



The
**United
Reformed
Church**
Kelvedon

Magazine
October 2011

*We are a church seeking to grow in
Christ and through Him bring others
to God*

Somehow this year has slipped away. I don't know how, because when I was a teenager, the time from Monday till Wednesday seemed to be about a week. Now a week seems to be only about 3 days long! In spite of not having my bus pass all that long, the older I get, the faster time seems to go. I wonder if Einstein ever pondered that while he was figuring out relativity?? Where is this going, I hear you ask? Well, the Bible tells us God has all our days numbered. I've chalked up over 23,280 days so far and, like the rest of us, have no idea what God's last number for me is but I'm hoping to live to at least 85~ but that is just "my plan" based on my parents' life spans. What I do know, however, is the ultimate assurance that when my days are finished here on earth, I am destined for heaven.

My all-time favourite song is "Lord You've been good to me" by Graham Kendrick. It is all about how I see my relationship with God. Without reservation, God loves each of us not because of what we have done, or not done, but simply because He loves all of His creation so incredibly deeply that even when we do wrong or don't do the right we should do, He, the Creator of the Universe, the Pure and Holy, the One and Only God is forever running to meet us when we turn to Him, simply say, "Sorry," and mean it.

Where else, in any part of the whole world, in any people group, in any nation, is there any so-called god who is so wonderfully and astoundingly good? There is no other faith based on relationship! ALL others are based on performance which is what makes following God so simple. His loving kindness never fails, He is always there to pick up the shattered pieces of our hopes, dreams and lives. I have seen legs grow, broken bones healed and people set free from all kinds of oppression through prayer. I've seen people light up with one single word from God spoken into the midst of their darkness and severely broken relationships restored. I personally know a

man who has been medically certified dead ~ TWICE! God raised him again when everyone thought he was gone forever!

I reckon on having about another 8,000 days left ~ God willing ~ and I want to see Him do the things I just described and more! Wouldn't that make a fantastic church to bring your friends and colleagues to? The sick made well, the oppressed set free, the downtrodden lifted up, relationships restored. People set free to be what God intended them to be.

Sounds a lot like what Jesus did when he lived on earth, doesn't it? And He has delegated to us the responsibility ~ and power~ to do the same. Just think: if our church was like that, we'd probably need to have 4 or 5 or more meetings every day just to accommodate the people who would turn up "hungry" for real life!

Does this sound too far flung, too hard, too impossible? I tell you it is not and furthermore, God is looking for a place for His kingdom to be shown in our world. A place where ordinary people like you and like me are funnels for the love and power of God to touch desperately needy and hurting people with His love and power so that we, and they, will never be the same again.

I challenge everyone reading this to open your hearts right now to our Lord Jesus and tell Him you want to be so filled with His Holy Spirit that anyone who sees you will want to know what has happened and will want the same thing also, to open their hearts to Him, too.

John Loy

(Many thanks to the Elders who have volunteered to write the intro to the last few magazines)

Monday evening Housegroup: 10th & 17th October 8pm at “Copper Beech”, Spa Road, Feering (Christine Saffell’s home). Everyone is very welcome.

Home Prayer Group: alternate **Wednesdays:** 5th & 19th October 8pm at Rose & John Loy’s (150 High Street, Kelvedon tel: 570200). This will take the form of a prayer meeting with a short Bible Study session.

Little Lambs: Every Thursday 10.30 am in the Church followed by tea/coffee in the halls. All babies, toddlers & their parents/carers are welcome.



Holdfast Credit Union – Open Thursdays 10.30am – 12.00pm in the entrance lobby. An ideal way to save and help others.

Womens Fellowship: 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2.30pm : October 13th – Social; October 27th speaker – Ken Martin.

The Bigger Breakfast : 1st October 8am at the United Reformed Church. All welcome.

Fair Trade:



There will be a Fair Trade stall with a small selection of cards, foodstuffs and craft items in the main hall after the service on the 4th Sunday of each month.

