

the grapevine

MAY 2011

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



The raising of Lazarus

John Reilly (1928-)

from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian
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(commentary on the painting on page 2)

biblefresh
It could change your world

The raising of Lazarus

John Reilly (1928-)

Ripolin enamel 1962

Commentary by Francis Hoyland

John Reilly is clearly obsessed with pictorial language, an obsession that lays him open - in a positive as well as sometimes in a slightly negative way - to various influences.

Picasso is a kind of archetype of this painterly mentality, but here Reilly is completely off the Picasso wagon and his work becomes much more original.

Clearly the subject has dictated everything. The rising sun forms the centre of our field of vision and everything circulates about it. All the forms are bent up and round and over by the effects of wide angled vision - we find the same thing happening in Turner's last paintings.

This circling vortex about the sun enables Lazarus to float free of his grave clothes with which he was bound head and foot. In an almost automatic and inevitable way, Christ is swept into the same whirlpool.

The image is clarified by being placed in a contemporary setting and by the figures being given contemporary clothes.

There is a before and after sequence in this painting too. Mary and Martha - if the trousered figure is Martha - are shown both lamenting the death of Lazarus and rejoicing in his resuscitation.

The language of colour has developed enormously over the four years that separate this from the "[Healing of the Lunatic Boy](#)". It is unconstrained by linear limits and modulates from blue-black to white through grey-violets and russets towards the triumphant orange which vivifies the rising

CHURCH SERVICES AT LOUGHTON

May

1st	9.00 am	Mrs Pam Michaelis ~ Prayer Service
	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ All Age Worship
8th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr David Hobbs
15th	9.00 am	No Service
	10.30 am	Rev David Wilkinson
	6.00 pm	Circuit Service: Preacher Rev David Wilkinson
22nd	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 pm	Miss Glynis Barber
	6.30 pm	Circuit Easter Offering service at Wanstead
29th	9.00 am	No Service Church will be open for quiet prayer
	10.30 pm	Mrs Joan Love

Loughton Methodist Church

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Children & Community Worker, Chloe Purchase, Church Office, 020 8502 3071
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Church Co-ordinator: Mr Martin Lawford, Church Office. Tel: 020 8502 3071
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Office Manager: Mrs Barbara Hills, Church Office. Tel: 020 8502 3071
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Sunday Services 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.30 pm
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.

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.

Letter from the Manse



Well, the good news is that planning permission has been given by Epping Forest District Council for the building project to host the Christian Drama Resource Centre at LMC. At long last we now have the green light from all relevant authorities to go ahead! Our continuing thanks go to the project team who behind the scenes are working extremely hard to bring everything together. Soon it will be your opportunity to invest in the project through a **Gift Day**. By mid-May you should receive a personalized envelope with all relevant information, including an eight page booklet. I would encourage you to prayerfully read and respond to this fantastic mission project. The Gift day is on June 5th, although you can of course respond at any time.

Many are saying that they are really enjoying the various Bible Fresh initiatives. The loan of paintings from the Methodist Art Collection stimulated our Sunday worship, triggered some wonderful conversations and created the 'Walking with Jesus' event. The next Bible Fresh event is, "**Bringing the Bible Alive**" on **Thursday May 5th @ 8.00pm**. Maps, books, photographs and artifacts from the Bible will be available for everyone to share. It will have an informal, light touch, when any question, big or small can be asked (no guarantee that answers will be given!).

Finally, don't forget to sign up for our **Church Weekend May 14th-15th**. It promises to be a wonderful occasion of learning and fellowship. Our speaker David Wilkinson is outstanding and I am sure that you will greatly enjoy meeting him. After previous weekends the comment has always been, "it was a great opportunity to get to know people better". So whether you are new to church or have worshipped at LMC all your life, I hope that you will prioritize the weekend in your diary. It would just not be the same without you.

Wishing you every blessing as together we journey through the beautiful month of May.

Tony

A future date for your diaries.

Wesley Church, Cambridge has been booked for us to hold a **Church Away Day on 15th October 2011**. This Church is set in a lovely position in the town and will be perfect for our needs. Many who shared the Away Day last year at Mulberry House, Ongar found it worthwhile and asked for something similar this year. The programme for the day has yet to be completed but further details will be published soon. **Please put the date in your diaries now to avoid disappointment.**

Dates for the Diary

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

June

15th 8.00 pm Church Council



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

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship

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

Thursday lunch becomes Monday Afternoon Tea!

Until we can find a replacement for Bosworth's, we are unable to offer Thursday lunches at present.

We know how much friends have enjoyed fellowship together over a meal, so we intend to offer Afternoon Tea on Monday, May 9th at 4.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come to tea - all are welcome.

The cost will be approx £6.

Names to the Office or to Margaret Hart by May 6th, please.

