

# thegrapevine

OCTOBER 2011



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



The Elements of the Holy Communion Jacques Iselin (1933- )

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

# The Elements of the Holy Communion

Jacques Iselin (1933- )

Oil

1963

Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art, No.19

## Commentary by Francis Hoyland

A tall painting of this size and format and with this degree of abstraction immediately reminds me of cubism particularly as practised by Braque, Picasso and Juan Gris.

However instead of a newspaper, guitar and a bottle here we have the Eucharistic Elements, and instead of greys and blacks we have glowing yellows, oranges and reds.

Nevertheless, the imposition of large, abstract, or perhaps abstracted, shapes upon one another and their juxtaposition with recognisable forms: the cloth, the chalice, the ears of the corn, the loaf of bread and the fish is straight forward cubism, as is the multi-positioned treatment of the chalice itself.

The phase of cubism represented by this painting insists that the canvas is flat and that its flatness must be respected all the time. It was a reaction against analytic cubism which manipulated and experimented with space and form to such an extent that the integration of the picture surface was threatened.

The multiple view-points, or station points, of the painter, and so of the spectator, also threatened to wreak havoc with pictorial stability.

The response of Picasso and Braque to this threat was robust and drastically painterly. Stability is reaffirmed by their magisterial command of their material as well as by the

process of making flat screens recede back from the picture's surface, one behind another.

In Braque's hands this eventually became a language which was capable of producing the vast lyrical achievement of his late works - particularly of his 'studio' series.

Cubism insists that a picture is a picture and that a painted form is just that and certainly not the object depicted, or any kind of direct imitation of it.

Iselin 's painting is far more light and airy and delicate than the paintings it is derived from. The secret centre of its existence seems to me to be the delicate line that runs throughout the picture.

This line is tender and thin - think for a moment how thick the lines often are in a similar Picasso - and it seems to be hidden beneath the juncture of the large, abstracted shapes as well as being visible around the loaf, the fish and the chalice.

The rhythm or movement of the forms also distinguishes this picture from the work of other cubists. It is light-footed and elegant rather than dogmatically affirmative. But, above all, it is the kind of light we experience while looking at it that sets this painting apart.

The pure white of the chalice almost literally glows and perhaps many Catholics are familiar with a kind of radiance that seems to be shed by the Blessed Sacrament.

"And was it just the light of day that shone about us on our way" said Cleopas to the other disciple as they discussed their Journey to Emmaus with each other in later years.

# Loughton Methodist Church

## High Road, Loughton IG10 1RB

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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](http://www.methodist.org.uk) and for LMC [www.loughtonmethodist.org.uk](http://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



I am pleased to say that this year the apple tree in the manse garden has produced a bumper crop. Maybe it was the harsh winter, but for some reason the autumn of 2011 has seen branches bowed down with the weight of fruit. Other years there have been just a few apples but not so now. However, the reddest, biggest, most luscious looking apples could not be reached from the manse garden—those were overhanging Brooklyn Avenue and facing west.

Undeterred, the boys and I went out of the house, along Brooklyn Avenue and clambered up ladders from the street. But still the rosiest of apples seemed to be just out of reach! Pedestrians stopped and smiled. Then one said, “Scrumping I see, don’t tell the owner!”. My protestations that I lived in this house did little to assuage her suspicions that I was clandestinely pinching somebody’s apples. Our conversation ended with me offering her some of the fruit, an invitation that she readily accepted and went off quite happily with scrumped apples!

But that friendly banter raised a question in my mind. Whose apples are these? In a way they are mine because I live at the manse. But are they really? I didn’t plant the tree and I have offered it scarce attention over the past seven years. But by good fortune I happen to live at a place and a time when I freely benefit from circumstances that have given me a bountiful harvest. So to whom should I give thanks?

The psalmist of Israel responses, *“It is God...who tends the earth and waters it, who makes it rich and fertile. He crowns the year with goodness and the pastures and hills are girded with joy”.* Psalm 65.

Maybe that is why Harvest Festivals retain a deep hold on the public mind, because deep down many know that their lives are made possible because of the delicate balance of seasons, weather and soil. Such things, the psalmist suggest come from God and to God should praise and thanks be offered. Therefore, at Harvest it is good to stop and sing:

*“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all his love”.*

In an age of plenty that is a song we do well to sing throughout the year whenever we eat—even when it is scrumped!

