

*Dear friends,*

A number of us recently attended the annual Baptist Assembly, which this year was held in Blackpool - there'll be more on that elsewhere in the magazine! While we were there, we heard the new president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain give the opening address. This was none other than Pat Took who many of you met during her recent visit to Mt Zion. The assembly was also the occasion when the incoming Vice President of the Baptist Union was welcomed, this time our very own Ernie Whalley (regional minister for the Yorkshire Baptist Association). Looking around the assembly many other familiar faces and names were spotted, including Tony Taylor, Keith Jones, Ruth Gouldbourne (my tutor from Bristol Baptist College), Anne Davies (ex-colleague from Nottingham) and other friends who we routinely connect with year after year at this particular event.

One of the great things about the Baptist Assembly is the opportunity to meet and be re-united with friends with whom we share history. But the pertinent thing about this isn't the reminiscing or the sharing gossip, but that it symbolizes something of our bigger family

Individual churches, and especially small churches, can often feel very isolated as they struggle on with day to day ministry, but it's so important to remember that we belong to something bigger. We might want to call that Baptist, or it might be reflected in local ecumenical relationships, but it may be more important to see it as Kingdom. Yes we belong to those local ecumenical networks, yes we belong to a regional, national and international Baptist family, but above all else, we belong to God's Kingdom. In God's Kingdom we are not a small church, but we are part of a big church, a very big church, and that's the international family of God.

Let's rejoice in knowing that we have a huge family out there, let's pray for our sisters and brothers who share the ministry of God's Kingdom with us, who face struggles and hardships, who face joys and blessings. Regardless of how isolated we might sometimes feel, we're in this together and it's good to belong...

Take care of each other,

*Matt*

## **Baptist Union Assembly**

**Kathryn** reports on her first experience of the BU Assembly, held in Blackpool from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

We had received all the information about the weekend, our cases were packed and we were ready for off. Where were we going? What were we letting ourselves in for?

Well the bump said we should expect to be challenged and surprised so it could be quite exciting. It also said to expect the weekend to be busy but hopefully refreshing. All in all then it could be fun but tiring. According to those who had been before us some love it, some say it's OK; others, it's just part of the job. So what would we think after our weekend at the BU Assembly? Read on to find out....

The theme of the assembly was Your Kingdom Come - quite self explanatory really. As Christians we want to see the development of the kingdom which God is building.

Over the weekend we were challenged (so one expectation was met) to think about who the Kingdom of God is for. Is it just for the cosy middle class who all look reasonably similar, would not embarrass anyone and not make us feel uncomfortable? Or is it for the down and outs, or the society misfits? Of course we would all say quite rightly that the Kingdom of God is for everyone but how would/do we react if someone who we perceive to be "different" entered one of our churches one week?

On the Saturday afternoon we attended a seminar on 'Crossing Places', an initiative from the BU Mission Department. We were reminded that at all times we should do, say and think as Christ would have: the Christ who befriended a prostitute, the Christ who chose everyday folk to be his disciples rather than the church leaders of the day.

We need to reach people where they are and where there is need. If we don't see an immediate increase in the number of people in the church we have not failed but we have sown a seed and thus God's Kingdom has growth potential! How many crossing places are there in your lives? Lots of suggestions were given as to how we can use crossing places in our lives which we can share (but not in this brief report).

A quick dash then back to a seminar on Pensions. Mmm...enough said, but it was challenging!!

One of my concerns/passions is children and young adults in our churches and so I went along to hear how we might reach these and encourage those we already had reached.

Do you know that of the 30,000 toddler groups based in the UK 27,000 are church based: what a wonderful opportunity. That surprised me (2nd expectation).

In reaching out to and encouraging children and young people we were advised again to look at how Christ behaved towards them. He welcomed the little children and sent the disciples off with a flea in their ears - are we more like the disciples or are we like Jesus? Again lots of ideas were given for consideration as to how we can meet the future church in their place.

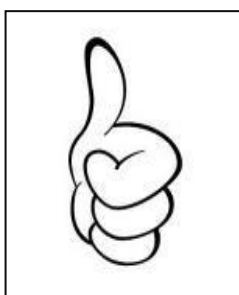
Now it is easy at these events to become all “churched out” so one does have to have some R&R and refreshment from time to time so we did make sure that we have a few walks on the prom and a few “prayer meetings” in a local hostelry so we could say that our fourth expectation was also met.

