

the grapevine

APRIL 2011

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



Christ's entry into Jerusalem **Norman Adams (1927- 2005)**

Watercolour on paper 1991

from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art.

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(commentary on the painting on page 2)

biblefresh
It could change your world

Christ's entry into Jerusalem
Norman Adams (1927- 2005)

Watercolour on paper 1991

Commentary by Francis Hoyland

'I can trace everything I have done back to a source of inspiration in nature' writes Norman Adams. But it seems to me that there is another source - art: particularly that of Ensor and Klee. And I found myself thinking of Maurice Denis's definition of a painting as 'a flat surface in which colours are arranged in a certain order'; while I was looking at this piece.

I suppose one of the reasons I find it delightful is that I can empathise with the way it is done. 'What fun' I find myself thinking, 'to draw with a relaxed line on good paper and then fill it in with artists quality water colour. My fingers itch to share in this delight!

But in order to get the colours to 'sit down' together like this one would have to be a bit of a master and to get them to recede and advance as they do is not easy, nor is it easy to produce continuously inventive imagery. Look, for instance at the role of the sunflower in the right foreground; it relates to other sunflowers and to the sun on the flag and may even refer to the Son of God as well.

The painting is divided into separate areas - the central, bright and square, holds the principal drama - it is surrounded by a hedge of russet and green shapes, which is criss-crossed in a way that may refer to the coming crown of thorns.

Only two figures inhabit this marginal area - an ancient man who seems to be led towards the principal event by the little girl in red and, top left, a weeping female head which must be Our Lord's mother.

Christ is yellow light and epitomises the radiance present in the colour of the whole. He processes along a mainly green strip or rectangle. He moves towards a white cross on a dark flag - a red cross and a Union Jack hang behind him.

Since these crosses occur on flags, perhaps they make reference to the fact that Our Lord was slain as a deliberate act of state, as well as to the horrors that nationalism can produce!

A pale, blue shape like an inverted 'L' frames part of the central rectangle letting in cool air. This finds echoes in other blue areas; the lady behind the

donkey's head, for instance. Squares, crosses and diagonals of squares crop up everywhere. The relationships between them is often emphasised by colour.

The pictorial language used is both subtle and supple. Within the central square something like a traditional space is set up.

The children and dogs in the foreground are definitely in front of Our Lord and the dark figures processing before him. And they, too, are in front of the man looking out of the window. The flags also seem to be hanging within a recognisable volume of air.

However, round the edges of the central square, space gives way to a loosely arranged pattern of diamond shapes - interspersed with leaves that may stand for palm branches as well as the crown of thorns.

The sunflowers shout "hosanna" with the children in the foreground - indeed two of the central group have, subliminal sunflowers printed on them. I wonder if the two dark figures are the Pharisees who asked Our Lord to stop the children praising him.

I have tried to hint at some of the wealth of this beautiful painting and I am sure that you can discover more. But what makes it work so well?

First the continual interaction between a realised space and the lovely pattern of the picture surface, which is particularly clearly shown by the relation between the central square and its surround, takes our fancy and holds our interest.

This happens everywhere - is it flat or is it three-dimensional? The answer is clearly that it is both, and somewhere within this playful, pictorial activity and within the deceptively 'easy' and seemingly relaxed pencil lines that seem to have come first, and the act of colouring, the Holy Spirit has found a place.

This Spirit, that Milton described as the one who 'Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss and made it pregnant', can, of course, 'blow where he listeth' and all an artist can do is to construct a nest by a process of child-like play and hope that the Holy Spirit will find it comfortable.

I don't know exactly what kind of faith Norman Adams professes, but he certainly is concerned with a feeling of 'rightness' or pictorial truth - and since Our Lord is Truth, as far as art is concerned, that will do.

Loughton Methodist Church

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Roots on Sunday 10.30 am *Superintendent* Mr Michael Hall
Toddler Church, 10.00 am Tuesdays (in term time)

LOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH is one of the 12 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.

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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

April

- 3rd 9.00 am Mr Martin Lawford ~ Prayer Service
 10.30 am Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
- 10th 9.00 am Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
 10.30 am Mr Joseph Adofo
- 17th 9.00 am No Service
 10.30 am Mrs Cynthia Bonds

Holy Week and Easter Day

- 21st 8.00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion in the Church
- 22nd 10.00am Good Friday Service with our friends at Loughton Baptist Church
 11.15 am Procession of Witness from the Baptist Church to St Edmunds, Traps Hill
- 24th 5.30 am Open Air Sunrise Service see page 9 for location map
 10.30 am Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion and the Adult Baptism of Sarah King by full immersion which will take place in a portable baptistery on the grass area behind the church hall

FORTHCOMING WEDDING.

