

CHRIST CHURCH URC

Chase Side, Enfield

Minister Rev'd David Atkinson



October 2010

www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

11.00 am Morning Worship

11.00 am Pilots

Holy Communion

First Sunday

Family Parade Service

Third Sunday

12.30pm Church Meeting

bi-monthly see diary

MONDAY

6.00pm -7.30pm

Anchor Boys (5-8 years)

6.00pm - 7.30pm

Junior Section (8-11 years)

7.30pm— 9.30pm

Company Section (11-15 years)

7.30pm — 9.30pm

Senior Section (15-18 years)

WEDNESDAY

9.45-11.15 am Combined Bible Study

at Lancaster Road URC

Twice monthly

2.15 pm Friendship Club

Twice monthly

THURSDAY

7.45-9.15 pm Bible Study Group *Monthly*

7.30 pm Elders Meeting *Bi-monthly*

FRIDAY

5.00 pm Rainbows (5-7 years)

6.00 pm Brownies (7-10 years)

7.30 pm Guides (10-14 years)

Rangers (14-20 years)

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

For many years I've had a daily paper delivered and I usually read various parts of it. I always begin with the sports section and read the cricket and football news. I then turn to the front page and home news. If time allows I go to the editorial and comment pages and finally to the foreign news pages. I also always look at the obituaries to see if there is anyone I know and occasionally find a very interesting article.

This happened recently when I read the obituary of Cyril Smith by Michael Meadowcroft. I assume that many of you will remember the popular, outspoken, oversized Liberal M.P. for Rochdale.

The obituary told me several things that I didn't know about Cyril Smith. He was a committed member of the Unitarian Church. The Unitarians began in the 15th or 16th century and like the Congregational, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches were part of the historic Nonconformist movement in this country. But the Unitarians alone deny the doctrine of the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. I don't know of a nearby Unitarian Church. There was a Unitarian Church in my home city of Lancaster.

It also said that in 1966 Cyril Smith became mayor of Rochdale.

At this time he was a Labour councillor and in 1968 returned to the Liberals. Cyril Smith never married and made his mother mayoress while she was still the town hall charwoman. Cyril Smith had come from a very poor background, went to Rochdale grammar school for boys and became Rochdale's youngest councillor.

One interesting observation in the obituary is that Cyril Smith rarely withheld comments on individuals, friend or foe, including criticisms of his own party, but was hurt by criticisms of himself. One of the things I've noticed in my years in the ministry is that the people who are most adversely critical of others are usually the most sensitive and easily offended when someone makes adverse comments about them. I've known some people to be proud of their frankness but it does not stop them finding it difficult when others are frank about them. Human nature can be curious!

One of the many wise things Jesus said was, "Always treat others as you would like them to treat you" (Matthew 7:12). In other words, if you like people being kind to you then be kind to them. If you like to receive complimentary remarks then say nice things to others. If you don't like unfair or nasty things said or done to you don't do them to others.

May Jesus help us all to put his teachings into practice. David.

The Friendship Club

A very warm welcome is extended to members and friends to join us on alternate Wednesdays at 2.15pm in the church hall

October 6th

Visiting Oberammergau. (slides) Miss C Hughs

October 20th

Enfield in the Second World War.

Talk by Graham Dalling

November 3rd

Around Northumberland with Brenda Brown (Slides)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46

Lily Smith

Just a reminder

The communion offering on November 7th will be for the Mission Aviation Fellowship, Christian Organisation which for the last 60years has flown light aircraft to provide a humanitarian service for some of the least fortunate people of the world. Further information in the November newsletter



SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER **CHRIST CHURCH URC** **OPEN DAY**

A lovely sunny day welcomed our Open day which was enjoyed by many of our friends from local history groups and the surrounding area. The lunch was enjoyed by and was served by a few girls of the brownies and Guides. We had our friends from p
Pure Word Healing Ministry singing for us. Stephen Gilbert, our resident historian carried out regular tours of the inside and outside of Christ Church which were brimming with of interesting facts.





Harvest Festival September 19th

Very colourful displays from our Youth organisations decorated Christ Church on a lovely sunny harvest morning.



Rainbows



Brownies



Boys Brigade



Guides and Rangers

TAKE & GIVE

As I listened to our minister's sermon last week at the Harvest Festival service, I was struck by the striking similarities in his sermon to that given by our friend, Martin Wells four weeks ago. In both sermons we were given a lesson on the art of taking and giving.

