

The Outlook

from **Hope** September 2004

GETTING IN TOUCH

‘ Irrelevant and out of touch’ would be the most commonly held view of the church today. The prevalent view of Jesus though seems to be that he is cool, that his life speaks helpfully into our contemporary situation. So what has happened? Are people out of touch with what the church is really like or has the church lost touch with Jesus? Maybe a bit of both. This autumn our whole teaching programme focuses on the person, life, teaching, miracles and birth of Jesus. I’ m excited about this! To be a Christian is to accept Jesus as your Saviour and commit yourself to follow his way of life. We have four months to reflect on the mission, values and characteristics of Jesus’ life and to consider what it means individually and as a community to be his disciples today. Other highlights will be the opportunities for outreach. Pete McCahon, a Christian magician and escapologist, will share his faith through his show at the Civil Service Club on Friday 24th September. The latest ALPHA course begins in October for anyone wanting to know more about Jesus and what it means to follow him today. The Light Party is a firmly established favourite with families and a great alternative to Halloween. Then of course Christmas services..... Do consider who you could invite along to any of these fantastic witness opportunities. As we approach the end of our 6-month thank-offering I want to remind those of you who have not yet contributed that it closes at the end of October. The developments to the Sanctuary that we are considering have such potential to enhance our worship and more importantly to make our outreach more effective that I wouldn’ t want you to miss the privilege of being a part of it. Lastly let me give a plug to our core fellowship activities, those less high profile activities that are actually at the heart of the spiritual life of the church. Fellowship Groups give space to apply the teaching of Sunday mornings to everyday life, Celebration evenings give room to worship and hear from God in a way we often can’ t on a Sunday morning and Prayer for an hour every other Monday evening gives opportunity for intercession. If you are not involved with any of these regular activities at the moment then this autumn could be a great time to start.

Andy

The Magic of Believing “Being wrapped in chains, leg irons and handcuffs, then strapped to a chair placed over explosives may not be your normal method of evangelism but as an attention getter it certainly works” Peter McCahon is a member of the Magic Circle and is one of the stars of Channel 5’ s Monkey Magic. Originally trained at Moorlands Bible College, Peter spent 6½ years working first with ‘ Youth With A Mission’ and then the ‘ Oasis Trust’ he has been a comedy magician and escapologist for over 13 years and now works all over the world. Peter specialises in showing how the gospel can be communicated effectively and powerfully through seeker friendly, cringe free events. Suitable for all those keen to reach out to their community and explode the myth of church life as being dull and boring, seeking instead to show how Christianity is alive and relevant for today He will be our guest entertainer at our joint 3-church event, with St Pancras and Pennycross Methodist at the Civil Service Club on Friday 24th September, 7.30 for 8pm Please give prayerful thought to who YOU could invite to such a potentially brilliant evening. Tickets, which include a buffet supper, are on sale now at £6 a head – there are a limited number of free tickets for non-church friends that you bring along to this event with you – please see Debbie Houston or Nicky Hatherell for more information or to get your tickets, as soon as possible.

In 1904 a remarkable thing began to happen in Wales. A religious revival began to sweep through communities and churches. Many parts of Wales were transformed – judges had no cases to try, policemen formed singing groups because there was no crime, public houses went out of business, prayer meetings were held down the pits and it is believed at least a hundred thousand people were added to the church. Yet the 1904 Revival was also dogged with controversy. Its leader, a Bible College student called Evan Roberts, suffered a nervous breakdown and never preached again, the part the revival played at the

birth of the twentieth century Pentecostal movement is still disputed and, perhaps most poignantly, Wales is now considered by many to be the most irreligious country in Europe. What was the effect of the Revival? Was it worth it? What, if anything, went wrong? Could it happen again?