Tony

## **Bible verse for the month**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.  
Psalm 119:105 KJV.

## Church Services at Loughton

### October

2nd	9.00 am	Local Arrangement
	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Harvest Festival
9th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mrs Joan Love
16th	9.00 am	Mr Martin Lawford
	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling~ Holy Communion
23rd	9.00 am	Mr David Hobbs ~ MHA Sunday
	10.30 pm	Mr David Hobbs ~ MHA Sunday
30th	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ All Age Worship
	6.30 pm	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion ~ All Saints Day

## All Saints Day (Bereavement) Service

**This Annual Service will take place this year on  
Sunday 30th October at 6.30 pm**

The service will include a time to remember family and friends who have died and to share in a service of Holy Communion.

## News from the extended Church Family

**Marie and John Wright** are delighted to share the news that their son Martin and Sarah will marry in Newbury on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Granddaughter Mollie is very much looking forward to the wedding too.

**Moreen and Malcolm Bell** write...“We have great pleasure in announcing the wedding of our son Duncan to Caroline Daw at St Mary’s the Virgin Parish Church, Bocking, Braintree on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 1:30pm. Duncan and Caroline would welcome any friends who might wish to make the journey to support them.

## Dates for the Diary

### October

- 2nd 10.30 am Harvest Festival India style and farewell to Kasta Dip
- 4th 8.00 pm Stewards Meeting
- 5th 8.00 pm Pastoral Committee
- 12th 8.00 pm Outreach Committee
- 15th Church Away Day to Cambridge see back cover
- 15th 7.30 pm Essex on tour City of London Sinfonia Quintet see page 14
- 19th 8.00 pm Roots Committee
- 23rd 7.30 pm Out of the Box in the Welcome Area see page 14
- 29th 7.30 pm Action for Children Quiz Evening - details below
- 30th 6.30 pm All Saints Day (Bereavement) Service with Holy Communion

### November

- 1st 8.00 pm Stewards Meeting
- 1st 8.00 pm Alpha Course at Costa Coffee - see page 8
- 2nd 8.00 pm Bringing the Bible Alive - the New Testament
- 5th All day CTL Womens Conference see page 9
- 5th Evening Fireworks at St Johns - check The Week for full details
- 16th 8.00 pm Church Council

## Action for Children Quiz Evening

There will be a Quiz Evening in support of Action for Children on Saturday 29 October at 7.30pm at Davenant Foundation School Hall.

Tables of up to 8 people at a cost of £10 per head, including a fish and chip supper.

Please do bring your own drinks and nibbles. For more information or to book a table please contact Gemma Wicks [g.wicks@london.edu](mailto:g.wicks@london.edu), 0771 373 1095 or Malcolm Bell [malcolm@belltech.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@belltech.co.uk) 020 8504 8447.

## YY's Dates

Thursday 27th October Michael Hall will be leading our Music Evening.

Sometime in November we will meet for coffee, chat and covering shoe boxes. Date and venue to be arranged.

Any offers for December as well as the Panto already organised; we will meet for mulled wine and mince pies. Date and venue to be arranged. Again any offers?

## **ALL SYSTEMS GO!!!**

By the time you read this I am sure you will be aware that the building of the main Creative Arts Centre has started. It is due to be completed by the end of May 2012. The main entrance to the Wesley Hall is now through the French doors on the long ramp (the same Yale key can be used to enter as the lock has been moved) and this will remain until the work is finished. The entrance to the Church Hall from the back is preserved though. During this week the builders have moved the boiler and the main electrical circuit boards, from their old positions that are due to be demolished, into the Wesley Hall and have blocked off the previous entrances. It will mean that the hall will be smaller until all the work is finished but what a small price to pay for a wonderful new facility.

You will also have noticed all the extra fencing etc. in the car park and will now understand why we have been so rigid in the allocation of parking spaces. I am sorry that most people will not be able to park on our premises until after everything is completed.

If this is causing you problems do feel free to speak to me about it and I will do what I can.

We shall also be having lights on the fencing for the benefit of those going between the hall and the church during the hours of darkness.

The demountable, named by CDRC as 'The Beautiful Shed', is now completed and Andrea and her team are enjoying working there. Do feel free to go and have a look if you are around during the week, they would love to show you their new, if temporary, home. There are also some new items to view on the notice boards in the Welcome Area – a timeline for the build and a new drawing.

We are continuing to apply for grants as more funds will definitely be needed if we are to upgrade the facilities in the Wesley Hall at the same time.

I will continue to keep you updated through The Grapevine each month but I expect that the progress will be more visible now.