Martin's sermon taken from Luke 13:6-17 reminded us of the parable of the fig tree. The tree was planted in a favourable position in a vineyard, no less and despite all care and attention given to it, it did not bear any fruit. As a result the owner of the vineyard began to lose patience and proposed cutting it down. He was persuaded to give the tree one last chance to bear fruit after which if it still did produce anything it would be chopped down. The parable ends there without us knowing why the tree did not bear fruit or if it was eventually chopped down.

David's sermon centred on the map of the two seas in Israel, linked by the River Jordan. The Sea of Galilee is a thriving sea filled with marine life providing livelihoods to many of the characters we know so well in the Bible. Many a time we have read stories in the Bible featuring this sea, whether they are about sudden storms or fishermen catching so many fishes that their nets almost broke or Jesus preaching by its shore. By contrast, the Dead Sea does not have life in it. It is simply a tourist attraction for the very fact that it is lifeless. Both seas are fed by the same waters - water flows into the Sea of Galilee, flows out of it into the River Jordan which transports it into the Dead Sea and there it stays.

Both Martin and David remind us that taking without giving leads to disaster. The fig tree took in all the water and attention lavished

on it and by not giving anything back, eventually invited the prospect of destruction. The Dead Sea, by taking in all the water flowing into it but not having an outflow meant that it killed all life in it.

What lessons are there for us in our Christian lives? We all know about taking. Our earliest actions are all about taking. A baby can do nothing other than take - it accepts the care and love that its mother provides. As a child gets older, it learns to give and share. How many times have we heard a mother say, "Now learn to share with.....". We all have to learn that every relationship is a two way process. This includes our relationship with God.

God, our loving Father, delights in lavishing His love on us. Our lesson in the sermon two week ago is that we cannot earn our Father's love. We take/accept it with gratitude. At the same time we remember that part of what He bestows on us are 'gifts' which we are meant to use for the building up of God's kingdom on earth.

If we know how to take, how do we learn how to give? I believe we can learn to:-

GIVE UP - learn as David says to let go of anything that stops us following Christ.

GIVE OFF - our lives should be a sweet fragrance reflecting Jesus Christ in it.

GIVE ALL - in everything you do, do it for the glory of God. That is all that God will take from you and He promises to bring your efforts to fruitfulness.

The season of giving will soon be upon us. Let us start by giving ourselves to God.

Scripture inspired by Gods spirit recent sermon by our minister Revd David Atkinson

What is distinctive about the United Reformed church?

This is a difficult question to answer because nothing really stands out in comparison with other churches. But let me make one suggestion: the centrality of the bible. Most of our churches will carry an open bible into church before worship or place an open bible at the front of the church facing the congregation. This symbolises the great importance of the bible in our church and in our faith.

What translation of the bible should we read?

On my recent ministerial refresher course I asked our Old Testament lecturer which she recommended as the best translation. Janet Tollington replied that the New Revised Standard version is widely regarded as the best translation. Its editorial board was drawn from all churches and a wide variety of theological perspectives. She then mentioned three other translations. The new International version is a good translation but has an American evangelical bias. The Jerusalem bible has a Roman Catholic bias. The New English bible and revised English bible use secondary texts in the main translation and main texts in the footnotes. She added that all other translations tend to oversimplify the text and may have a bias. I often recommend to people the Good News Bible because it uses simple English and is relatively easy to read but I realise that most experts do not regard it as the best translation.

Two aids that can help us read and understand the bible are bible paraphrases and daily bible study notes

A popular bible paraphrase is The Message. Such books are easier to read than translations but are more likely to reflect the author's faith, understanding and bias. Daily bible reading notes encourage us to read a passage of the bible each day and give us a brief comment on the passage to help us understand it. Well known daily bible reading notes are Daily Bread which is published by Scripture Union.

There are some well known bible readings which preachers use when they want to preach about the bible.

In our Old Testament reading Psalm 119 verse 105 says “Thy word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light on my path” Originally “Thy word” referred to “God’s law” and preachers sometimes use it to refer to the bible. In our New Testament reading Paul refers his younger colleague Timothy to “the sacred writings” and “inspired scripture”. Here Paul was referring to the Old Testament because the New Testament hadn’t yet been formed. However, what Paul claims for the Old Testament is even more true for the New Testament. Paul says that God-inspired scriptures can lead us to salvation through faith in Christ, teach us truth and refute error, and teach us right living leading to good work

What is very important is our understanding of and interpretation of the bible. The Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church states, “The highest authority for what we believe and are God’s word in the bible, alive for his people today through the help of the spirit” Paul writing to Timothy refers to “inspired scripture” We need to read and think about what the bible says to us and be guided in this by the spirit.