Bible verse for the month:

Psalm 8:3-4 (King James Version)

³When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;⁴What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

April 8th to 10th.

A weekend of contrasts

On Friday evening and Saturday we were invited to "Journey with Jesus" when the Church and Church hall were turned into a big open space whereby we could explore and experience the events of Holy Week with a series of eight paintings from the Methodist Art Collection. These were laid with displays of artefacts to set the scene and to help reflect on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. At each point there were details of the paintings together with reflections to be read quietly. As you left the open tomb with the grave cloths there was a "chill out" area where we could sit on bean bags and cushions (and chairs for those of us who are not as flexible as we once were) to be still and to soak up the wonderful atmosphere that had been created by the exhibits and the reflective music playing in the background. There was a real sense of God's presence in the place.

These are some quotes from the comments book we had at the exit.

"A truly wonderful spiritual journey. The paintings are so different but so meaningful. The meditations too were so appropriate, moving and gave me a lot of good food for thought."

"Lovely way to bring the 'story' to a clearer

understanding, each showed so much. The way they were displayed was so creative and added to the whole perspective. Thanks to all who organised it. Music was good too!"

24 hours later we were assembled in the church again when we were privileged to have the Privilegeum Gospel Choir to inspire us in a different way. Raising the roof with their beautiful Gospel Music. 32 young people from Finnsnes, Northern Norway, although some of them were from Italy, Venezuela and Russia and of course their support team.

A polished performance saw people swaying in their seats and tapping their feet, and got to their feet when invited in one of the numbers. The evening ended when they sang a beautiful blessing and we were indeed blessed with their presence. People were talking afterwards, saying how inspirational it had been - and mentioned the way they all put on their knitted reggae hats for one song! People were impressed with the number of soloists the choir had and their four piece backing band. Such happy faces, praising the Lord in song. A wonderful weekend that gave us the opportunity to be spiritually uplifted in two such diverse. What a privilege it is to have a church where the space can be used in such different ways to praise God.

Notes from Church Council

- Martin Lawford reported that ideas for the development of our Christian witness in the Café were still under discussion with Property Committee, in particular the idea of appointing a part-time Café Manager to lighten the load of the Office staff. This would be CARRIED FORWARD to the next Church Council meeting.
Following open discussion, it was agreed that our purpose for the Café was to evoke the Good Samaritan rather than the Moneylenders and that LMC's mission in all areas should be priestly, prophetic and evangelistic.
- The new website design, which had been emailed to Church Council members, was APPROVED. (see page 23 for some details)
- **Worship Leaders** Following the Worship Leaders' Course run by the Circuit last autumn, the appointment of Keith Aldred, Derek Clarke, Caroline Duke, Liz Guest and Irene Sampson as Worship Leaders at LMC was APPROVED.
- **Local Preaching** It was NOTED that Liz Guest had applied to be considered for Local Preacher training. Liz addressed the meeting about the journey that had brought her to this point and Church Council assured her of its love, concern and prayers as she sought to ascertain what God was saying to her. Chris Beament led the meeting in a prayer for Liz.

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.

Christian Drama Resource Centre Annual General Meeting

CDRC held their Annual General Meeting on 27th March this year and we have included parts of their Annual Report showing the work and activities they have been involved with during the past year. We look forward to the start of the building work on the Creative Arts Centre we will be sharing with them next year.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR by Andrea Moles, Chair of Trustees.

The statistics show that there has been the same number of clients but a lot more costumes needed - our strength levels seem to bear that out - particularly those of us who go to and from the store at Great Gregories in the winter and the container at R. Open - it has been a heavy work load this year. However, that in no way takes away from the joy the work can give us and the appreciation we receive from 99% of our clients. We are eternally grateful to the church for rescuing us from our previous difficulties (bending over backwards to provide us with storage space and a satisfactory work area), but with the increase in workload we have been hard pressed to find space for the required resources on the Centre site. Regular 'development' meetings have kept us hopeful as to the progress of the 'New Build' which will make so much difference to our work in the future. We feel we are now part of Loughton Methodist Church family and becoming known to all the church users. We also know that our close proximity to Morrison's supermarket is a great boon to many of our clients.