Jill Angold-Stephens

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## **Church Co-ordinator**

Following the receipt of Martin Lawford's resignation we placed an advertisement with the District, Circuit and CTL as well as the one, I am sure you will have seen, in The Week. We had a very good initial response and we interviewed three applicants. All were excellent candidates and after deliberation we reached the unanimous decision to appoint Mrs. Juliette Harvey. Although Juliette is an active member at St. John's Church, Loughton she is known to us from a number of activities that she and her family are involved in with LMC. She has been with her two daughters (now at Staples Road

Primary School) to both Toddler Church and Butterfly Club when they were younger and she regularly helps in the junior section of Holiday Club. She has recently started helping in CDRC. She also plays badminton with our members on a Monday evening. Her husband, Guy, was the person who turned our efforts at producing the leaflet 'Making Dreams Happen' into the professional publication that everyone saw.

Juliette has recently taken voluntary redundancy from her position as a Production Coordinator and Researcher at the BBC after 16 years in post. She is a Loughton resident and has a degree in Design and Media

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Management and a BTEC qualification in Business and Finance.

Some people may have met her recently when on a Monday morning Barbara Hills found that the person who should have been serving in Wesley's Café was unable to do so. Juliette stepped into the breach and took over the role enabling Barbara to get on with the work in the office.

She will be starting work in the office on

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October and it is hoped that she will be able to attend our 10.30 am service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October when it is planned she will be formally welcomed to LMC. When you see her, please introduce yourself and make her feel as welcome as she will surely be. Please also remember her and her family in your prayers as she starts this new stage on her Christian journey.

Thank you,

Jill Angold-Stephens



The graphic is a promotional poster for the Alpha Course. At the top left, a speech bubble contains the text "IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?". To the right, the text reads "Alpha @ COSTA Loughton Tuesdays 7:45 - 9:30 starting 1st November". The central illustration shows a factory-like assembly line with two large gears. Small human figures in various colors are positioned around the gears, some appearing to be part of the machinery. A small circular inset shows a heart with a cross. At the bottom left, the text reads "THE ALPHA COURSE An opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. It is supported by all the main Christian denominations. Listen, learn discuss and discover. For further details please contact: [alphaatcosta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alphaatcosta@hotmail.co.uk)". At the bottom right is the Alpha logo, which features a stylized figure holding a large red question mark, with the word "Alpha" written in red below it.

This is the third time our church has teamed up with Rev Wayne Dulson from the Baptist church to lead an Alpha Course at Costa Coffee in Loughton.

Please seize this opportunity to invite others and/or deepen your own faith through discussion, wrestling with the big life questions in an informal setting with a diverse group.

Still not sure? Come and speak to Cathy Morling or Chloe Purchase, who will be part of the leadership team.

# Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November CTL Day Conference for Women

## Spark to a Flame

**9.30 – 5.00**

**Epping Forest Community Church  
Grosvenor Hall,  
Grosvenor Drive, Loughton**

We are delighted to welcome Ceri Lees and her team from Christchurch Fulham this year to minister at the conference. Ceri believes that by living out the teaching of Jesus we can know who we really are and live supernatural lives. She is the women's pastor and works alongside her husband Stuart who is the vicar at Christchurch Fulham.

### **Discovering what makes you come alive and defining your 'S.H.A.P.E '**

**Spiritual gifts** - God-given abilities to share His love and serve others.

**Heart** - the passions God has given you so that you can glorify Him on earth.

**Abilities** - talents that God wants you to use to make an impact for Him.

**Personality** - how God wired you to fulfill your unique God-given purpose in life.

**Experiences** - those parts of your past, both positive and painful which God can use in a restored life.

**Cost £10**

**includes lunch and all  
refreshments!**

**Contact Cathy Morling 0208 508 1834**

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

## ~ Fiona Beament



I was born in Thorpe Coombe hospital in Walthamstow just fifteen months after my older sister Jenny. I was brought up in Wanstead and attended Wanstead United Reformed Church from birth to the age of eighteen. I met Chris there in the thriving Youth

Group. My mother was very involved in church life but my father did not share her enthusiasm!

My grandparents lived in the house diagonally opposite us and we spent many happy hours with them, walking their dog, playing board games and receiving much needed help with French and Maths homework!