We would be delighted if our Church friends could join us to help celebrate the wedding of Philippa Graves to Chris Heagren at Loughton Methodist Church on Friday 29th April at 12.30pm. Andrew & Marilyn Graves.

Our own Royal Wedding (Ed)

Letter from the Manse



Let me make something clear about science and faith. I do think that science and faith are opposites- but let me qualify what I mean by that.

My barber once boldly stated, "I don't believe in God. Science is all that I need". With his sharp metal scissors snapping close to my ear I did my best to suggest that they were not entirely incompatible. Our friendly banter finished with smiles and laughter but for him science and faith were opposites which mutually excluded each other.

But his hands that held the scissors with such deft precision were only possible because he had thumbs and fingers that were in opposition to each other. That is why thumbs are called 'opposable' because they operate in a completely different way from the fingers. Because the thumbs have different abilities they can work together with the fingers to allow extraordinary hand dexterity. Their 'opposition' is not one of conflict but cooperation. For the hand of my barber to work properly he needed both thumbs and fingers. Not all opposites are mutually exclusive.

That is how I see the relationship between science and faith. Like the 'opposable thumb' to the fingers, their differences are complimentary. So it is that faith and science do have very diverse qualities and vocabularies. But for me that does not mean they are incompatible. Rather I need both to see the whole picture.

When Professor David Wilkinson visits the church over the weekend of **May 14th-15th** he will explain the 'positive opposites' of being a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, Professor of Theology and Methodist Minister. You may know him as a regular contributor to Radio 4's "Thought for the Day". We consider it a great privilege to welcome to LMC one of the world's leading communicators speaking about science and faith. I am sure that you will find meeting David an enriching and memorable experience.

I encourage you to commit to this weekend in your diaries. Details are on page 10. On the Saturday evening there is a church meal provided by an outside caterer and for obvious reasons we need to know numbers. It promises to be a wonderful weekend.

My hope is that because of hearing David we will all know more about the complimentary but 'opposable qualities' of science and faith. And we will make new connections between the Easter story and creation,

*"God created the universe by his Son...who has all the brightness of God's glory and is like him in every way. By his own mighty word, he holds the universe together".
Hebrews 1:2-3.*

Yours in Christ
Tony

Dates for the Diary

April

6th 8.00pm AFC Support Group

8/9th Journey with Jesus - a time for prayer and reflection: see back cover for times

10th 7.00 pm Privilegeum Gospel Band from Norway: see page 23

21st 8.00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion in the Church

22nd 10.00am Good Friday Service with our friends at Loughton Baptist Church

11.15 am Procession of Witness from the Baptist Church to St Edmunds

24th **5.30 am** Open Air Sunrise Service: see page 9 for location see page 9

27th 8.00 pm Youth Committee

29th 12.30 pm Wedding of Philippa Graves to Chris Heagren

30th YY's Senior Citizens Tea

May

4th 8.00 pm Pastoral Committee

5th 8.00 pm Joint House groups Meeting at LMC 'Bringing the Bible alive'

7th 9.00 am AFC Plant Sale

14/15 Church Anniversary Weekend

18th 8.00 pm Property Committee

25th 8.00 pm Outreach Committee

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

10/04/2011 - 7.30 - 9.00 pm. - At LMC

08/05/2011 - 7.30 - 9.00 pm. - Loughton Baptist Church Youth Room.

Double YY's ~ Forthcoming

Programme

for further information contact Barbara Martin 8508 7476

30th April Senior Citizens Tea in Church Hall (time tbc)



AFC Plant Sale

**Saturday 7th May
from 9.00 am**

If you're looking for plants for the garden why not hang on, as there will be a good selection of plants - mainly summer bedding and for hanging baskets. Come and get your plants and support a good cause at the same time



From the Senior Steward

Peter Moles our new Senior Steward introduces the newly elected Stewards joining the team:-

Following the stewards' team losing Kay Ellis (having completed her period of office) and Jan Pettigrew (having 'retired' early), Mary Howarth and Roger Arnold will now become stewards – having been voted on at the Annual Church Meeting on 20th March.

Mary (and Martin too!) have been heavily involved in so many aspects of LMC life since they moved to Loughton 'a number' of decades ago. Mary and Martin were also founder trustees, with Andrea & Peter Moles, of the Christian Drama Resource Centre almost as many years ago. Mary in fact served as a steward for a time during the eighties but stopped to concentrate on the demands of infant parenting, so she comes to the role with some experience of what's involved.

