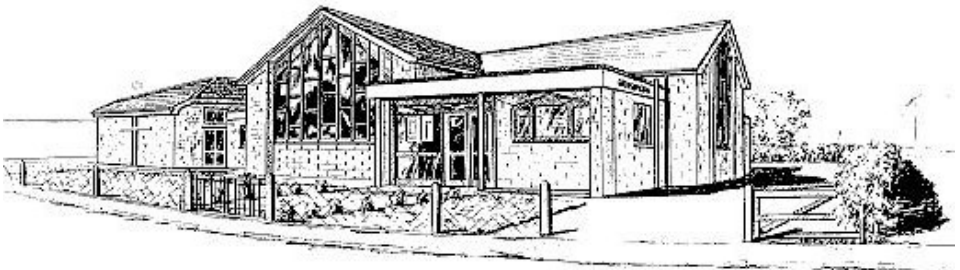


QNL

Queensway Chapel News Letter

JANUARY 2010



**Queensway Chapel, Pembroke Road,
Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 7NB
(Junction of Pembroke Road with Queensway)**

Editor Debi White

Deadline for February's QNL is 21st January, 2010

Melksham Family of Churches **Annual General Meeting**

The MFoC AGM is being held on Monday 15th February 2010 at 7:30pm in the hall of the United Church. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

In addition to MFoC business, on this occasion Dougie Rowlinson will be our speaker. Dougie is Bishop's Convenor of the Wiltshire Archdeaconry Healing Group (WHAG) and Treasurer of the Melksham Christian Healing Centre (MCHC). Dougie is an excellent speaker and he will be speaking on the subject of healing.

Submitted by Robin Henderson

Brookside

Led by Queensway Chapel, this month's service is on Thursday 21st January at 11:00am.

The service will last no longer than 30 minutes and will include popular hymns, Bible readings, a short address, and depending on time other contributions.

This month Sue Bull will be organising the service and would love you to come along and support us by supplementing the hymn-singing and just to be there for the Brookside residents.

MFoC Covenant Service

The annual Family of Churches Covenant Service will take place at St. Michael's on 17th January 2010, 10:30am. Queensway Chapel and St Andrews are working together to arrange this service.

The speaker will be Alisdair Longwill. Alisdair works for the West of England Baptist Association as Regional Minister for the Development of Churches.

During the service, an offering will be taken for the work of *Bibles for Children* (registered charity 1063200). The MFoC works with this charity in order to place Bibles in Melksham's primary schools. Presently three of Melksham's schools benefit from this scheme and during 2010 it is hoped that it will be extended to one more school.

Submitted by Robin Henderson

Sunday evenings in January 2010.

We'll be starting the new year with an exciting series of speakers in our evening meetings: Roy Peacock (3rd); Paul Wakely (10th); Tim Ayres (17th) and Liz Evans (24th). Then, on the 31st January, our very own Kathryn Rodda will be sharing about her trip to Lideta, Ethiopia.

I hope you'll be able to be there for an exciting series of speakers and subjects.

Submitted by Robin Henderson.

Praise & Prayer for Healing

At the beginning of 2009 we established a monthly meeting for Praise and Prayer for Healing. This usually takes place on either the first or second Friday in the month. On these occasions we are joined by members from other congregations because it is important that the Christians in Melksham (regardless of denomination) cooperate and work together in unity rather than attempting to work in isolation or even in competition.

The following dates have been set for praise and prayer for healing meetings...

Friday 8th January 2010.

Friday 5th February 2010

Friday 12th March 2010

Friday 9th April 2010

The meetings will start at 7:30pm and will take place in the Chapel. The content will include, worship, testimony of healings, prayer for HOTSOM, prayer for the Melksham Christian Healing Centre and prayer for anyone present who needs healing.

Submitted by Robin Henderson.

Flatpack Dates

Dates below for the forthcoming Flatpack parent meeting

10th January in chapel prayer Room

24th January in hall lounge

14th February in chapel prayer room

28th February in chapel prayer room

HOW TO BE A SECURE WOMAN

Presented by Lynn Penson from CWR

Saturday 23rd January - 9.30am - 1.00pm

Tickets £6 including refreshments

Ladies don't forget that we are hosting this seminar here at Queensway Chapel. It will be a great morning so book your place as soon as possible - you do need to get your ticket in advance. We would like as many people as possible to come so do invite your friends.

For more details contact Sue Williams on 01225 708984 or pick up a flyer from the notice board at the back of the Chapel.