-----**University of Plymouth Chaplaincy Lecture – Autumn 2004**

In this the centenary year of the 1904 revival Rev Paul Smith will present the first of an occasional series of Chaplaincy lectures ‘ When God changes a nation’ The Spirituality, social Effects and Lasting Impact of the Welsh Revival 1904/5 Sherwell United Church, North Hill, Plymouth Friday October 22nd 2004 7.30. p.m. free admission Paul Smith is the minister of Methodist Central Hall and a well-known preacher locally and nationally. He did research into the 1904 Revival for his Masters degree THE ONE FLAW IN WOMEN: By the time the Lord made woman, he was into his sixth day of working overtime. An angel appeared and said, “ Why are you spending so much time on this one?” and he Lord answered, “ Have you seen my spec sheet on her?” “ She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have over 200 movable parts, all replaceable and able to run on diet coke and leftovers, have a lap that can hold four children at one time, have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart - and she will do everything with only two hands.” The angel was astounded at the requirements. “ Only two hands! No way! And that’s just on the standard model? That’s too much work for one day, wait until tomorrow to finish” . “ But I won’t,” the Lord protested. “ I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my own heart. She already heals herself when she is sick and can work 18-hour days” . “ The angel moved closer and touched the woman. “ But you have made her so soft, Lord.” “ She is soft”, the Lord agreed, “ but I have also made her tough, and you have no idea what she can endure or accomplish” . “ Will she be able to think?” asked the angel. The Lord replied, “ Not only will she be able to think, she will be able to reason and negotiate” . The angel then noticed something, and reaching out, touched the woman’s cheek. “ Oops, it looks like you have a leak in this model. I told you that you were trying to put too much into this one” . “ That’s not a leak”, the Lord corrected, “ that’s a tear!” “ What’s the tear for?” the angel asked. The Lord said, “ The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her pain, her disappointment, her love, her loneliness, her grief and her pride” . The angel was impressed. “ You are a genius, Lord. You thought of everything! Woman is truly amazing” . And she is! Women have strengths that amaze men. They bear hardships and they carry burdens, but they hold happiness, love and joy. They smile when they want to scream. They sing when they want to cry. They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous. They fight for what they believe in. They stand up to injustice. They don’t take “no” for an answer when they believe there is a better solution. They go without, so their family can have. They go to the doctor with a frightened friend. They love unconditionally. They cry when their children excel, and cheer when their friends get awards. They are happy when they hear about a birth or a wedding. Their hearts break when a friend dies. They grieve at the loss of a family member, yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left. They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart. Women come in all shapes, sizes and colours. They’ll drive, fly, walk, run, or e-mail you to show how much they care about you.

Dear all, Thank you for your fantastic contributions I am storming towards my target, there is no stopping me now, not only can I afford to go to Africa, I can nearly afford to come back! As you know my ‘ hair raising’ event was covered by the local press, I’ m famous! The article is at the back if you want to read it. I have just returned from my pre African Quest training week in Wales, where I met the other 7 members of this year’ s team. Their names are Paul, Tim, Adrian, David, Kate, Emily and Sheena. We stayed on Paul and Tessa’ s— friends of the couple who run AQ - farm and slept in tents, thankfully it was dry. I really enjoyed the week although it took me ages to get there; I left Plymouth at half past nine and didn’ t arrive till quarter past seven. However, I wasn’ t last as David’ s car broke down and he arrived after midnight! We were given various lectures about what to expect in Africa, some things that surprised me were, we have to wear shirts at all times so it looks like I will have to make do with a ‘ Marine’ suntan! We have to wear shirt, tie and trousers - as opposed to shorts - when we go to church. I also have to plough through three large training manuals on health, culture and the training manual before I go! The afternoons were spent doing activities, which suited me better. During the first two we did a mini project; we built a sheep pen for Paul and Tessa - I almost lost my arm too on the wire we were using for the pen! There was something stopping the wire from undoing - as I cut the wire it went whizzing around like a ride at Disney but my arm was a little too close, it was scary. On Wednesday we went canoeing; we

paddled down the river, it was very calm. After a while we hitched a lift from a passing boat - this was much easier than paddling; I can recommend it. On Thursday Paul took us out fishing on his sailing boat. I didn't catch anything, as a group we caught three Mackerel; this doesn't seem much between eight of us I know, I blame the seal that was swimming around - he thought we were the local takeaway! Once back on dry land the Mackerel were cooked on the barbecue and eaten with our dinner. I returned home on the Friday - another long journey but there was added excitement this time. The coach was very late and instead of having to wait an hour in Swansea I had to sprint - not easy while carrying a rucksack on my back and back pack on my front - for my connection. Before I could breathe a sigh of relief I was told off for being late by the driver That's all for now, thanks again, next report from Africa! Peace n pancakes
James

September Diary

Sun 5 10.00 Prayer in the Lower Guildroom** 10.30 'Surviving the Test' - Luke 4 1-12