I attended the local primary school 10 minutes walk from home and then went on to commute to Moorgate to the City of London School for Girls until I left at eighteen to go to Manchester University. I completed a four year course and attained a BA Hons in Combined studies, (Theology and Biblical Studies) with Education and Audiology. (In English that means I got a degree, a teaching certificate and a qualification to teach deaf children). Afterwards I worked as a teacher of the deaf in Hawkswood School for deaf children, Chingford, (which sadly closed in 2004). I got married to Chris in 1981 and we settled in Waltham Abbey. Our search for a church brought us to Loughton Methodist in 1982 and we moved to our present address in Harwater Drive in 1983. Claire was born in 1986 followed by Laura in

1988. I gave up teaching temporarily in 1986 and opened Headstart Playgroup with three friends. I resumed my work with deaf children in 1994 working in a unit attached to Whitehall Primary School, Chingford until leaving in July 2010. I am now a Dementia Support worker with the elderly, helping to run activities in three day centres in Waltham Forest.

### **What is your earliest memory?**

My earliest memory is lying on my stomach aged about three on a pier at the seaside and gazing at the water through the cracks!

### **Which living person do you most admire and why?**

There are many people who have inspired me but among my favourites is Donald English whose humility and ability to communicate the gospel to all ages and hold a congregation's absolute attention was amazing. Also Dave Cooke, an ordinary bloke who didn't just see the pictures of suffering orphans in Romania and feel pity, but did something about it by going there with the first lorry of Christmas shoeboxes.

### **What is your favourite book?**

That's a hard question as I love reading! Redeeming Love, a novel based on the book of Hosea by Francine Rivers is one of many favourites. I also like autobiographies, classics by Jane Austen, the Bronte's and Thomas Hardy as well as more modern books by Joanna Trollope and Jodi Piccolt.

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

To ensure that all children are given their right to clean water, enough food and an education whatever that takes to implement and all parents attend a parenting course before their child is a year old.

**What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career?**

Running an Animal Rescue Centre funded by a coffee shop.

**What is your best memory of school days?**

English lessons – I loved them, especially when we acted out Shakespeare plays.

**What / Where is your favourite place?**

Anywhere where the natural world can be seen and enjoyed. Iona is a good example!

**How did you first become involved in the Christian faith?**

Although I went to church every Sunday, I never really understood about a personal faith in Jesus until our youth group went to a Dick Saunders tent crusade in Woodford. I went forward and made a commitment aged 15 and then did a six week follow up bible course. I have been a Christian ever since.

**What helps to sustain you in your faith journey?**

Reading the bible and praying every day are very important to me although there are always times when I find it difficult. I love to sing to and listen to Christian CD's, and I constantly have Premier Radio on when I am in the car. Attending Easter people for many years became a tremendous source of encouragement and being part of a fellowship group at LMC has also played an important part in nurturing my faith. Belonging to the caring church family at Loughton, receiving support in times of trouble, listening to sermons and being encouraged and challenged to serve God continues to help my faith to grow.

**What is your favourite bible passage and why?**

It is hard to choose but I think Romans 8:31 - 39 is very special because it says no matter what you go through on this earth there is nothing so bad that it can separate you from God's love. I have had to hang on to this verse this year during my sister's illness and subsequent death.

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

I know that God loves me, and has a plan for my life. I have seen many answers to prayer and although there are things I still don't understand I trust that God sees the bigger picture and knows what He's doing. Without belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus and his presence with us, life would not make sense or have a purpose.

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

God equips and uses ordinary people with all their failings. The bible is full of them! We all have gifts that can be shared with others and no-one is more important than anyone else. God created us to fulfil our potential doing His work and although we often feel inadequate, He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us. Life is very precious so we should make each day count as none of us knows what's around the corner.

**What hymn or song means the most to you?**

There are simply hundreds but the one that always moves me is Glory and Honour by Doug Horley. You can't help worshipping God as you sing it. In Christ Alone, and How Great Thou Art are also in my top ten.

## **Holiday Club - Looking back and looking forward**

For many children in our church and community, the official start of the summer holidays is marked by Holiday Club and this year was no different. At 9am on Monday 25th July the church doors opened to 170 children and, to the pounding beat of 'da da da-da da da' (the Mission Impossible theme tune!), Mission Rescue was launched. For 5 days children aged 3-11 discovered the story of Moses, how God rescued Moses, and how God has a rescue plan for us all through a whole host of activities, from Doug Horley's super-catchy tunes that stay in your head long after Holiday Club has finished, to the talented and often very funny drama team led by Andrea Moles, from arts and craft activities to forest walks, cooking and games on the grass.

The over-riding theme this year was one of detectives, spies and all things undercover which added to the fun. Department leaders were seen (or not..) in hats, dark glasses and moustaches a lot of the time and on the final day everyone was invited to come 'in disguise'. So for our final Mission Accomplished gathering on Friday the church was filled with pirates, princesses, superheroes, Wally and friends, a rather large dinosaur and an ageing rocker (Tony - was that you dressed as Rod Stewart...??) to list but a few of the costumes.

