



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

**Kelvedon**

**Magazine  
September 2011  
(Harvest)**



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



Dear all,

We have seen some alarming sights on our streets just recently, dreadful breakdowns in law and order, looting and riots culminating in murder. The following morning there was a lady on the news describing how she had, with some difficulty, kept her teenage son at home when his peers were calling for him to go out and join the mayhem. How did she do it, the presenters asked?

“I have a strong faith,” she replied, “and I prayed, and asked for God’s help.” A simple statement, but one which spoke volumes.

We as Christians get a lot of grief and mockery from secular society. As Ernie pointed out one evening watching TV, if you are watching a thriller or detective programme and there is a Christian character, nine times out of ten you already know ‘whodunnit’, as they are bound to be either deeply perverted or a mass murderer. There seem to be few Christian role models out there for young people. Yet what does the secular world offer? I often take a glance through the girls’ magazines at home, where the cult of celebrity is at its most celebrated. What I see in there usually consists of people who seem to have fame and money, but very little of what I would consider to be things of real value. Relationship breakdown, infidelity, drug and alcohol abuse seem to be common themes of these people’s lives, yet their lifestyle appears to be presented to the young readership as something desirable.

Materialism is another feature of this celebrity lifestyle – handbags and shoes costing hundreds – if not thousands – of pounds are touted as ‘must have’ items, and young people are urged to spend a fortune chasing the latest fashions, or owning the latest gadgets. And we wonder why we then see people looting shops, when our society is going through a period of financial crisis and these same people are unemployed and can’t afford to buy these things.

The consumer society is powerful, with vast sums being spent on developing and advertising ever newer items which we are told we must own, yet there is no-one out there pointing out that actually you can never have enough 'stuff', and that no matter how much money you have, you will always end up wanting more. As it says in Ecclesiastes 5 v 10 and 11: Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers!

There is only really one thing that is truly needed for happiness, and that you can never have enough of, and that is love. Unfortunately I think that my own generation has developed a selfishness and a need for self-gratification that they have even put above the needs of their own children, and in doing so some of us have failed to show enough love to our children, and have left them feeling insecure or rejected. All children need love and security, and if they don't find it at home then they go off looking for it in other places – in gang culture, possessions, alcohol and drugs. The riots that we saw were the harvest of a crop of self interest and abandonment of parental responsibility.

What we need to get across – not just to the young, but to everyone – is that there is a permanent source of undying, unconditional, forgiving love that can always be found, and that is the love of God. If the love of Christ is in us, then we can always be content and secure. We as humans are a weak species and at some time or other will fail or hurt those close to us, yet God's love is perfect, never lets us down, never ever leaves us even though the things of the world may sometimes leave us bruised.

This is a message that Christians need to get out into the world, and in a joyous way. For too long I think that we have allowed the po-faced and nit-picking attitudes of some Christians to be at the fore. We need to get people turning back to the New Testament and to see Jesus come alive – the man who kept the

party going by turning water into wine, the man who was always being criticised for the company he kept, and for eating and drinking too much with the 'wrong' elements of society. The man who broke Sabbath laws by healing the sick. The man who spoke to those on the fringes of society, who taught us not to judge by appearances or creeds, the man who at a time and place where women were disregarded would spend time talking to women and teaching them. Someone whose revolutionary views cost Him His life. And above all a man who while doing all this was telling people how God wants us to live, how important love and forgiveness are for the world, how God wants us to love him above all, but also to love those around us – especially the 'unloveable'. And above all, how much we are loved by God, something He showed us when he gave His life for us on the cross.

We are lucky here in Kelvedon to be far removed from the problems of inner-city life, yet we do still have people around us who find themselves in despair because the pursuit of money and 'stuff' isn't bringing them happiness. I think we all have a responsibility in the coming months and years to prayerfully get out and about in our communities to be seen as people who have a real joy and peace about us, so that others will want a share of what makes us so happy.

Apologies for the length of my rant – this is something that has been on my mind for some time!

With love

Lea


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**Deadline for the October Magazine:** Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September. Please give items for inclusion to Trevor or Janet Andrews or e-mail them to: [magazine@kelvedon-urc.org.uk](mailto:magazine@kelvedon-urc.org.uk).

**Monday evening Housegroup:** 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September 8pm at “Copper Beech”, Spa Road, Feering (Christine Saffell’s home). Everyone is very welcome.

**Home Prayer Group:** alternate **Wednesdays:** 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:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 2.30pm when the Speaker will be Tom McNally.

**Elders Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> September 8pm in the office.

**The Bigger Breakfast :** 8am at St Mary’s Parish Church led by Father Gordon Reid (Parish Church to do the breakfast). Everyone is welcome.

**Fair Trade:**

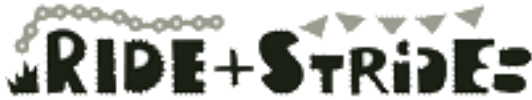


There will be a Fair Trade stall with a small selection of cards, foodstuffs and craft items in the main hall after the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.