Borrowing by Community groups has increased this year. As usual,

we have been asked for a wide variety of costumes. We have dressed several ladies and gentlemen in grand costumes for Georgian events at Copped Hall and a group of thirty school children who are chosen for a special educational visit each year. In July we were able to provide a variety of Tudor costumes (both posh and poor) for everyone in the Theydon Bois Singers for their production of 'Merrie England'. At regular intervals throughout the year, we have provided Tudor costumes for the singing quartet "Erato" and more recently for their new venture, Meridian Opera. Youngsters at Epping Forest Kids Club danced to the music of Michael Jackson and Cheryl Cole, using many of our costumes. This also necessitated us buying some more trilby hats; they are always in demand! A local hospital celebrated their centenary by dressing one nurse as Florence Nightingale and several others in period costume

Christian Storytelling News

Andrea and the team go regularly into Toddler church, LMC and Oaklands School. We were even asked for the Harvest Assemblies - what a privilege! - at St John's Buckhurst Hill and Chingford Mount Baptist Church. All of them ask for termly or monthly slots with the occasional special service for Easter or Christmas. Other schools like Staples Road ask for intermittent assemblies through the year. Fudge the Monkey puppet continues to be a winner and was recently taken to Frinton to join many other puppets on an Ecumenical Training Puppet workshop. LMC sometimes ask for Andrea and the team to be part of worship; included among the stories told this year are 'the great banquet' and 'Michael Mouse' going to see Jesus at Christmas. Two worship seminars by the team gave rise to the use of the beautiful voiles and saris that are now

also regularly borrowed by all churches in the area.

Moses was popular as seniors and leaders of 1st Loughton Girls Brigade got together with members of LMC and a local preacher to perform a short sketch for the Mothers Day service. We took the opportunity to tell the story to the younger members of GB too. In February 2011 Andrea was invited to spend a day unpacking the story of Gideon with four different classes at a local school as part of their 'Bible week.' It was interesting working in a teaching situation again after so many years and being free to express Christianity by invitation.

Borrowing by Churches and Christian Groups

The year began with a large order from the Regeneration youth group at churches in Romford. They needed quantities of both biblical and modern costumes and props to express certain bible stories in a 'sensational' way. The year ended with Hornchurch ordering (early) many costumes for their Passion Play due to be performed at Easter in 2011. . In between there have been worship and prayer days, (lots of beautiful fabric needed), and all the saris and some of the shalwar kameeze were needed for a Dalits day.

At Christmas, besides the vast quantities of Nativity costumes needed as always, our mannequins were displayed as part of the Nativity tableau in a shop in Harlow, and people were so impressed that the church organising it got the go ahead to do the same at Easter!

What we see at CDRC is that so many churches and youth groups are energetically proclaiming the gospel in all areas which is very exciting and uplifting.

Volunteers

We currently have 18 volunteers who mostly come in on one day a week. In addition to the regular volunteers, Craig Jenkinson comes in to prepare the newsletter. We still have our special needs volunteer who comes with his support worker for two hours on a Monday. He has gradually become acquainted with our procedures and does valuable work.

We have continued to keep records of volunteer hours. In the past year we have clocked up a conservative estimate of 1966 hours of volunteer time! Quite a total and it must be remembered that for at least 15 weeks of the year we were closed for school holidays. In an average week volunteers put in between 55 and 65 hours.

Plans for Year 2010/2011

This past year has been a 'waiting' year; the coming year is the time when everything will change — we hope for the better! — We have been waiting to see what the plans for the new Arts and Drama Centre would mean for us, and working steadily and faithfully in hope. We continued to feel that this opportunity to work alongside Loughton Methodist Church would allow God to open up new channels in our work and are now looking forward to seeing plans come to fruition. The 'New Build' - set to be completed at about the same time as the 2012 Olympics — is our own 'Go for Gold' Challenge. We know that there will be a time of great flux with moving in and out of the way of the builders while still continuing the work. Two of our Trustees pray weekly for the work of CDRC and for our community at large, if anyone else would like to join us, particularly in view of the tremendous changes we are encountering, please do not hesitate to speak to our Chair of Trustees, Andrea.

“The Circuit” – no, not the electrical or Formula 1 racing ones!

I’m talking about the Circuit to which Loughton Methodist Church belongs – the 12 churches which make up London Forest Circuit – a supportive, interdependent network within the London District of the national Methodist Church.

Each of these churches, like LMC, have their visions and dreams for how they will be a Christian presence in their area, through worship and action in the community, and each of them have to deal with the everyday running of premises.

Just as LMC is undertaking a new project for an Arts & Drama Centre, so several of our fellow churches are also undertaking various projects to enhance their work – for instance:-

- Leytonstone Church intend to refurbish their Lister Hall – a great space for many wonderful events, including the recent International Womens Day celebrations. Their fund raising has begun.
- Lighthouse Church in Walthamstow is a Grade 11 Listed building – and it really does have a mini lighthouse as a feature! They are very keen to welcome community groups and at the moment their premises are not fit for purpose inside – so again plans are being made, architects are being consulted and grant funding sought
- Woodford Church have already undertaken a project – “Open Doors” – which means they now have a lovely glass fronted area as you enter the church where tea and coffee are served during the week to people from the community and where groups can meet and be seen by the outside world.

All the above will be or have been supported by Circuit funds, as LMC also will be.