This year we were blessed with having the support of Epping Forest Youth for Christ. A team of 3 came each day and played a really important role in interacting with the children during their break times - they entertained, chatted and made sure they were safe and happy. They also acted as a point of contact for our Young Leaders and led a short time of prayer with them at the end of each mornings

activities. We all agreed that their presence was a huge bonus to us all.

Each day was action packed and loads of fun...when asked to sum up Holiday Club, some quotes from the children who took part include "It was fabulous. The best bit was the singing and the stories"; "Loved the games, drawing, playing with my friends ... everything!". And from the adults who helped, "fun, laughter, and helping the children have fun!"; "the most enjoyable week of the summer holiday, we are still singing and dancing along at home to the songs we learnt at holiday club, can't wait to help next year".

A huge thank you to all who were involved in Holiday Club - no matter how small or insignificant you may think your role was.. Holiday Club cannot happen without the help of many people - some quietly working away behind the scenes, others jumping around and singing on the stage - it takes all sorts!!

For next year we are looking to find 1 or 2 people who can support Malcolm Bell with the IT side of things.. you don't need to be a whizz with computers - just need to have an interest and Malcolm will teach you the rest. You would also need to be available to be at Holiday Club from 23rd to 27th July 2012. It would look great on your CV and would be very rewarding.

I am also looking for someone to help me with the administration and organisation side of things next year - both in the run up to Holiday Club and also during the week itself. It would involve a couple of hours admin and 1 meeting every 4-6 weeks from January to May and then about 2-3 hours admin each week during May and June. You would need to be computer literate (Word/Excel) but the rest you can learn as you go. Again this can

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be great experience for your CV or a way of just getting that grey matter moving - depending which end of the scale you are at! Please speak to Victoria Williamson or Malcolm Bell if you are interested in finding out more.

Victoria Williamson

## A selection of pictures from Holiday Club 2011



# essex on tour classical

Saturday 15 October 7.30 pm  
Loughton Methodist Church

Tickets £10.00 from  
Loughton Methodist Church  
020 8502 3071  
Loughton Town Council  
020 8508 4200

## City of London Sinfonia Quintet



# Out of the Box

Informal worship in innovative ways

Wednesday 23rd November, 7.30 pm  
in Wesley's Café  
Loughton Methodist Church

We will watch the film 'On Golden Pond' together,  
followed by a time of sharing

Light refreshments available

# **Methodist Central Hall, Westminster ORGAN LAUNCH FESTIVAL**

**Saturday October 8th, 7.30 pm**

## **Gala Launch Concert**

with the Westminster Festival Orchestra and Choir

Guests include Mike Read, Broadcaster & writer

Eleanor Dennis, Soprano

Gerard Brooks, Organist

Craig Edwards, Conductor

Light refreshments available.

Concert tickets £15 (£10 unwaged)

Book via Fairfield Hall Box Office:

[www.fairfield.co.uk](http://www.fairfield.co.uk) 02 020 8688 9291

**Sunday October 9th, 6.30 pm**

## **THE GATHERING - A BIG SING**

a songs of praise - style event with interviews and hymns  
with, Tony Miles, Pam Rhodes, & Gerard Brooks

**Preacher: Rev Chris Blake** - principle, Cliff College

With the Central Hall Choir

and featuring the newly rebuilt Great Hall Organ

Free admission with an offering

Light refreshments available

Further information:

020 7654 3809

[www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk](http://www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk)

## Lynn's travels

*Lynn Jones continues her travels in West Africa, and moves on to former French colonies.*

Lynn Jones continues her journey, and now reaches the former British colonies of Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Of all the countries we have so far visited on the cruise, Ghana was the most delightful, with incredibly friendly and welcoming people. We had three days there, some passengers leaving the ship, and others joining. On our first day there we had an introductory tour of the capital, Accra. We visited the Memorial Park of Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana, which was the first black African country to gain independence from colonialism, in 1957. We visited the lighthouse, and saw many of the colonial buildings built by the British. On the next day we saw the Aburi Botanical Gardens, laid out by the British in 1890, and still a fine garden popular with school groups and local people. Later we visited the Mampong Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine, set up by the government of Ghana 35 years ago to conduct research into the use of plants in the treatment and cure of various diseases and ailments. Nearly 60% of Ghanaians rely on traditional herbal medicines, and the centre provides a hygienic production facility.

The ship then moved overnight from the port of Tema to Sekondi-Takoradi. Here we visited the twin town, full of old British colonial buildings, including a fine Post Office and railway station. Other members of our group spent overnight visiting the Ashanti capital of Kumasi.

