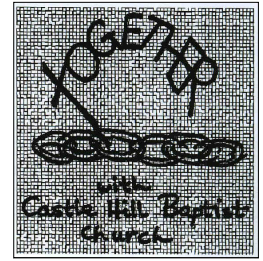


Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.'

(From John chapter 1 and chapter 8)



# CHRISTMAS 2011

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## Dear Reader



recently had occasion to tidy up the boiler cupboard at home ( it's like a walk-in larder but with different contents) and I came across a box of beautiful white candles identical to the one on the front cover. I thought the box said 'church quality ' but ,looking at them again, I saw they were a special offer from IKEA! We bought them after having endured a relatively short power cut in the snowy weather, but finding them reminded me of when I was a young girl and we used candles as a matter of course because we had no lighting in the passageway in our house. When going up to bed, my sister and I would use a candle to navigate the stairs which had a sharp turn in them before you gained the landing. It was not a very reliable method as the slightest draught would snuff it out and we'd have to call mum.

Light is so comforting and reassuring as well as being useful. Later, we did have electric light downstairs and if our bedroom door was left ajar the light from the passage downstairs shone on the wall in our room. I found that reassuring but my sister claimed it kept her awake so, until we both slept we would hop in and out of bed, one shutting the door and the other opening it!

Jesus calling himself 'The Light of the World ' means different things to different people but to me it says that He came to show us the way out of our darkness into a loving relationship with God.

What sort of darkness do you experience? When Jesus entered our world in the form of a baby he came to share the experiences of those he loves (that's you and me) and to free us from that darkness.

I pray that this Christmas you will know the reassurance of the one who doesn't just hold the light but who **is** the Light of the World. And that you will be able to walk in the light of His presence day by day.

Happy Christmas!

The Editor.



You are invited to share....

## Christmas at Castle Hill Baptist Church

**Thurs. 15th Dec. Churches Together in Warwick  
Lunch Time Carol Service**  
*For workers in the town*

1. 15 pm

*(Church open 12.45pm  
Bring your lunch, drink  
provided.)*

**Sun.18th Dec. Family worship  
(including Nativity)  
Candle Lit Carol Service**

10.30.am

6.30.pm

**Thurs. 22nd Dec. Carols at 'The Roebuck'**

7.30.pm

**Sun. 25th Dec. Christmas Morning Celebration**

10.30am

*No evening service at Castle Hill*



**The Gateway Café has a new manager. Her name is Catherine Pearson. ( She prefers to be called 'Cat'.) She took over the management of the café in September and is becoming familiar with the 'regulars' and working with the variety of volunteers who help.**



I had the opportunity this week of chatting to Cat , whilst doing one of my stints in the café. I asked her to tell me a little bit about herself and she spoke about growing up in Nottingham and moving on to university in Glasgow, where she studied Maths and Physics. She took a year out to do missionary work in Glasgow working with young people. I must have raised my eyebrows or something because she laughed and said, ' Yes, you don't have to go abroad to do missionary work!' She came to Warwick University to do teacher training and then taught Maths. in a Coventry school.

I asked Cat what made her apply to be our manager and had she done this sort of work before. 'Not professionally,' she replied, but she had catered for young people's weekends and conferences. She went on to explain that she had left her old job and was looking for a new position. People close to her were praying and three different friends suggested that she would be a good manager. Cat thought , 'Perhaps God is leading me in this direction.'

Then one of her 'house-mates' saw the Gateway job and told Catherine about it. The rest, as they say, is history!

Cat is the youngest member of her family, having an older brother, who some of us working in Gateway had the privilege of meeting a few weeks ago.

Asked about her hobbies and interests Cat revealed that apart from her love of cooking and baking (fortunate for us), she is very musical, playing the piano, clarinet and now teaching herself the ukulele. She also enjoys reading and film, either going to the cinema or watching DVDs. Although we have taken her to our hearts, Cat is not a member of Castle Hill Baptist Church. She belongs to St. Mary's Leamington Spa where she is involved in the worship ( putting her musical skills to good use) and the young people's work.

Cat does love baking and you will find a variety of homemade cakes and tray bakes as well as freshly made scones available. Of course, what Cat herself would not say is that she has a self-deprecating sense of humour and an easy style of management.