But what of the excitement? Well this would vary according to your persuasion I suppose. But I have to say that we did enjoy the evening sessions. We had a good sing, along with the other 1600 or so there, and we heard some very good sermons on the theme of ‘Your Kingdom Come’.

And the surprise? I don’t know if surprise is the right word to define this but it was different. On Sunday we had a communion service in which children were involved. Two children gave an excellent performance on what they think is going on when communion is taking place (a sort of a fly on the wall thing). At the end they (the children) served the service leaders – a reminder that children and young people should not be dismissed and that they have a ministry which should be encouraged.

By the time it came to Monday we had had enough but we all thought that the weekend had been good. We had been challenged, we had been surprised, we had certainly been busy and we were refreshed physically and spiritually.

I can recommend it!



## **Thanks everyone**

Taking on the Frank Street Shop in Barnoldswick for a week was quite an undertaking. Would we get enough stock, would there be enough helpers, would we make lots of money? Fortunately the answer to all three questions turned out to be yes. So thanks to everyone who donated, collected, staffed, tidied, bought, cleared etc.

Special thanks to Florence and Sheila, whose powers of persuasion and talent for organisation were vital to the whole operation. The shop also provided an excellent opportunity to make contact with people and to raise awareness of the West Craven Baptist Fellowship as well as offering support in prayer to those who made prayer requests.

# Deacons' away "day" May 2011

A while ago it was decided that the deacons would hold an away day. The idea was that we would go to a venue that was away from all three churches so that we could have discussions that would not normally be part of routine joint deacons' meetings. Finally we settled on a morning away at Skipton Baptist Church. The next thing to decide was the topic for discussion.

Matt came up with the idea that it might be fruitful to talk about the paper he wrote on his sabbatical last year (For you that have not seen the paper he researched four different patterns of church partnership and if any of you want to see a copy please see Matt or any of the deacons). The plan for the away day was that the deacons would discuss the different models and decide if West Craven Baptist Fellowship (WCBF) fit any of them and if WCBF could learn anything from the four models.

Another task was to look at what the fellowship is doing together and what the deacons felt was good about the fellowship.

So bright and early on the Saturday morning we assembled in an upper room at Skipton Baptists. We were split into four groups, the brief being for each group to look at one model described by Matt. We were to look at similarities, differences and say what aspirations WCBF could take from that model.

After about 15 minutes all ideas were brought back to the main meeting. It soon became apparent that WCBF is unique! Whilst we have many similarities with each model there were also many differences. What was interesting were the comments saying that we were moving together the whole time and that we felt much closer in each other's company than we had done 3 years ago. Comments were made that we could not have moved so far without Matt's guiding hand at the helm. Many aspirations for the future were aired, all being very positive towards us working even more closely together.

A very welcome coffee followed before we were asked to go into Church groups where we were tasked with writing down how we all felt about how WCBF was working together and how it was affecting each one of us. To help us we were presented with some work done at an earlier meeting which listed all the activities that we did as a fellowship. After coming back together it was felt that everything we are doing together is working and well worth continuing. Again very positive comments were made about the fellowship and that we felt part of a much bigger organisation and were becoming one church in three buildings rather than three churches just meeting together for convenience.

A very positive morning gave lots of encouragement for the future work of the West Craven Baptist Fellowship!

**Malcolm**



## Spotlight on .....

### The International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS)



**The International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS)** is a leading centre of postgraduate theological study for Baptist Christians and other evangelical believers. **IBTS** is at the cutting edge of theological education and has a multi-national, multi-cultural, multi-generational leadership. IBTS is fully committed to becoming an eco-seminary and has a clear Environmental policy. The student community is drawn from over 30 nations and offers undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate programmes.

IBTS is wholly owned by the [European Baptist Federation](#) (EBF), which comprises fifty Baptist Unions in membership throughout Europe, the Middle East and north Asia.

IBTS was founded in 1949 in Switzerland initially to train pastors for service in central and southern Europe. IBTS moved to Prague following the collapse of communism and the newly renovated premises were opened in 1997.

IBTS has expanded its mission and ministry since the first years in Switzerland.

