



The Widow's mite

The mite, referred to in Luke 20 v 46-47 and Mark 12 v 38-44, was the smallest of Roman coins. In fact, it was also a coin used in England and Europe during the Middle Ages and was worth half a farthing.

The widow giving away such a small amount was highlighted by Jesus as sacrificial giving; she had given to a point where meeting her daily needs would be difficult. Jesus compares her with the rich men who gave to impress others with their considerable wealth. This concept of sacrificial versus prescriptive giving seems to be the difference between the way the Old and New Testaments view the subject. In the Old Testament the principle of giving a 10th (tithe) of income is prescribed:



The Roman mite coin

- ◆ A 10th of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.' (Leviticus 27 v 30)
 - ◆ The First Fruits of our income, not the bit left over is given! 'With the first fruits of all your crops.' (Proverbs 3 v 9)
 - ◆ Abraham gave a tithe (Genesis 14 v 20) and Jacob vowed to give a 10th (Genesis 28 v 22).
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These days many churches see the tithing principle as a good one and it is certainly one that Hope has encouraged over the years. But it must not be a legalistic principle that leads to condemnation if we are unable to give a tenth of our income. The New Testament goes beyond this and provides a new perspective.

New Testament principles show that giving should be:

- ◆ as part of the kingdom community – ‘all the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods they gave to anyone as he had need.’ (Acts 2 vv 44 & 45)
- ◆ between us and God – ‘Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men.’ (Matthew 6 v1)
- ◆ guided by the Holy Spirit – ‘Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.’ (2 Cor 9 v7)
- ◆ in the spirit of generosity – Jesus said: ‘Freely you have received, freely give.’ (Matthew 10 v 8)

The shift here is that we are one body, one community, the kingdom expression of Christ – what’s mine is yours – and within that kingdom expression God looks at the heart of the giver not the amount or the way in which it is given. We want to give because God has given us everything.

On 4th May, I presented the church income and expenditure for 2007. We looked at the way that the church received money and the way that it spent it. There were several key things that came out of this exercise.

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- ◆ We spent £5,000 more than we received. That doesn't mean we have run out of money as we had surpluses in previous years, but if we continue like this, **we will eventually run out of money.**
 - ◆ Most of income came from the church members. The government chipped in a further 28p in the pound if you gift aided your giving (so if you are paying tax at the basic rate and don't currently gift aid, please come and see me for a gift aid form).
 - ◆ We had some love offerings during the year, the biggest of which was for Gary and Mandy's House in Azerbaijan.
 - ◆ Much of our giving provided financial support for John in his role as Pastor of Hope Church and in the many ministries he exercises as part of that role.
 - ◆ Through our giving we also supported Keith and Lorraine Doust and Stephanie and Garth Conkright.

In 2008, we have continued to spend more than we receive. We have also invested in restarting the café. Put quite simply Hope Church depends on your sustained and regular giving. Please consider this matter prayerfully and feel free to discuss it with me, especially if you would like to gift aid or set up a standing order.

Gavin Kibble, Hope Church Treasurer



Stained glass window in Faith Lutheran Church, Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

The design was inspired by Jesus' words: 'Freely you have received, freely give.'

www.myfaithlutheran.org/glass



New look monthly communion service!

Our monthly communion service has been given a makeover. Not only has the date and the time changed but the format too.

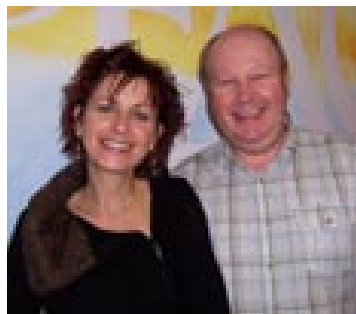
After we have broken bread we spend time at different prayer stations, praying for all aspects of our life together as Hope Church, including our corporate worship and fellowship, our work in the local community and outreach in the wider world.

So why not join us on the first Weds of the month 7.30pm - 9pm at Hope Church for a communion service with a difference.

Smile awhile...

My daughter, aged 8, attended the parish communion. She watched the bread and wine being prepared with great interest. When the congregation left their seats to receive the sacrament she whispered: 'Do you think it would be all right if I joined with the commotion?'

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Hope 4 Azerbaijan

Please keep Garry & Mandy Williams in your prayers as they spend the next three weeks visiting their house of refuge in Azerbaijan. This exciting project is an important cross-cultural work, often carried out in difficult circumstances.

Pray especially for progress in the building work and for physical, emotional and spiritual protection for all involved.



An update

Gardens of Hope

Let's show the love of God through the most practical of ways by carrying out garden maintenance in Hillfields.



On Saturday, 14th June we will be helping community schemes, then on 21st and 28th we will be supporting needy individuals in the vicinity.

Would you like to help and get involved?

If you can give a hand please let me know. Thanks, **Malcolm**

**Hope
to
Hillfields
'08**

**Sunday July 20th
to
Sunday July 27th**

Hope Church's Summer mission
of God's love in action
led by Keith Parr,
Youth Minister at Coventry Cathedral
and helped by young people from
across the Diocese of Coventry.

Look out for information sheet out soon.