I believe we are blessed in having a variety of preachers, lay and ordained, sharing worship in each other’s churches, and its great that another one of LMC’s members, Liz Guest, is to train as a local preacher - I’m sure she will enjoy meeting the multi-national congregations we are blessed with in our Circuit.

Our Circuit Superintendent Minister, Rev Andrew Fielding, is at the moment on Sabbatical, returning at the end of May, and then during August he will be moving from our Circuit to pastures new in Great Yarmouth. So who will replace him? Our own Rev Femi Cole-Njie has taken on this ministry and we are looking forward to working with her .

To make up the complement of ordained ministers, the Rev Michael Moon will be joining the Circuit in August – he is Korean and has been in ministry at Barking and Barking side in recent years; he will have pastoral responsibility for the Lighthouse and Cann Hall churches.

Your prayers for Andrew, Femi, Michael, and the other Circuit staff will be appreciated I know.

At the last Circuit Meeting, the idea was put forward to hold a Circuit Festival in the form of a series of events, exhibitions and workshops over six months or a year – because our Circuit is not just multi-national but multi-talented! There are musicians, painters, singers, actors, needlewomen (and men), dancers, photographers – you name it, we’ve got it!

However, such an endeavour needs careful planning by representatives from the churches and may take some time – but yours truly has been charged with overseeing the task. So watch this space – your Circuit needs you!!

(If you’d like to help, call me on 8504 6064)

Chris Watts

Creative Arts Centre – the 'Building Project'

The project team were very pleased with the young people who made models for the competition and Sophie Baker was a worthy winner as judged by our two professional designers. The other good news over recent weeks was the success of our planning application with Epping Forest District Council. I attended the meeting and was so pleased to hear a number of positive comments about the work that we do in Loughton for the community.

We are now able to press ahead with plans for the actual building work and we hope to have the shell of the demountable storage for costumes and props complete before Holiday Club with the fit-out taking place immediately

Outreach Committee Update – April 2011

The meeting in early February spent time deliberating possible recipients for the £1,400 discretionary spend for 2010/2011. It was decided that some of this money would be donated to the charity Barnabas Aid (a charity which supports Christians where they are in a minority and suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution) in memory of John Robbins. Other charities were also proposed. A decision was made to ask that any other proposals for consideration for a portion of this money were submitted two weeks prior to the next meeting of the Outreach Committee on 25th May 2011 i.e. before 11th May 2011 to

steveperryemail@gmail.com If anyone wishes to make a proposal please include with the name of the charity the reasons why you believe your proposed charity is the most deserving.

after this. We hope to start work on the main building sometime later in August. Obviously, there is going to be some disruption during the building phase and the loss of some parking spaces but I will keep you all up to date with this.

One of the most important things that we need to do now is to raise the funds to pay for everything so we would welcome any offers to run fund raising events. I also hope that you are all buying on the web through Easyfundraising. We have received our first cheque from them and we look forward to many more. If you have not yet tried this and have lost the details of how to do it please do contact me for help.

Jill Angold-Stephens

Other topics discussed were:

- the new church website project and the need for brief summaries to be written for each group at the church
- a new 'Mission Moments' slot in the 10.30am service during 2011 where people will be interviewed for two minutes on their Mission subject
- as one of the committee's goals for 2010/2011 we are assessing how we can support a Church or other organisation overseas

And successes too, such as the Alpha course run by Rev Wayne Dulson and Cathy Morling: the clothes and other household items donated to the Whitechapel Mission: the money raised by the children for JMA and the computers for the Dalits in India bought by the PALS project funds have finally arrived in India after a delay in Customs.

Steve Perry and Kim Schofield

Christian Aid Week 15–21 May 2011

Last month we told the story of Eladio Simeón Pineda, whose community has been transformed by Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka). This month we are writing about Gustavo

happened for many years. And then Soppexcca, funded by your efforts in Christian Aid Week, came along. It gave the community a better price for their coffee, helped them improve the quality of what they were producing and, crucially, pooled their efforts as a community to start building a school. That was nine years ago.



Farmers started producing high-quality coffee and began receiving a higher price for their coffee beans. Their quality of life improved and an end to poverty came into sight. They ploughed their profits back into their own community and not only managed to build the school Gustavo dreamt of, but a health centre as well.

Adolfo Talavera, a coffee farmer and community leader in Jinotega, Nicaragua, and one of the founding members of Soppexcca. He says: 'I don't know how to read or write and I did not want my children to be like me.

I did not have the opportunity to go to school, so I tell my children to study and do what I couldn't. We fight so that the new generation, the children, are able to steer this boat.'

