



John Wesley

The desert place

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom ... The crocus will burst into bloom. Isaiah 35 1-2

The following is an extract from John Wesley's diary. It speaks of the desert places he encountered when he travelled the country preaching the gospel.

May 5th Sunday am:

Preached in St Anne's.
Was asked not to come back any more.

May 5th Sunday pm:

Preached in St John's.
Deacon's said:
'Get out and stay out.'

May 12th Sunday am:

Preached in St Jude's.
Can't go back there either.





John Wesley being mobbed at Wednesbury 1743

May 19th Sunday am: After preaching Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.

May 19th Sunday pm: Preached on street. Kicked off street.

May 26th Sunday am: Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during service.

June 2nd Sunday am Preached on edge of town. Kicked off highway.

June 2nd Sunday pm: Afternoon, preached in a pasture. Ten thousand people came out to hear me.

Wesley must have felt so demoralised on many occasions but he stuck it out and kept going.

Let's pray we can do the same in whichever situation we find ourselves.

Adapted from the Living Light Daily Devotional published by The Nationwide Christian Trust.



An update

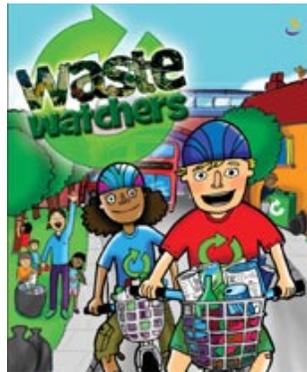
What's been happening with our Hope08 projects?

Well, **Hope cafe** has got off to a fantastic start – it's been a case of 'hitting the ground running' for Marg and her great team of volunteers. The cafe has been buzzing with customers who've enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere.



So why not savour it for yourself and pop down for a delicious lunch, some scrummy cake and a cuppa. The menu is varied and it's great value for money.

And if you can spare a couple of hours a week to lend a hand, either serving at the counter, doing some cooking or helping out behind the scenes, then have a chat with Marg.



Wastewatchers, our Easter holiday club, was a great success. Over twenty children came along each day to enjoy an energetic programme of activities, from games, quizzes and song to dance, drama and crafts, to Bible verses, prayer and group discussions

The club explored the themes of God's creation, caring for the environment and Jesus transforming lives and focused on the idea of God bringing light out of darkness.

Wastewatchers was led by a dedicated, talented team from Hope Church – huge thanks go to everyone who took part and gave so generously of their time.



Hope Centre News



Hi all.

Progress is continuing to be made on all fronts.

- ◆ The new café floor should be installed this weekend (5th & 6th April), and an Internet-enabled laptop is now available for use in the café with another to follow soon.

You should be able to come along with your laptop as well if you wish!

- ◆ IT training begins on the 10th April and it's not too late to sign up.
- ◆ We have successfully run a Steps course and a business course. A second Steps course is running in May.

Do see me if you are interested in joining either the IT training or the forthcoming Steps course.

- ◆ The big challenge is to increase our income. If you have any business ideas, even just one-off events please come and see me and lets talk about it!

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Ros Johnson



Craft & Toy Fair

Hope Centre

Saturday 17th May

10.30am - 3.00pm

Free entry

Hope Café will be open for refreshments

Stalls will include:

Wineglass and Mobile Phone Charms

Family History Portraits

Cross Stitch Kits and Gifts

Handmade Jewellery

Forged Wrought Iron Work

Homemade preserves

Fair Trade Toys and Gifts



Children & young people

Parent & toddlers

Every Monday
10 - 11.30am
(Term time only)
@ Hope Centre

Contact: Heidi Davies

Creche @ Hope Church

for pre-school children
Every Sunday *except*
1st Sunday of the month

Contact: Marg Patterson

GLOW @ Hope Church

for primary age children
Every Sunday *except*
1st Sunday of the month

Contact: Mark Johnson

Youth Emmaus & Nooma Group

Please note that these groups are
not meeting at the moment.

Regular events

**Hope Coffee Bar
with
Live music**
7.30pm onwards
Everyone welcome!

**2nd week of the month
Homegroups**
Various venues

**3rd Wednesday of the month
Holy Communion
with prayer for healing**
8 - 9.30pm
Hope Church

**4th week in the month
Homegroups**
Various venues

5th week in the month
Other activities,
such as outreach

**If you wish to join a homegroup,
please contact John Patterson.**

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Prayer events

Intercessory Prayer
Mondays
7 - 8.30am
Hope Centre

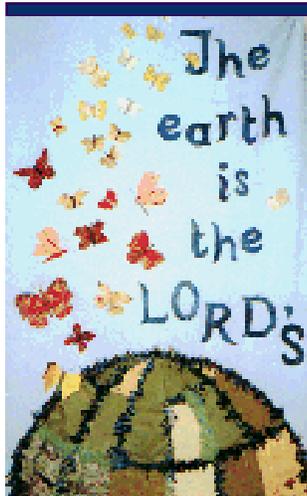
Contact: Mary Lindley

Hope 4 Azerbaijan
(Prayer for Garry &
Mandy Williams' project)
Monday 14th April

Contact: Mary Lindley

Men's prayer
This group isn't meeting
at the moment.

**Contact details can be
found in the
Hope Church
Address Book or
by phoning
024 7663 3500.**



Going green

Going green is going to be a regular feature in Hope Times to help us think more about how God wants us to be good stewards of his world. We begin by looking at the work of the Christian Ecology Link organisation (CEL).

CEL is a membership-based organisation that helps its members to understand and relate their responsibilities for God's creation to their faith. CEL offers insights into ecology and the environment to Christians and churches throughout the UK.

CEL activities

■ ■ Together with the environmental group, Global Action Plan, CEL has been involved in developing an Ecoteam programme which is a practical community-based activity that helps households to reduce their impact on the environment and to save money.