So, do come in and say 'Hello'. Cat and the volunteers would be pleased to welcome you.

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

**Solution to Christmas Codeword:** to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John chapter 1 v 12.

# 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)

## Noah's Ark Christian Playgroup

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

## Jack & Jill Parent and Toddlers

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

## tiddlers parents & babies

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



children's club

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



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

**MON.**

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

**TUES.**

9.30am-12pm Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School Baptist Hall, Gerrard Street  
 10am-12pm TIDDLERS  
 In church lounge (term time only)  
 3pm TUESDAY TOGETHER  
 (1st. Tues of month)  
 (Afternoon service & fellowship)  
 1.30.pm CAMEO (3<sup>rd</sup>. Tues of month)  
 (Come and Meet Each Other)  
 7.30pm BREATHE (2nd&4th Tues of month)  
 In church, for all ladies

**WEDS.**

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

**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.

**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

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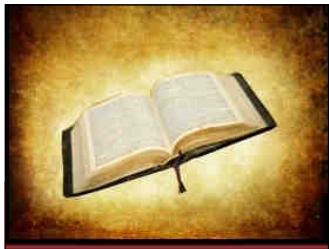
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## 400 years of the King James Bible

There have been many events this year to mark the 400th anniversary of the publishing of what is now generally called 'The King James Bible'.

In Warwick there was a lecture on the history of the authorised version, as part of the Warwick Words Festival, for which the Guy Nelson Hall was packed! Also a 'Churches Together in Warwick' event was held on Sunday 20th November at St Mary Immaculate Church Hall, where the Rev. David Spriggs presented an illustrated talk on the King James Bible, during which he debunked some of the popular myths surrounding it. He told us that it was not actually a 'new' translation but based on other translations that were already in use. The King James Bible was a bible meant to unify religious factions at that time and give the church one sacred text that could be used throughout the realm.

The language used was 'old fashioned' even at the time of writing but, as the Archbishop of Canterbury remarked at the service of celebration in Westminster Abbey on 16th November, the King James Bible was written 'for the ear, not the eye'. It has a poetic sound and in my experience is easier to commit to memory than modern translations. Fifty-four scholars worked in 6 translation committees, or companies, based in Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster. The final editing of the "Authorised Version" was completed in the Jerusalem Chamber of the Abbey in 1611.

Expressions from the King James Bible text are still in common use today. You must have heard, "powers that be", "the apple of his eye", "signs of the times", "a law unto themselves", You have probably used them yourself.

The King James Bible took some time to establish itself and it wasn't really until the reign of Charles 1 that it was universally used. But, in the 350 years since then it has been the biggest selling book in history. Rev. Spriggs said that the translators who worked on it would be surprised to know that it has endured and that we are celebrating it's 400th anniversary!

The service at Westminster Abbey was attended by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales. See the picture, on the back page, of the Queen being presented with a bouquet.

Probably the most famous verse from the King James Bible:

**' For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ' John chapter 3 verse 16.**

## Greetings from Peter, our Pastor



### The Light of the World

Robert Louis Stevenson is perhaps best known as the writer of classic stories such as **Treasure Island** and **the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**, but there is a little story about him that I want to tell. When he was a young boy in the 1850's Robert was looking out of the window one evening at the Edinburgh street in which he lived, when the old fashioned lamplighter came past on his rounds. The boy's nurse called to him to come and have his supper, but he couldn't bear to tear himself away from the remarkable sight. 'Look, look!' he exclaimed, his face pressed against the glass, 'there's a man out there punching holes in the darkness.'

This is perhaps a quaint image but it is also an illustration of a profound truth of good news for all humankind that is as true today as it was in Stevenson's day and indeed in the 1850 years before he was born.

Christmas is a time of many emotions and with great symbolism, celebration and, for many people at least, enormous excitement. But principally it is about holes being punched in the darkness. God's love is so immense, so incredible and dramatic and powerful and exciting that he chose to look into the gloom and despair of a needy world and bring his light. God chose, because of his great love for each and all of us, to punch some holes into the darkness to allow us to glimpse something of him and to enable us to turn to him.

May you know the reality of that this Christmas as you allow God to punch holes in any areas of darkness that trouble you.