IBTS is

- A learning community
- A community of spirituality
- A multicultural community
- A community of higher academic rigour
- At the forefront of research and reflection on Baptist issues
- A lecturing community drawn from across the world
- Resourced with an amazing library and by Information technology
- Validated by one of Europe's premier universities
- Enabling a wide range of learning opportunities
- Stretching themselves towards God's future

Did you know you that if you want to stay in **a real country mansion dating from 18th century**, wander around its buildings, quietly relax at the water fountain and feel the history - then IBTS Prague should be on your short list!

Lots of information is available on the website: [www.ibts.eu/](http://www.ibts.eu/)



# *Who Am I?*

*A quiz for adults and children.*

*(Answers can be found on page 10)*

Using the clues, can you work out who these 10 Biblical characters are? We'll start with a couple of easy ones to get you going...

1. I was the first man on earth.  
My wife was named Eve.  
Our home was called the Garden of Eden.
2. I was a righteous man.  
I built an ark.  
God saved my family from the flood.
3. I was the older sister of Moses.  
I was watching when the princess found my brother in the river.  
I once got leprosy because I spoke up against my brother.
4. I once used a sling and stones as a weapon.  
I killed the giant Goliath.  
My music helped to soothe the mind of King Saul.
5. I was a great soldier in the Syrian army.  
I had a disease called leprosy.  
I was healed when I dipped in the river seven times.
6. My first wife Queen Vashti displeased me.  
I began looking for a new queen.  
I chose Esther to be my new queen.
7. I was the brother of Mary and Martha.  
Jesus restored my life after I had been dead four days.  
Enemies tried to kill me after I had been raised.
8. I was a disciple of Jesus.  
I doubted the apostles had really seen Jesus after His death.  
I believed when I saw the nail prints in His hands.
9. My husband and I tried to deceive God.  
We sold some property and said we were giving all the proceeds to the apostles.  
We lied and died because of it.
10. I was a business woman who sold purple cloth.  
A group of us met by the river on the Sabbath to worship.  
Paul preached to us and I invited them to stay with me.

## **HOUSEGROUP – A FEW REFLECTIONS**

When I sat down to write this, the first thing I did was pray, asking God to find me words that might reflect my thoughts and resonate with at least some of you. It's ironic, really, because six months or so ago I imagine I'd never have thought to pray about something like this. I'd have hurtled headlong into getting some words on the paper (if I'd had the courage to write something like this at all). But then, actually thinking about praying and remembering to pray are things I have struggled with. It's not that I'm unwilling to pray; I simply don't always think about doing it when I should. I sometimes feel bad about this, but I know God will forgive me my weaknesses, and is working in me to help me talk to Him more. He's taught me that the more you do it, the more natural it becomes.

I'm not a person who manages to put aside a set time each day to devote to prayer (and I can't blame that on a certain nearly-2year-old! I'm afraid I've always been like it, and it's the same with other aspects of my life). I talk to God at random times...this might be when I'm struck by the beauty of nature (even the view from our garden gate), it might be in the car, whilst I'm cooking tea, or whilst struggling with something. And that's ok...it doesn't make me any less of a Christian, and God loves me just the same.

The housegroup has helped me to consider why prayer is important, and different ways we can do it. Whether we pray on our own or with others, God hears us. It's reinforced the point that God wants us to pray: it's a main line of communication with Him. Sometimes it's enough to pray without words; God hears the innermost thoughts of our hearts and minds, whether or not we can articulate those. But there's definitely a place for more formal or structured prayer times. There's solidarity in praying with others, a confidence that our prayer is being shared by several of us with a common heart. We pray that God's will be done, and it's important to make time to listen to Him, and to consider how he answers, especially when we bear in mind that our human desire may not be aligned with His divine plan.

I've thought about why it can be hard to pray out loud. Are we embarrassed by how we might come across or worried we might get tongue-tied, conscious that others may be able to say it 'better', concerned that we might miss a person or situation out of our prayers of intercession? If we've 'practised' in our head before we say it out loud, surely that prayer has then already been heard by God, who is the one who matters? But I was struck by the thought that despite all of this, our prayer may be a blessing to someone else. For as it says in James 5: "When a believing person prays, great things happen." So let's keep on praying, anytime, anywhere, quietly or out loud, and let's continue to bless one another by doing so.