The Farleigh Hospice mobile bus will be in the Labour Club car park on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** 10.30am – 2.30pm.





Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
10.00am – 6.00pm

Please sign the sheet in the vestibule if you are able to spare an hour to offer a welcome to the walkers/cyclists visiting our Church. If you would like to walk or cycle and gather sponsorship, please see me for the sponsor forms & list of Churches which will be open.

We are hoping for several cyclists for our Church, if you would like to sponsor them, please also sign the list in the main hall.

Thank you for your support.

Janet Andrews

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The words 'Thank you!' are written in a large, bold, blue 3D font with a dark blue outline, giving it a sense of depth and volume.

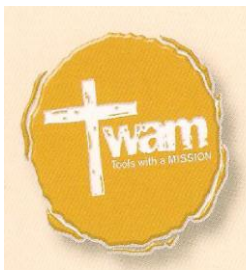
I feel I have so much to thank and praise the Lord for in bringing me safely through another operation.

Thank you all for all your prayers, good wishes, cards and phone calls.

Also for giving me a tea party to celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, on I will always remember. Thank you for the voucher for a meal at The Angel, the cards, and best of all for the £120.10 donated to our charity, Samaritan's Purse "Turn on the Tap".

Peter Adams

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## **TWAM** **TOOLS WITH A MISSION**

**Recycle your unwanted Tools**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**At Kelvedon United Reformed Church  
10am – 3.30pm**

Autumn is the ideal time to sort out the shed / garage and pass on the unused equipment you have been storing, but not used for years ...

For a full list of tools and equipment wanted please go to [www.twam.co.uk](http://www.twam.co.uk) and click on 'tools wanted' or telephone 01376 570200 for details and more information.

TWAM are also collecting knitted vests and tops (please take a copy of the pattern from the notice board if you are interested in knitting for TWAM). *Please note*, please do not knit in white wool.



## Harvest Sunday – 25<sup>th</sup> September

There will be a collection of harvest produce (both fresh and tins / packets) at our 10.30am harvest service. The tins / packets will be taken to the Colchester Night Shelter, whilst the fresh produce will be used for our Harvest Supper.

The Harvest Supper will be at 5.30pm at the Church. If you would like to come, please speak to Janet or Andrea. Lifts can be arranged.

Janet Andrews

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**Benin Christian Support** : Many of the ladies of the Church continue to knit for Benin – any knitted garment in any colour is acceptable. If you have any items which can be donated for sale at a table top sale, please pass these on to Janet who will arrange to get them to Thorpe le Soken and the Benin Christian Support. Funds are always needed to pay for children's schooling, food and medical emergencies.

Thank you for your continued support.

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### Operation Christmas Child:

The 2012 London Olympics is only just around the corner, so we've decided to get into the Olympic spirit as part of this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign.

How? Through sports-themed shoeboxes, of course!

As well as giving you the chance to do something a bit different with your shoeboxes, this is also your chance to send sporty items out to needy children in our world – children who might

otherwise not have the chance to experience the joy of sport for themselves.

You might want to include a tennis ball, skipping rope, baseball hat, small football, inflatable beach ball, stop watch, sweat bands, swim goggles, toy medals or some other sports-related gift that would bring a smile to a child.

Other suggested items include:

**Toys:** Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument.

**For boys;** trucks and cars,

**For girls;** dolls, clip on earrings, etc.

**Educational Supplies:** Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers, etc.

**Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel, etc.

**Other Items:** Sweets (sell-by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

***All gifts should be new, please include items from each category.***

Leaflets giving a full list of what is and is not acceptable for the shoeboxes will be available shortly.

Shoeboxes need to be completed by the beginning of November in order for them to go to the Depot and be taken to their destination in time for Christmas. If you wish to donate a few items for a shoebox, please pass these to Joyce Whiterod or Helen Skingle. Completed shoeboxes will be collected at the Church in November.

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One of the lovely things about my job is meeting different characters day to day. One lady that I met writes poetry, and quoted this to me. With her permission I am passing the poem on, as I liked her attitude.

Lea Finch

All our Tomorrows

Did you ever stop to think  
That tomorrow is another day?  
What was bad yesterday  
Could change in a lovely way  
You couldn't be bothered to get out of bed  
We won't talk about that, enough has been said,  
You haven't been feeling well  
I can understand that.  
It's time to get positive  
Put on your thinking hat  
Tell yourself there are others worse off  
Life isn't all that bad,  
Think of the joys and the pleasures  
Be happy with what you've had.  
When you woke up this morning  
And saw the leaves begin to fall  
Consider yourself very lucky  
You may not have woken at all!

Agnes Wiggins

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Don't be misled by Faces...

Possibly it is in adolescence and early adulthood when we are most aware of our looks. Romantic passions are stirring. Am I pretty? Am I handsome? Do people of the opposite sex find me attractive? Nature seems generally to put a bloom on us to help

in the mating game. Later, having started a family, we're too busy to worry much about our faces.

