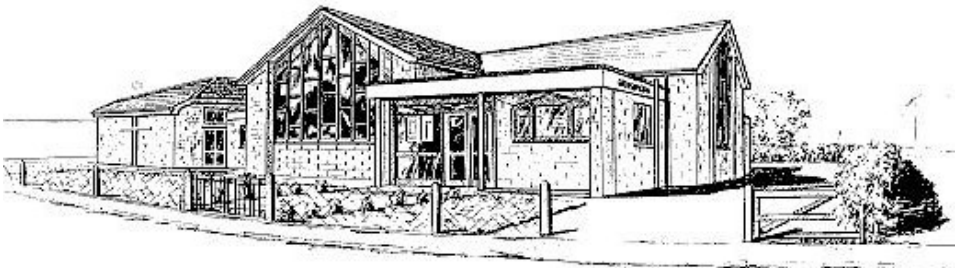


# QNL

**Queensway Chapel News Letter**

**APRIL 2010**



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

Editor Debi White

Deadline for May's QNL is 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

## **Holy Week and Easter Sunday 2010**

A programme for 'Holy Week' (the week leading up to Easter Sunday) is now available. This will include a foot-washing Communion Service at Melksham Baptist on Maundy Thursday, 1st April at 7:30pm.

On the morning of Good Friday, 2nd April, there will be a Communion Service in the Chapel at 9:00am. Following this we will be making our usual delivery of hot-cross-buns to the wardened bungalows opposite the Chapel. Carol Mitchell will be organising this.

Contrary to what I wrote last month, the Family of Churches street drama will be starting at 11:00am in the town centre: commencing at the Prince of Wales Garden (by the Post Office); then on to Avon Place (Outside Iceland); then on to the Princess Margaret Garden (by town bridge); and then ending on the forecourt of the United Church. Hot-cross-buns will be served at the conclusion of the street drama.

On Easter Sunday 4th April, in addition to our 10:00am service, the Family of Churches are organising a march (a mini-March for Jesus!) starting at 6:00pm on the forecourt of the United Church with a Bible reading, prayers and a song before marching (with singing) to Queensway Chapel, leading straight into an evening Celebration Service at 6:30pm.

Robin Henderson

### **Thank You**

We would like to thank all of you who came to our Golden Wedding lunch on Sunday, 21 February, and for your very generous donations for World Vision. It was indeed a very special day for us.

Bryan and Barbara Waller

## Brookside

Led by Queensway Chapel, this month's service is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 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 Carol Mitchell will be organising the service. We would love you to come along and support us by supplementing the hymn-singing and to be there for the Brookside residents.

## 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: -

April 1 <sup>st</sup> .....	Nora Phillips
April 8 <sup>th</sup> .....	Sue Bull - a book review
April 15 <sup>th</sup> .....	Ken Pavey
April 22 <sup>nd</sup> .....	Stuart Arnold
April 29 <sup>th</sup> .....	Pam Muller
May 6 <sup>th</sup> .....	Robin Henderson

## **Half-Night of Prayer, Friday 23rd April 2010.**

We haven't been holding our monthly *PowerHouse* prayer meetings this year so that we don't disrupt the *Freedom In Christ* course or the Lent Course. But, on Friday 23rd April we are going to hold a half-night of prayer here in the Chapel. It will be starting at 6:00pm and ending at midnight (0:00am).

It isn't obligatory to come along and stay for the whole evening so please come along when you can and stay for as long as you are able. With a 6:00pm start and a midnight finish, the time should be right for those who prefer an earlier meeting as well as those who are happy to stay up late.

The evening will consist of a mixture of prayer and praise. An interval for refreshments will be planned into the programme.

Please make a note of this date in your diary so you don't miss out.

Robin Henderson

### **Thank You!**

We would like to thank everyone for coming along to help us celebrate Robin's birthday! It made it a really special day for both of us.

A huge thank you to all who contributed in all sorts of ways, making food, washing up, cleaning, preparing videos, giving mosquitoes!

It's great to be part of such a wonderful family!

It was such a special day, with no other purpose than to have a good time together!