Mon 6 7.30-8.30 Prayer in the Guild Room

Tues 7 10.00 Mums and Baby Group** 1.30 Prayer Group* venues vary, please ask

Thurs 9 10.00 Coffee Morning** Sat 11 7.30 Praise and Prayer for Peverell at St Pancras

Sun 12 10.30 'Clarifying the Mission' Luke 4 1330 Barbecue on the moors after the service

Tues 14 1.00 Parent and Toddler Group *

Wed 15 10am & 1pm Parent and Toddler Groups *

Thurs 16 6.30-8.00 H-Y-Powered, years 3-6 *

Fri 17 7.00-8.30 The Hype, youth group, years 7 to 9* 8.15-10.00 Re:Act, youth group, years 10 to 12*

Sat 18 10-12 Women's Rendezvous table top sale

Sun 19 10.30 'Exercising the Authority' Luke 4 344 3.0 Plymouth Argyle Christian Supporters Service

Mon 20 7.30-8.30 Prayer in the Guild Room

Tues 21 7.30 Church members meeting

Wed 22 7.30 Women's Rendezvous - talk by representative from Tesco

Fri 24 7.30 Pete McCahon - Magician and Escapologist, See separate article for more details

Sun 26 10.30 Family Harvest service - a guest service

*These meetings are held weekly during term time only

**These meetings meet weekly all through the year Fellowship groups now meet on various nights and in different weeks so check with group leaders when yours is meeting.

Prayer Monday nights 7.30 - 8.30, meeting in the Guild Room on The weeks that fellowship groups do not meet - see specific dates for this month on opposite page.

October 2nd 9.30-3.00 Youth & Children's Leaders Training Event

5th Harvest Supper

31st Light Party - an alternative to Hallowe'en

BMS Birthdays for September

9th Mr Ernie Davey

A Holiday in the Pyrenees. It's nine months since I put pen to paper to tell you about how life has been treating us. We had a wonderful holiday in the Mid-Pyrenees in June, not far from Lourdes, at a Christian Holiday Centre. We went with Samy and Denise, friends from the church we attend in Matha; about 30 of us in all and everyone got along very well. I was reminded of our peregrinations with our friends from Hope Monday we arrived at a place called Argeles Gazost, where we had to telephone ahead to the camp, so that Samy and Denise had gone up the day before to help prepare for us all could come and guide us in - it's not well marked from the main road. We drove into the camp and were welcomed by our guide Freddie and wife Mireille with tea and cake. We'd left here at about 9.00am and arrived at Argeles about 4pm, so we were tired and thirsty by the time we got there. Our room had beds for 5 people, but it was clean and looked out at the mountains - not a day went past whilst there that the scenery failed to stop me in my tracks. It was different every day; there could be cloud over it at one instant, and then five minutes later it would be clear - glorious. That evening after supper we had an evening of song, sketch, etc all done by the people themselves. Tuesday morning began with a prayer time, then Bible study, looking at the book of Ruth. The pastor, Phillipe de Pol, (we've come across him before - a good speaker) made the

