



THE MESSENGER

September 2009

Message from the Minister

September is upon us, and another school year has begun. For little ones, coming into reception classes, it all seems quite daunting, and having any grasp of an education process that is going to run on for the next fourteen years or more of their lives will be beyond them. For others there will be the challenge of moving up in the school, new teachers, new subjects, and new key stage targets. Or there is the excitement and the anxiety of a new school, bigger than that they have known before with them having to accept moving from being the oldest and biggest to being the youngest and smallest. For yet more there is the prospect of beginning a crucial year, with university applications to be considered this term, and then the challenge of getting the grades required in order to get to the University of their Choice.

And it does not stop there. In the next week or so thousands of young people will be moving around the country to begin college and university courses – a time of anxiety for them and their parents. Hundreds will be making their way to Crewe and to MMU, and we pray for the new chaplaincy arrangements that have been put in place jointly by the University authorities and the Crewe churches. By working together may we bring a new spiritual dimension to the lives of the students and indeed to the university as a whole. Remember John O'Reilly, Hazel Rugman and David Winstanley as they exercise their new roles as chaplains on Crewe Campus.

But our thoughts on young people can go back as well as forward, we give thanks once again for God's gift of new life, which we celebrated across July, particularly in receiving Grace, Emily and Precious, brought by their families for blessing and dedication. We give thanks, too, for our service at Milldale. Better weather would have been nice, but it was a joy to gather for worship with the young people of our uniformed organizations. We should not forget that the holiday period has been a busy and exciting time for them. Scouts and Cubs thoroughly enjoyed their camps in Germany and London respectively, as did the Brownies at Lytham. A good evening was had at Milldale with the Beavers – in bright sunny weather! And by the time you read this we will have held another of our 'High Five' Children's Clubs, with another planned in December. We give thanks for the dedication and commitment of all who work with these young people, for the care they pour out, the time they give and the skills that they bring. We ask God's blessing on all these endeavours as we reach out to the young, knowing that they are special to him.

Continued overleaf

UNION STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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DEACON'S DIARY

Two weeks into September and the holidays are rapidly fading into dim memories for me and perhaps for you too. One or two experiences still remain vivid in my mind as examples of the wonderful world God has given to us. I remember the seven Egrets I watched at Leighton Moss, such striking birds with their snow-white feathers and jet black legs and beaks. It was interesting to contrast the fishing habits of the Egrets and the two Herons; the Herons stood motionless until the moment of attack whereas the Egrets splashed around trying to disturb the fish, both methods worked.

On another day I was able to enjoy the wild rush of water over the waterfalls at Ingleton, the volume and force of the water being enhanced by the recent rainfall.

A days walk over Ingleborough, with its extensive views over to Whernside, Pen y Ghent and even as far as Scafell on a good day (and it was!) just increased my sense of awe at the magnificence of God's creation.

Returning home at the beginning of September and a new season was beginning; Autumn, a special time in the church calendar, time to celebrate. In my garden there were fruit and vegetables to harvest. The days seem too short to collect and store apples, damsons, beans and onions all by the end of September. The smell of pickling vinegar and boiling fruit fill my kitchen as I preserve my home grown tomatoes, apples, damsons and onions, just as my ancestors would have done.

Soon it will be time to bring offering from the harvest to the Harvest Festivals in Churches and Schools as we give thanks for God's providence.

Let's not forget that for many in the 3rd world the harvest has failed. In the Horn of Africa the rains have failed again and crops and animals have died. We can help in a practical way by donating generously to Operation Agri. We owe it to the people in developing countries to do our best to help since we in the developed worlds are having the most impact on climate change due, in part, to our greed and misuse of God's gifts and our unwillingness to give anything up.

Let's enjoy and celebrate our harvest, thanking God for his good gifts, whilst remembering the less fortunate in our prayers and with our donations.

Pam Burton

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All of which invites us at this time to focus on children and young people. At the end of July Union Street provided the venue for a consultation that North Western Baptist Association was carrying out across the churches of the region. Within it we were reminded that young people are not the church of the future – they should be a welcomed and treasured part of the church of today. So I invite us all to pray for them, as a regular part of your own prayer life, possibly using these words, which are from a prayer by Nick Fawcett:



Lord of all,
We pray for the young people of this church and of this town.
Help us to appreciate them,
to be open to their insights,
to use their gifts,
to nurture their faith,
and to care for their welfare.
Guide them in their work and studies,
protect them from all that may harm or lead them astray,
encourage them in all they are doing among us,
and show them your way for their future.
Amen

Andrew Taylor



Gift Aid

This year we have received from the Inland Revenue a £4911 refund of tax paid on gifts to the Church this year which have been "gift aided". These gifts were made up of weekly Sunday collections and single donations, such as sponsorship gifts etc. To take part in this worthwhile scheme all that is required is that the giver has paid tax during the year of at least a quarter of the amount given and a signature that the donation is to be "gift aided". I do the rest and claim the refund each April.

