

MARCH 2009

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear friends,

This copy of *The Messenger* comes to you on the first Sunday in Lent. Now although the seasons of the Christian year have not been terribly important in the non-conformist tradition, there are still many who (almost jokingly) ask 'What are you giving up for Lent?'

In a sermon a couple of weeks ago I suggested that this was the wrong question. I asked: *could it be that we need to ask ourselves, 'What is so important to me that I will never give it up? What is there in my life that I will never let the Lord God get His hands on it?'*

Now that's a very different question. We sometimes sing the old hymn:

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to Thee...

and

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold...

Er... do we really mean that? Is there genuinely nothing that we would hold back from God?

Well, that's all very well, I hear myself saying, but that's impossible! There are bits of me that are just... well, me. I can't give them away, otherwise I wouldn't be me any more. After all, the Lord honours the Jim Gould He has created. Doesn't He?

I think it's something to do with (and help me, someone, if I'm getting it wrong) authority. There's a story in Luke chapter 7 when a Roman officer puts himself – for the moment – under the authority of Jesus, and Jesus heals the officer's servant.

The Centurion does not give anything of himself away: he still remains a servant of the Roman emperor, but he allows Jesus' power to work in his life and in the life of the servant who is so dear to him.

There is so much that the Lord has to give us, but we have to allow Him to do so: we have to yield to His authority: to make that step of trust.

I'm fond of a story told by Lionel Blue. It tells of Moshe who goes to the synagogue every day and prostrates himself in front of the Ark, praying to the Lord.

"Lord, there is so much I could do for You if I had a bit of money. Could you arrange for me to win the Lottery? Please?"

Week after week Moshe makes this prayer: nothing happens – the Lord doesn't seem to answer, until one day Moshe loses his patience and bursts out "Lord, I've been asking for over a year now. Is it so impossible for You to do such a little thing?" And for the first time, he hears God speaking:

"Moshe, as you say, it's a very easy thing for Me to do. But you have to do your bit as well: **go and buy a ticket!!!**"

If I move, step by step, towards the Lord, He will honour me. He will accept what I yield to Him and demonstrate that in His love and power I haven't lost what I offer at all. Instead, He gives it back to me, blessed, for use in His service, and in the process His Name is honoured and my life enriched.

May you have a blessed and holy Lent.

Love and peace,
Revd Jim.

LENT

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MONEY MATTERS

**OFFERINGS DURING
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009**

JANUARY 2009

Jan. 2009	Cash	Envelopes	Total
Jan. 4 th	£93.00	£175.00	£268.00
Jan. 11 th	£89.50	£159.00	£248.50
Jan. 18 th	£37.90	£323.80	£361.70
Jan. 25 th	£54.90	£139.10	£194.00
TOTALS	£275.30	£796.90	£1,072.20

FEBRUARY 2009

Feb. 2009	Cash	Envelopes	Total
Feb. 1 st	£45.00	£148.00	£193.00
Feb. 8 th	£50.20	£258.00	£308.20
Feb. 15 th	£66.30	£155.50	£221.80
Feb. 22 nd	£74.70	£280.30	£355.00
TOTALS	£236.20	£841.80	£1,078.00

COMMUNION OFFERINGS

FOR

MARCH/APRIL 2009

will be made on behalf of the
NORTH LONDON HOSPICE

The **Communion Offerings** during
January/February 2009 in support
of **WATFORD MENCAP SOCIETY**
amounted to **£155.20**

Vivien Crispe

FLOWER LIST

MARCH

DATE DONATED BY ARRANGED BY

MARCH 2009

1st - Mr. C. Jones - Susan Day
8th - Mr.&Mrs. Mortimore - Sheila Mortimore
15th - Mr.&Mrs. Maycock - Pam Maycock
22nd - Mrs. G. Nash - Vivien Crispe
MOTHERING SUNDAY
29th - Mr. & Mrs. Theuri - Susan Day

APRIL 2009

5th April – Church - Pam Maycock

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Message from the Editor

I have just had a walk down the garden to look around after the snow and rain we have had lately. Well, there are snow drops out and even a few quince flowers on the bush. In the pond life goes on – fishes can be seen coming up to the top of the water now and there are signs of frog spawn appearing. Also my Christmas tree which I put out on the patio has small buds on it! All the seasons are in order and we have much more to look forward to as Spring approaches with a little bit more blue sky and sunshine around. It's very welcome.