Robin & Sue Henderson

## **Melksham Hustings.**

The Melksham Family of Churches is planning to hold a hustings in Melksham during the run-up to the General Election. The date of the hustings will depend on when the Prime Minister calls the General Election. At the time of writing two provisional dates have been tentatively booked: 25th April and 16th May. One of these dates will be selected once the date of the General Election is known. They are both Sundays and the hustings will take place from 7:30pm until 9:00pm.

All candidates standing for election as Member of Parliament for the Chippenham Constituency will be invited to participate by presenting their policies and by answering questions put to them. The same questions will be put to all candidates and answers will be subject to a time limit. The aim is to conduct the hustings without showing bias or partiality to any one candidate over the others.

Inviting a candidate to participate does not constitute an endorsement of their views by the Melksham Family of Churches!

For further information or to suggest a question to be put to the candidates please email [hustings@mfoc.org.uk](mailto:hustings@mfoc.org.uk).

Submitted by Robin Henderson

## **Quote-Unquote**

“In the beginning the Church was a fellowship of men and women who centred their lives on the living Christ. They had a personal and vital relationship to the Lord. It transformed them and the world around them. Then the Church moved to Greece, and it became a philosophy. Later it moved to Rome, and it became an institution. Next it moved to Europe and it became a culture. Finally it moved to America, and it became an enterprise. We've got far too many churches and so few fellowships.”

Richard Halverson (1916-1995), chaplain to the U.S. Senate (1981-1994)  
Submitted by Robin Henderson

## **BOOKSTALL.**

The Bookstall in its present form is going to be disbanded, there will no longer be a physical presence at the chapel any more, I feel that it is time to move on.

I will continue to take orders from you all and if there is anything that you need to look at before you make a purchase, I will do my best to get it for you, and so you can see what you are buying.

I aim to continue supplying Daily Bible Reading Notes to you that have them through me, and the four red containers carrying a range of cards will continue as part of the Bookstall in its new format, and I also hope to have in one of the containers at the back of the cards a small range of pamphlets about various issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in the past and hope that you will continue to use the Bookstall in its new format.

Jim Wilson

## **Calling All Ladies**

You are invited to a Ladies Breakfast at Queensway Chapel on Saturday April 17th at 8.45am.

Our speaker will be Liz Perry from Aldershot. Please sign the list on the notice board if you would like to come.

Sue Henderson

## **Pakistan**

Being a Christian in Pakistan is clearly not easy: apostasy and blasphemy laws coupled with social attitudes soon lead to persecution. However, God is at work through several agencies and many things are changing. The following list of positives comes from a recent article in *Response* (Christian Solidarity Worldwide).

- For the last two years, the Prime Minister has attended a Christmas Party.
- Many Christians live in informal slums and new property rights have been granted.
- The official Urdu word for ‘Christian’ is to be Masihi (= follower of Christ) as requested by Christians.
- Prisoners in minority groups will receive the same treatment during festivals as Muslims.
- Prayer rooms for non-Muslims will be built in prisons.
- There is now an annual Minorities Day.
- There is now a 5% quota of posts in federal employment for members of minority communities.
- Interfaith Harmony Committees are to be established in every district.

Federal Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, head of the Ministry for Minorities Affairs spoke at the last CSW conference in London. One of his aims is an amendment to the blasphemy laws.

Stuart Arnold

## **Self Contained Room**

Melksham- Self contained room to let in Christian home for female. For further details telephone Jane on 01225 702820.

Jane Peace

## **What should a priest be?**

- All things to all – male, female and genderless.
- Reverent and relaxed, vibrant in youth, assured through the middle years, divine sage when ageing.
- Accessible and incorruptible, abstemious, yet full of celebration, informed, yet not threateningly so, and far above the passing soufflé of fashion
- An authority on singleness, Solomon-like on the labyrinth of human sexuality; excellent with young marrieds, old marrieds, were marrieds, never marrieds, shouldn't have marrieds, those who live together, those who live apart, and those who don't live anywhere.
- Respectfully mindful of senior citizens and war veterans, familiar with the ravages of arthritis, osteoporosis, post-natal depression, anorexia, whooping-cough and nits.
- An all-round family person, counsellor, but not officially because of the recent changes in legislation; teacher, expositor, confessor, entertainer, juggler, good with children, and possibly sea-lions; empathetic towards pressure groups and the swaying family of a suicide.
- On nodding terms with Freud, Jung, St John of The Cross, The Scott Report, The Rave Culture, The Internet, the Lottery, BSE, and Anthea Turner, pre-modern, fairly modern, post-modern, and, ideally, secondary-modern – if called to the inner city.
- Charismatic, if needs must, but quietly so; evangelical, and thoroughly meditative, mystical, but not New Age. Liberal, and so open to other voices, traditionalist, reformer and revolutionary and hopefully, not on medication unless for an old sporting injury.