Gustavo is illiterate. But he wanted his children to be educated. There was no school in the village so school lessons were held in his front yard with the children sitting on the ground. When it rained, they got soaking wet. This

Now the children in Gustavo's community are looking at a future where poverty doesn't define their lives. For example, Gustavo's daughter and other young people in his community now go to university, and his niece Martha is being trained in the Soppexcca youth-movement programme. She is taught to protect the environment, to learn new skills, to take control of her future and to be part of a community working its own way out of poverty.

This work in Nicaragua is just one example of Christian Aid's support for the poor.

In Bolivia, a campaign to end the tax injustice of multinational mining companies has led to enough tax income to provide pensions for older people and

to provide breakfast for every school-aged child.

In the poorest parts of Egypt, Christian Aid partner COC Bless is transforming communities one village at a time. It works with a village for seven years until it is self-sufficient and has infrastructure and education systems in place. Then COC Bless encourages the villagers to work with others to spread the tremendous change that can take place. In response to the current crisis, COC Bless, with support from Christian Aid, has already facilitated a medical team and 40 tonnes of medicines and food to northern Libya.

God can bring about changes in people's lives when we stand alongside them, look at the world through their eyes and put our faith into action. You can be part of these stories of transformation by getting involved in

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 ~ Roger Arnold



I was born on 3rd September, 1961, in Hackney, East London, and lived with my parents, in Dalston.

My sister, Gillian, was born in April, 1963. After a time in Tottenham, where we attended West Green Baptist Church, and where I was dedicated on 1st October, 1961, (my parents were married on that date in 1960), we moved to Harlow, in the beautiful county of Essex, in 1964, and I attended Jerounds infant school, which, ironically, is just down the road from where I work, including the house we all lived in!

After a two year spell 'abroad', in Hertfordshire, we moved back, in 1976, to the county I love, and I have been here ever since.

Shortly after moving to Bishop's Stortford, I started attending Bishop's Stortford High School for boys, and continued to do so when we moved out to Takeley.

I was fortunate to be brought up in a Christian family, and I received Jesus as my Saviour, at a Don Summers rally, on 6th April, 1975.

I left school at 17, and started work pushing supermarket trolleys for a store in Bishop's Stortford's Jackson Square; but I always wanted to be in care work, and in August, 1979, I got my first motorbike, which allowed

me to start work as an Assistant House Parent, with children who have epilepsy, and what we now call a learning disability, at "St. Elizabeth's school & home", in Much Hadham.

After a spell working as a care assistant with the Salvation Army, in Stanstead Abbots, I got a job as a Nursing Auxiliary, in St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, in August, 1984. On 5th February, 1986, I met a 17 year-old Youth Training Scheme Apprentice, Julie, and we had our first date on 16th April, 1986. Julie & I were married on 16th April, 1988, at Grove Hill Evangelical Church, Woodford, and eventually moved to Chigwell.

We started trying for a family in 1990, but after a while, doctors said that it would be impossible for us to ever have children. Naturally disappointed, we began to get on with life, as a childless couple. I joined the Boys' Brigade, as an officer, in 1989, and remained so until our move to Loughton, in 1993.

We started attending Goldings Church. We moved to a three-bed semi, in Colebrook Lane, 1n June, 2003, not knowing why God was giving us a 'huge' house after a one-bed flat; but we were to find the reason why, when-after a friend's insistence-Julie did a home pregnancy test, which proved positive, and at 11.20 am, on Sunday, 8th May, 2005, Vincent Joseph Roy Arnold was born. What man said was impossible, was made possible by God in His time; I was 43, and Julie, 36. I started work as a Deputy Manager, in a home for adults with a learning disability, in 2005, but was made redundant in June, 2010. After four months' unemployment, and the experience of 'signing on' for the first time, I was blessed to find employment, through a recruitment agency, in a day centre for adults with LD, in Harlow, and I work the odd weekend in a respite home for children with LD.

We joined LMC, in 2007, and God recently appointed me a Steward.

What is your earliest memory?

Being at Peterswood Infant School, and being scared of going up to the Junior School.

Which living person do you most admire, & why?

Apart from our Lord Jesus Christ, I would have to say my wife, Julie. She has been my best friend for nigh on a quarter of a century; she has supported me in everything, and although seven years younger than me, is so much wiser! I admire the way that she is a brilliant mother to our son.

What is your favourite book?

Apart from the Bible, any history book. As Julie will tell you, I am mad on history, and 99% of books in our third bedroom/ cum library, are books on Essex, and on history. I am a member of the Loughton & District History Society.

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

To first of all, publicly ask God's forgiveness of this nation's sins, and to adopt Godly principles in Government & the legislature.

What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career?

A history teacher in a university, or a tour guide for Essex.

What is your best memory of school days?

Home time!
Seriously, though, music lessons, in fourth and fifth forms at Bishop's Stortford; I had a brilliant music master, Mr. Peck, who was also a Christian.

What/where is your favourite place?