Different passages of the scripture don’t have the same degree of value and helpfulness. Some passages of scripture are very difficult because we may find them hard to understand or we may think they refer to a different culture and environment or we may simply disagree with the teaching. Let me give you two examples. Firstly, from the Old testament when the Israelites were entering the promised land they defeated the city of Jericho and killed everyone: men and women, young and old and also all the cattle sheep and asses. This was God’s commandment. The only people who were spared were Rahab and her family who had helped the Israelites. Otherwise there was no mercy shown to any person or animal. This, of course, goes against Jesus’s teaching to love our enemies. (Matthew 6 v44)

Secondly, from the New Testament Paul writes in his first letter to the church at Corinth that it is a shocking thing for a woman to address the congregation. (Cor 14 v34-5) If she wants to know something she can ask her husband at home. (Tim 2 v11-12) In Pauls first letter to Timothy he says a women must be a learner and listen quietly with due submission. Paul does not permit a

woman to be a teacher. But in his letter to the Galatians 3 v28 Paul implies that men and women are equal. Also the Book of Acts tells us that Philip, the evangelist, had four unmarried daughters who possessed the gift of prophesy. (Acts 21 V8.9) Today in our church we accept men and women as both ministers and lay preachers and have done for many years, which I believe is right.

So when we read the bible we need the guidance of God's spirit to help us to understand it. Many passages will be straightforward but a few need interpreting. This is where the teaching of the church, trained ministers and lay preachers, bible commentaries and daily bible reading notes can be very helpful.

Our reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy gives us three purposes of scripture. Firstly, the bible can lead people to salvation through faith in Christ. Dr William Barclay tells the story of a ward sister in a children's hospital in England. She had been finding life futile and meaningless. She had waded through book after book and laboured philosophy after philosophy but none of them helped her. She had never tried the bible because a friend had convinced her it wasn't true. Then one day a visitor to the ward left a supply of gospels. She was persuaded to read John's Gospel and said, "It shone and glowed with truth and my whole being responded to it.... I listened to Jesus's voice, and heard the truth, and found my saviour." Secondly, the bible teaches truth and refutes error.

Let us remember that it is the bible that tells us God created the world, guided the patriarchs and gave us the Ten Commandments. It's the bible that gives us the psalms and the prophets. The bible is our only first-hand account of Jesus's ministry and teaching, death and resurrection. It's the bible which tells us of the faith, life and growth of the first century church. It's the bible which gives us the basic Christian truths that there is one God, the almighty creator and loving heavenly Father; that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh. Our Lord and Saviour; and that the Holy Spirit is God with us today to guide, strengthen and help us.

Thirdly, the bible teaches us right living which leads us to doing good works

Jesus says that the two greatest commandments are to love God

with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves. (Mark 12 v28-34) Jesus also says, “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for your persecutors and those who treat you spitefully.” (Mathew 5 v44) Paul tells the Galatians’ 5 v22, “The harvest of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness and self-control.” We find all this teaching in the bible.

But all scripture isn't of equal value: some we may disagree with, some we may not understand and some may seem relevant to a different culture and environment. But in scripture is the wisdom which leads to salvation through faith in Christ; the truth about God, the world and people; and guidance for right living. Broadly I suggest we read the Old Testament in the light of the New Testament and the whole bible in the light of the ministry, death and resurrection of Christ. Read the bible, think about it, discuss it, pray about it and let God's spirit guide us.

What matters is the scripture inspired by God's spirit

Missed a Service...?

Whether you missed a Service at Christ Church and would like to hear it, or you just want to hear a talk again, recordings from Services are being made available on the Church website

We are providing recordings of the all age talks and sermons in each website. You can find these recordings by visiting www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk and going on the “Downloads” page

Please note that the copyright for all recordings from Services remains with the relevant speaker or speakers

EVENTS@CHRISTCHURCH

Lunchtime @ Christ Church
Saturday 16th October
10.30 - 1.30pm

Musical entertainment
11.30 – 12.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us
for a time of fellowship
– Bring your friends!