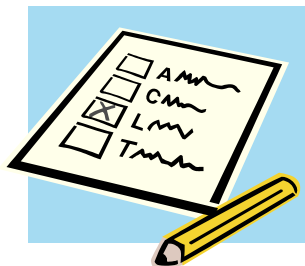


The Farleigh Hospice mobile bus will be in the Labour Club car park on **Thursday 20th October** 10.30am – 2.30pm.

Elders Elections:

Once again we are asked to cast our votes for up to three members who you feel are called by God to serve as an Elder in our fellowship.

Please return your voting papers with **up to three** members selected by **Sunday 16th October**.





Please bring any completed shoeboxes to the Church on **Sunday 6th November** in order that they can be taken to the Depot for onward shipment to children in war-torn countries around the world. Please see the September magazine for details of what can and what cannot go into the shoeboxes, or pick up a leaflet from the Church.

Many thanks for your continued support for this worthy cause.



THANK YOU to Lynn & Jim, Christine, Sonia, June & John who all manned the Church for the

Friends of Essex Churches sponsored Ride & Stride on 10th September. Your welcome and support to the riders is really appreciated. In all we had 25 visitors to our church.

John Stapley, Martin East, Andrew Shortridge, Trevor & Janet all cycled for our Church and visited 18 Churches. We covered 30 miles in all via Messing, Easthorpe, Copford, Marks Tey, Aldham, Chappel (where Martin & Andrew sampled the Beer Festival), Gt Tey, Coggeshall, and finally returned to Feering & Kelvedon. It was wonderful to visit so many churches where there were not only drinks & biscuits available, but someone there to have a chat to and sign our sponsor forms.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has offered us sponsorship once again, we have raised over £200 for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, 50% of which will be returned to us for our church funds.

Janet Andrews

Lea & Ernie were riding for Tiptree URC, Lea writes: Ernie and I were on a bit of a tight time schedule so an epic ride was off the agenda. Ernie was commentating for hospital radio and had to be at the hospital for 1 o'clock, so we had to crack on. We left Kelvedon before the churches were open and arrived at Inworth just as they were opening for business. I always like to ride to the monastery at Tolleshunt Knights as I know that they make an effort to staff the church but get few visitors, so we made our way there via the churches in Tiptree (important as once again we were riding for the URC there). After Tiptree we rode to Messing, where we met up with Trevor's team, although our time schedule meant we had to leave them behind, although we would meet up again at Easthorpe and Copford, where we were treated to an interesting history of the church there by the lady who was meeting the riders. Once the chapel to the Bishops of London's summer palace, the church is rich with medieval wall paintings.

After the villages we headed into Colchester via Lexden, making for St Michael's at Mile End, where Ernie and I went our separate ways. I headed into Colchester and found that it was the Heritage Open days, so many historic buildings were open. In addition to the usual churches in the Town Centre I was also able to get into the beautiful disused church of St Martin's, and heard a talk on the history of St Helen's Greek Orthodox church from Father Haig – it was amusing to see an icon of St Erkenwald, as I attended the school bearing his name.

After Colchester I was still feeling energetic, so I took to the Wivenhoe trail and found myself at a Wivenhoe church fete, where nobody knew much about the ride and stride but they

happily signed my form. 21 churches visited and the time to collect Milli from the airport was rapidly approaching, so I let the train take the strain back to Kelvedon, before a quick ride round the churches I missed. I managed to totally avoid Saturday's showers, unlike Ernie who thought it would be a good idea to cycle back from football. He found the showers just as he reached the point at Copford where it was pointless cycling back to Marks Tey, so I found a houseful of wet clothes on our return from the airport. Ernie didn't mind, though – the churches bike ride had been a goal for him when he broke his shoulder earlier this year, and he was just thankful to have achieved this.

Lea Finch

Thank you.... to everyone for their prayers and cards following my recent fall, special thanks to Janet who stayed with me. Thanks too to all those drivers who so willingly offered Helen lifts to and from the hospital – she was able to visit every day thanks to you all.