Ghana has full freedom of worship, and villages contain an often bewildering range of places of worship, both Christian and Muslim.

We saw Methodist, Baptist, Mormon, Evangelical, Presbyterian and many other denominations. Of particular note was the tendency to name shops and businesses in such a way as to demonstrate the religion of the owner. We saw, for instance, the 'Lord's Triumph Luggage Shop', the 'Psalm 23 Bus Company', the 'Blessed Aluminium Works', the 'Remember Your Creator Fashions', the 'God's Time Freight Delivery Company', 'The Lord Is My Shepherd Saw Sharpeners' and the 'With God All Things Are Possible Lottery Stall'.

We were told about the funeral traditions of the country. The funeral is such an important event that all family members are expected to attend, no matter where in the world they live. For this reason, the dead may be kept in the mortuary for many months whilst the funeral is organised. Posters are put up in the towns to advertise the funeral so that all can pay their respects. The body is returned to the family on a Friday and the funeral, attended by all in black, takes place on a Saturday, with perhaps a service of thanksgiving on the Sunday. The wake on Friday night and the funeral itself can be very costly and all who attend are expected to make a financial contribution. However, if the dead person was over seventy years old, those attending the funeral normally wear white, as it is considered that on reaching such an advanced age, God's plan for them has been completed, and the funeral itself becomes a celebration of their life.

After two days at sea, attending lectures and catching up on our emails, we moved on to Sierra Leone. The capital Freetown was founded by John Clarkson and freed American slaves, called the Nova Scotian Settlers, in 1792. The Maroons from Jamaica founded the part of Freetown called Maroon Town in

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1800 and their Methodist Church, called the Maroon Church, is dated 1808. Unfortunately it was closed on the day we arrived but we were able to visit the Cathedral of St George,

## **Street Pastors update**

Further to Mary Howarth's report in last months Grapevine the Management Team has been formed and has set up Loughton Street Pastors on a formal basis with Ascension Trust (the owners of the Street Pastors concept). On Wednesday 7th September Ascension Trust held two meetings where they met with the Council and the Police to run through a presentation they have produced. This ensures that everyone is aware of how Street Pastors was established and how it runs. It explains exactly what Street Pastors is and IS NOT. At the meeting both the Council and the Police said they were prepared to take their part in the training we need.

In the next few weeks Application Forms will be issued to those wishing to become Street Pastors. The first day of training will be held on a Saturday in November. The date will be circulated as soon as it becomes available. This training day is essential and further training cannot be given before this initial day is completed.

a very fine building full of monuments and with an organ originally from a chapel in Aberystwyth. Freetown suffers from the most appalling traffic jams, but we were able to get around with the assistance of a police escort. A highlight of the tour for many was the very well run National Railway Museum. I think that everyone on our tour was impressed by the attitude of the Sierra Leonian people. Having so recently come through a terrible civil war, the people are remarkably cheerful and look forward to a positive future for their country. They particularly wanted us to pass on the message that Sierra Leone is a friendly and welcoming place – so here I am passing on that message!

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - 26 NOVEMBER**

It is now less than 2 months until the Christmas Bazaar! Have you any new ideas or would you like to help or run a stall?

Please start sorting out anything you think may be useful to us - Pat is always searching for fabric, ribbon, buttons, etc. for making her lavender bags.

Please put the date in your diary now - we look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Perry & Barbara Martin

# **Our Children and Community worker writes Vinegar – formally known as Nineveh!**

Hooray! Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to my job!! Yes, that's right, you've all put up with me and my strange ways for 2 years now. Well done!

In the last two years you might have been one of the people to learn that I work best under pressure and last minute inspiration gets the best work out of me!

My lovely friend Ruth Howarth-Baker went on holiday and brought me back a gift that summed me up very well. It was a plaque that said 'don't rush me, I'm waiting for the last minute!'

However true this is to my normal personality, I would like you all to know, that I am writing this article on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August – two months before the release of the October Grapevine!!

Early isn't it! Well, some may say that I am 5 days late for the August deadline, but I've been inspired – that's what makes me write, rather than deadlines...sorry editor!

