cathy Morling, 8508.1834

Girls' Brigade

(Christian Uniformed Organisation)
For girls 5-14 years old
6.00 to 7.30 pm
Thursdays in term time.
Lots of fun, activities, badges work and awards
Contact:- Andrea Moles 8508 0258

LMC Singers

Meet to practise 8.00 pm on Friday evenings at the church.
New singers, of all standards, are always welcome to join.
For more information please contact Michael Hall on 020 8502 3690.

'Come and raise a joyful sound'

The Girls of all ages

If you are free on Thursday mornings you are invited to join us for fellowship, prayer and discussion.

We meet first in the Welcome Area at 10.30 am for coffee and after that in the church until about 12 noon.

Do come and join us.

More information from Barbara Griffiths on 020 8508 4624

Double YY's, (Yesterdays Youth)

meet monthly for fun, & fellowship. It is open to anyone who was young whenever but is still young at heart. Meetings can be talks, bowling, walks, visits to places of interest, eating or anything that the members wish to do.

Please check The Week for details each month and come along.

Children's Page

Hi Everyone!

I'm sure by now you have made a wish list for Christmas and are looking forward to receiving some new toys, games or clothes on December 25th.

Opening presents is so exciting that I wonder if you stop to think about the person who bought the gift for you.

If you buy Christmas presents for your family you will know that it takes time to find a gift you think they will like. Perhaps you wish you had more money to spend. But giving does not have to be about money or presents.

We can give our time to someone over the Christmas holidays - perhaps talking to an Aunt or Uncle we don't see very often.

We can give our help to others at Christmas - there are so many things to get ready at home I know Mums would love you to lend a hand. We can also help others who don't enjoy Christmas like we do by making up a shoebox or buying a toy to put in one.

Most important of all we can give our love this Christmas, not only to friends and members of our family but to God our Father. He gave the whole world the greatest gift we could ever have when he sent Jesus into the world as a baby. He shows us how to live lives pleasing to God and if we invite him into our hearts, he is a presence that will last forever.

Amidst the pretty lights, delicious food and piles of presents, let's make sure that we put Christ in the centre of our celebrations. Only then can we have a really Happy Christmas!

Fiona

Prayertime

Dear Father God,

Thank you for all the excitement of Christmas; for sparkling trees, Christmas concerts, and family parties.

As we hear the Christmas story, help us to be truly thankful for the gift of Jesus.

May we choose to follow him and gladly give our love, our time and our help to others this Christmas and in the days to come,

For Jesus sake,

Amen

Puzzletime

Can you decode this verse from John Chapter 3?

6.15.18. 7.15.4. 19.15. 12.15.22.5.4. 20.8.5.
23.15.18.12.4. 8.5. 7.1.22.5. 8.9.19. 15.14.12.25.
19.15.14.

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Doug Horley

Praise Party!

Come and join us for a fun and action packed praise party full of songs, puppets, funky music and dancing with Doug Horley!

Where?

Loughton Methodist Church

When?

Saturday 15th January 2011

6.00 - 7.30pm

Who can come?

The party is aimed at children aged 5-11 and their parents or carers, although all ages are welcome, children are the responsibility of their carers at all times.

To book a space contact Chloe Purchase on 07540110199 or