Although Roger has been with LMC only about four years, he has been committed to the Christian way for many years. In his youth he was active in the Boys brigade and held office in Hainault Baptist Church. Roger and Julie moved to Loughton in 1993 and worshipped at Goldings Hill church before joining us.

We are so pleased that Mary and Roger will bring their enthusiasm and many talents to the team, and look forward to moving forward together.

(Mary and Roger will feature in our Getting to Know you page in the next couple of months. Ed.)

* * * * *

Church Flowers

Joyce Reid, our church flower coordinator, writes...

Many people express their appreciation of the flowers in church each week and I thank all those who give donations to the Flower Fund. Some give at a special time to mark an anniversary or in memory of a loved one, but donations to the fund in general are also very welcome. If you would like to contribute in either way please do see me.

* * * * *



biblefresh
if could change your world

Bible Blast!

Bible Blast: weekly Bible verses sent to your mobile phone.

Aim: to share wisdom, encouragement and motivation to read the Bible

Who is it for: anyone with a mobile!

How do I get these texts?
Text 'Bible Blast' and your name to 07540110199

Contact Chloe Purchase on the above number for more details.

NB: Personal details such as names and mobile numbers will only be accessed and used by Chloe, on behalf of Loughton Methodist Church and will not be shared or passed on.



butterfly club • girls brigade • holiday club • roots or nursery • usaf • sonseekers • toddler church

You no doubt will remember Michael Hall writing the following in the December edition of Grapevine

“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 Testament 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 our 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’.”

Sunday 27th March saw the launch of the revised name for the Childrens and Youth work at LMC. A lot of hard work by many people has gone into this. The Sunday Groups have all come up with new names for their meetings and these are
 Beginners - to Budding Beginners
 Primary - to Hydr8
 Juniors - to Branches
 TY’s - to Reach

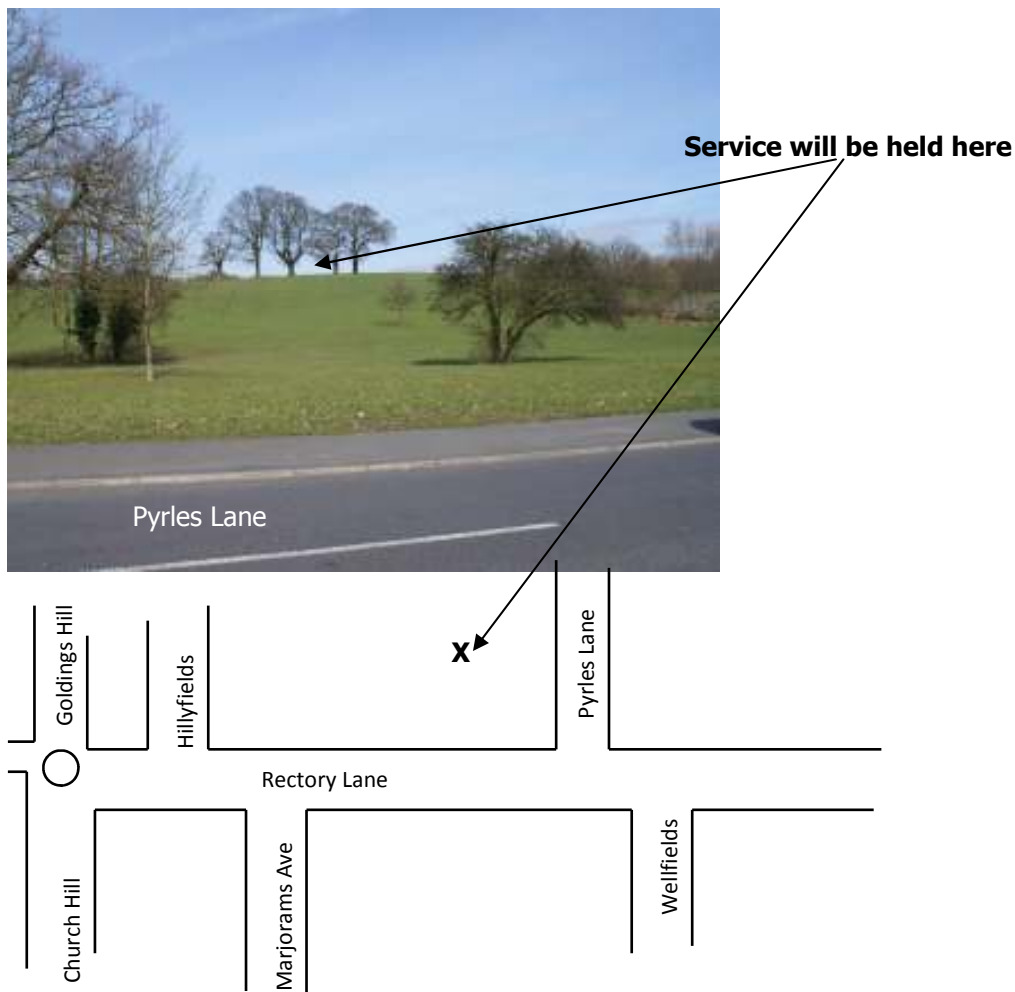
The new logo, that was the result of much thinking and innovation by those involved, has been reproduced on a postcard with the aims and the new names of the groups printed on the reverse. These were given out at the launch.