Submitted by Sue Williams

Songs of Praise

We meet on Thursday afternoons, from 2:30-3:30pm, so that we may worship God together by singing favourite hymns, and by sharing Bible readings, poems, articles, prayer and even jokes.

Afterwards, a 'cuppa' is available for all who wish to stay on for fellowship and a chat. Forthcoming speakers: -

January 7th	Mary Barrett
January 14th	Robin Henderson
January 21st	Sue Bull
January 28th	Stuart Arnold
February 4th	Jean McGuire

Is Today's Bible Accurate?

Believers are sometimes confronted by sceptics who oppose our present-day translation of Scriptures, claiming that the translation is not the same as the original Word that God gave to Moses, the prophets, and the apostles.

However, an event in 1948 helped settle the controversy of the authenticity of the scriptures as it relates to the Old Testament. In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd boy was watching goats in the Judean wilderness near the western edge of the Dead Sea. Exploring several caves, he discovered a group of large clay jars. Inside were pieces of rolled, leather-like parchments. In 1948, the Bedouin sold seven parchments to Mr. Kando, a cobbler and antiquities dealer from Bethlehem, who eventually sold the scrolls. The most famous of the scrolls, it was discovered, was an ancient copy of the Book of Isaiah.

This valuable scroll was examined by scholars and purchased by the Hebrew University, who placed it on display at the Shrine of the Book Museum in Jerusalem. The scroll begins with the 16th chapter of Isaiah and continues to the 66th chapter. To the amazement of scholars, when this 2,000-year-old scroll was compared to the English translation of Isaiah from the 1611 King James translation of the Bible, they were both parallel, with the only exceptions being a few minor spelling differences and tense-oriented scribal errors.

This discovery was good news to believers in the inspiration of the Bible and sad news to sceptics of divine inspiration!

Submitted by Robin Henderson, adapted from an article called 'Is Today's Bible Correct' from *Standing With Israel*, Friday 13th November 2009.

Be a Thermostat!

“DON'T BECOME SO WELL-ADJUSTED TO YOUR CULTURE
THAT YOU FIT INTO IT WITHOUT EVEN THINKING”
ROMANS 12:2

Don't be a thermometer, be a thermostat. Thermometers just reflect the climate around them-thermostats set it. Actually, they lift it!

Most of us are like thermometers reflecting the culture around us. We buy things others buy, say things others say, wear things others wear, and value things others value. Oh, there are slight variations, but most of the time we don't set the climate for the world we live in; we simply adjust to it. But not over comers!

No, they take life to the next level. They become thermostats and change the environment in which they're placed. For instance you may know people who raise the spiritual temperature of a group, or determine the attitudes of others just by being present. They're pacesetters. They influence, rather than merely allowing others to influence them.

Paul's challenge to the Romans was to move from being a thermometer to being a thermostat. Listen: Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God calls us to be authentic.

The word authentic comes from the Greek word 'to author'. It means to read God's script for your life and then write your own story, not copy someone else'.

That's living. That's being a thermostat, not a thermometer!

Submitted by Jim Wilson

Top tips for parents

1. Keep channels of communication open – find things you enjoy doing together, like watching football, baking a cake, or start a project. Sometimes it's easier to talk when you're doing something together.
2. Look for opportunities to connect – car journeys can be good for talking with teens, offer to wash their hair. Be interested in their world.
3. Give greater responsibility and choices appropriate for their age – for example with money, clothes, hairstyles, room decoration. Give pocket money or allowance suitable for their age & let them choose how to spend it.
4. Allow them to make mistakes and learn from them – don't rush to bail them out every single time they slip up, or set unrealistic expectations for them to achieve.
5. Encourage a spirit of adventure – let them take calculated risks appropriate to their age.
6. Teach them to develop an 'I can' not an 'I can't' attitude – allow them to develop their own identity and individuality.
7. Keep them on elastic not string – be flexible as your role changes from decision maker to advisor.
8. Invest in your own relationships – especially if you are married, invest time in your marriage relationship. Plan some time on your own or with friends.

These are from the latest 'Care for the Family' magazine. They support all families in many different ways – through the crises of debt, redundancy, bereavement, pregnancy, divorce and also in the strengthening of family life amidst today's pressures. For more ideas, articles, resources and events look at www.careforthefamily.org.uk

Submitted by Ruth and Sue Brown

“Like a Thief in the Night.....”