Church Anniversary
Sunday 21st November

Come and celebrate in the Sunday service which will also have the 4 Hills Brass Band led by Martyn Stogden playing for us

Church contacts

www.christchurchurcenfield.org.uk

MINISTER	Rev'd David Atkinson	Tel 020 8363 4571
SECRETARY	Mr Stephen Gilburt	Tel 020 8363 0031
TREASURER	Mr David Fisher	Tel 020 8482 4610
PILOTS	Miss Rosemary Milns	Tel 020 8363 6571
BOYS' BRIGADE	Mr Adrian Bullock	Mob 07951 223 634 http://www.3rdenfieldbb.co.uk
RAINBOWS/ GUIDES/ RANGERS	Mrs Tracy Rainbow	Tel 01992 307450 Mob. 07971 171511
BROWNIES	Kathleen Brown	Mob .07958153066
FRIENDSHIP CLUB	Mrs Lily Smith	Tel 020 8363 3788
HALL BOOKINGS SEC.	Mrs Pamela Mansley	Mob 07936 798722
NEWSLETTER	Mrs Pamela Fisher	Tel 020 8482 4610 Mob. 07775505999 pjf_40b@hotmail.com

October Church Diary

- Sun 3rd** 11am **The Revd David Atkinson**
Family Parade Service
B.B Enrolment
Holy Communion offering for
Goldie College
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher
- Wed 6th** 2.15pm **Friendship Club**
Visiting Oberammergau. (slides)
Miss C Hughs
- Sun** 11am **The Worship Group**
10th **Duty Elder—Pamela Mansley**
- Wed** 9.45- **Joint bible study with Lancaster Road at**
13th 11.15am **Lancaster Road URC**
- Sat** **Lunch@ChristChurch**
16th
- Sun** 11am **The Revd David Atkinson**
17th **Family Parade Service**
Duty Elder— Ron Smith
- Wed** 2.15pm **Friendship Club**
20th **Enfield in the second world war**
Talk by Graham Dalling
- Sun** 11am **Mr Terry Silvey**
24th **Duty Elder— Pamela Mansley**
- Wed** 9.45- **Joint bible study with Lancaster Road**
27th 11.15am **at Lancaster Road URC**
- Sun** 11am **Mrs Jill Nugent**
31st **Duty Elder—Stephen Gilbert**

November Church Diary

- Wed 3rd 2.15pm Friendship Club
Around Northumberland with Brenda
Brown (Slides)
- Sun 7th 11am The Revd David Atkinson
Family Parade Service
Holy Communion offering for
Mission Aviation Fellowship
Duty Elder— Pamela Fisher**
- Wed 10th 9.45- Joint bible study with Lancaster Road
11.15am at Lancaster Road URC
- Sun 14th 11am The Worship Group
Remembrance Sunday
Duty Elder—Sylvia Coombs**

Advance dates for 2010

Church Meetings

12.30pm

7th November
(Election of elders)

Elders Meetings

8pm

4th October
24th November

Christmas Fayre at Christ Church

Saturday 28th November

Lovely lunches
And many stalls

**** JUNIOR CHURCH ****

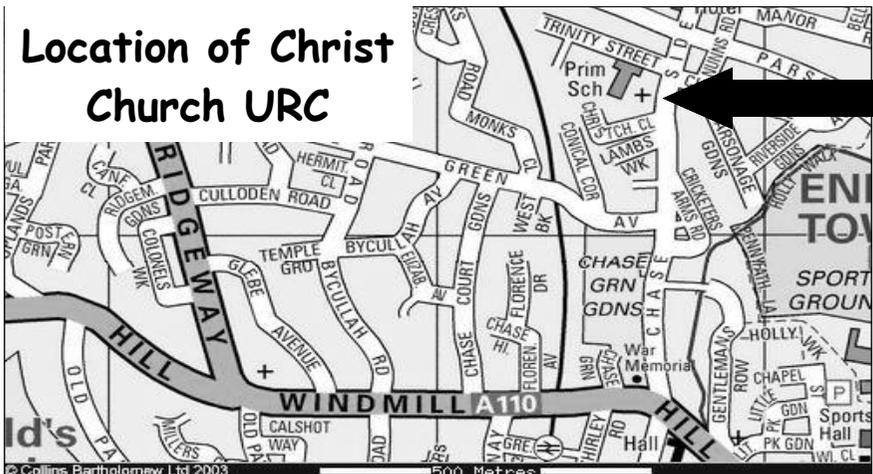
WHAT: Junior church is a group for boys and girls aged five upwards. They meet for games, drama, craft activities and fun, based on a bible theme

WHEN: Sunday mornings from 11am to 12 noon

WHERE: Junior church meets in the Church Hall

If you are interested in coming or would like further details please contact Rosemary Milns 8363-6571

Location of Christ Church URC



Articles intended for inclusion in the **November** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of October**

Please contact me, Pamela Fisher, with any items to be included in future issues. I can receive them either in paper copy at Sunday worship or by email.

020 8482 4610 A/M please leave me a message