We ask God’s blessing on our work in this area, that we may indeed see new roots being developed as we put our trust in Him to lead us as we further our work amongst the children and young people of our town.

Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service

This year we are, after the success of last year, holding our Early Easter Communion service in the open air gathering at 5.30am on the piece of open land that rises to a small hill adjacent to Rectory Lane and Pyrles Lane. We shall be holding the service near the four oak trees at the top of the hill. Following the service there is an invitation to share in bacon butties and coffee at the manse.

The picture below shows the location together with a simple map



Church Anniversary, 14/15 May 2011

Tony in his letter this month has talked about this and below is the programme for the weekend, together with a reply slip if you intend sharing in the supper on the Saturday evening. This will be provided by an outside caterer, so we need to know how many to cater for as a matter of urgency. Many of you will receive an invitation and we include it here for those who may not be included in our mailing list. All are welcome to this event and it will certainly be of interest to any who are looking to explore the big questions regarding faith and science.

Exploring the BIG Questions

Saturday 14th May

3.30 pm Arrivals at LMC - cup of tea

4.00 pm Afternoon session

"Acts 17 Communicating the good news in a media dominated culture"

6.00 pm Meal

7.45 pm Evening session open to all

"The Big Bang, Stephen Hawking and God"

9.30 pm close

Sunday 15th May

10.30 am Morning Worship

"Genesis 1 - In the beginning God"

led by Tony Morling and David Wilkinson

6.00 pm Circuit Service

"Revelation 21 - Who knows what tomorrow brings?"

Preacher Rev David Wilkinson

Refreshments will be served after the service

Reply Slip

Name.....

Address

Contact telephone no.

Please enter the number of adults attending each session and any special needs, e.g.

Transport, vegetarian or other dietary requirements.

Please return this form to the Church Office **by 25 April latest**

Thank you

Date	Event	adults	4-10	11-18	Special needs, diet etc.
Sat 14 May	Session 4.30				
	Meal 6.00				
	Session 7.45 - 9.30				

From the Stewards

HELP NEEDED!!! Church Anniversary Weekend

We need a team of people to help set up tables in Wesley Hall on Saturday 14th May at lunch time in preparation for the evening meal.

A team to make tea/coffee as people arrive at 3.30pm.

A team to make tea/coffee after supper and finally a team to make tea/coffee on Sunday after the 6.00 pm service.

If you can help with any of these tasks please see Pauline Boorman or Christine Whatson

Many thanks.

Easter Offering

Kay Ellis writes.... Each Easter “Women’s Network”, a movement within the church that encourages, enables, and equips women and others, leave envelopes in churches, including our own, for an Easter Offering to aid their work.

Last year at the Network service which is held after Easter, we heard about some of this important work.

From Latvia we learnt of **Hope In Action** at the Hope Centre in Riga. This centre gives shelter, food, clothing and hope through the Love of Christ to young single mothers from dysfunctional families. These young women and their babies have no loving families so the staff of The Hope Centre become their friends and families.

We heard about one young woman and her two week old baby, who arrived after the child’s father had sent her out into the streets to earn money. Desperate to keep her child she was willing to fight to make this happen. Unfortunately the baby died two days later. Through this trauma, with no help from family, it was the staff at the centre who helped her through this terrible time. They helped her get an autopsy performed as soon as possible and helped her with all the paper

work, and arrangements for the funeral.

They grieved with her. All the arrangements were incredibly difficult and filled with many obstacles. How do you arrange a funeral with no money? During all of this, the staff at the Hope Centre were true companions in faith, hope and love.