Joyce Whiterod

The year of grace 1812:

Tigly, tigly, igly, boom, boom! Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture is a rousing and popular piece of classical music, with bells and cannon effects, snatches of the French Marseillaise and the old Tsarist national anthem. It also contains a hymn, "God Save Thy People".

The Overture was composed in 1882 to commemorate the invasion 70 years earlier of Russia by Napoleon Bonaparte, the French Emperor, and his international Grande Armée. Napoleon was out-manoeuvred by the ruthless Russians, who left their capital Moscow deserted and in flames. Napoleon stayed from 14 Sept to 19 Oct 1812. The Russians refused peace negotiations, and he had no alternative but to order

retreat through bitter weather and the attacks of Cossacks and partisans. Of the 500,000 invaders, barely 20,000 returned.

And far away in Essex, England, in that same year of 1812, on 14 Oct, our church was founded. A former church secretary, Michael Murton, wrote an account of how it happened “in the first cottage at Greensleaves, near Ashmore Farm, Great Braxted; we do not know why they met at a place so remote from Kelvedon, probably for seclusion and maybe fear of annoyance”. After a few months they moved to a small building back of a house in the High Street, until 1814 “a chapel or meeting house to be used by Protestant Dissenters of the Independent denomination” was erected. The Minister until 1841 was a local man, Rev Francis Hunwick. In 1853 our present building came into existence, as can be seen by the inscription in the wall above the front entrance. Extensions and improvements have been undertaken since then. We were Independent and Congregational, and are now United Reformed.

“This church, like so many others”, wrote Michael Murton, “have been blessed with numerous benefactors over the years, and such names as Moss, Moore, Deal, Harvey and many others linger in our memories; may we, with God’s help and blessing, continue the work which they started in faith and hope...”

The people who started our church approved a solemn declaration: “As many of us have a disposition to give ourselves to the Lord, we believe it is both our duty and privilege to walk as brethren, to cultivate love and kindness and watch over one another, to pray for each other, to bear one another’s burdens, to visit in affliction and strive to comfort each other in adversity; thus shall we manifestly declare that we are Christ’s disciples because we love one another. We therefore subscribe our names as hereafter put down as testimony to the Redeemer”.

Our church has seen better days in regard to attendances, but we have survived and, in 2012, didn't we ought to commemorate and celebrate our double century just a little?

1812 was also the year in which novelist Charles Dickens was born – on 7 Feb, in Portsmouth, the son of a Navy pay office clerk. He was only 25 when he had an extraordinary success with “The Pickwick Papers”, and followed it up with a whole string of dramatic, humorous, sentimental stories with memorable characters, eg: “Oliver Twist”, “David Copperfield” and, in 1853 when our Kelvedon church building went up, “Bleak House”, and “A Tale of Two Cities” and “A Christmas Carol”. The BBC is to celebrate his bicentenary with another version of “Great Expectations”, starring Robbie Coltrane and David Suckett, with some scenes filmed on the marshlands at Tollesbury, not many miles from us.

It was quite a year, wasn't it? A crippling defeat of swaggering aggressors, the birth of a warm-hearted author, and the founding of us! Perhaps that clever musician Tony Kent, who often plays the organ for Sunday services, could do a scaled-down 1812 Overture for us, with Onward, Christian Soldiers instead of the Russian hymn. Christine Saffell plays hand-bells, but what to have in place of cannon effects? Perhaps our Little Lambs could make a lot of noise beating a few toy drums. Tigly, tigly, igly, boom, boom! Seriously though, shouldn't we do something?

John Allard

Deadline for the November Magazine: Saturday, 22nd October. Please give items for inclusion to Trevor or Janet Andrews or e-mail them to: magazine@kelvedon-urc.org.uk.

