

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**THE MINISTER'S LETTER**

My dear friends,

Any broken New Year Resolutions yet?

As for me, I'm not one for making New Year's resolutions; in fact, Cathy finds me infuriating because I'm reluctant to make any sort of plans when these plans depend on too many 'unknowns'. I was thinking about that the other day when Roger, at the annual Churches Together Songs of Praise, quoted "If you want to give God a good laugh, tell Him your plans"!

I was listening, Roger – honestly – but you also reminded me of an old Jewish story about a Russian rabbi who crossed a village square every morning on his way to the temple to pray. One morning, a large Cossack soldier, who happened to be in a vile mood, accosted him, saying, "Hey, rabbi, where are you going?"

The rabbi simply said, "I don't know."

This infuriated the soldier. "What do you mean, you don't know? Every morning for twenty-five years you have crossed the village square and gone to the temple to pray. Don't fool with me. Why are you telling me you don't know?" He grabbed the old rabbi by the coat and dragged him off to jail.

Just as the Cossack was about to push him into the cell, the rabbi turned to him, and softly said, "You see, I didn't know."

James taught those of us who are Christians to live in such a way that "we don't know where we are going". He put it this way:

"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

*(James 4:13-14)*

***I DO NOT KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD -  
THE WAY I CANNOT SEE***

There's nothing wrong with making plans, but we need to remember that there is much that may happen in the future that we don't know about just now, and things may happen that over which we don't have much control. We have only to look back over our lives to see how things in the past often turned out very much different from the way we thought they would.

What James says is true: death could come at any moment. Or Christ could return. Or any of a hundred other things – good or bad – could happen to us shortly. So where am I going? I don't know. As long as God is with me, it doesn't really matter.

About five years ago, we cancelled our agreement to sell the church hall – anyone remember? At that time, we didn't know quite where we were going, but it seemed that the Lord was telling us to stop what we had planned to do, and have a good rethink! Standing in that same hall last Sunday, sharing an anniversary lunch with the Chinese Church, I was delighted that we had been led along the path of new fellowship and, incidentally, a wonderful new suite of buildings.

The Lord has indeed been good to us in so many ways over the past five years, and as we celebrate that goodness, let us be open to His – not our – plans for us during the months and years to come.

Love and peace,  
Revd Jim.

Margaret, Cathy and Jim.

**I KNOW WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE  
AND HE'LL GUIDE ME WITH HIS HAND;  
WITH GOD THINGS DON'T JUST  
HAPPEN EVERYTHING BY  
HIM IS PLANNED.**

## Quiet Prayer

Church Meeting also agreed to support a monthly time of quiet prayer at the church. This form of meeting will perhaps be unfamiliar (or even frightening) to some of us, but many others will welcome a time of simple worship and meditation. More information to come, but meanwhile book Tuesday evening, 31<sup>st</sup> March in your diary if you feel you may be able to come.

*Thanks to Toni Anthony for this initiative*

## CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AT THE HYDE

Beginning in March the Hendon Room will be open for a time of contemplative prayer on a monthly basis. For those who don't know much about this form of prayer the following description is a good introduction:

'During contemplative prayer we centre our full attention on the presence of God, on the will of God, and on the love of God. Contemplative prayer is centred on *faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ, by which we can know the presence of God in very real ways. We come before God and see Jesus with the eyes of our heart as we adore and worship God in quiet, silent prayer. When we practice contemplative prayer we stay quiet before the Lord and wait longingly for God.'

<http://www.pravingchurch.org/contemplative.html>

Contemplative prayer involves spending time in silence in the presence of God. Being quiet for any length of time can be challenging in our busy and noisy world! But there are practised ways to help with this, such as:

- Reading from the gospels and spending time 'with' a story from the life of Jesus – try placing yourself in the story, and see what God may be saying to you through it
- Reading from the Psalms or other books of the Bible - listen for a phrase or word to stay with, and reflect on
- Using a simple word or phrase – perhaps the 'Jesus prayer', or one of the names of the Lord – use this to reflect on and to 'centre' your thoughts upon God

We will use music and readings to help focus our thoughts and introduce the silence. If you don't know what to expect why not come along and find out.

The first session will be on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, at 7 pm. Please do put this in your diary and come along if you would like to join this time of refreshment for the soul! After that, there will be a session at the same time on the last Tuesday of every month.