We heard of **Faith in Action** from the Gambia, from the town of Brikama. The Gambia has wonderful crops of fruit like mangoes. The fruit that is not picked and eaten falls to the ground and rots, until that is a few years ago when someone showed the locals how to make jam from the fruit. So the Jam Factory was started. Old jam jars are collected, carefully washed and filled with the most wonderful jam, pickles or chutney. The jam is used throughout the Gambia in hospitals and schools, and it is not just for Methodist consumption. The project gives work to some women in the local community and uses a resource that would otherwise go to waste. The idea is simple, anyone can do it with very little equipment and it makes a huge difference both in terms of useful jobs for people and good food.

This Easter when we pick up our Easter Offering Envelope, let us remember all the work that is done for those so much less fortunate than us and let’s put **our Love and Faith into Action** too!

Christian Aid Week 15–21 May 2011



Eladio stands on the site where his community hopes to build a school

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and

- **£14** could buy enough coffee seeds to plant a 0.7 hectare plot of coffee and start one farmer on the path out of poverty.
- **£2,170** could pay for a processing plant, allowing farmers to process the coffee they have grown and then sell it for a better price.

supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community.

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz

del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.

'I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines,' says Eladio.

Eladio knows that transformation is possible. He is driven by the example of a nearby community, where Gustavo Adolfo Talavera and the members of the Los Alpes cooperative have been supported by Soppexcca for 12 years. In that time, they have successfully worked to establish a school and a health centre for their community.

The hopes of the people of La Paz del Tuma are hopes held for the whole community. Eladio works every day towards his dream of a purpose-built

school, clean water and latrines for all the farming families of La Paz del Tuma.

Soppexcca's support for coffee cooperatives like La Paz del Tuma and Los Alpes allows communities to see a bigger picture, full of possibilities for the future.

You can be part of the story of transformation which is unfolding right now in Nicaragua.

By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives. To find out how, visit **www.caweek.org** or talk to your local Christian Aid Week coordinator.

To give to Christian Aid Week, visit **www.caweek.org** or call **08080 006 006**.

LMC's effort for Christian Aid Week this year

LMC is committed to help in two ways

- Collection outside Sainsbury's on 14th May

Can you give one hour shaking a tin at Sainsbury's? You can make this a family event. Children love handing out stickers and balloons.

- House to House collection between 15th and 22nd May

We need **8 NEW** collectors this year to make sure all our roads are covered. Our much-missed friend John Robins use to cover 7 roads every year. Doing this in pairs is a great way to encourage each other.

Please contact Keith Aldred 01992 560455 keith@akaldred.plus.com , Alec Brown 07956 570512 alecmbrown@live.co.uk , or Cecil Everson 07796 671189 and say **"YES!"**

(editors note: Why not volunteer before you are asked and make their job easier)



Help people in poverty out of poverty

UK registered charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525 Scotland charity number SC039150 Northern Ireland charity number XR94639 Company number NI059154 Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998 Company number 426928

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU ~ Joan Love



I was born at St Margaret's hospital in Epping in 1962, and lived with my Mother and Father in Forest Road Loughton.

I went to Staples Road Infant and Junior schools, and Lucton Girls

secondary school in Borders lane.

I am an only child as shortly after my birth my Mother became ill with Crohns disease.

I can remember many happy times playing in the garden, and riding my scooter up and down Forest road. Loughton was a very different place to what it is now, much more of a village. I have fond memories of getting the Sunday papers with my Father; we purchased them from an elderly man who sold them on the street corner by the Crown. Everywhere was so quiet and in those days Sunday was different from the rest of the week.

Sadly my Father died when I was just 16. My Mother and I forged a close relationship which we still enjoy today. This year she reaches her 85th year and she is still very much my best friend.

I left school at 15 ½ and started work as an office clerk for a publishing company. At 18 I decided to go back to college where I became a qualified computer programmer.

I got a job working in Lloyds of London as an Systems Analyst and Assistant Cargo Underwriter where I stayed for 12 years. I then moved on to the corporate legal market as an IT Systems Administrator ,where I stayed for 8 years. When I left I had reached a high level in my career my title was an

Senior applications specialist and Project Manager. I left because I was expecting my first child.

I met my husband Ian at work and we married in July 2001, he currently works in the city as a Systems Accountant for a legal firm. We live in Loughton.

God has blessed us with two beautiful daughters who are both at primary school. I love being a mother; however, I have at times found that it challenges me far more than my IT career ever did!!!!

Two years ago I started work as a youth worker, it is part time and in term time only so allows me to be around for my children.