For any further information please see Ann, Nora or myself.

Eric Williams

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Our summer events have all been successful although the weather caused some minor problems! We hope that all friends enjoyed their holidays and felt rested on their return.

During the summer, we were able to congratulate our minister Andrew and Pamela who have celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Also, after seeing the announcement in the Baptist Times, I was able to send congratulations from the church to Rev. Cyril and Helen Millwood who were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Cyril's letter is printed later in this edition.

In July we were happy to witness the dedication of three baby girls, Grace, Emily and Precious. These were truly uplifting occasions and we look forward to watching the children grow in our church family.

Sadly I have to report the deaths of Edith Galliard, who at 97 years of age was our oldest member, Chris Morton and Olwen Baker. These friends are resting with their Saviour and at peace. Our condolences and prayers go to their families as they mourn the loss of loved ones.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Parade Service on Sunday 20 September and the next Organ Concert by Tim Flint on Monday 19 October at 7-30p.m. On Sunday 25 October we shall hold our Gift Day Parade Service and on Sunday 1 November at 10-30a.m. we shall welcome Revd. Sue and Mark Thompson to lead our 127th Church Anniversary Service. Please join with us on these occasions if at all possible.

Helen Birtles

GOD'S GOLD.

Oh, the glory of this autumn day,
When the trees unfold their gold!
Oh, how lifted is my spirit, Lord,
When such beauty I behold!

Like precious coins, each leaf holds on
Through sunshine, fog, or haze;
The memory of this rich display
Will warm my winter days.

~~By Helen Kitchell Evans.~~



Flower Rota

The donation of flowers or donations in lieu of flowers are gratefully received from the following:

September

6 In Memory of Edith, Bill & Terry Galliard
13 In Memory of Dennis Morton & Nancy
20 Harvest
27 In Memory of Lily & Walter Hirst

October

4 In memory of Mr B Dodd
11 In memory of Edith & Bernard Kennerley
18 In memory of Harold Fox
25 Mr & Mrs D Elliott

November

1 In memory of Mr & Mrs A DeWyrall
8 In memory of Mr & Mrs H Meachin
15 In memory of Mr & Mrs C Riley
22 In memory of Yvonne Chetwood
29 In memory of Mr & Mrs E C Lockyer



BMS Birthdays

Remembering your birthday with a gift to the BMS medical missions

SEPTEMBER

Mrs Doris Marshall 8th
Mr George Crump 11th
Mrs Margaret Rainbird 18th
Mrs Ruby Johnson 24th

OCTOBER

Nil

NOVEMBER

Mr Darren Thornhill 28th

Letter from Revd. Cyril Millwood.

We were really very surprised when the Baptist Times carried the notice about our Golden Wedding. Part of the notice revealed the culprits to be our own son and daughter, since no one else would have known the relevance of the quoted text. And so it reached Union Street.

Rightly, Helen and I now want to say how much we appreciate the good wishes from the church as also separate cards we received from Doris, through whom we get the Messenger, Iris, and Malcolm and Sandra with whom we have corresponded from time to time.

We are the first in our respective families to reach the Golden, but it is not unusual these days as we all realize. We haven't any records however to tell us when any of you will achieve the same; though it is now 40 years this year since we came to Crewe!

May God bless you in your continuing endeavours,
With our prayers and good wishes,

Yours

Cyril Millwood.



**REGULAR ACTIVITIES
at UNION STREET**

Sunday

Breakfast and Prayers 8.45 for 9.15 (first Sunday)
Morning Worship & J-Club for children 10.30

Monday

Playaway - Parents & Toddlers 9.15 - 11.15
Age Concern T-Club 13.30 (on 2nd and 4th Mondays)
Rainbows, Brownies from 17.00

Tuesday

Bible Study 14.30 (on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays)
Choir 19.00

Wednesday

Contact Club 19.30 (on the last Wednesday each month)

Thursday

Coffee and Refreshments 10.30 - 12 noon
Oasis Midweek Worship 12.15

Friday

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts from 17.00

Saturday

Social Events as announced

For more information
please contact the Secretary