whole book come alive. After lunch and a time for digestion, (for digestion read sleep) we went off for a walk. We climbed a mountain called Hautacam; the views from the top were splendid. We saw cows and sheep with the leaders wearing bells; we could hear them ringing all around us. It was a fairly steep climb, but enjoyable. The senior members of the group (one, called Irene was 82) were parked under the trees with a table and chairs, the Scrabble board and the tea. Irene did in fact do quite a bit of walking with us and put me to shame. Wednesday morning followed the Tuesday's routine, then another walk, this time up Mont de Gez – more breathtaking views over the valleys below. Thursday was picnic day. We left Vers les Cimes at 9.30am and headed off for a restaurant called 'The Fruiteries', where the shepherds used to bring the milk to be collected by the dairy. The older people spent the morning and had their lunch here. It was high up in the mountains, with a river running by; very picturesque. You could see the snow still on the peaks. Us brave ones set off for the Lac D' Estoum at 1.408metres. Never have I been so pleased to arrive somewhere!! The fit ones made it to the lake by 12 noon, Richard stayed with Jacqueline and I and we crawled in at about 12.30. We fell on our picnic like ravenous wolves. It was a lovely walk alongside the well-named river (Eaux vives – Living Waters), running in torrents and cascades. Friday was an easier day. We went to the Lac d' Estain. We wanted to meet the bergere (shepherd) and get something called Greuill, a very soft cheese curd made from sheep's milk I think. Sadly when we arrived at the bergerie it was all closed up. We found out later that they had increased the cost of letting the place so much that he wouldn't pay it and went somewhere else. We had to buy the Greuill elsewhere, but it was very good. Saturday we woke to mist and torrential rain. We were having the Sunday school children to visit in the afternoon too. Richard and I went to give Jilly a run and we went up to the Col D' Aubisque; you couldn't see a thing and it was quite scary. Sunday we walked the Col de Soulor, in lovely weather. Lots of foals with mares, and calves too, on the mountain. The sheep were Herdwicks, which I'd never seen in France before. That evening I noticed that my throat was a bit sore, so it was difficult to swallow my supper. I woke up at around 3.00am with my throat closing and my lips swollen. I had had a reaction to something, goodness knows what, I've never had it before. Eventually at about 6.00am Richard woke Denise who rang for help. Out came the Fire Brigade, blue lights flashing, with a defibrillator, then the paramedics from Lourdes in the little ambulance. They gave me a steroid injection, put a drip up and took me in the fire engine to the hospital at Lourdes. Poor Richard was following with Denise in the Xantia when the firemen put on the 'blues and twos'. He was obliged to put on the hazards and follow through red lights etc. He says he's never driven like that before and hopes he never will again. We still don't know what caused it, they kept me in hospital until just after lunch when things had returned to normal and I left with a course of steroids and anti-histamines. I have an appointment to see the specialist next month, so we'll see. Unfortunately we missed Monday's walk. I was afraid too that I'd missed the chance of hang-gliding, which we were to do in tandem. I had been looking forward to it. In fact, nobody could go because there wasn't enough wind. We'll save that pleasure for next year. We came home on the Tuesday - a boiling hot day. Then we were busy finishing decorating our bedroom - a biggish job with a door to move, and insulation of ceiling and walls. We now have built-in cupboards and enough space for our clothes at last. The garden suffered from the drought early on, but we had a good crop of onions, shallots, tomatoes and potatoes. The green beans had a bad start but are coming on now. We've put in two more peach trees this year, and the other fruit trees are laden again. We are in the middle of the harvest again, with combines working all hours. The menagerie has grown with the addition of a rabbit called Candy, she was meant for the pot too. We've had two lots of chicks hatched, one had 6 the other 8. They are very pretty and will be ready to eat by next winter. Life is good here, though my homesickness was much worse this year than last. I suppose there was so much to organise the first year that I didn't miss home. This year has been harder for me. Richard is very happy and while he is happy, so am I. There are consolations in everything we do and there are always 'fors' and 'againsts'. The decision to come was the right one, for his health and sanity, but I do have some regrets. I miss Hope and my friends a great deal and, of course, our family. Alyson will be here with Aaron and Kerri next week and I'm longing to see them. We will always be glad to see anyone coming our way. We should also mention that we became great grandparents in June, when Chris' daughter Chantelle and partner Ben gave birth to Daisy. I feel incredibly ancient!

Kim and Richard Brown

Thanks A very big Thank You to all our Church family who made our Golden Wedding a day to remember. We did so much enjoy the Surprise Party and it was a real joy to be together on such a lovely evening. Receiving Golden Wedding cards, flowers, gifts and expressions of love were overwhelming.

The Golden Wedding rose bush has already produced 2 beautiful bright golden roses, and there are more to come. God has certainly blessed us over the 50 years we have shared together. The celebration cake and lovely basket of flowers presented at the morning service were more surprises, not to mention the Mr and Mrs Game. Looking forward to our Golden Years with our Sovereign Lord Our love to you all
Wilfred and Thelma Smale

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN WRITERS cordially invite visitors to their September meeting to hear their guest speaker: local Christian writer WENDY BRAY well-known as a staff writer for 'Care For the Family' and as author of the award-winning and moving biography **IN THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND** which tells of her ongoing battle with cancer We will be meeting at the Prayer Chapel Central Hall Methodist Church City Centre At 7.30pm, Tuesday 7th September Free admission Refreshments available afterwards