This is a very challenging job as I work with 14 and 15 years olds who have been excluded from our local secondary schools; some have anger management issues and some are in trouble with the police. It is though very rewarding when you witness a young person getting back on track and knowing that you have been a part of that change.

I joined LMC six years ago. As soon as I started to attend regular Sunday services there I realised that it is where God wanted me to be. The people were so friendly and welcoming, and the girls who were very young at the time, really enjoyed themselves.

I felt that I had come home. I became quite involved with different things particularly JAM, just a minute Mum's fellowship group. I also became a member of the Church council.

Four years ago God called me to preach, I ignored Him for a year as I couldn't believe that I could do it. I'm not one who likes to be out in front. He persisted until three years ago I decided to obey and test the calling. I haven't looked back since. God is with me every time I stand out in front, and He gives me all I need to do the job He has called me to do

It is not always easy juggling work, family, study and service preparation but I know it isn't something that I could give up.

What is your earliest memory?

I actually remember sitting up in my pram underneath a canopy with people looking in at me – strange isn't it to have such an early memory?

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire my Mother the most. She has lived through much adversity in her life, in many different ways, but she always remains the same good kind person who would help anybody.

What is your favourite book?

The bible - it amazes me how you can read a well known verse and suddenly it speaks to you in a different way.

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

The protection of vulnerable children and young people. At work I have seen first hand the result that systematic abuse has on the young, and the difficulties that they face.

What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career?

When I was a child I wanted to be a nurse or doctor, I still think it would have been a career that would have suited me. So if I was starting out again that would be my choice.

What is your best memory of school days?

Sadly I was very unhappy at school as being a very shy child was subject to bullying throughout my school life. I do however have very early memories of infant school and my friend Linden who moved away before I started Junior school, of playing in the playground and trips to the forest.

What / Where is your favourite place?

Sea Palling in Norfolk. It is a very beautiful seaside place, unspoilt by commercialism. My

Mother in law lives a few miles away so we often go with the children when we are visiting. The girls love it there and already we have lots of lovely memories.

How did you first become involved in the Christian faith?

I went to Sunday school at St Marys as a child, my Mother has been a Christian all her life. So I guess I have never known life without God.

What helps to sustain you in your faith journey?

I know that Jesus died for me and He would have done so even if I was the only person on earth. He shouldered all my sins in the Garden of Gethsemane and willingly took them to the cross and suffered a agonising death for me. The least I can offer Him is my life.

What is your favourite bible passage and why?

"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it" Luke Ch 18 v17

These words call us to respond to God with total dependence, full trust, frank openness and complete sincerity. Just like a child, how wonderful it is to be the child of God.

If you were to summarise your faith in a few words, what would you say?

I guess I can only say that I love God with all my heart, I could never turn away from Him whatever life throws at me. He is my master, friend and companion for this life and for, by His grace, eternity.

What message would you want to give if you were asked to give a sermon?

I have the wonderful privilege to preach many sermons. If I were to pick one sermon that I have written it would be the one that I wrote based on the Song of Songs. It was a time when Tony was doing themed preaching

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

and he asked me to do this. It was really quite a challenge and I would have probably not chosen it myself!

I based my sermon on what God wants for us in our personal life. He wants us to enjoy an intimate relationship with our partner but he wants us to have this within a committed relationship. Sadly in this world where sex is a commodity it can be difficult for our young people, and very often damaging. The country's high teenage pregnancy rates is an

example of this..

What hymn or song means the most to you?

Abba Father is my favourite - it always brings tears to my eyes. For me it means that through Jesus we can call the Almighty God Our Father, Our Daddy God. Not some supernatural powerful God who has no interest in us, but a Father whose greatest wish is to hold me and you in His arms. The hymn says it all. I often use it after or before a sermon when planning a service.

Doris Law

Doris was a long time member at Loughton until 2003 when she moved to St Ives, Cambridge to be closer to her family. It was with sadness we learnt of her death in July last year. She had been a regular behind the counter in the tea bar and was busy always making things to support the work of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. One member has commented on her fund raising sales where she had made some red and white aprons, one of which she bought and often thinks of her as she still wears it now.

Last month Tony received this letter from her daughter Margaret

Dear Tony Morling

I am not sure whether you remember my mother Doris Law who was a member of Loughton Methodist Church for many years until 2003 when she moved to live near me in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. She died last July. In her will she specified a donation to the church. She was always very proud of the outreach work that was being done at LMC, especially in bringing in young families and it was a great sadness to her in St Ives that the Methodist Church there had no young people in its congregation.

Please find enclosed a cheque in respect of this donation.