My inspiration has been the wonderful kids that I have the privilege of working with. I taught the 1<sup>st</sup> August kids session; we learnt about Jonah, who in my book is a pretty awesome guy. OK, he got it wrong, so wrong that he ended up being chucked off a boat into the middle of a raging storm and swallowed by a big fish/whale (room for debate!) I do realise that this doesn't sound very pretty or awesome. But I love it because it gives me a bit of hope. The hundreds of times when I meant to do something but never got round to it, or the moments when I just knew that God needed me to do something but I somehow got too busy. Jonah gives me a bit of hope. He said no to

what God told him to do, he actually got on a boat to try and get away from what he just knew he needed to do. Most of us would give up hope by this point that God was ever going to come near us again, let alone try and give us a message to share!

I loved sharing the story of Jonah with the children, they really enjoyed acting it out, they happily tried to get their heads around the craziness of the story.

The thing I loved about them the most was how they would try and turn everything into a positive. From tiny things to the big theological issues that most adults would struggle on.

I asked the children if they could try and say 'Nineveh' which was comical in itself. They struggled, then one of the children said to the group 'try and say vinegar but sound like you've got a cold.' – talk about inspiration! That's one that I am going to keep in my children's workers resources for ever!!

When we looked what God said to the people of Nineveh/Vinegar, about how he was going to destroy their city because they had been such bad people, the children really started to think hard about this. It's a hard part of the story to teach children, when we want them to know a God who is kind, loving and wants us to be close to him.

We looked at how the people of Nineveh/Vinegar prayed, said sorry to God and tried to change their ways. I asked them if they thought that God was going to forgive the people, and change his mind about destroying the city.

A child simply said 'But Chloe, God made them, he loved them. Of course he would.'

It was a moment that I wanted to sit and pause in. Beautiful.

Such innocence, yet pure understanding of Gods love. How I long to be like that child.

We ended our session by making projectile vomiting big fish/whales, to remind us that no matter how far we think we have gone away from where God wants us to be, he will always fulfil his plan...lets hope it doesn't involve a vomiting fish!

Thank you for my past two years, for your children for me to teach, and for their inspiration. For your prayers and friendship.

I am looking forward to seeing what else God is going to keep teaching us through the eyes of children.

On a slightly different note, as you may know, each Wednesday I sent out a short Bible verse. I've called it Bible Blast. Some people have been very blessed through receiving these text messages. It is a free blessing that I would love to share with you. So if you would like to receive a Bible verse each week, then simply text your name and BibleBlast to me on 07540110199.

Take care, remember to always be ready to be inspired by simple things in life like vinegar!

Chloe Purchase  
Children and Community Worker

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### **A reflection at the start of a new church year**

Picnics, parties and prayer,  
Youth Clubs, young people and yesterdays,  
Weddings, weeping and warm welcomes,  
Coffee, cake and caring,  
Ministers, meetings and making memories,  
Hymns, harvest and hugs,  
Leaving, leading and laughter,  
Green and yellow scarves, green cups and giving,  
Services, silence and serving,  
Anniversaries, anger and acceptance,  
Relationships, renovations and reaching out,  
Fun days, friends and one big family.

Lord I've just been thinking  
And I don't know what to say-  
All the words have come out jumbled,  
twisted up

And around the wrong way.  
But I think I'd simply like to thank you  
For all the times we've shared  
For all the times we could have walked away  
But stayed because we cared.

Lord thank you for the memories  
For the good times and the bad  
But help us to look forward  
To the times that lie ahead.

Give us patience, love and kindness  
To direct the things we do  
And let us step into the future  
With eyes firmly fixed on You.

Jayne Purchase (Chloe's Mum)

# Children's Page with Fiona Beament

Hi Everyone,

I expect by now you have all settled into your new classes or schools and the long summer holidays seem a distant memory!

It has begun to feel colder in the mornings and evenings and in our garden we have tomatoes and runner beans in abundance. Signs of autumn are all around us.

In a couple of weeks we will celebrate Harvest when we give thanks to God for all he has created, especially for the many different types of food we so often take for granted.

We will also say farewell to our visitor from India, Kasta Dip who I know many of you met when he visited Roots last Sunday. In his country, there are many children who do not have all the things we enjoy just because their parents are Dalits. They are often treated unfairly at school and because they are so unhappy they stop going there and instead have to work for other wealthier people.

As followers of Jesus we know it is wrong to treat anyone unfairly because all people are made in God's image which means everybody is equal and everyone is loved by Him whoever they are.

It is sometimes easy for us to grumble about going to school, doing our homework or helping at home. We may even moan about the food we've been given for tea. But if we stop, look around our homes and think about just how much we have, our hearts should be full of thanks, for we are all very blessed.

Jesus tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and by neighbour he means all people. So let's make every effort both to support the work of Kasta by collecting coins, and to give of our time and talents to help others whenever we can, for when we do this for anyone, we are doing it for Jesus.