## **What does a priest do?**

- Tries to colour in God, uses words to explain miracles, which is like teaching a millipede to sing, but even more difficult.
- Answers the 'phone when sometimes they'd rather not; occasionally errs and strays into tabloid titillation; prays for Her Majesty's Government.

- Tends the flock through time, oil and incense,
- Would secretly like each PCC to commence with a mud-pie making contest.
- Sometimes falls asleep when praying; yearns, like us, for heart-rushing deliverance.
- Has rows with their family; wants to inhale Heaven, stares at bluebells, attempts to convey the mad love of God, would like to ice-skate with crocodiles, and hear roses when they pray.

*Note to congregations:*

If your priest actually fulfils all of the above, and then enters the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing nothing but a shower-cap, a fez, and declares: 'I'm the King and Queen of Venus, and we shall now sing the next hymn in Latvian, take your partners, please.' –

Let it pass. Like you and I, they too sew the thin thread of humanity. Remember Jesus in the Garden – beside himself?

**So, what does a priest do?**

- Mostly stays awake at Deanery Synods; tries not to annoy the Bishop too much;
- Visits hospices, administers comfort, conducts weddings, christenings, - not necessarily in that order - takes funerals, consecrates the elderly to the grave, buries children, and babies, feels completely helpless beside the swaying family of a suicide.

**So, how should we live?**

- As priests, transformed by The Priest, that death prised open so that he could be our priest, a martyred, diaphanous and matchless priest.

Stewart Henderson, 1997, pp18-23, Limited Edition, Stratford upon Avon: Plover Books.

Submitted by Katy Barrett

## **Right to Vote**

According to John Buckeridge, senior editor of *Christianity* magazine, "... the number of people that attend a church this Sunday will be more than double the number of members of all the political parties put together." Furthermore, for the first time, politicians have dropped below journalists in terms of levels of public trust! (73% think politicians will not tell the truth.) But I would still encourage you all to vote in the forthcoming general election. After all, despite the expenses scandal, cynicism, apathy and casual disinterest are *not* fruit of the Spirit.

In a democracy – which was hard-won by our forebears, especially the women – every citizen has a responsibility for what happens in the country and we have the means to influence important decisions which affect us all. To quote Ruth Dickinson, "The fact that [politics] affects us is why we can't avoid it. But the fact that it affects others means we have a duty not to ignore it."

I have two excited first-time voters in my house. If you *are* going to join them in voting, Premier Christian Radio invites you to indicate this on-line at [promisetovote.com](http://promisetovote.com) so that this fact can be presented to the speaker and MPs. It's up to you if course – thankfully you've got the freedom to choose; a freedom which many people have died trying to gain in their own country.

Julia Wade

## **Understanding The Times We live In**

The book of Ezekiel in the Old Testament with its 48 chapters has some wonderful passages including the familiar "Valley of Dry Bones", but the book does need some interpretation to understand. Before the "Valley of Dry bones" comes a lovely prophecy about Israel in chapter 36 which I suggest that you read in full. Part of which is given in Ezekiel 36: 19-38. *I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions.*

*And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the LORD's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone. "Therefore say to the house of Israel, '**This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, ... I will show the holiness of my great name, ... Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness... I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. ... "**' This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. They will say, "This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited." Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.'*

The interesting point here is that the Lord says that He is doing it for the sake of His Holy name and not for the sake of Israel. Israel is God's instrument/tool to draw the nations to Him. But it is for His name sake that He has drawn His people back to the land that was given to their forefathers. It is also interesting to note that Israel hasn't earned the right to be used by God, in His grace He chooses to use them imperfect as they are. And He shows the same grace to us!

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](mailto:enquires@queenswaychapel.org.uk)

Web: [www.queenswaychapel.org.uk](http://www.queenswaychapel.org.uk)

Articles for QNL: [qnl@queenswaychapel.org.uk](mailto:qnl@queenswaychapel.org.uk)