Without a shadow of a doubt, Epping Forest District. Our district has such beautiful and

varied scenery, and did you know, we have no less than eight boundaries-the most of any other in Essex? !

How did you first become involved in the Christian faith?

I was brought up in a Christian family, and it was whilst at a Don Summers Rally, in April, 1975-held in the hall of the school, where Julie would eventually become a pupil, in the nineteen eighties.

What sustains you in your faith journey?

That God is always with me, and that this mighty God has also adopted me into His Family through Jesus Christ our Lord; totally mind blowing!

What is your favourite Bible passage, and why?

" For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29; verse: 11; Living Bible Version). God has brought this passage to me following my redundancy, and the uncertainty that followed that.

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

I love the Lord with all my heart, and I am so grateful that He loves me.

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

I think it would have to be on the Book of the Revelation. It paints such a beautiful picture of our real home in Heaven, and the illustration that, despite earthly suffering, there will be perfection in the World to come

What hymn or song means the most to you?

"I know that my redeemer lives", (From Handel's Oratorio, 'The Messiah').

News of charity activities church members are involved with. This month Jill Geddes and Kim Schofield

Jill has recently been inspired by a book she has read which she reviews here and the action it has prompted her take .

She writes...**Three Cups of Tea** This book is a must read!

It's about a man called Greg Mortenson, a keen climber. In the 1990's he joined a party trying to climb K2 in the Himalayas, but through a series of incidents, got lost and ended up sick in the mountains. He wandered into a high Himalayan village called Korphe and the people took him in and nursed him back to health.

He noticed that the children met at a rock overlooking K2 each morning to do their schoolwork- no building, no textbooks and only a teacher who came over the mountains to set work and then go back to his village. They were even doing their maths calculations with sticks in the mud. Greg promised that he would build them a school as a thank you for saving his life.

Greg was a nurse. He was not earning big money. He went back to America and fund raised for the school and saved his own money in order to pay for the school.

Not only did he go back and build his school- other schools followed as the demand for schools grew and grew. His argument was that he was building peace- one school at a time. Only in this way could the extremism of the Taliban be challenged.

The organisation he set up is called the Central Asian Institute and it has a website-

I am going to raise money for this cause. \$50,000 is a new school, but lesser amounts will pay for textbooks, a teacher's wages or even healthcare, a new scheme. Two events

planned to get the scheme started are-

May 28th Sponsored 1 mile swim (I have only ever swum ½ mile!)

July 2nd Three cups of Tea Tea Party complete with china cups and scones and jam.

For any more information, do please talk to me. Thanks.

Jill Geddes

Last year Kim Schofield wrote about Fundatia Emanuel Betania ,UK a charity working in Romania, here she gives us an update on their work.

She writes...**Reach2Romania**

The above charity was formerly known as, Fundatia Emanuel Betania UK, but as this is not a name easily remembered, it has been altered to Reach2Romania.

It is a charity that works to restore hope in the future and is based in a place called Teius in Romania. It provides a place and materials for the children to do their homework in; it provides musical instruments for an orchestra. Medical aid and feeding the homeless are tackled, as well as the provision of summer camps. There is also a modest building programme.

The charity also provides 800 Christmas presents as, otherwise, the children would not receive anything at all.

I wondered if people at LMC would like to donate items to this charity. In particular, the charity would love to receive school materials for the homework club such as pens, pencil cases, pencils and pencil sharpeners, rulers, geometry sets, rubbers, scissors, solar

powered calculators and any art materials.

They would also be happy to receive toiletries such as new toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap as well as hair brushes and combs.

Items that would be particularly welcome for the Christmas presents would be knitted hats, gloves, mittens and scarves.

Items of second hand clothing for children aged 5-15 would also be welcome (but no second hand underwear or socks or shoes).

I do realise that some of these items are things that LMC collects already for the Samaritan's Purse shoe box appeal, but

wondered if we could make a few more children smile this Christmas.

Lastly, if any young people (or not so young but young at heart) at LMC are wondering what they are going to do in July/August this summer, and a trip to the beautiful countryside of Romania appeals to help with a 'holiday club' type summer camp, then I would recommend that you go to the charity's website, www.reach2romania.org.uk and look at the photos there. I would gladly make the introductions necessary.

Thank you. Kim Schofield

Lynn's travels

Our Wesley's volunteer Lynn Jones has been travelling again, this time on a cruise along the coast of West Africa.