Margaret Baldry

I am sure that she would be pleased with the work that is taking place at the present to further our ministry to children and young people, with the renaming of this work to Roots and the building of the Drama and Arts Centre.

YOUTH MUSIC CONCERT WINS PRAISE AND ACCLAIM

Christine Baker writes...

Rock chic Erika Footman, otherwise known as iMMA, was the guest of honour at the 8th Loughton Youth Music Festival held at Loughton Methodist Church, High Road on Saturday 19th March.

This festival brought together Sixth Form Music Schools from Loughton and the surrounding area showcasing students performing their A-level set pieces before a live audience. Musicians were from Bancroft's School, Davenant Foundation School, Epping Forest College, Trinity Catholic High School and West Hatch High School.

Performances ranged from contemporary to classical with vocals and instruments that included violin, flute, piano, drums, base and acoustic guitars. The event brought together twelve of the very best local young musicians at this stage in their musical development.

Songwriter Erika Footman, who performs as a solo singer under the name of iMMA, topped the alternative pop charts last November with her latest song 'Tear out my Heart.' After presenting the students with certificates she said "The performances were amazing and I

was really impressed with their musicality. It's great to see young musicians in love with music and it's wonderful to have a platform like this for them to have a voice, gain confidence and express themselves."

She told the performers " If you decide to really go for a music career its very scary out there and very competitive with lots of people but if you keep going, keep dreaming, you can get there."

The Music Festival formed part of Loughton Festival which celebrates Loughton's cultural, literary and arts with a range of activities through March to May. Festival Director Sue Taylor said "This is the best show in town and I love coming every year. An amazing amount of work goes into putting the programme together and the Festival is a very important addition to a young person's CV, particularly if they are looking to pursue a musical career.

I think this is one of the best events in Loughton's annual calendar. The young people play so competently and so confidently. They really are a credit to our community and I am delighted we can include the Youth Music Festival in our programme." To check on other events coming up visit www.loughtonfestival.org.uk

VIPs also included Loughton Town Mayor Cllr

David Wixley and the Chair of Epping Forest Council Cllr Ann Grigg who said "It was terrific and a real treat to see such talented young people. I do hope they go on to better things in their musical careers." *Continued*



**PHOTOGRAPHER
Lauren Barnes**

Host Malcolm Bell is the drive behind the series of music events held at Loughton Methodist Church - "The twelve young people who entertained us filled me with great pride. They put 100% into their performance and they visibly enjoyed making music to an appreciative and transfixed audience. The students did great credit to themselves, their schools, their parents and the profile of today's youth."

Students who performed were Ben Yelverton and Rebecca Slattery from Bancroft's School; Jemima Rathbone, Dwight McCook, Steve Van Neikerk and Rachel Espeute from Davenant School; Prudence Snellgrove from Epping Forest College; Chad Hall and Rebecca Andrews from Trinity Catholic School and

Charlotte Jaconelli, Bethan Howlett and Jonathan Antoine from West Hatch High School.

The event supported the Community Music Initiative (CMI), a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing music services to special educational needs children (SEN) and young people with deprived backgrounds since 2008 through the Loughton Music School. Fully qualified music teachers go into schools and present music as a therapy to young people with behaviour problems and learning difficulties. For more information visit www.cmi-org.co.uk



MISSION RESCUE

25th to 29th July

YOUR HOLIDAY CLUB NEEDS YOU



MISSIONS AVAILABLE SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT

Helping in Departments

Bonding with the children and supporting their spiritual growth
 Helping children to complete simple craft activities
 Helping children to learn songs
 Supervising children at playtime
 Helping to take Juniors (8-11 year olds) to the swimming pool or off-site.

Helping with Catering

Making juice for children at break time
 Making teas and coffees for Helpers
 Helping with washing up

Helping with Safety

Overseeing the playground, carpark areas, and building entrances to ensure the safety of the children at all times

Administration (April to July)

Using Word and Excel to type up letters and help with mailouts
 Collect application forms
 Advise Holiday Club
 Help to organise briefing night
 Help to write and photocopy Daily Newsletters during Holiday Club

Name _____

Contact number _____

If you have any queries please contact Agent Victoria on 020 85022399

It could change your world



David Bradley is General Director of Keswick Ministries.

David is married to Liz, a teacher and lives in Northwood, NW London.

Please tell us about a time in your life when God spoke to you

most vividly and personally through the Bible. Which passage was it and what did it mean to you at the time?

Before I started full-time Christian work for the first time I was really hesitant about the change of job. God spoke to me clearly through Jeremiah 1: 6-8, as He must have done many times before and since, to people who are reluctant about what He is calling them to do. Verse 5 is amazing too! It was the green light I needed to move ahead.