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May I have all material for the April issue of The Messenger by no later than Sunday 29th March. Thank you.

Vivien Crispe



NEWS AND NOTICES FROM THE CHURCH

EASTER 2009

For your advance information and for your diary, I am listing our services over the Easter period, which this year is in April.

Thursday 9th April - 7 p.m. -
Passover Meal

Friday 10th April - 3 p.m. -
Meditation

Sunday 12th April - 8 a.m. -
Communion
followed by breakfast.

10 a.m. -
Easter Celebration -
Family Service

Please support these events as we celebrate the Joys of Easter.

Chris Mortimore

LENT - EASTER THROUGHOUT GOD'S WORLD

ELECTION OF ELDERS

Will all Church Members who have received Nomination Papers for the Election of Elders, please fill in your nominations and then either hand the form personally to our Minister, or place it in the reply box in the porch of the Church, by Sunday 15th March at the latest.

Chris Mortimore
Church Secretary.

VOTE ✓

WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER
Friday 6th 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!

Contemplative Prayer at The Hyde

A reminder that this month sees the start of our monthly contemplative prayer sessions at The Hyde. Why not be at the start of this new venture! Contemplative prayer is not for everyone, but if you feel you might benefit from a shared time of quiet, guided reflection in the Lord's presence then do come along and try it.

Your arms are wide and welcoming
in your presence we are relaxed,
and feel most strangely at home
Psalm 55

The first session is on **Tuesday 31st March, at 7 pm**. I look forward to seeing you there. And as mentioned before, 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

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*I cannot believe that the inscrutable
universe turns on an axis of suffering;
Surely the strange beauty of the world
must somewhere rest on pure 'JOY'.*



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

5th March
and
19th March.



On **2nd April**, we will be preparing for Easter.



Marathon Man

Kevin Jones (Cliff's son) is taking part in the London Marathon this year, and is inviting us to support him.

Kevin is raising money for CLIMB – a charity for those affected by inherited metabolic disease, their families and their supporters.

A colleague of Kevin's lost his three-year-old son to a metabolic disease, so this is a very personal cause of his, and he hopes that you will be able to help him raise money for this wonderful charity. There are more details on the Community Hall notice board.

**PREACHING PLANS for -
MARCH 2009**

MARCH 2009

1st Mar. - 10.00 a.m. - Elders Led Service
 8th Mar. - 10.00 a.m. - Rev. Jim Gould
 6.30 p.m. - Communion
 Rev. Jim Gould
 15th Mar. - 10.00 a.m. - Communion
 Rev. J. Gould
 22nd Mar. - 10.00 a.m. - **MOTHERING SUNDAY**
 Family Service
 29th Mar. -10.00 a.m. - "SONGS OF PRAISE"
 Rev. J. Gould

APRIL 2009

5th APRIL – 10.00 a.m. – PALM SUNDAY
 Mr. C. Mortimore

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**PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS FOR
CHRIS MORTIMORE**

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

MARCH 2009

1st Mar. – 10.00 a.m. – The Hyde
 8th Mar. - 11.00 a.m. - Chesterfield Road
 15th Mar. - 11.00 a.m. - Queens Park
 29th Mar. - 11.00 a.m. - St. John's, Kenton
 6.30 p.m. - Wembley Park

5th April – 10.00 a.m. – The Hyde

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**DIARY FOR MARCH 2009**

**MARCH 2009**

Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> - 10.00 a.m. - Elders Led Service  
 Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> - 1.15 p.m. - Lunchtime Service  
           7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting  
 Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 p.m. – Hyde De Hi  
 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - 9.30 a.m. - Toddler Group  
           2.30 p.m. - Womens World Day  
                                     of Prayer - St. Johns,  
                                     West Hendon  
           7.30 p.m. - Womens World Day  
                                     of Prayer – The Hyde  
 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  
           7.30 p.m. - Elders Meeting  
 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  
 Tues. 31<sup>st</sup> - 7.00 p.m. - Contemplative Prayer

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**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS  
DURING MARCH**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>JACK</b>    | <b>BETH</b>    |
| <b>SHIRLEY</b> | <b>PAUL</b>    |
| <b>ROSE C.</b> | <b>SAM</b>     |
| <b>CLAYTON</b> | <b>DONOVAN</b> |

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## SPRING CLEANING FOR FREEDOM

So many of us have accumulated much more than we need. It bursts from our closets, overflows our shelves and clutters our lives. Lent might be a wonderful time to deliberately release ourselves from the many "things" we own by cleaning out our closets and simplifying our lives in a prayerful and intentional way.

