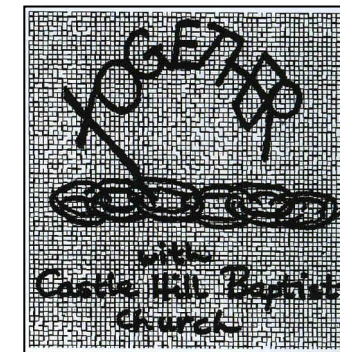


AUTUMN 2011

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul. *Psalm 23 verses 1-3*



Blessed



Contents

Cover: BLESSED	7	Greetings from our Pastor
2 Editor's Letter & Big Welcome	8	Reaching Out (Samaritan's Purse & Sponsor a child)
3 All Change at The Gateway	9	BMS Peru
4 For the Family	10	Take-A-Break
5 What's On?	12	Photo News
6 Holiday Bible Club		

Dear Reader

As we move into the later months of 2011, I hope you have managed to have some rest or change of scene during the summer.

I think you'll agree that the summer of 2011 will be one that's difficult to forget, with all the unrest at home and abroad and the plight of thousands in the Horn of Africa suffering because of drought.

We sometimes forget how blessed we are to be living in this country as we turn on the tap and out gushes water that's fresh and safe to drink and as we put leftover food rubbish in the recycling bin. I have read that there are people in this country who live on food that large stores throw away at the end of the day because the 'sell by' date has been reached!

We might moan about the politics of our leaders but in the UK we have stability that other peoples envy.

We are blessed to have freedom of thought and expression and freedom to pursue our faith or have no faith. These freedoms have cost men and women who lived before us their lives. Many reformers were Christians who campaigned out of compassion and love, wanting the quality of others' lives to be improved.

The cover picture is one I took recently in Dovedale in Derbyshire, when on a day out with some of my family. It was a wet day but as I walked by the river enjoying the peace and beauty I felt so privileged to have been born in this part of the world and wondered what more I could do to help those who were not so fortunate. If you look on page 8 and 9 of the magazine you'll find some of the conclusions I came to. God gave us a great example of 'giving till it hurts' in sending His own son to die for us.

So, as we enjoy the luxury of our western life-style, let's thank God for all he has blessed us with and do what we can to alleviate the suffering of others.

The Editor.

THE BIG welcome

This year's Back -To- Church- Sunday is called 'The Big Welcome'

You are invited to The Big Welcome

on Sunday 25th of September at 10.30am at Castle Hill Baptist Church and then for some lunch afterwards!

It would be great to see you whether you're an old friend or someone just finding out about us.



For more information contact: Rev. Peter Burns 01926 775751
Katherine Wilson Family Worker 07946 177360



It's "Au revoir" to Kim and "Welcome" to Cat



It's been 'all change' at the Gateway Café this autumn as our manager and inspiration for the re-vamp leaves, after two successful years, and we welcome a new manager to the café.

Kim Beck, who launched the Gateway Café, is now about to move to France with her husband, Dave, where they are to start the next phase of their lives. We really appreciate all that they have both done to make The Gateway Café a success and we wish them well and share their excitement as they begin their new life in France.

Catherine Pearson is now our new manager. Cat (as she is used to being called) has been with us since the beginning of September and is beginning to get to know the regulars and they her. She is an active member of the fellowship at St. Mary's in Leamington Spa. We shall feature a full length interview with Cat in the Christmas edition of 'Together'. But why don't you pop into Gateway and meet her yourself!

Have you seen the Gateway Café at the top of Smith Street, opposite Eastgate? It's part of Castle Hill Baptist Church.

Cat is our manageress and she's there from Tuesday to Friday 10.30am to 4.30pm along with a faithful band of volunteers. If you're looking for a friendly environment to accompany good food then look no further!

Come and enjoy our excellent Fairtrade coffee or, if you prefer, a nice 'cuppa' instead. Why not indulge in a freshly baked scone as well? Then there's the 'Specials' board! Come and see for yourself!