Just read this description of a typical Jewish wedding: *"When a man in ancient Israel married, he went to the bride's house with a 'bride price' and made a contract (covenant) with the girl's father. If the father accepted the man and his bride price, the man would pour a glass of wine. If the girl drank it, it would indicate that she accepted the man's proposal and they were betrothed. The man would go away and prepare a wedding chamber for his bride. When the man's father deemed that the wedding chamber was ready, usually one to two years later, the man would return to the bride's house and 'steal' her away 'like a thief in the night' at an hour when no one would suspect. He would take her to the wedding chamber for seven days. During this time, the groom's father would hold a party to announce the marriage. At the end of the seventh day, the married couple would emerge from the chamber and partake of the marriage supper."*

Now read the explanation of this allegory, it is complicated with respect to Christians, as the bride and bridegrooms father are the same i.e. God. As you read it think of the contract or covenant for our marriage to the Lamb of God as it was sealed at the Last Supper when Jesus shared the covenant cup with His disciples and told them "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." (Mark 14:24)

"When a man (think of Jesus) in ancient Israel married, he went to the bride's (God's) house with a 'bride price' (Jesus paid the "bride price" with His own life) and made a contract (covenant) with the girl's father (God). If the father (God) accepted the man (Jesus) and his bride price (that's Jesus death on the cross), the man (Jesus) would pour a glass of wine (as at the Last Supper). If the girl (Disciples) drank the wine (which they did at the Last Supper and we have done ever since in memory) it would indicate that she (us, the Church) accepted the man's (Jesus) proposal and they were betrothed. The man (Jesus) would go away (to heaven) and prepare a wedding chamber for his bride (the Church).

After that Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples what any Jewish man would tell his betrothed: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were

not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2-3).

Continuing: When the man's father (God) deemed that the wedding chamber was ready, usually one to two years later (1,000-2,000 years later?), the man (Jesus) would return (the second coming) to the bride's house and 'steal' her away 'like a thief in the night' at an hour when no one would suspect. He would take her to the wedding chamber for seven days. During this time, the groom's father would hold a party to announce the marriage. At the end of the seventh day, the married couple would emerge from the chamber and partake of the marriage supper (of the Lamb)."

One day, at the last trumpet, Jesus, our bridegroom will come "like a thief in the night" and take us to His Father's house (heaven) for our marriage supper. Therefore to explain further the relationship between the last trumpet and the bridegrooms (Jesus) coming "like a thief in the night" in Matthew 24, this little excerpt should help:

Submitted by Martin Brown

We live In Uncertain Times – Part Seven

In our current world political climate Zechariah 12:1-9 is an unfulfilled prophecy that needs to be borne in mind by those nations that now or in the future choose to deal with Israel and the future of Jerusalem especially taking note of verses 2-3: *"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves."* Therefore, the USA, the EU, the Palestinians and the Arab states in particular all need to take heed of this in their dealings with Israel. But unfortunately, as the Bible makes fairly clear, this is unlikely to happen and as a result they can expect to bear the consequences of their actions.

What the nations fail to realise and understand is that God actually gave this relatively minuscule piece of land (that is Israel) to Abraham and his descendants. Genesis 12:1-4 *The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”* Note here the blessings and the curses, whoever blesses you I will bless and whoever curses you I will curse. And this promise still stands today and is reinforced by the image given through Zechariah in the passage above. The Lord had made a covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Genesis 15:18-21 *On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates — ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”* And it is an everlasting covenant: Genesis 17:7-8 *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”*

God’s promises to the people of Israel are their inalienable possession, Romans 11:29 *“for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable”*. Unfortunately, all the peace talks that are going on between Israel, the Palestinians and the rest of the world are never going to succeed, especially when the Palestinians clearly stated aim, along with other nations such as Iran, is to wipe Israel off the map. It just is not going to happen, but will eventually build up into an all out attack on Israel in the future. Therefore, pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Submitted by Martin Brown

Contact Numbers

Elders

Stuart Arnold 703967
Robin Henderson 702808

Pastoral Care

Esther Prior 705408 (including prayer chain requests)

Deacons

Katy Barrett 01249 654348
Ken Pavey 707984
Nora Phillips 700102
Brian Vince 704560
Jim Wilson 706402

Children's Activities

Sue Henderson 702808

Family Centre

Judy Nicholls 07788 744829

Treasurer

Kathy Cotton 355717

Prayer Coordinators

David & Susan Williams 708984

General Enquires

Tel: 01225 702808

01225 700161 (Will only be answered if Chapel occupied)

Email: enquires@queenswaychapel.org.uk

Web: www.queenswaychapel.org.uk

Articles for QNL: qnl@queenswaychapel.org.uk