On one level, this is ridding ourselves of things we don't need, or things that we hated to part with except that they are so "out of style." Certainly, many of us have many things that are "extra" or "unnecessary" for us, but could be wonderful for those who can't afford to buy clothes at a store.

Another level of this journey into personal freedom is to ask ourselves how much I really do need. How many sweaters do I want to choose to have?

How many jackets, sport shirts, dresses, shoes? How much jewellery? How much sporting equipment? How much electronic equipment? How many sets of silverware or dishes? How much of so many things we have in our lives?

We can get as serious and go as deeply into this as we desire to find fruit. This is not "should I get rid of what I don't need?" This is different, more faith-filled and takes us into giving up 'good' stuff -- perhaps stuff we are attached to -- because we want to experience the exercise of freedom. We do this because we sense that we are not free in some areas that are tremendously important for us, important for our salvation, and growing in freedom before the things of our lives can be a great grace. This freedom, too, will place us in greater solidarity with those who find such great happiness and joy in trusting in God, while having so much less than we imagine we could survive on.

What else might we do, that fits with my circumstances and the needs around us and in the world?

Article taken from:

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/cleaning.html>

## **SPRING CLEAN – YOUR LIFE**

## GOD'S CHILDREN

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve.

And the first thing he said was – **'DON'T!'**

'Don't what?' Adam replied.

'Don't eat the forbidden fruit.' God said.

'Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve...we have forbidden fruit!'

'No way!'

'Yes way!'

'Do **NOT** eat the fruit!' said God.

'Why?'

**'Because I am your Father and I said so!'**

God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, god saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked!

'Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?' God asked.

'Uh huh,' Adam replied.

'Then why did you?' said the Father.

'I don't know,' said Eve.

'She started it!' Adam said.

'Did not!'

'Did too!'

'DID NOT!'

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

***HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD HE  
TO BECOME WISE – GENESIS 3.6.***



# REFLECTIONS

## MOTHERING SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

Wherever we live, whatever our life we  
were all born to a mother.  
A mother who may or may not  
have loved us,  
who may have cared for us for a short  
time or for ever and always.

But one thing is certain,  
they were there when  
we were born – Our Mothers.

Mary was there at the birth  
of her son and at his death,  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
and the son of Mary.  
Jesus Christ, his death in agony,  
Looking towards his Father,  
*Looking out for his mother.*

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The fourth Sunday in Lent was the first  
Mother's Day, according to Pastor Gary Cowall  
of St. Joseph Lutheran Church in Michigan.  
The fourth Sunday in Lent is also called  
"Mothering Sunday".  
In England, said Pastor Cowall, it was  
customary for people to bake and present their  
mothers with a "mothering cake" on the fourth  
Sunday in Lent.

Mother's Day is remembrance day,  
When we pause on the path of the year  
To pay honour and worshipful tribute  
To the mothers our hearts hold dear.  
For whether here or in heaven,  
Her love is our haven and guide,  
For always the memory of Mother  
is a beacon light shining inside.

Time cannot destroy her memory and  
The years can never erase the  
Tenderness and the beauty of the  
Love in a mother's face.

And when we think of our mothers,  
We draw nearer to God above,  
For only God in His greatness  
Could fashion a mother's love.

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THE GREATEST TEACHER I EVER HAD WAS MY  
MOTHER.  
*(George Washington)*

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ALL THAT I AM AND ALL THAT I EVER HOPE TO BE,  
I OWE TO MY MOTHER.  
*(Abraham Lincoln)*

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JUST WHEN A MOTHER THINKS HER JOB IS DONE,  
SHE BECOMES A GRAND-MOTHER.

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