**The Gateway Café Open : Tues.—Fri. 10.30 am—4.30pm
Drinks, Lunches (see our Specials board), cake and more.**

Dingbats solutions: A=3degrees under, B=Roger, over and out, C=Just between you and me, D=Reading between the lines, E=Downtown, F=Man overboard

For Families



Sunday
 Castle Hill Baptist Church
 10.30.am Morning worship, something for all ages.
 'Boulder Gang' for twos to fourteens (see below)
 Crèche for under twos.
 6.30 pm Evening Service
 (Communion 1st. Sunday evening, 3rd. Sunday morning)



Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri.
 9.30.am - 12 noon
 Baptist Hall Gerrard Street
 (Term time only)



Weds. 10.00.am-11.30am
 In the Baptist Hall
 Gerrard Street



Monday & Tuesday
 10.00am-12noon
 Church Lounge
 (Term time only)



Friday
 6.00pm-7.30pm
 Baptist Hall
 Gerrard Street
 (Term time only)

children's club



youth club

Friday
 7.30pm-9.00pm
 Baptist Hall
 Gerrard Street
 (Term time only)



We have recently re-launched our Young people's work on a Sunday and we've become the Boulder Gang.



Little Gems are the twos to fours



Ground Breakers are fives to sevens



Rock Solid is for eight to twelves

SUN.

10.30.am Morning Worship
 [Young people have own groups during part of this service]
 6.30.pm Evening Worship
 8.00.pm FLOBB at the 'Attic Room', Baptist Hall, Gerrard Street

W

H

MON.

9.30am-12pm Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School
 Baptist Hall, Gerrard Street
 10am-12pm TIDDLERS
 In church lounge (term time only)

A

TUES.

9.30am-12pm Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School
 Baptist Hall, Gerrard Street
 10am-12pm TIDDLERS
 In church lounge (term time only)
 1.30.pm CAMEO (3rd. Tues of month)
 (Come and Meet Each Other)

T

WEDS.

10am-11.30am TODDLERS
 At Baptist Hall, Gerrard Street
 8.00pm Fellowship Meetings/House Groups
 as advertised

'S

THURS.

9.30am-12pm Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School
 Baptist Hall Gerrard Street
 9.45am Prayer Meeting in church lounge
 10.30am-12pm 'WOW' group
 (Mums' house group)
 meet fortnightly
 for venue phone church office.

O

FRI.

9,30am-12pm Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School
 Baptist Hall, Gerrard Street
 6pm-7.30pm Massive (at Baptist Hall Gerrard Street)
 7.30pm-9pm 'Fnatic' Youth Club (At Baptist Hall
 Gerrard Street) Meeting fortnightly

N

?

Holiday Bible Club



In the last week of the Schools' summer holidays Sue Burns and an army of helpers of all ages, shapes and sizes, put on a Holiday Bible Club called 'Looking for a Hero!' There was singing, stories, games, craft, exercises, puppets



quizzes, memory verses to learn, prizes and silliness!

Yes! That's a bit of the silliness in the picture on the right. Can you guess who's getting the custard pie?

Apart from all that there was a serious side to the week.



The theme was 'Looking for a Hero' and we considered four heroes from the bible. They were Moses, Joshua, Gideon and David. There was some terrific story telling by Peter our pastor, magnificent acting by some of the adult helpers portraying Pharaoh and Moses and lots of audience participation as the armies of Joshua and Gideon.

We even had a nine feet tall Goliath! The singing was led by a fantastic 'rock' band with saxophone, lead guitar, bass guitar and drums.

There was opportunity to pray at any time in the 'prayer shack'.

One of the highlights for the children was which team leader was going to have the 'Chair of Doom' because their team lost the quiz. The 'Chair of Doom' involved custard pies and a lot of hilarity as the victims exacted their revenge!

There was a barbecue for friends and family on Saturday afternoon and a family service at the church on Sunday morning, when we learned about Jesus our Super Hero. who gave His life for our sins.

All in all the children and the helpers had a great time we are really grateful as a fellowship for all the time and energy put in by Sue and her helpers.

Greetings from Peter, our Pastor



"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God."