God bless you,  
Peter

Have you explored our website yet?

[www.warwickbaptists.org.uk](http://www.warwickbaptists.org.uk)

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



Katherine Wilson is our Family Worker. She can be found present at many of the weekly activities of Castle Hill, such as Noah's Ark Christian Pre-School, Toddlers, Tiddlers and working in the Gateway Café. If you need to contact Katherine you can do so on the links below:

07946 177360 or email : familyworker@warwickbaptists.org.uk

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

# Reaching Out....



**In November we were privileged to have a return visit from Pastor Moses Parmar, of 'The Good Shepherd Community Churches', who work with the Dalit community in India.**

He was accompanied by Steve Chedgoy the Midlands Regional Coordinator of Operation Mobilisation UK who made this visit possible.

'Dalit' translated means 'crushed' or 'broken' and the Indian religious texts refer to Dalits as 'the unborn'.

Pastor Moses told us how the church building programme is progressing and that it can't actually keep up with the number of new churches formed. He told us that as a new church building is completed and the congregation celebrates its opening, people from the next village come to the service and accept the Good News of Jesus. They then go back to their village and share their new faith with their families and neighbours and before long another new church is needed!

What Moses Parmar shared with us was inspiring and made us realise what an exciting time our Dalit Christian brothers and sisters are living through.

Pastor Moses told us that five years ago he thought it would be good to gather all the Good Shepherd Churches together in one place for a 'Jesus Celebration', to encourage the small groups of Christians and let them see that they were a part of something big. It was a wonderful occasion and the leaders of the other religions who responded to Moses Parmar's special invitation were amazed at the way all the men and women, high caste and low caste and Dalits got on and even ate together. ( The caste system does not allow this to happen) They asked Moses, 'How do you do it?' Moses explained that as Christians, in Jesus we are all equal.

The religious leaders were so impressed one of them insisted that his wife and daughters become Christians as there was no provision for them in his religion! He wanted them to be baptised at the baptismal service that followed the celebration but he had to be satisfied with a dedication service which would be followed by them finding out more about Jesus for themselves.

After the baptismal service another 100 people wanted to be dedicated! This was a totally unexpected out come, but wonderful.

We pray for the continued growth and blessing of the Good Shepherd Community Churches and all the work that Pastor Moses Parmar is doing.



Dr. Joseph D'souza International President of Dalit Freedom Network says:

**" We will realise our goal of bringing freedom to India's 250 million Dalits one child at a time, one woman at a time, one man at a time, one school at a time, one community at a time, one just law at a time and then the inevitable 'TIPPING POINT', which will bring massive changes and freedoms in a very short time. "**

8 [www.freeadalitchild.org](http://www.freeadalitchild.org) Could you sponsor a Dalit child for £15 a month?

## Peru Action Team 2011

**Pictured right are this year's Action Team, who have gone out to Peru with BMS World Mission. We were privileged to meet them at the end of October Here is an extract from their latest newsletter:**



" After visiting four different airports over 24 hours we finally arrived in Cusco! (a city in Peru) The last stretch was the hardest but we were rewarded with beautiful views of the villages in the Andes.

We feel so privileged to be working alongside El Puente (our church here), that God is clearly blessing. El Puente is a light in the community and is expanding. God has provided a more practical building for them—in fact the same afternoon they were praying about this, God blessed them with one! So we will soon be decorating and moving into the new building, which is only a four minute walk away from our apartment.

We've been introduced to lots of projects. Rob and Amy went to a school in a village outside the city where BMS are involved teaching English. Liz and Jess visited a clinic run by missionaries. This was a window into seeing the needs of Cusco. El Puente is very passionate about running a children's club and a youth group, of which we have been an active part.



Many people in Cusco mix their faiths between Catholicism and Andean spirituality. For example the picture on the right shows a roof with protective ornaments on top. The bulls are to ward off evil spirits. If there is a cross they also follow Catholicism, and if there is a dove they also claim to believe in Jesus.

In the dark confusions of faiths that we now live in, Jesus' work on being the Light of the World has never been so evident and true. Thanks so much for your prayers already. They are greatly appreciated."