The cruise began in Cape Town after an eleven hour flight. We had a brief tour of the city before boarding the ship and setting sail for our first port of call, Lüderitz, in Namibia. Namibia is the second sparsest populated country in the world and gained its independence from South Africa in 1990. The capital is Windhoek, which we did not visit. Lüderitz was founded in 1883 when a parcel of land on the coast was purchased from a local chief by Heinrich Vogelsang on behalf of the merchant Adolf Lüderitz of Bremen, a trading city in northern Germany. The town developed as a typical German settlement, involved in trading guano and fishing. Diamonds were discovered nearby in 1909 and the town developed rapidly with beautiful examples of Art Nouveau architecture and traditional German style buildings. The main church in the town is the Felsenkirche, opened in 1912. It has very fine

stained glass windows, including one featuring Luther, and the altar window was a gift from Kaiser Wilhelm II. His wife the Empress gave a gift of a large altar Bible.

We enquired how often services are held at the church and it would appear that they are not held very often. There is only one Pastor for the whole of the coastline and he is mostly based at Swakopmund 300 miles away – the cost of a private plane to take him to Lüderitz cannot be afforded very often. 200 people attended a recent memorial service but that was exceptional. The church has produced an interesting book of the history of the community and the building.

Whilst visiting the area we were taken to the nearby 'ghost town' of Kolmanskop which was a diamond mining centre founded in 1908. With the wealth obtained from diamonds the inhabitants built themselves a magnificent town with its own ice factory, bakery, sausage factory, hospital, school, theatre and very fine houses. There was even a primitive form of tramway to take the ladies shopping. There was never a church, however, or a graveyard – people had to

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(Continued from page 17)

travel to Lüderitz to attend church services. The town lasted only a few years until even bigger diamonds were found further south. It is now knee deep in sand and a fascinating place to visit. Springbok can be seen in the outer areas.

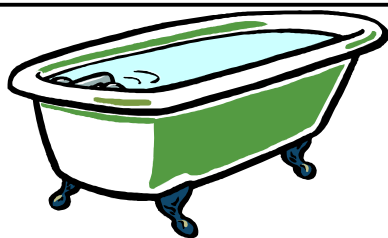
By the next day the ship had sailed on to Walvis Bay, the main port in Namibia. From here we visited the German colonial town of Swakopmund, founded in 1862, passing the lagoon full of pelicans, flamingos and many other species of birds. Swakopmund has a lighthouse, the old court building which is now the summer residence of the President of Namibia, and a great many fine colonial style buildings which have been beautifully restored and put to other uses, such as the old railway station which is now a luxury hotel. We visited the town on a Sunday morning and heard the wonderful church bells calling the population to attend the 10.00 service. The German Evangelical Lutheran Church Parish was founded in 1905 and the church, designed by architect Otto Ertl, was built 1910-1912, being the second

oldest church of its kind in Namibia. We noticed that those walking into the church were mostly white and elderly. I did not attend as time was limited and my German is not up to understanding a Lutheran sermon! There was to be an organ recital in the church the following week. The Roman Catholic Church was in the next street and we also saw a Baptist church building.

We returned to the ship for the night and the continuation of our journey. As it was Sunday, the Captain took a service of evening worship at 6pm which was well attended, approximately 80 people out of a total of 320 passengers. One man commented that the congregation was better than most of those present would be used to in their own churches at home. The hymns chosen reflected the nautical theme – ‘Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storm of Life’, ‘Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us’, and ‘The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, has Ended’, which many said they had not sung for years! Next stop Angola!

More to come in future editions Ed.

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a care home?" "Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."



"Oh, I understand," I said. A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup." "No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug." "Do you want a bed near the window?"

biblefresh

It could change your world



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?

One of the times when God has spoken most vividly and personally

was as a research student when my work was in the origin of the universe and the galaxies and how galaxies form. One day I was reading Colossians ch.1 v15-20 and was caught by the verse 'In him all things cohere'. It struck me in a brand new way that the reason I was able to do science, the reason that there are laws of physics at the heart of the universe, is because all creation has coherence and further than that, Jesus is the source of that coherence. Therefore to do science is to explore the coherence put at the heart of the universe, whose source is Jesus. To do science is a Christian ministry.

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

The Bible is continually fresh for me if I allow it to speak to me. Allowing it to speak to me means that I change often the method of reading and study. I have grown to appreciate the Anglican cycle of Morning Prayer here in St John's, Durham University, which reads whole passages of scripture every morning. I like Bible commentaries, I like the

opportunity of preaching from scripture and I like reading the Bible now on my mobile phone. Perhaps most of all, the thing that's kept the Bible fresh for me is the reading of the Bible together with colleagues and fellow church members and seeing God speak within the sense of group study.

What does your regular practice of Bible reading look like?

My regular practice of Bible reading at the moment is about reading through the Bible in one year, using a rather old outline of how one does that, but reading the text directly from my mobile phone. I am not a good morning person so I have never been one who has been able to get up very early in the morning, but I do make time during the day, sometimes at lunchtime, sometimes just after breakfast to read the Bible then.

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

I think I would want to say that sometimes it does require discipline and sometimes you just have to persevere but there are a huge amount of ways to help you to read the Bible. It is good to read it alone but it is also good to read it with others. An amazing thing about the Bible is as you persevere so it will shape, transform and excite you.