John P

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

1st Wednesday of the month

**Holy Communion
with prayer concert**

7.30 - 9.00pm

Hope Church

****Note new time****

2nd, 3rd and 4th weeks of 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
2pm-2.45pm
Hope Centre
All welcome

****Note new time****

Hope 4 Azerbaijan

(Prayer for Garry &
Mandy Williams' project)

**Details of next meeting
to be announced**

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.

New Monasticism – New Habits for a New Era

New Monasticism is the term used to describe the growing Christian movement in western culture towards community living and contemplative spirituality. It is a reaction to the changes in society and the decline of the church, and is one of the new or fresh expressions of faith. The term primarily comes from Dietrich



Bonhoeffer, from a letter to his brother, from the prison camp in which he was held before being executed during the war: 'The restoration of the church will surely come from a kind of new monasticism, which has in common with the old kind only the uncompromising nature of life according to the Sermon on the Mount, following Christ....'

The Very Revd. George Macleod (founder of the Iona community) was influenced by Bonhoeffer's ideals and writings during the foundational period of the Iona community, and John and Linda Skinner, principal founders of Northumbria Community, were also hugely influenced by this passage.

New Monastic communities have sprung up all over the Northern continents, with many in the US being primarily concerned with social justice, while those in the UK appear more contemplative in nature, whilst recognising the need to engage with society. In 2004 many folk from these communities met in the US and decided on twelve 'marks' which characterised their groups:

1. Relocation to the 'abandoned places of Empire' [at the margins of society]
2. Sharing economic resources with fellow community members and the needy among us
3. Hospitality to the stranger
4. Lament for racial divisions within the church and our communities combined with the active pursuit of a just reconciliation

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5. Humble submission to Christ's body, the Church
 6. Intentional formation in the way of Christ and the rule of the community along the lines of the old novitiate
 7. Nurturing common life among members
 8. Support for celibate singles alongside monogamous married couples and their children
 9. Geographical proximity to community members who share a common rule of life
 10. Care for the plot of God's earth given to us along with support of our local economies
 11. Peacemaking in the midst of violence and conflict resolution within communities along the lines of Matthew 18
 12. Commitment to a disciplined contemplative life

Values

The most common, basic values among New Monastic communities are: thoughtful, prayerful, and contemplative lives; communal life (expressed in a variety of ways depending on the community); a focus on hospitality; practical engagement with the poor.

Many communities have a Rule, or agreed set of values to live by, like traditional monastic orders, but do not insist on celibacy or single status, many including families and children. Some have a 'common purse', or version of it. The members do not always live together, but stay connected through common prayer, or regular gatherings, and they do not wear habits.

You do not have to live in community to be interested of New Monasticism, but many are called to live that way, as Ian and I are, which is why I took redundancy to work towards bringing our vision to life.

Cath Henzell

This is a shorter version of notes from the conference *New Habits from a New Era* which took place in Coventry in May. Find out more on Ian and Cath's website: Sherbourne-trust.org.uk or visit www.newmonasticism.org.



Soul Clinics

Soul clinics are the brainchild of Pauline Warner, a Methodist Minister who feels she is being called to be with those on the edge of the church, especially those interested in getting to know about Jesus and Christianity but who don't feel comfortable in traditional church. Through Soul Clinics Pauline encourages the exchange between traditional Christianity and contemporary spirituality and holds Soul Clinic stalls at numerous spirituality fairs.

The next Soul Clinic event is **'The Peace of the Mystic'** spirituality fair & celebration of Christian mysticism at the **Leamington Peace Festival**.

www.soulclinics.org.uk will soon be up and running.

A HUG

It's wondrous what
a hug can do.

A hug can cheer you
when you're blue.

A hug can say 'I love you
so' or 'I hate to see you go'

A hug can soothe a small
child's pain and bring a
rainbow after rain.

A hug, there's just no
doubt about it,

We scarcely couldn't
survive without it,

A hug delights and warms
and charms,

**IT MUST BE WHY GOD
GAVE US ARMS!**

Bible translation: is it really necessary?

'I rejoice in the work that Wycliffe is doing and heartily support Vision 2025. The translation of God's Word into the heart language of every people group is critical for the accomplishment of the Great Commission.'

George Murray, President, Columbia International University,
South Carolina, USA

Submitted by Keith and Lorraine Doust

Going green

~ caring for God's earth



Cleaning without chemicals!

Strange as it may sound, it *is* possible to clean around the home using just cloths and water from the tap.

But we're not talking about any old cloths, but the increasingly popular microfibre products, ranging from the cheap and cheerful, obtainable from hardware stores and supermarkets, to the more sophisticated (and expensive) products from Enjo International, available from local agents.

The benefits

So why get so excited about cleaning cloths?! Well, by using such products it's possible to get rid of most of the chemicals we have got into the habit of using... and that means eliminating their harmful, polluting effects. So it's better for the environment as well as for our health.



Not only that, it also means doing away with all those plastic bottles which end up in landfill.

'It's difficult to imagine that the simple looking gloves [cloths], used with just water, could replace the welter of detergent sprays, cloths and dusters used every day around the house - but against expectations, we found that they did, quite emphatically.'

Green Consumer Guide.

~ 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

Sermon series:

Who is Jesus?



**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**,
starting Monday 7 July, 6pm.

Please hand in your completed form to
John Patterson

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, 28 July 2008**.