Concern can return in middle age, when double chins, grey hair and wrinkles appear. There is a saying that, up to 40, faces are what we have inherited but, after 40, faces have been affected by our individual characters and experiences.

Jack Priestly felt strongly that his middle age face, which was glum with sagging cheeks, was completely misleading. He had had varying experiences – pleasant childhood in middling comfortable home on the outskirts of Bradford, work in a wool office, hellish years in First World War trenches, study at Cambridge on a Forces Rehabilitation Service grant, marriage to the girl who waited for him.

He had lunched himself on a literary career, adopting “Boynton” as a second forename in order to be J.B. Priestley. His novel “The Good Companions”, telling of a touring Concert Party, was a huge success. His non-fiction “English Journey” exposed the hardships of the unemployed and poverty-stricken. He had further success as a playwright. During the Second World War he made popular and inspiring radio talks under the title “Postscript” and upset some Conservatives. He'd had two more marriages.

He was the honest, pipe-smoking Yorkshireman – a “Socialist Intellectual”, he called himself, well-known, worthy and wealthy. Why then had he such a woebegone face? He decided to prove that, at heart, he was jolly Jack with a book “Delight”, detailing no less than 114 pleasures to do with family, friends, career, travel, etc. Pleasing memories included kicking a football around all day with other boys with just a swift break for lunch, and wearing his first long trousers.

Does a face ever improve with age? Not very often! However Jack's face in time may perhaps have become more suitable, as he was annoyed by deafness, insomnia and short-term memory loss. He died at 89 at his last home Kissing Tree House near

Stratford on Avon in 1984. His ashes are buried in the graveyard of a tiny church on Wharfedale.

“Delight” was republished in 2009. Plays “An Inspector Calls” and “When We Are Married” have been successful revivals, though set way back before the First World War. (Have Kelvedon Players ever done a Priestley?)

Of course, we should try not to be misled by faces, shouldn't we? An amateur author Phyllis McCormack nursed elderly folk and sensitively put herself in place of a patient to produce a poem “Look Closer”. Here are a few lines: “I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel ... But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells ... I remember the joys, I remember the pain, and I'm loving and living all over again ... So open your eyes, nurses, open and see, Not a crabbit old woman, look closer – se ME”.

What a vast variety of faces there are in the world! The cartoon film Wicked Queen, step-mother of Snow White, demanded “Magic mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?” and the mirror replied “Famed is thy beauty, majesty, but hold, a fair maid I see, lips red as a rose, hair black as ebony, skin white as snow...” Snow White had to hide out with friendly 7 Dwarfs whose names neatly defined their characters, Doc, Grumpy, Sneezzy, Sleepy, Bashful, Happy and Dopey. Jack Priestley could have adopted as forenames Honest and Jolly to solve his problem. H.J. Priestly!

In the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, St Paul predicted a time would come when everything would be clarified: “Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known”. It will be a face that fits.....

John Allard

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**COME  
ALONG  
AND BRING  
A SMILE**

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**



Friday 30th September at the Labour Club hall,  
High Street, Kelvedon,  
10am -12noon.

Entry is £1.50

*(which includes tea or coffee and homemade cake of your choice)*

Stalls include good quality bric-a-brac, books/jigsaws, jewellery,  
toys, cakes, and a large tombola and raffle.

All proceeds from this event will go to  
Macmillan cancer support.

For more information call Margaret on 01376 572758 or Mary 01376 570083.

**Every mug will help improve the lives of people affected by cancer.**



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (251012)  
2, Parkway (220 8895) and 100, Grafton Street, London, W1R 5DU  
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**M&S Café**  
The official partner of the  
World's Biggest Coffee Morning



Kelvedon Players Presents " HOME " by David Storey

October the 21st 22nd 28th 29th at the Institute

doors open 7-30 pm.

Two elderly gentlemen stroll on to an almost bare terrace. One, Harry, a seemingly benign chap, happy to wear rose tinted glasses and to exist in a genteel world; the other, Jack, more opinionated, but his sharp dress and manner is a front to what he would call human failings. They discuss various subjects.... the past, schooldays, climate, the sea, the war, etc., etc.. And... where are they? We discover this in the following scene when we meet two women, Marjorie, whose beady matter-of-fact directness pierces the men's defenses like some prurient probe; and swollen-footed, flirtatious, Kathleen, who whoops with filthy laughter at the faintest double entendre. The intermittent presence of Alfred, a leucotomised young man who practices a strong-man act on the feather-light garden furniture, tricks you into thinking of the other four as essentially sane.

Although with no plot at all in the conventional sense, and sparse dialogue, by the end of the afternoon, we are moved to compassion and respect.

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Stuart Chittock will be marrying Hollie Edmunds  
at All Saints Parish Church, Walton on the  
Naze at 2pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

All friends are welcome at the Church.