## Thank-you

.....to all those who filled a shoe box. Samaritan's Purse were able to collect 186 boxes from Castle Hill at the beginning of November! Our thanks also to King's High School for joining us in this tremendous effort.





# Cake for Christmas

## All in One Fruit Cake

- 4oz. margarine
- 2std. eggs
- 12oz. mixed dried fruit
- 1level teasp. mixed spice
- 4oz. Caster Sugar
- 1/4pt. Milk (less 2 tbsp.)
- 8oz. Self raising flour
- walnut halves

Self raising flour and spices should be sieved together.

Place all ingredients except walnuts in a mixing bowl. Beat until well mixed. Place in a greased 2lb. Loaf tin. Smooth top. Place walnuts on top. Bake in oven ( Gas Mark 3, 160 C, 325 F ) on middle shelf for 1 1/2— 1 3/4 hours. NB for fan assisted ovens adjust temp. or cooking time accordingly. Leave for 10mins. Turn out to cool.

*Recipe from 'Thoughts for Food... from Castle Hill Baptist Church' 1995*

Tried and tested by the Editor and grandchildren! We mixed our own dried fruit selection.

### From the notices

**“We regret to announce that the ‘Ladies Happy Hour’ are heavily in debt following their recent ‘Sponsored Silence’.”**



*( From 'Christian Crackers Through the Year.' By Phil Mason )*

### True stories

In the early 1950s my grandmother was Communion steward at Thurscoe East in South Yorkshire. There was to be an early Communion Service on Christmas morning, so she went to the chapel on Christmas Eve to prepare the bread and wine. When the minister lifted off the cloth during the service, he discovered that the mice had eaten the bread.



A vet prescribed three huge pills to be given to a sick mule. “How do I get him to take the pills?” the farmer asked. “It’s quite simple,” replied the vet. “Just insert the pill into a pipe. Put the pipe in the mule’s mouth and blow on the other end. He will swallow the pill without realising it.” The next day the farmer returned, looking sickly. “You look awful!” said the doctor. “What happened?” The farmer explained, “He blew first!”

*From: A Bucket of Surprises by J John & Mark Stibbe*



## Carols at the Roebuck

Once again we’ve been invited to share some Christmas carols with the regulars at The Roebuck Inn in Smith Street, Warwick.

**Thursday 22 nd. December 7.30pm.**

Always a good evening. Come and join



# Take - A - Break

## Christmas Code Breaker

18	3		12	36	36		10	19	3		9	6	5	6	15	13	6	8		
19	15	24		18	3		18	19	3	22	6		10	19	3					
1	6	36	15	6	13	6	8		15	25		19	15	22		25	12	24	6	
19	6		16	12	13	6		18	19	6		9	15	16	19	18		18	3	
	1	6	5	3	24	6		5	19	15	36	8	9	6	25		3	11		
16	3	8		20	3	19	25		5	19	12	14	18	6	9		13			
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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
											36			
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z				

Can you crack the Christmas Code and find out a wonderful truth about Jesus?

Solution on bottom of page 3



# PHOTO NEWS

## India

Below and right are two of the photos from the 'Untouchables?' exhibition that was displayed in the lounge at Castle Hill Baptist Church in November.

These pictures show some of the 20,000 children who are being taught in 100 Dalit Education Centres, set up in partnership with **OM** (Operation Mobilisation) across India. Around each DEC they establish self help groups for women. These enable women to access vocational training and small business development schemes, such as sewing and tailoring skills to make school uniforms for the DECs.



Photo: Paul Smith used by permission

## Peru



Photo: Paul Smith used by permission



Many people in the city of Cusco, in Peru, mix their faiths between Catholicism and Andean spirituality. For example, the picture above shows a roof with Protective ornaments on top.  
( see Page 9)

## London

Outside Westminster Abbey, Her Majesty The Queen accepts a posy from Miss Martha Campbell, granddaughter of the Marquis of Salisbury and a descendent of Robert Cecil, James 1's chief minister. The Rt.Hon. Frank Field, Chairman of The King James Bible Trust said, "The King James Bible was translated in 1611 to make the Bible more accessible and to bring people together. It is with great pleasure I see its legacy has remained as we celebrate 400 years later."

(See page 6)