I look forward to some of you joining me! (Maybe if you can't get out easily you could join us by setting aside this same time in your home for quiet prayer and reflection.)

Toni Anthony

**TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH – 7 P.M.**

**PRAYER - PEACE**

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**MONEY MATTERS**

**OFFERINGS DURING NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER 2008**

**NOVEMBER 2008**

Nov. 2008	Cash	Envelopes	Total
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	£50.00	£317.00	£367.00
Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	£67.50	£172.00	£239.50
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	£70.10	£243.90	£314.00
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	£54.00	£106.00	£160.00
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	£82.70	£102.30	£185.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£324.30</b>	<b>£941.20</b>	<b>£1,265.50</b>

**DECEMBER 2008**

Dec. 2008	Cash	Envelopes	Total
Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	£50.00	£370.00	£420.00
Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	£69.30	£172.70	£242.00
Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	£37.50	£198.00	£235.50
Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	£49.00	£162.00	£211.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£205.80</b>	<b>£902.70</b>	<b>£1,108.50</b>

**COMMUNION OFFERINGS**

FOR

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009**

will be made on behalf of the

**WATFORD MENCAP SOCIETY**

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The **Communion Offerings** during  
November/December 2008 in support of  
“For Dementia” amounted to £141.00

Vivien Crispe

**FLOWER LIST**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**DATE DONATED BY ARRANGED BY**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

1<sup>st</sup> - Miss V. Crispe Vivien Crispe  
8<sup>th</sup> - Church Pam Maycock  
15<sup>th</sup> - Mr. & Mrs. Thompson Sheila Mortimore  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Miss V. Crispe &  
Mrs. J. Hutaglung Vivien Crispe

**MARCH 2009**

1<sup>st</sup> March – Mr. C. Jones -Susan Day

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**COMMUNION OFFERINGS**  
**FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2009**  
**ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**

**MARCH/ APRIL – NORTH LONDON  
HOSPICE**

**MAY/JUNE – PARKINSONS SOCIETY**

**JULY AUGUST – BANGLADESHI CHARITY**  
(suggested by Felicitas Grabe)

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER - MISSION  
AVIATION FELLOWSHIP**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER – TEAR FUND**

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**The Christmas Morning Offering for  
the Widows and Orphans of the  
Three Denominations amounted to  
£95 for which thanks are given.**

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## NEWS AND NOTICES FROM THE CHURCH

### CHRISTMAS 2008

I hope everyone will agree with me that our Christmas Celebrations in 2008 were truly a wonderful success. From the various services, to the Christmas Lunch, Mulled wine and mince pies and a new event which was the Community Christmas Sing Along, all of which showed the Spirit of the Church actively giving thanks to God for His Gift of Love.

Thank you to all involved.

*Chris Mortimore*

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**SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND MEALS FOR SENEGAL**

Many, many thanks to you all for your wonderful response to our appeal for money to buy school uniforms and school meals.

This Christmas we raised £460 which is more than twice as much as we have ever raised before for World Vision.

I know we are in the middle of a "Credit Crunch" and we were all a little more careful with our money over Christmas but I think the response from The Hyde was remarkable and very much appreciated.

Thank you so much on behalf of  
WORLD VISION.

*Sheila Mortimore*

### **HOW MANY ELDERS?**

At our January Church Meeting, we agreed to increase the number of Elders to eight. Chris and Paul are due to stand down (and are eligible for re-election) but this still leaves an opportunity for you to elect two others. It isn't just the Elders who do the work of the Church, of course: we are indebted to so many other brothers and sisters who roll their sleeves up and get on with things. But it is always good to have a strong pastoral team, and the Church has agreed that this is a good move.

So we are asking – think, consider, pray about whom you will propose for these vacant posts.

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**WOMEN'S WORLD  
DAY OF PRAYER**  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009



**"In Christ, many members, one body."**

A service prepared by the Christian Women of Papua New Guinea

**At 2.00 p.m.**

**St John's (C of E)**

**Algernon Rd Hendon NW4 3PX**

**Speaker: Dr Pauline Webb**

**"Methodism's most famous daughter"**  
**(Buses 83 and 183, stop nearby in Station Rd)**

**At 7.30 p.m.**

**The Hyde United Reformed Church**

**Edgware Road, Colindale**

**Speaker: Mrs Liz Wilson**

**Pastoral Assistant, St Sebastian & St Pancras**  
**(Buses 32 & 142 stop outside the church)**

**Refreshments are available after each service.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME - MEN, WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE!**