This sentence from Matthew's account of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount sprang to my mind recently as I was watching scenes of rioting on the streets of some of our cities. Among the most incredible violence and destruction there were those who made every effort to stand up and defend community property against those seeking to destroy. Threatened with anger and violence, some were resolute in making peace and order and the bible tells us that people such as these will be blessed.

But what does that mean? One dictionary definition defines blessed as "worthy of deep reverence and respect." I guess in this specific example we can all offer some measure of respect. But there is another interpretation which I think may be more in line with what Jesus had in mind; "made holy or consecrated."

I don't know anything about the street heroes who earned respect by defending their communities against rioting, but I do know that Jesus offers all of us an opportunity to be **made holy**, to be truly blessed. The Sermon on the Mount is not a checklist of 'ways I must behave before I die to earn a place in heaven', but it does speak of general and persistent characteristics of those who take seriously the teachings of Jesus. We are all urged by Jesus not just to be peacemakers – striving for true love to replace hatred and war, but also to adopt practices of meekness and righteousness and to be ready to deal with persecution for our faith.

None of us get this right all of the time, maybe part of meekness is to realise and accept that, but Jesus urged everyone who sat on that hill-side all those years ago to think about how they behave and react to every moment of violence, stupidity and hatred around them. And today he still asks the same of all who want to be blessed.

Yet another dictionary definition talks about great happiness or good fortune. If we are honest, all of us have truly been blessed with much good fortune and we have a lot to give thanks for (this harvest time is a wonderful illustration of that). But our response should be as those who feel blessed enough to share blessing with others and show what a difference peacemaking, righteousness and all these other things can make to the whole world.

I'd love it if you joined with us in trying to live in such a way.

Peter

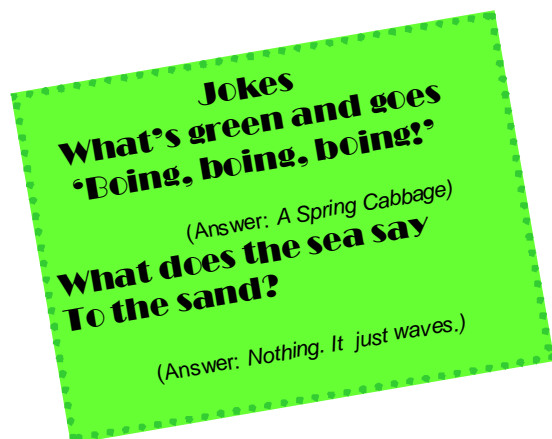
Have you explored our website yet?

www.warwickbaptists.org.uk

Contact us: Church office : 01926 410222 The Gateway: 01926 419393

Thank you

.....to all those who have contributed in any way to this issue of 'Together'.



A few terribly corny jokes from the Take-home sheets

Reaching Out....

So many men, women and children in the world without adequate food and water, driven from their homes by famine, flood, war, What can we do to alleviate their suffering?

What about sponsoring a child from one of these deprived situations?
For £21 a month it's possible to change the life chances of a child through Compassion UK. Log on to their website and find out more: www.compassionuk.org/sponsor
Or
For £22.80 a month you could sponsor a child through World Vision. Log on to : www.worldvision.org.uk
These are both Christian organisations and use the money you give to make a difference not only to the child who is sponsored but to their family and community as well.



Castle Hill Baptist Church supports the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox appeal. **Between us, over the last 4 years we have sent hundreds of shoeboxes to children who would not otherwise get a present this Christmas.**



We will be doing the same this year and would like to invite you to get involved.

You can take part:

Wrap and pack an old shoebox as described on the leaflet and bring to a group linked to the church or drop it off at the Gateway Café .

Please remember postage! (But don't let the cost of postage put you off getting involved)

You can also help by:-

Donating a few of the items listed on the Samaritan's leaflet and we will pack Them into boxes ourselves.

The boxes need to be ready by November 1 st, so I would be very grateful if we could have any contributions as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, please contact Katherine Wilson on 07946 177360

Disaster in The Horn of Africa

As a fellowship we have sent money to this stricken area through an organisation called **The Barnabas Fund**

They are actually already working in Somalia and we feel they can get help to people more quickly and effectively than government agencies.