Please note that the monthly magazine will cease after the December issue unless someone comes forward to edit, print and distribute it. If no-one comes forward to do a monthly

magazine, we will be going over to a quarterly magazine edited by Lea Finch starting at Easter 2012. If you are interested in taking over the monthly magazine, please speak to Trevor or Janet as soon as possible.

World Vision :



As you probably know, World Vision is one of our chosen charities for this year, and the money we raise for them will go to the Jong Area Development project in Sierra Leone where I have been sponsoring a child, Mariama Lewis, now aged about 10.

The latest report from the ADP is that they built and furnished schools for the local children, employing 40 teachers. There are 8743 children attending primary school in the area. World Vision has arranged distance learning for the teachers, who had tended to be untrained and unqualified. This has enabled them to become qualified to levels where they can be employed in government service. Consequently the children have been achieving increasing success in their own exams.

There are also children's clubs in the ADP, which teach the children about the rights of children, which has resulted in a reduction in children dropping out of school and of teenage pregnancy.

Health-wise, there has been a significant drop in the death and sickness rates of children and pregnant and nursing mothers which has been attributed to a raised awareness of cheap or free medical services available to them. Mothers are now more likely to report to the medical centres for checks and monitoring of both themselves and their babies. They have also selected 40 nursing mothers from the ADP to train in breast and complementary feeding and monitoring children for malnutrition

using a simple method where they measure the circumference of the baby's arm. There has been a 50% increase in mothers attending the centres to have their babies monitored for malnutrition. There has also been a marked increase in the number of women breastfeeding their babies which has greatly reduced the incidence of malnutrition in babies in the area.

The sponsorship programme at Jong has brought real change into the lives of people in this desperately poor part of Africa, and our support this year will greatly add to the work that is being done. I have contacted WV to give them an estimate of the donation they are likely to receive (using last year's figures and this year's donations so far), so that they can communicate with community leaders to help them plan what they are going to use the money for. We will receive a notification of how our donations have been spent at some time during 2012 (getting letters to and from that remote part of Sierra Leone can take a long time). I am looking forward to seeing how much they will be able to achieve from our donations this year.

Lea Finch

Meeting Point ~ Very informal ~ friendly people from various churches or none meet to encourage each other on their spiritual journeys. 8pm ~ Bring-and-Share meal with main course and cold drinks followed by exploring questions of life and faith through a time of listening, watching, reading, discussion, activities, prayer or song, etc. Break for coffee and dessert around 10.15pm. Then, time to chat or those who have to can go. Visitors ~ and children ~ always welcome!

Come when you can, leave when you must!

Venue: The Hall behind 150 High Street, Kelvedon

Fri 7 Oct 8pm ~ Dessert Island Discs. Bring your favourite dessert and your favourite CD or song then share why it

means what it does to you. Evening led by: Sally Stephenson of Colchester.

Fri 21 Oct 8pm ~ Friends of God!! How much do you think God likes you, really? Can a pure and holy God even think of such a thing as being our friend? Evening led by John Loy of Kelvedon.

Memories:

I have been looking through some old photos and on the following page is a copy of a photograph taken after Sunday morning worship back in the Spring of 1997 (In those days we used to have an evening service as well).

Bottom right is Revd Audrey Proffitt who was our Minister at the time.

You will recognise several of our current congregation, albeit more youthful. The children along the front are Katie Dunmow, Josh Chapman, Lisa Kemp, Christopher Roberts, Millie Finch, Jonathan Roberts, Lottie Finch and Richard Hall.

Unfortunately there are several who are no longer with us, Tom Edwards, Mr & Mrs Smart, Mr & Mrs Prior, Mary & Fred Cook, Ivy & Jack Kemp, Olive Hunwick, little Mrs Edwards, Anne Jones, Olive Wass, Florrie Knights, Doreen Monk, to name a few.

I seem to remember that the reason for taking the picture was a request by Revd Richard Church at District Council to record the congregation of our Churches. Maybe we should do it again sometime?

Trevor Andrews