Melanie Mitchell

## **West Craven Baptist Fellowship (WCBF)**

### **Interview with Denise (DAIJ) and Keith (KGJ) Jones**

#### **WCBF: What is your first connection with Barnoldswick?**

**DAIJ:** I was born and brought up in Barlick and, as a child, I went to the Sunday School of the then Bethesda Baptist Church, which met both in the morning and afternoon. Four major events each year were the 'At Homes', the Sunday School Anniversary, the Whitsuntide Procession (shared with the other churches of the town apart from the Catholic Church) and the Choir Weekend. At the age of 14 I joined the choir and also the youth club which, in time, became a joint event between Bethesda Baptist Church and North Street Baptist Church.

**KGJ:** I grew up in Bradford and from an early age was part of the Tetley Street Memorial Baptist Church (historically a New Connexion Church, unlike the Particular Baptists of Barnoldswick), especially involved with the Scout movement, which kept me involved with Christianity until I made my commitment to be baptized at the age of 16. At 21 my life was turned upside down by a call to leave my work in local passenger transport management and train for Christian Ministry. My call to ministry involved a four year degree course at the Northern Baptist Learning Community in Manchester. In my second year I came to Barnoldswick to lead worship and preach for a College Sunday. The Barnoldswick Church had become one – Bethesda and North Street uniting, thanks to the work of previous ministers Alan Kippax and Roland Eldridge. Now the united church was seeking a single minister but many candidates were put off by the thought of one church with, then, four buildings! The Church meeting asked the Principal of Northern Baptist College, Michael H Taylor, if I could go for a summer student pastorate in 1973 and this was agreed.

#### **WCBF: So how did you meet?**

**DAIJ:** During the summer of 1973 when Keith was in Barlick, he ran special events as part of the 'Barnoldswick Festival', and also a holiday club for children. On the last night of the holiday club Keith asked me out for a meal at a local restaurant and that was the start of what is now 37 years of marriage!

#### **WCBF : So what does the WCBF mean to you ?**

**KGJ:** Whilst still at College I preached at both Earby and Barnoldswick Baptist Churches. I knew the late Norman Heap at Earby from the YBA Youth Committee and was glad to develop friendships at Salterforth with the Mitchell and Baxter families. A student pastorate in Barnoldswick from 1973 -1975 involved me staying with most of the key families at Barnoldswick.

**DAIJ:** Although my involvement as a child was at Bethesda, my best friend was Carole Whitaker, daughter of Vincent and Nellie who were members at North Street. During the pastorate of Roland Eldridge I became a member of the Christian Aid Committee which organised the first Christian Aid Walk to Kirkstall Abbey.

DAIJ: Although my involvement as a child was at Bethesda, my best friend was Carole Whitaker, daughter of Vincent and Nellie who were members at North Street. During the pastorate of Roland Eldridge I became a member of the Christian Aid Committee which organised the first Christian Aid Walk to Kirkstall Abbey.

**WCBF: What do you consider to be your most important achievements in the WCBF ?**

KGJ: I was called to the pastorate in 1973 and served until 1980 when I was called to be General Secretary of the Yorkshire Baptist Association (later Deputy General Secretary of the Baptist Union, now Rector of IBTS, Prague). In Barnoldswick, certainly getting rid of the old buildings, developing the Baptist Church Centre for Baptist, community and youth use. Helping people like Tony Taylor and Brian Mitchell develop their own calls to leadership and supporting Stephen Heap (Earby) in his call to ministry.

DAIJ: Wanting to see the Baptist Church Centre being used for the community, I helped to set up the first Mother & Toddler Group, and was proud of my Mum, Ethel Whipp, who was very much involved in the Over 50s Group until her untimely death at the age of 83. I am glad that the Christian Aid Walk continues to be supported by the WCBF after being involved in the arrangements for the first walk 44 years ago.

**Where were you in 1979?**

If you are old enough to remember 1979(!) you may remember that Keith, Denise and Alex Jones had a ministerial exchange with Rex and Nancy Woods and their children, Mark, Lisa and Beth. At that time Rex was a Baptist Minister in Neenah, Wisconsin. Rex contributed greatly to the life of the Barnoldswick church during that summer and long lasting links and friendships were formed. After Rex's untimely death, Nancy moved to Arizona where, along with Abe, she is now a member of Southside Presbyterian Church. A look at the church's website will provide you with lots of food for thought.

[www.southsidepresbyterian.org](http://www.southsidepresbyterian.org)

Nancy along with her friends Judy and Marilyn are visiting Barnoldswick in June this year. Nancy is looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones.