Please don't forget these people who have lost everything including their homes, family, livestock, everything that gave them their identity. There are many other organisations through which you can give, but please keep giving.

<http://barnabasfund.org/UK/>

BMS World Mission

Harland and Gill Rivas-Thurgood are our Link Missionaries serving God in Iquitos, Peru. At present they are in the UK visiting churches and sharing their experiences first hand.

They have been in Peru to work in development projects and to work with the churches in the area around Iquitos.

In the last email they sent from Peru Gill writes:

The city of Iquitos is an island of land surrounded by rivers. The city is overcrowded and many people have constructed wooden houses on the outskirts of the city on flood plain.

Belen

One of the churches we work with is Dios me Cambio (God changed me) in Belen.

Though Belen is a community that is used to low level flooding, this year the water level has risen far higher than many people can remember happening before. Often referred to in guide books as the "Venice of Iquitos", the reality is nowhere near as romantic, with heavily polluted water, damp, rotten wooden houses, precarious makeshift bridges and lots of floating rubbish. And a terrible smell.

During this level of flooding, sanitation is a problem as toilets flood causing sewage to flow out into the street. Clean water is difficult to find and often crops are totally destroyed. Walking along makeshift bridges can be precarious with some of the

bridges now underwater. Six children have died in the Punchana community after falling into the flood water. We visited the churches in the flooded areas and I (Gill) found it really very scary walking along the makeshift bridges. Having lived and worked in a number of developing countries I believed I was becoming a bit hardened to poverty. However I've been quite disturbed by the sights and smells; houses filling up with horribly polluted water and children wading through the same in order to go to school. We find ourselves asking the same old question of "why do people HAVE to live like this?"

PEPE

Two of our colleagues Rober and Emerita live in Nauta. Emerita has started a pre-school education programme (PEPE) in her home. They will soon be able to move into a purpose built building.



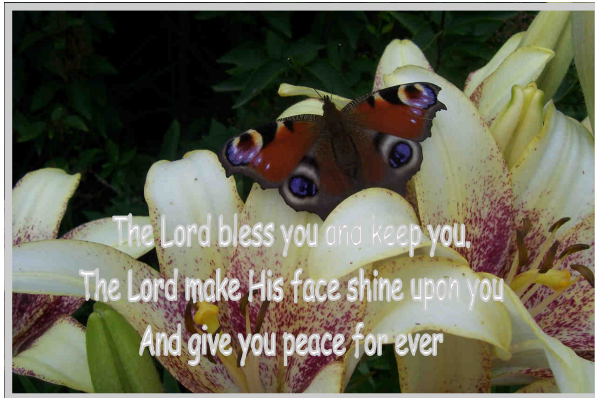
Harland and Gill Rivas- Thurgood and their daughters, Ingny and Lilia.



Makeshift bridges can be precarious.



Emerita with the children In PEPE.



Inexpensive but Priceless!

Make Your Own Cards

- ♦ Save money
 - ♦ Give the personal touch
 - ♦ Have a sense of achievement
- Making your own cards could be inexpensive for you but the finished article could be priceless to the one who receives it!

Methods

Cutting and sticking— cut out the fronts of old cards, stick them on a folded piece of card and add any other decoration such as ribbon, glitter etc.

Stamping—buy a couple of wooden mounted designs and a few coloured ink pads (if you take care of them they will last a long time) Stamp your design on the front of a folded piece of card.

Appliqué— use scraps of cloth, lace, felt or tissue paper and glue your design to the card.

Photo cards— Look out for cards in the shops that have a place for a photograph to be inserted. These require little effort but can be well received.

Decoupage—this is a more advanced skill involving cutting and layering to achieve a 3D effect.

Finishing touches— stick a folded piece of plain paper inside the card on which to write the greeting. Use pinking shears or scissors with fancy blades to trim the edges of the cards. Use or make an envelope that is the same colour as the card.