What is your prayer for the Biblefresh initiative?

My prayer for the Biblefresh initiative is that people would simply be excited with the gift of the Scriptures, the gift of God's own word in a way that's accessible to us every day. But further, my prayer would be that we learn to understand and live Scripture rather than just knowing about it.

Children's Page with Fiona Beament

Hi everyone,

I wonder if you saw any of the London Marathon on television last Sunday or even went up to London to watch someone take part in the race.

Although it can be exciting to see who wins, I love to hear ordinary people being interviewed about why they are running such a long way often in fancy dress and sometimes at great cost to themselves.

Some enter the race because they want to prove to themselves they are fit enough to do it, and it is a great achievement to run or walk 26 miles.

However many people do it because they want to remember someone special or because they want to raise money to help a charity that is important to them.

That's why there was a man running with a tiger on his back, another man with a washing machine on his, and a man dressed as a fairy to name but a few. It was a hot day and many people in the race suffered cramp or blisters but most were determined to finish even if they had to be helped over the finishing line by friends. I'm sure they felt it was worthwhile once they were given their medal and they realized how many people they had helped by their efforts.

We have just celebrated Easter, when Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for all our wrong doing and then three days later rose again to live forever. He did not give up on us, but kept on obeying God even when it meant he had to suffer and die.

Now that Easter is over, how will we respond to that great love?

Will we continue to follow Jesus and learn about the way he wants us to live?

In the bible, the Christian life is sometimes compared to a race.

Sometimes it's tempting to give up if things aren't going well, but the challenge is to keep going.

In the New Testament book of Hebrews, chapter 12, you can find these words. 'Let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.'

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 Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you love us so much, that you were willing to die on the cross in our place. Thank you that you rose again and are alive today, guiding us on our journey of life.

Help us to follow your example and to keep on trusting you, even when times are difficult.

May we listen to your voice as we read the bible and talk to you in prayer so that we come to know you better day by day,

In your name we pray,

Amen

Puzzletime

Can you decode this verse from "Timothy chapter 4?"

9. 8.1.22.5. 4.15.14.5. 13.25. 2.5.19.20. 9.14.

20.8.5. 18.1.3.5. 9. 8.1.22.5. 18.21.14. 20.8.5.

6.21.12.12. 4.9.19.20.1.14.3.5. 1.14.4. 9. 8.1.22.5.

11.5.16.20. 20.8.5. 6.1.9.20.8.

A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	11	12	13
N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	Y		
14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	25		

A very gracious lady was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment and replied:
"Only the Ten Commandments."





Well done Gemma

Gemma Wicks completed the London Marathon on Sunday 17 April in 5 hours and 29 minutes. Thank you to everyone who has supported her and Action for Children so generously with more than £2,500 pledged to date. Thank you also to everyone who was there on the day to cheer her on; the crowds lining the route made it a wonderful (if tiring) experience. Please do pass on any outstanding donations to Gemma or Sally directly, or go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/gemmarunning>

Website update Keith Watts writes...

Over the past few months a group has been working to redesign the church website, to give it a more contemporary feel and cover the work of the church more fully. A local web designer is helping with the design of the site and the Church Council has approved the basic design.

We know that a good number of people have come to the church having found us on the web and we realise it is an important part of our outreach to the community.

On the new site we have decided to have a page for 'Frequently Asked Questions' and this is where we need your help. Not everyone who looks at our website will be in the same place on their Christian journey, some will be seeking to start that journey.

We want to kick start this page with some questions that we have already answered. If you have a question that you feel someone would want to ask can you please contact us with it so we can begin to prepare this page. They could range from "is there a dress a code to come to church?" to "How do you explain the Trinity?"

If you have a question can you please email it with subject "frequently asked question" to keithwatts@btinternet.com. I do not have all the answers, but I know man who (probably) does.

We are beginning to see the finishing line and are aiming to go live with new site at the end of May. To this end we are looking for a few people to test the site before we go live to check links and function etc. , if this something you would like to help with please contact me.

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
Tel: 8508 0258

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
Meets last Tuesday of
month
Leader - Chris & Fiona
Beament
Tel: 8508 9983

Cover to Cover

Wednesday 1.30 - 3 pm
A group that enjoys
fellowship and discussion.
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.

Church Anniversary 2011
May 14th and 15th
Our guest for the weekend is
Rev Dr David Wilkinson

David is an Astrophysicist and the Principal of St John's College at Durham University. He is also Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion.



Over the weekend we will together be

Exploring the BIG Questions

Saturday sessions are at 4.00 and 7.45 pm
And he will be joining us on Sunday at our Services
at 10.30 am and 6.00pm

We look forward to seeing you there