**If you would like to meet them you are invited to Open House at Margaret and Michael's (Hazelhurst, Lockfield Drive, Barnoldswick) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June for coffee and scones between 2.00 and 5.00 p.m.**

## Barnoldswick celebrates 350 years

Following the very successful concert with the Arden Youth Choir in April plans are now well in hand for the Thanksgiving Weekend celebration in July.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July between 10am and 4pm the Church Centre will be the venue for a Festival of Flowers, an exhibition of the history of Baptists in Barnoldswick over the last 350 years and a Summer Fair. Refreshments will be served all day.



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July the Revd Dr Keith G Jones will lead worship at the church at 10.30am. Keith was instrumental in creating the vision of the Centre where both church and community meet (See pages 8-9 for an interview with Keith and his wife, Denise). On Sunday from 12 noon to 4pm the history exhibition and flower festival continue and refreshments will again be available. At 6.30pm there will be a 'Now Praise' service led by our minister the Revd Matt Jones. This will be united with HOPE BARLICK.

Please use this opportunity to invite family, neighbours and friends to come

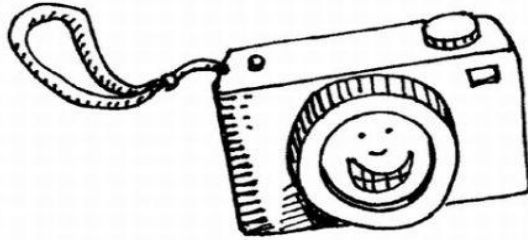
*We would like this to be your magazine. We would welcome your ideas and contributions. If you have ideas for future magazines, or would like to contribute, please contact Margaret, Robin or Mel (contact details inside front cover).*

along to the Centre.

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### *Answers to Quiz on Page 6*

|    |                        |          |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 1  | (Acts 16)              | Lydia    |
| 2  | (Acts 5)               | Sapphira |
| 3  | (John 20)              | Thomas   |
| 4  | (John 11 - 12)         | Lazarus  |
| 5  | (Esther 1 - 2)         | Xerxes   |
| 9  | (2 Kings 5)            | Naaman   |
| 7  | (1 Samuel 17)          | David    |
| 8  | (Exodus 2, Numbers 12) | Miriam   |
| 6  | (Genesis 6 - 9)        | Noah     |
| 10 | (Genesis 2)            | Adam     |



# W.C.B.F Photo Competition

Over the summer period we are running a photograph competition

**There are two age groups:**  
**Up to 16 years and 16 years and over.**

So, however young or old you are there is no excuse for not entering (unless of course you haven't got a camera - even then you could always borrow one!)

Photographs must be taken between  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011

All photographs must be accompanied by an entry form which will be available in churches from the beginning of June. You will need a separate entry form for each photograph you submit.

**One entry only per category per person and photographs must be no bigger than 7" X 5" (18 X 13cm approx)**

Hard copies only please - we cannot accept electronic submissions

Categories are:-

1. Photo of something to do with Church and/or the West Craven Baptist Fellowship
2. A holiday photograph
3. Open Category - a photograph of your choice

All photographs will be returned after the competition

**Closing date for all entries 9th September 2011**

## **Contact details**

### **Websites:**

[www.barnoldswickbaptists.org.uk](http://www.barnoldswickbaptists.org.uk)

[www.earbybaptists.org.uk](http://www.earbybaptists.org.uk)

[www.salterforthbaptists.org.uk](http://www.salterforthbaptists.org.uk)

### **Minister:**

Matt Jones: 01282 815374

| <b>Church</b> | <b>Secretary</b>                        | <b>Leadership Team</b>                          |
|---------------|---|---|
| Barnoldswick  | Keith Whipp<br><i>(01282) 815196</i>    | Margaret Nutter<br>Michael Nutter               |
| Mount Zion    | Trish Pepper<br><i>(01282) 843364</i>   | Julie Bryan<br>Christine Morgan                 |
| Salterforth   | Brian Mitchell<br><i>(01282) 842302</i> | Mary Mitchell<br>Rita Mitchell                  |
| WCBF          | Kathryn Fisher<br><i>(01282) 430809</i> | Kathryn Fisher<br>Malcolm Fisher<br>(Treasurer) |

### **Pastoral Team:**

Carol Sneath: 01282 816784

Christine Morgan: 01282 842215

Malcolm Fisher: 01282 430809

Melanie Mitchell: 01282 841966

Sheila Heap: 01282 842769