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

Keswick and hearing excellent Bible

teachers! Learning more about the Bible (context, content, meaning), prayer, meditation and allowing/asking God to speak through it to me.

What does your regular practice of Bible reading look like?

I follow a particular annual programme of Bible reading and I love reading the Bible first thing in the morning before the day gets going. I try to find a verse or phrase that I can take through the day with me, to shape and influence my behaviour/thoughts.

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

Persevere! Try different versions, different media (DVDs, CDs etc), study with others, study new passages, meditate on just one verse or short passage not big chunks, re-write the story in your own words, draw it or set it to music!

What is your prayer for the Biblefresh initiative?

I want people to get a 'wow' factor when they read the Bible, whether that's a humbling experience or an exaltation, to be really enthused by the Bible as the 'living and active Word of God' and put it into practice.

Bible verse for the month: Matthew 28:6(King James Version)

⁶He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Children's Page with Fiona Beament

Hi Everyone!

Do you like making cakes or helping Mum or Dad when they are cooking? I enjoy baking and have a very old book that is full of recipes I have collected over the years from friends and family. Some are hand written, others are torn out of magazines, and many are a bit scruffy looking!

But however many times I have made a cake or pudding, I still refer back to the recipe book to ensure I don't forget any of the ingredients.

I love the Oxford Reading Tree story about Kipper who decides to make himself a birthday cake without any help. He puts in all sorts of food like cornflakes, baked beans, milk and jam because he thinks they will taste nice. Instead of making a nice cake he ends up making a horrible mess and getting told off by his Mum. He should have followed some instructions and asked his Mum first!

This year we are all being encouraged to read our bibles more and to spend time thinking and praying about what we read.

Soon we will be celebrating Easter, and we may think the story is so familiar to us that we don't need to bother reading it. It is not an easy story to read as it makes us feel very sad before we feel happy again. However it is the most important story in the New Testament as it tells us about Gods great love for all people by allowing his Son Jesus to die on the cross in our place. You can read the story in any of the four gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke or John - and spend some time thinking about all that Jesus was prepared to do for us.

When we think of all that happened on that first Easter, we cannot help but say thank you.

Children's activities

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

Prayertime

Dear Father God,

Thank you for the gift of the bible, which we are able to read to help us learn more about you. Help us not to leave it on our book shelf, but to read it every day.

As Easter approaches, may we be truly thankful for the forgiveness we receive because of all that happened on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Help us to show other people your love by the way we live our lives,

For Jesus sake,

Amen.

Puzzletime

Can you unjumble these Easter words?

THO SORCS UNBS

NEBUSIN

LOOTACHEC

RATEES GESG

FLOAFIDDS

SCKICH

MARCE SEGG

TEERAS NOTBENS

Fellowship Groups

Monday@11

Mondays 11.00am - 12.30
Fellowship Group meeting
at the Church
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

JAM - Just a minute

Monday mornings
For busy mums, meets for
discussion, prayer and fellowship
around the kitchen table. on
Thursday mornings in different
homes.
(children welcome.)
Tel- Diana Page on 020 8508 2617.

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

The Girls of all ages

Meets on Thursday mornings.
You are invited to join us for
fellowship, prayer and
discussion.
We meet in Wesley's at 10.30
am for coffee and move into
the church until 12 noon.
Do come and join us.
Leader - Barbara Griffiths
Tel: 020 8508 4624

Oasis

Thursday 8 - 9.30 pm
A group that enjoys
singing, fellowship, and
study
Venue - various locations
around Loughton
Leaders - Mary Ford &
Derek Clarke
Tel: 8504 6700 & 8508

Omega

Meets monthly in the
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

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'

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.

Privilegium Gospel m/band

Surely Goodness Tour 2011
Norway - England



Loughton Methodist Church

10th April 2011 at 7pm

Contact 07540 110199 for details



Metodistkirka på Finnsnes. www.metodistkirka.no

Journey with Jesus



Make time during lent to 'Journey with Jesus' as we explore the last week of Jesus' life through a selection of paintings from the Methodist Art Collection.

This will be a self led journey with a pathway to guide you and material for reflection and prayer.

Loughton Methodist Church
(Church and Church Hall)

Friday 8th April

6pm - 9pm (last entry 8.30pm)

Saturday 9th April

10am - 4pm (last entry 3.30pm)

For more information contact Chloe Purchase

chloe@loughtonmethodist.org.uk

075 4011 0199