Sunday Morning Rotas September

Coffee Transport

5th Ray and Cindy Hedges

Mike Munson

12th John and Carole Eascott David Brown

19th Marian Brown and Sandra Brown Peter Brown

26th Margaret Underdown and Beryl Brown Mike Lummis

Crèche

5th Gerry Harris & Claire Knight

12th Sheena Kingdon & Jackie May

19th Miranda Crowley & Sarah Aldersley

26th Family service

After Church Care - Under 8' s only in Thee Bar

5th 12th to be arranged

19th 26th Family service

Flowers

5th 12th to be arranged

19th 26th

Communion Set-up Wash-up

19th Ray & Cindy Hedges Ray & Cindy Hedges

Stewards

5th Marian Brown, Sheila Boddington, Trevor fray and Sheena Kingdom

12th Ron Dalton, Mike and Salli Lummis and Tim Hart

19th Nick Beard, Marian Brown, Pam Smith and Beryl Chun

26th Nicky Hatherell, Pat and Graham Dodd and Margaret Underdown

An Open Letter to Hope Baptist Church June 2004 Dear Friends, Four visits in over 30 years does not make me a frequent attender, but I was a member of hope quite sometime before the Munsons were married! At my visit this April several things were evident and I ask you to read Romans 5.5 words 1-6. What I could feel was more than I saw or heard. Through the Outlook I know what you are doing and how you are doing it and I want to shout "Hallelujah!" I am no longer a member (or worship) at the Parish Church. The practice of the leadership left so much to be desired that God's compassionate face was obscured and I had to stand up and say so. In the CofE the strength of the Hierarchy can become its weakness and I have now been led to worship within a group of village churches spread over an area of about the size of Clearbrook, Meavy, Sheepstor and Yelverton, known as the Benefice of Sandon, Rushden, Clothall and Wallington). The empty spaces are rolling grain fields, some sheep and the kind of lanes with which you would be familiar, so we have a time of rural meditation before we arrive at the one church where communion is being celebrated on that particular morning: sometimes at 9.30 am. We four are so privileged. As Moderator of Churches Together in Baldock I did not expect God to bounce me back into the Church of England. The Churches Together Fellowship Group have long read the Outlook

regularly and we thank God for the evidence that He is still blessing ‘ Sound Doctrine’ (the title of a sermon by Rev Victor Price in the late 1950’ s). This is where I want to thank you and rejoice in / with you and encourage you. The Established Church seems to think that ‘ in the fullness of time’ (Gal 4.4) is the only way in which God works. It never occurs to them that our God is the God of the immediate as well. I / we have been praying for your developments, not so much for the building as the work (for the work will provide the building). You don’ t need me to tell you that if God wants you to rebuild then your prayers and your work will accomplish it. I know that several members of the Hope Community are praying for Baldock Churches under siege – I thank you for this and ask for it to continue as moves are being made to clear away the darkness. I cannot guarantee Romans 1.9 (always) but please be assured that the CtB Fellowship Group prays for you all and gives thanks for you all. My love to all of those who are old enough to remember me, the young ladies of the back row and the young man with the Argyle shirt! I did put my hand up for knowing ‘ When we walk with the Lord’ , 14th April 04. The previous time I was with you the traditional hymn was ‘ The God of Abraham Praise’ – Ann will not have forgotten. Thank you Nicky, thank you Claire for the Outlook; I know that compiling and editing are not easy but you always produce a readable and informative edition, which has gladdened our hearts.

John Jordon

Hello First I'd like to make contact with someone/anyone from Hope Baptist Church who would like to chat Secondly I'd like some information about your past links with the former Efford Baptist Church; any information too of the old boys brigade, and girls' life brigade. My name is Reg Lee, and my Mothers name is Mildred Lee baptised at Hope with a lady named Doris Rowe? She still lives in Laira I think My address is 20, Castleview Gardens, Booker Lane, High Wycombe, bucks HP12 3UD my telephone no is 01494- 521617 my email address is as follows reginald@lee4090.freerve.co.uk My history is that I am a non-practicing Christian, but will gladly reminisce about my own links with Hope B.C. I'm 64 years, old and retired through osteo-arthritis. My mother, is still alive and at one time might have even been a member best wishes and kind regards

Reg Lee

A thought to remember...‘ The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us’

This edition of the Outlook was compiled by Nicky Hatherell. October’ s Outlook will be put together by Claire Worrall who will be pleased to receive your articles and information by 18th September please. These may be emailed to Claire who will acknowledge receipt of them – remember email is not reliable so no acknowledgement means that she will not have received anything from you.
claire@worrall228.fsworld.co.uk