## Prayertime

Father God,

You have created a beautiful world, full of colour and life.

Thank you for the changing seasons, and all the different types of food and drink we can enjoy.

Forgive us when we only think about ourselves and ignore the people whose lives are very different from ours.

Please help all who work for those in need, especially Kasta Dip as he helps the Dalit young people in India improve their skills and have a better life.

May we play our part in giving our time, our money and our talents for the work of your kingdom, for Jesus sake,

Amen

# Puzzletime

Can you unscramble these fruit and vegetables?

**NINOO   TEBOROTE   CLARBREKBY**  
**HAPCINS   SPARPIN   OTOPAT**  
**CROBLICO   PLAPE   NARGOE**  
**YARRTWERBS**

## 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

## Time for a laugh



At a school nativity play, three young children were cast as the kings. Presenting their gifts at the stable, the first said: "Gold", the second: "Myrrh" and the third: "And Frank sent this".

The ministers young son wrote to his aunt to apologise for forgetting her birthday. "I'm ever so sorry," he wrote. "I have no excuse, and it would serve me right if you forgot mine, which is on Tuesday."

The Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the Post Office was. When the young boy had told him, Dr Graham thanked him and said "If you'll come to the church this evening you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."

"I don't think so," the boy replied. "You don't even know your way to the Post Office."

# Tony Holden 'Certainty and uncertainty' - "Are you sure?" we ask: "Absolutely" or "well no!" we answer.

As with many things in life we move between certainty and uncertainty at different times in our lives and over different issues and events: think of families, jobs, a political party, a sports team, a religious faith.

For many of us belonging to a Christian church includes both certainty and uncertainty. In fact churches include people who are at different points on their journeys. Of course some Christian traditions take a tough line - unless you accept all the doctrines you are out: or if you break obvious rules you are out. The Methodist Church, as others, has been more 'open.'

I'm not advocating doubt or as the New Testament has it being 'lukewarm'. I'm saying most of us are not sure about everything all the time! The Jesus of the Gospels has stories about lost sheep, coins, and lost children [sons] and the joy when they are found or return [Luke 15]. It's great when people are strong in the faith, let them share it and live it! It's great when people come to faith or re-find their faith, let them be given gracious support. But what of those who say, "I don't believe anymore so I've stopped attending." I want to say, "Don't leave the church because of doubts or because you can only offer a 'critical loyalty.'"

A quote I like is, "The Christian faith is not so much a package to be sold, as an invitation to share an exploration of the human condition in the light of Christ [John Habgood]."

## Here are what I intend as four encouraging comments

**1** Uncertainty is healthy - Most of us live, quite creatively and healthily, with some level of doubt, inconsistency, ignorance and uncertainty. To recognize that our world is shot-through with much that is random and contingent is more realistic than to believe for example in fate or Calvinistic 'predestination' or indeed Roman-style 'good or bad fortune [luck].'

**2** Our 'take' on truth changes - We all can think back to ideas or facts or values that we once thought were true. It's not just 'flat-earthers' who have changed! This happens as we get older; as life's circumstances change; as our prevailing scientific and capitalist world-view offers us rewritings of history, new interpretations, new facts and new inventions.

**3** Working at truth-telling adds to the 'common-good' - our world keeps changing! Population is increasing, there is greater diversity of people where we live, new scientific truths flourish and persistent conflicts need to be politically resolved. It's definitely not easy. Yet, not lying; working to find the truth; being tolerant contribute towards the common good.

**4** Searching for truth seeps into our certainty and uncertainty - At root it is about how we sustain our own love of life; how we live 'with ourselves;' how we are authentic people. In all of this seeking for truth means owning up to both certainty and uncertainty. Jesus in John's Gospel says, "The truth will make you free [John 8, 32]:" and sometimes the truth is that I am not sure!

*Endnote - For more on this see [www.tonyholden.org](http://www.tonyholden.org) 'Frontier people' January 2011*

## 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 the  
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 7.45 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.

# Loughton Methodist Church

## Fan into Flame Away Day

Date : Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Time : 10.30am

Place : Wesley Church Cambridge

Bring a picnic lunch

Optional 17.30 Evensong  
at King's College

Please book your place by 2<sup>nd</sup> October to avoid disappointment  
contact Pauline 020 8508 2131 or pauline\_boorman@hotmail.com

Arts & Craft

Bible  
Study


and much  
much more!

Worship

Games

Activities for all ages

Fan into Flame



For this reason I remind you  
to fan into flame the gift of God,  
which is in you

2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)