**PREACHING PLANS for -  
FEBRUARY 2009**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Mr. C. Mortimore  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. Jim Gould  
6.30 p.m. - Communion  
Rev. Jim Gould  
15<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Communion  
Rev. J. Gould  
22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. Jim Gould

**MARCH 2009**

**1<sup>st</sup> March – 10.00 a.m. – Elders-led Service**

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**PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS FOR  
CHRIS MORTIMORE**

Please pray for Chris as he leads worship at  
the following venues during February 2009

**FEBRUARY 2009**

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. - 10.00 a.m. - The Hyde  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road  
22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. - 11.00 a.m. - Muswell Hill  
6.30 p.m. - Wembley Park

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**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS  
DURING FEBRUARY**

Cislyn, Michael,  
Cynthia, Christina

**CONGRATULATIONS  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2009**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Group  
Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> - 11.00 a.m. - Coffee Morning and  
12 noon - Lunches  
Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - House Group  
1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
7.15 p.m. - House Group  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Group  
Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. - Hyde De Hi  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Group  
Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> - 9.45 a.m. - House Group  
1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
7.15 p.m. - House Group  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Group

**MARCH 2009**

**1<sup>st</sup> March – 10.00 a.m. – Elders-led Service**  
**4<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting**

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**Message from the Editor**

We have already raced through one month into the  
New Year. How quickly January has gone and this  
month will be even shorter, although the evenings  
are getting lighter, which is a bonus. The long dark  
winter nights can drag on so and make everyone feel  
as if Spring will never come. It is on the way,  
judging by the bulbs beginning to push through the  
frosty earth. Let's look forward to spring to cheer us  
all up! It won't be long now.

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May I have all material for the March issue of The  
Messenger by no later than February 22<sup>nd</sup> – a short  
month! Thank you.

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## **MR. RON PRIDEAUX**

It is with sadness that we report the death of a dear friend, Mr. Ron Prideaux. Ron was a past member of The Hyde going back many years and contributed to the life of the church in many ways.

Ron was deeply involved in the Boys Brigade and was at one stage, the Captain. He was the 'Camp Cook' and will be fondly remembered by producing not only the porridge but latterly cooking a splendid 'Spotted Dick'.

He became an Elder and served the church with great distinction, firstly for some years as our Secretary and then as Church Treasurer. He led one of our House Groups and sang in the choir.

When he moved to Northampton he was missed by so many people but he soon settled down in a Baptist church and engaged in some lay preaching and talking to Women's Meetings.


Sadly Ron's first wife, Ivy, passed away and Ron subsequently married Vera who is a Soldier in the Salvation Army. Ron himself became a Salvationist and served the Corps at Wellingborough.

On behalf of They Hyde I give thanks to God for the pleasure it was to have known Ron and for his Christian Service at The Hyde.


I offer to Vera our heartfelt love and prayerful best wishes for her future days without Ron.

Chris Mortimore

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Give it a try!  
2.00 p.m. until  
3.15 - ish



**5<sup>th</sup> February**  
Members' Afternoon

**19<sup>th</sup> February**  
'On the buses'  
with Allan Down



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**COFFEE MORNING  
AND LUNCHESES  
WILL BE HELD ON**

**SATURDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**From 11 a.m. with  
Lunches being served  
From 12 noon to 1 p.m.**

**Come along and join in the  
good food,  
fellowship and chat,  
all for £2.50**

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# REFLECTIONS

## FISHERS OF MEN OR FISHERMEN

“I will make you fishers...”

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry. Week after week, month after month, and year after year, these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing.

Continually, they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. They sponsored special meetings called ‘Fishermen’s Campaigns’ and ‘The Month for Fishermen to Fish.’

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called ‘Fishing Headquarters.’ The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn’t do, however: They didn’t fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish.

Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But like the fishermen back home, they never fished. Like the fishermen back home, they engaged in all kinds of other occupations. They built power plants to pump water for fish and tractors to plough new waterways. They made all kinds of equipment to travel here and there to look at fish hatcheries. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbours and how loving and kind they were was enough.

After one stirring meeting on “The Necessity for Fishing”, one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honoured for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen’s General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Now it’s true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen’s clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk and hear about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”?

*Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don’t catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if, year after year, he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn’t fishing?*

**Does Matthew 4: 19 say anything to us?**

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**“Come with me and I will teach  
you to catch men.”**

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