■ ■ CEL encourages people to use their LOAF and buy food that is:
L ... Locally produced
O .. Organically grown
A ... Animal friendly
F ... Fairly traded



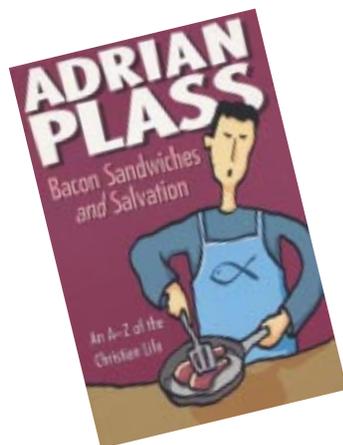
■ ■ CEL has founded Operation Noah to encourage a Christian response to climate change.



CEL also:

- ☐☐ publishes Green Christian and a regular news bulletin
- ☐☐ produces resource packs and leaflets.
- ☐☐ arranges conferences and retreats
- ☐☐ encourages its members in their 'green' church activities
- ☐☐ produces a daily prayer guide and organises prayer forums to pray about climate change
- ☐☐ sends a monthly news e-mail to members and friends and has a members e-mail discussion group.

For further details and to find out how to become a member see www.christian-ecology.org.uk.



Bacon Sandwiches and Salvation
Adrian Plass

If you like Adrian Plass, you'll love this book! Yet again he takes a gentle sideswipe, encouraging us to see the funny side of our faith and helping us not to take ourselves so seriously.

Here are a few snippets to whet your appetite...

Impious: (1) profane (2) invoices issued by elves.

Justice: (1) the exercise of God's authority in the maintenance of right (2) no lemon.

Mooring: strange, sonorous, moaning sound used by some Christians in extempore prayer groups to signal their assent to the content and direction of a particular petition.

Published by Authentic. £7.59 from www.amazon.co.uk



**COVENTRY
CATHEDRAL**

A time for women

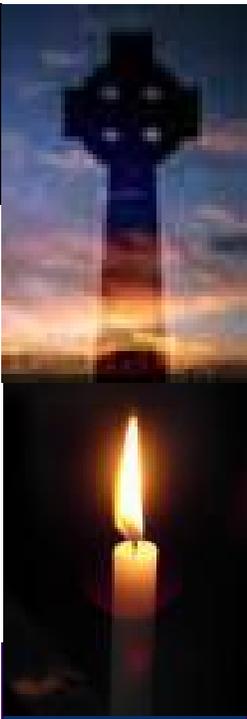
Towards being still

Lunchtime meditations

Coventry Cathedral Undercroft

**1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 7 August,
4 September, 2 October,
6 November, 4 December**

12.45pm - 2pm



Bible translation: is it really necessary?

‘Mother-tongue Scripture has a fundamental place in the engagement of gospel and culture ... Our mother tongue is the language in which God speaks to each of us. He does not speak in a sacred language, but in ordinary language, so that we may hear Him and realize that the gospel is about us and that we have been invited to join a company drawn from every people, tribe, tongue, nation and language.’

Rev. Dr. Kwame Bediako - Director of Akrofi-Christaller Memorial Centre for Mission Research and Applied Theology, Akropong-Akuapem, Ghana

Submitted by Keith and Lorraine Doust

Coming soon to Hope Church!

Do you want to find out more about Jesus, Christianity and the Church?

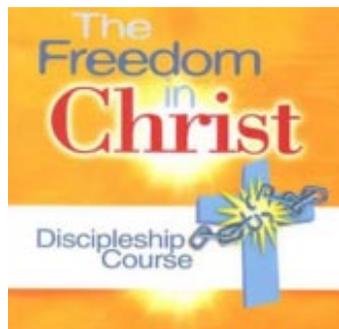
Have you got questions about life you'd like answered?

Pick up a form at church and sign up for our next Alpha course, running soon.

Hand in your completed form to John Patterson



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The 13-week Freedom in Christ Discipleship course gives you a fantastic opportunity to take hold of the truth of who you are in Christ, resolve personal and spiritual conflicts and help you become a fruitful disciple.

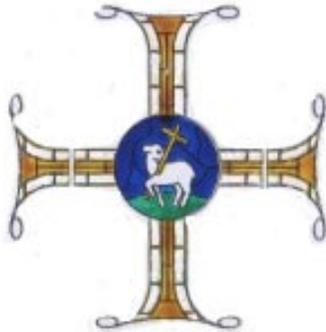
More details to follow!

Smile awhile...

A young curate was visiting an elderly man on his 99th birthday to interview him. The interview over, the curate said: 'I hope to see you again on your 100th birthday.' The old gentleman carefully looked him over and said: 'I can't see any reason why you shouldn't, young man, you look healthy enough to me.'

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~ NOTICEBOARD ~



Hope Church
Sparkbrook Street
Hillfields
CV1 5LB

Sunday services 10.30am

1st Sunday:

Family communion service with prayer for healing

2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays:

Regular service

4th Sunday:

Seeker service

Spring 2008 sermon series:

Who is Jesus?

Taking care at Hope

As part of our 'safeguarding' policy can we ask everyone to be alert to any dangers for the children, young people and vulnerable adults of Hope Church.

This applies to all areas of the premises, but especially in the cafe, corridors and car park.

Parents, please be especially diligent concerning your own children.

Thank you

Disabled parking

We would also like to remind drivers not to park in the disabled parking bays outside Hope if you do not hold a blue badge certificate.

Thank you



Next newsletter

Please send any items, notices, testimonies, book reviews, etc for the next Hope Times to Amanda Kay - e-mail: amanda@copsewood.net.

The deadline for contributions is Monday, 26 May 2008.