Suggestion— keep a special box in which you collect odd scraps of cloth, lace, tissue, sweet wrappers, foil, knitting wool, felt, ribbon etc. You'll always have what you need to create that perfect card.

A more skilled version using cutting and sticking layered, with ribbon and sticker embellishment.



Simple use of stamps

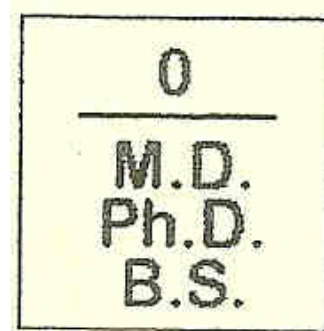


Using fronts of old cards + fancy edge cut

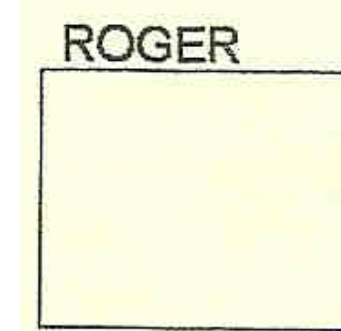


Dingbats

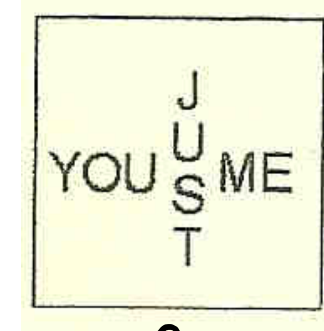
Below are six phrases in pictorial form. To solve the puzzles just say what you see!



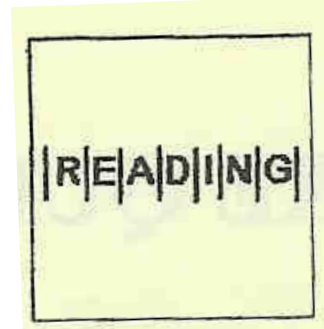
A



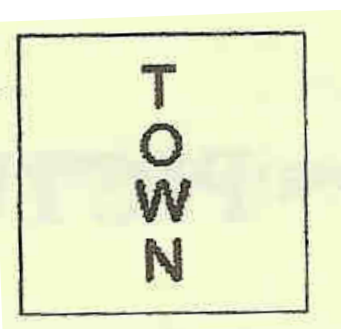
B



C



D



E



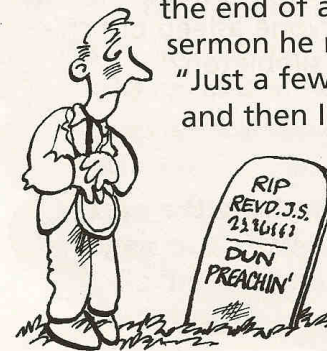
F

Answers on page 3

Christian Crackers Through the Year

Nearing the end

A lay preacher caused much amusement by sometimes using words in the wrong context. Towards the end of a very long sermon he remarked, "Just a few more words and then I will decease."



A friend recently visited the parish church of Castleton in the Peak District and discovered that the vicar of Castleton was living in Hope!



Phil Mason
Cartoons by Taffy

T
A
K
E
A
B
R
E
A
K

PHOTO NEWS



Congratulations!

...to Mr. & Mrs. Stummer



An unusual form of wedding transport!



Sue looks as if she's about to 'get' someone! See inside on page 6. Can you guess the victim?

Philipp and Emma were married at Castle Hill Baptist Church on 14th August. The service was conducted in English and German, as many of Philipp's friends and family came over from Austria for the ceremony.



Don't forget the shoebox appeal again this year, for Samaritan's Purse. See Page 8 for details

Boxes need to be ready by November 1st. Pick up a leaflet from The Gateway Café.

Gill and Harland in Peru

Punchana

Another church we work with is Punchana Baptist Church. Below are before and after flood photos of the church building which has been completely destroyed by the flooding. Unlike Belen, this community doesn't usually see even low-level flooding so this year's high water levels have come as a huge shock. The photo on the right, of the flooded church



was taken before the water level rose so far that we were unable to visit the church again to take more photos.

